



THE CROSS OF CHRIST

"Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God."

Hebrews 12: 2

By
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

Not to be Sold

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Christian Literature and Bible Center Inc.,

NOT TO BE SOLD

PREFACE

Many messages have been preached about the Cross which is the culminating truth in the Bible. God the Father desired to eradicate sin once and forever, so it was necessary for payment to be made for the sin of all ages. The only way that the wages of sin could be paid was for impeccable God to pay the price Himself, through the death of His son Jesus Christ. The Bible tells us that God, who is three-in-one, will create a perfect "Utopia" in the future. Instead of forcing his creation to be good in that utopia, He created angels and humans with the freedom of choice. He knew that we would fail the test, and He planned to pay the penalty for all of man's sins with Christ's death on the Cross. Only those who accept His gift of forgiven sins will be included in the New Heaven and New Earth.

I pray that this Biblical textbook entitled, "THE CROSS OF CHRIST", will enlighten you about the importance of the Divine sacrifice, and about how to become partakers of Divine life by the new birth through God the Holy Spirit.

By the grace of God I have written and printed 15,000 copies of this textbook for free distribution around the world. These textbooks, and about 30 of my previous textbooks will reach millions of people with God's message. To God be the glory great things He has done, and great things He keeps on doing!

The cross is the pivotal point in the great plan of God the Father, where He deals an ultimate and final blow to sin and all ungodliness. I am reminded of a very sacred hymn, that is often sung, merely as a song, rather than as a message.

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST.

In the cross of Christ I glory, Towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story, Gathers round its head sublime.

When the woes of life o'er take me, Hope deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross forsake me, Lo! it glows with peace and joy,

When the sun of bliss is beaming, Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming, Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that thro' all time abide.

As we make a very sacred study of the cross of Calvary, I want this to be a very devotional approach to God's everlasting love toward us through the cross. We will deal with various predictions of the cross, and consider how very much Christ actually suffered upon the Cross.

God foretold of the method of the crucifixion long before the Roman Government established that terrible, painful and slow form of death for those that they convicted.

God in His omniscience, purposely chose this form of death for His Eternal Son, to show the awfulness of sin and what it cost the Godhead to remove the barrier of sin. This was all part of the Triune God's Divine purpose in dealing with any opposition to His Holy character. The ungodly attempted many times to destroy Christ, before His time had come, but God had established the very moment when His Son would lay down His life for the total sin of this world.

Through the death of Christ upon the Cross we are set free from the penalty of sin, through God the Holy Spirit we are endued with power to withstand the power of sin, and through the grace of God we will eventually be freed from the presence of sin.

Every soul born into this world has the freedom of choice as to whether they will to stand upon their self righteousness, and be judged, or accept Christ's finished work on Calvary's Cross and be set free from the law of sin and death. So as we approach the study of the Cross of Christ, we are dealing with the crux of redemption.

This cup of agony was foreknown by the Eternal Son of God, who in the garden of Gethsemane desperately faced it with sweat drops of blood. As Christ went out on to the Mount of Olives He said to His disciples, *"My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death; tarry here, and watch with me. And He went a little further, and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, O Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt."* (Matthew 26: 38-39)

May we study this course on the cross prayerfully and with great thanksgiving. It cost God the Father His very own eternal Son to bring to us so great salvation. There is however a note of warning, which I must bring before each of us. There is no merit in carrying the cross as a symbol or idol, or sign. When we deal with the cross of Christ, we are dealing with God the Father's provision for the removal of sin, through the Cross, by His eternal Son. The importance of the Cross is Christ who suffered, died, and rose again from the grave, bringing victory over death. There are many crosses portrayed by cults and false teachings, which are very deceptive and illusive of the truth. They use this sign to draw many into their false religions. Satan is a master of deception. He gives the ignorant a little taste of the truth, then he deceives them with the ultimate aim of destroying them. That is why it is necessary to be born again, by the Holy Spirit, then to be led by the Holy Spirit into all truth.

In this study, may we realize that the Eternal Son of God's death on the Cross was foretold long before that cruel form of death was used by the Roman Government. May we also remind ourselves that the death of Christ on the Cross was no accident and that it was no victory for the evil forces. Christ reminded His disciples of what would happen to their shepherd. *"And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the Mount of Olives. Then saith Jesus unto them, All ye shall be offended because of me this night; for it is written, I will smite the shepherd, and the sheep of the flock shall be scattered abroad. But after I am raised up again, I will go before you into Galilee."* (Matthew 26:30-32) The disciples were not aware of what He meant at the time, but the Holy Spirit revealed it to them later on. The Lord also made reference to the type of death He would suffer by being lifted up. *"Now is the judgement of this world; now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will*

draw all men unto me. This He said, signifying what death He should die.” (John 12: 31-33). The cross became a sign of the Lord’s death, not to become an idol of worship.

Christ’s death on the Roman cross rather than by the hands of the Jews was planned and no accident. *“Then said Pilate unto them, Take ye Him, and judge Him according, to your law. The Jews therefore, said unto Him, It is not lawful for us to put any man to death: That the saying of Jesus might be fulfilled, which He spoke, signifying, what death He should die.”(John 18: 31-32)* This is very significant, as the Jews had already condemned Jesus to death before there was any trial, but they did not stone him. Rather, they took him to Pilate for crucifixion. Pilate tried his best to release the Lord, knowing that for envy they delivered Jesus into his hands. Note what Pilate said to Jesus and the answer he received. *“Then saith Pilate unto Him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me except it were given thee from above; therefore, he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater Sin.” (John 19: 10-11)* Here is certainly sufficient proof of the planned death upon the cross by the Triune God.

In this study we will discuss some references from the Old Testament, and see how Christ’s death on the cross was a fulfillment of those prophecies. When we say that in the cross of Christ we glory, we are not worshipping the cross itself, but rather we are worshipping the Christ of the cross. Bear this in mind as we study the Cross of Calvary. Yes, the sign of the cross should be very sacred to the saints of God who, through the Christ of the cross, passed from eternal living death to eternal living life and an inheritance beyond our comprehension.

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier
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DEDICATION

In the Christian life, there are always some believers we meet who become very special to us. The Lord has introduced me to many special saints of God, during these 57 years of mission work. During our first mission furlough, however, I met one very precious couple by the name of Walter and Irene Peck from Preble Indiana. This friendship grew down through these many years, and became a great source of encouragement in our mission enterprise. Walter Peck went to be with the Lord, after he and Irene spent some time at Swiss Village, a retirement community in Berne, Indiana. Irene Peck with her jubilant spirit has been a tremendous comfort to many, in the village and around the community, both far and near. She has brought peace and comfort to many, and now she has been diagnosed as having cancer. She recently told me that she is at perfect peace concerning it. The specialists in the hospital have given her but four or five months to live. She has accepted this with a calm spirit, knowing that she has within her *"The peace of God, which passeth all understanding"* (Philippians 4: 7a)

I wish to proclaim this Biblical textbook on "The Cross of Christ", as a memorial to my brother in the Lord, Walter Peck, and dedicate it in honor of Irene Peck. We do not know how long the Lord will let Irene remain with us, but we can rest assured, when her time comes to depart to be with the Lord, that all is well with her soul. May those who read and study this textbook on the cross, be assured of a personal relationship with Lord Jesus Christ like Walter and Irene maintained. Their lives have glorified their Savior and have been an inspiration to many. I have counted it a real privilege of knowing both Walter and Irene. It is therefore with a joy beyond what words can describe that I publish this Biblical textbook in memory of Walter Peck and in honor and dedication to Irene Peck. We have already sent out 18 mail bags of Bible study material to many places around the world in honor of our dear sister in the Lord.

Faithfully Yours because of Calvary,

Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier
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FOREWORD

It gives me great pleasure to introduce to you, Rev. Ron McDonnel, the Pastor of the Katy Bible Church, Katy, Texas, U.S.America. I count it a great privilege to have him submit the foreword to this all important subject. I have asked Pastor McDonnel to write this introduction to "The Cross of Christ", because he has been a very special brother in the Lord for many years. I thank God for the Pastor and sheep of the Katy Bible assembly. They have been our faithful warriors through prayers and cares these many years. Rev. Dr.Andrew J.Losier

What theme is more worthy of a writer's effort than to proclaim the wonderful, mysterious Cross of Christ? The Apostle Paul concluded, "*But God forbid that I should glory, save in the Cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world.*" (Galatians 6:14). My dear brother and fellow servant of our Lord Jesus Christ, Andy Losier, has undertaken to share with us his heart for Jesus by plumbing the depths of God's Love revealed through Christ's Death on that cruel and Glorious Cross.

The more we search this noble subject, the more we realize that we are on holy ground. "*The Mystery of Godliness....*" of 1 Timothy 3:16 is discovered no where else like it is on that bloody, Old Rugged Cross. What God wrought on the Cross of Christ cannot be fully comprehended by intelligentsia, blinded by the god of this evil world, but can become the basis of the hope of eternal life, by a believing child.

The Cross of Christ was where God the Father abandoned Jesus as He took our place in judgement and became sin for us. Hence, "*Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani? Which is, being interpreted My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" (Mark 15:34). Yet, if we would find God, we must come by way of the Cross! Great is the Mystery of Godliness in the Cross of Christ.

Psalms 22:1, quotes our Lord further when He said, "*Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*" How could Jesus be "*..far..*" from omnipresence? Was this Cross then the farthest place from God in the universe? How could Omniscient Jesus, the Son of God, beg for an answer to the question, "*Why..?*" Such was the unfathomable depth of humiliation and "Kenosis" of the Incarnate Christ! Great is the Mystery of Godliness in the Cross of Christ.

Luke 23:44-45, says, "*And it was about the sixth hour, and there was a darkness over all the earth until the ninth hour. And the sun was darkened..*" How could Jesus, the Light of the world, be shrouded in the blackness of darkness on the Cross when God the Father, who is Light, withdrew Himself from Him? It was midnight at noonday. Great is the Mystery of Godliness in the Cross of Christ!

Because God is Holy, His wrath against sin was displayed maximally on the Cross of Christ. *Romans 8:32*. says "*God... spared not His own Son...*" who was dying a criminal's death in our place. Yet, the Cross of Jesus is the greatest display of the love

of God for sinners! Great is the Mystery of Godliness in the Cross of Christ!

Matthew 27:39-44, "And they that passed by reviled Him, wagging their heads, and saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the Cross. Likewise also the chief priests mocking Him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him now come down from the Cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him: for He said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with Him, cast the same in His teeth." The Lord Jesus, before whom angels covered their faces with their wings so as to not look directly upon His Majesty, suffered their indignity of blasphemous man (made lower than the angels) making faces at Him on the Cross! Jesus responded, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." *Luke 23:34*. Great is the Mystery of Godliness in the Cross of Christ!

Psalm 22:6. quotes Jesus as saying, "But I am a worm, and no man; a reproach of men, and despised of the people." How could it be that the Lord Jesus Christ, the I AM THAT I AM, confessed: "I am a worm, and no man"? Great is the Mystery of Godliness!

Perhaps the most perplexing of all is the *Hebrews 5:7-8*. account of Jesus. It says, "Who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto Him that was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared; Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered." How could the omniscient Lord Jesus "...learn..?" Without controversy, Great is the Mystery of Godliness!

We can wonder at the mysteries. We can bow and worship the Christ of the Cross. We can give humble thanks. We can proclaim on the housetops the Good news of Jesus' Cross.

May our Loving Lord of Glory, the Risen Jesus, bless Andy's new book, The Cross of Christ. May many be saved by believing in the death, burial, and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ. May believers be challenged to deny themselves, and take up their cross and follow Jesus.

Read and wonder. Worship the Christ of the Cross.

Pastor Rev. Ron McDonnel,
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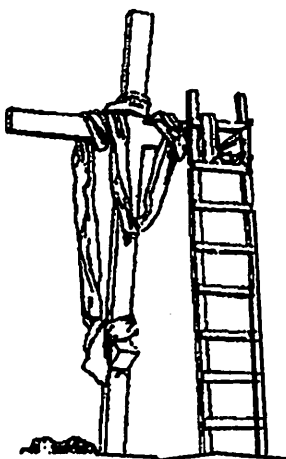
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CHAPTER ONE



INTRODUCTION TO THE CROSS

I. THE PROCLAMATION OF THE CROSS IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

As we study in depth the death on the cross by the Incarnate Christ as proclaimed in the Old Testament, we will consider the eschatology of it in this first chapter. We have evidence from the Bible that it was proclaimed, revealed by a shadow example as well as described. May we always remember that the death of the Incarnate Son of God was planned before the foundation of the world, with one thought in mind, regardless of the requirements by God. It is found in one key verse of Scripture in the Bible. *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgressions, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most High.”* (Daniel 9:24) As we study the necessity of the cross of Calvary, may we always keep in mind the eternal results that have been made possible through the Incarnate Son of God’s death on the cross.

The Triune God had an absolute and definite plan as to the timing of when the crucifixion would take place. There is a very particular timing of the cross of Christ in the Book of Daniel. *“Know, therefore, and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem (This happened under Cyrus) unto the Messiah, the Prince, shall be seven weeks, and three score and two weeks; (total of 483 years) the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times. And after threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be cut off, but not for himself; and the people*

of the prince that shall come (This prince will come during the Abomination of Desolation, being Satan himself) shall destroy the city and the sanctuary, and the end of it shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the war desolations are determined." (Daniel 9:25-26) This is a terrible but marvelous revelation that God the Holy Spirit has placed on record as to the crucifixion and also the future and final satanic onslaught against Almighty God. The latter has been studied in my Book about Revelation. It covers the final battle that will take place in heaven, causing the "Abomination of Desolation", confirmed by the Lord Himself. (Revelation 9:1-12; 12:7-17;) (Matthew 24:15.) Within the Bible, God has revealed and entrusted us with a revealing insight into the things to come. Praise God for His Omniscience. He knows the end from the beginning, He is the Alpha and the Omega!

A. THE PROPHETIC UTTERANCES PROCLAIMED.

We will deal with the New Testament utterances upon the cross later in this chapter, but now let's review what the Old Testament has to proclaim concerning the cross. Perhaps the most significant example and shadow of this declaration can be found as Israel journeyed through the wilderness. They sinned against God, "*And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and many people of Israel died. Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned; for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord, that He take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. And the Lord said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole; and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.*" (Numbers 21:6-8)

Now this in itself may not have any special significance to the unfamiliar reader of God's Word, but it is very important as a shadow of that specific event of Christ upon the cross. This is but a foreknowledge of the importance of someone taking our place in judgement for our sins, upon the cross of Calvary. This was explained by the Incarnate Son of God. "*And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but He that came down from heaven, even the Son of man who is in heaven. And, as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.*" (John 3:13-15)

We have all been bitten by sin and all have come short of the glory of God. "*Wherefore, as by one man, sin entered into the world; and death by sin, so death passed upon all men, for all have sinned.*" (Romans 5:12) This is very important to our understanding of God's Word when it proclaims in the Old Testament the eventual lifting up of the Son of God upon the cross. Let us search the Old Testament for further proof of this plan of redemption.

THE SUFFERING SAVIOR UPON THE CROSS

God the Holy Spirit who breathed upon the entire Scripture has amazingly described ahead of time the suffering Savior upon the cross, even to some of Christ's very words which He would utter.

The Holy character of the Godhead had to turn away from total sin being paid for upon the cross. God's rejection of sin and the one who bore it was prophesied in the Old Testament, "*My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me? Why art thou so far from helping me, and from the words of my roaring?*" (Psalm 22:1)

Now let us turn to the fulfilling of that prophesy in the New Testament. "*And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach'thani? that is to say, My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?*" (Matthew 27:45) What could be more accurate in fulfillment than this? As we read through this Psalm we realize that it thoroughly describes a crucifixion which was not even thought of at the time this Psalm was written.

THE TRUSTING SAVIOR BORE IT ALL ALONE.

"*All they who see me laugh me to scorn; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, saying, He trusted on the Lord that He would deliver Him; let Him deliver Him, seeing He delighted in Him.*" (Psalm 22:7-8) God in His Omniscience knew exactly what the thoughts of Israel's religious leaders would be concerning His Eternal Son who became the Gift and the Giver of Eternal Life through His death on the cross. "*Likewise also the chief priests, mocking Him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; Himself He cannot save. If He be the King of Israel, let Him come down from the cross, and we will believe Him. He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now, if He will have Him; for He said, I am the Son of God.*" (Matthew 27:41-43) They knew exactly what Christ declared himself, The Son of God. They were without excuse and thoroughly understood Christ's words.

The Lord Jesus Christ knew that this was but another great temptation to manifest himself, if He would come down from the cross and forsake His conquest of so great salvation. "*Many bulls have compassed me; strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, like a ravening and a roaring lion.*" (Psalm 22:12-13) These false religious leaders were completely under the control of Satan. They became tools of Satan, tempting Christ to forsake all and save himself from paying the debt of sin.

We can rejoice in the Lord that the Incarnate Eternal Son of God was willing to bear it all alone, in spite of all the opposition and evil forces against Him.

If God had depended upon adding human works to our salvation, we all would have failed. I thank Almighty God for the security that we obtained at

the Cross being sealed by the Holy Spirit. My thoughts go back to a hymn that I sang as a lad. I didn't understand the scope of the meaning at the time, but I felt within myself the dreadfulness of being alone and forsaken by all. I was deeply impressed by that hymn which I learned to sing. I am mindful of the terribleness of being alone and enduring any sort of pain without help available. Christ suffered all alone that you and I might have the burden of sin removed. God loved us with an everlasting love and was willing to send His beloved Son to the Cross in our stead. God has done all that He possibly can do to save all mankind from eternal death.

ALONE

IT WAS ALONE THE SAVIOR PRAYED IN DARK GETHSEMANE;
ALONE HE DRAINED THE BITTER CUP
AND SUFFERED THERE FOR ME

IT WAS ALONE THE SAVIOR STOOD IN PILATE'S JUDGEMENT HALL;
ALONE THE CROWN OF THORNS HE WORE,
FORSAKEN THUS BY ALL.

ALONE UPON THE CROSS HE HUNG THAT OTHERS HE MIGHT SAVE;
FORSAKEN THEN BY GOD AND MAN,
ALONE, HIS LIFE HE GAVE.

CAN YOU REJECT SUCH MATCHLESS LOVE?
CAN YOU HIS CLAIM DISOWN?
COME, GIVE YOUR ALL IN GRATITUDE
NOR LEAVE HIM THUS ALONE.

ALONE, ALONE, HE BORE IT ALL ALONE;
HE GAVE HIMSELF TO SAVE HIS OWN,
HE SUFFERED, BLED AND DIED ALONE, ALONE.

THE EFFECTS OF THE CRUCIFIXION DESCRIBED.

There is no better description of what happens under the most excruciating pain in crucifixion than what is recorded in the Old Testament prophecy, "*I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it is melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death. For the dogs have compassed me; the assembly of the wicked have enclosed me; they pierced my hands and my feet." (Psalm 22:14-16)*

With those statements by the psalmist we can make no mistake about what type of death he predicted for the Lord. Those verses described exactly the results of crucifixion, and remember, crucifixion was not yet thought of as a way to inflict capital punishment.

Jesus Christ, being God Incarnate, was 100% God and 100% man. Since God cannot die, this was the body to become a sacrifice. The body which God created, before the foundation of the world. The Divinity of the Christ of the Cross could behold all of this and was aware of the terrible death that He submitted himself to endure.

Physically, the crucifixion was so terrible that all of His bones were out of joint from hanging upon the Cross. *"I may count all my bones; they look and stare upon me."* (Psalm 22:17) Worst of all however, was the spiritual separation He endured, when God the Father and God the Holy Spirit turned away from him, when He took upon Himself the sins of the world. He took the wrath of God that should have been for sinners, when he took our punishment. The spiritual pain He felt caused Him to cry out, *"MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"* (Matthew 27:46)

May you clearly understand that with this study we are not exalting the Cross as a symbol, but rather the one who hung on the Cross, as our Savior. May I also mention that there is no merit whatsoever in carrying or wearing a cross in itself but rather as a sign of believing in the one who died on the Cross that we might live by His death and resurrection.

To understand what Jesus Christ went through on that cross, let's consider what Christ said while He was on the Cross. There are seven last sayings of Christ from the Cross and only twice did He think of himself; first when God the Father turned away from Him as He bore the sins of the whole world, and second when He became physically thirsty. Let's consider these sacred sayings of the Lord as He hung upon the Cross.

THE SEVEN LAST SAYINGS OF CHRIST UPON THE CROSS

1. "FATHER, FORGIVE THEM; FOR THEY KNOW NOT WHAT THEY DO." (Luke 23:34.)

It is so easy for all of us to do things which are according to the flesh, rather than according to the Spirit. We are so used to living within the human viewpoint, rather than living by the Divine viewpoint. We as those who are born again, need to depend upon being led by the Holy Spirit, rather than controlled by the ungodly flesh. These ungodly men within the Roman Empire and the religious leaders of Israel, were blinded by the god of this world system. Christ as He hung upon the Cross, knew that many of them were sanctioning this terrible death upon the Cross, being under the influence of the blind religious leaders, who led them into crying, *"Crucify Him, Crucify Him!"* The Roman Centurion observed all of these events, and witnessed the darkness at noon day, saw that this was not the normal. *"Now, when the centurion, and they that were with him watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly, this was*

the Son of God.” (Matthew 27:54) I am quite sure that some of those Roman soldiers did become believers, after the resurrection, especially those that witnessed the scene by the tomb. They were in 3 hours of total darkness, when there should have been the full brightness of the sun. The whole world was in darkness because the Eternal Son of God was rejected as the light of the world. Those that beheld these things were totally without excuse.

We have many examples of how the martyrs down through the ages were faithful to the Lord and understood that their martyrdom was due to the prince of the power of the air. Satan promoted spiritual wickedness in high places. Our first martyr, Stephen as he addressed the Sanhedrin, being led by the Holy Spirit, gave a powerful resume of events down through the ages. These false leaders became very angry and as the Word says, “*were cut to the heart and they gnashed on him with their teeth.*” (Acts 7:54) Stephen was thrown out of the city and stoned to death. But as he was being stoned, note what he said. “*And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep.*” (Acts 7:60) One needs but read “*Foxe’s Book of Martyrs*” to discover the great love that the Holy Spirit can manifest through His own, as they suffer for Christ. Yes, while we were yet dead in trespasses and sins, Christ gave His life a ransom for us, buying us out of the slave market of sin, with His own blood. Oh the love that drew salvation’s plan, Oh the grace that brought it down to man, Oh the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary.

Only The Eternal Son Of God could cry out to the Father to forgive these wicked souls, for they were ignorant of what they were doing. Christ was constantly aware that as He hung on that cruel Cross, He was bearing the sins of the whole world. It would have been so simple for God the Father to have destroyed the whole universe by His word, if He had so chosen. Christ was encompassed by the devil and his demons, as they tried their best to defeat the purpose of the Cross. The Eternal Son of God was prepared to face the onslaught from the whole evil spirit realm, to remove the barrier of sin for those who would believe.

2. “AND JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, VERILY I SAY UNTO THEE, TODAY SHALT THOU BE WITH ME IN PARADISE.” (Luke 23:43)

This saying of Christ is very important to us because it addresses the question, “Where are the dead in Christ of all ages?” The Old Testament is very clear about the place of Sheol, or the place of the dead. We have a clear reference of this in the story of the rich man and Lazarus. (Luke 16:19-31.) Before the crucifixion of Christ all the dead were in Sheol, with a great gulf fixed so that the ungodly could not pass over to where the Old Testament saints were. The rich man went among the ungodly, not because he was rich

but because he did not trust God. But Lazarus went to be with Abraham to dwell with the rest of the believers. You may ask the question, "Is that where all the dead go?" The answer is simple, the ungodly dead still go into Sheol and they are under great heat, which is hell. Then you may say, "But where are the believers now that Christ defeated death?" The thief on the cross with but a short time to live believed in Christ and Christ's statement to him gives us the answer. "*Today, shalt thou be with me in Paradise.*" Does that mean that the thief on the cross is better than the Old Testament saints? No, in no way does he compare with the Old Testament saints.

What had changed that would take the believing thief to Paradise instead of Sheol? We must go to the Word of God for our answer. In the Old Testament it was predicted that when the crucified Christ rose from the grave that He would descend into Sheol before He ascended on high. "*Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive.*" (Psalm 68:18a) What is this all about? We must turn to the fulfillment of this statement in the Book of Ephesians to find the answer. First of all, there has to be a unity of believers, regardless of Old Testament or New Testament. That is why it is declared, "*There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all who is above all, and through all, and in you all.*" (Ephesians 4:4-6) Now whether we are considering the Old Testament saints or New Testament saints, there is unity with the Godhead. Since the Old Testament saints were still in Sheol, which was the place of the dead, they had to be taken out from Sheol. They were taken to the same place that Christ proclaimed to the thief on the cross. That is why the resurrected Christ had to go to Sheol and lead the Old Testament saint out from that prison house into Paradise. He also had to offer some promised gifts to the faithful. "*But unto every one of us is given grace according to the measure of the of the gift of Christ. Wherefore, He saith, When He ascended up on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts unto men. Now that He ascended, what is it but that He also descended first into the lower parts of the earth? He that descended is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that He might fill all things." (Ephesians 4:7-10)*

Now the Old Testament saints are no longer in Sheol, for their price of sin has been fully paid. Prior to this, their sins were covered, until the Cross. God being one in character with a perfect plan, has brought together the deceased Old Testament and New Testament saints into a place called Paradise. But, always remember that from Pentecost until the Rapture, these New Testament saints make up the sum total of the body of Christ as the church and future bride of Christ.

3. **"WOMAN, BEHOLD THY SON!" "BEHOLD THY MOTHER."** **(John 19:26-27)**

This is an amazing care and concern that Jesus had for Mary, as He committed her unto John for his tender care and provision. Jesus being the head of His family, after Joseph died, provided for all the family's needs as a carpenter. Now at the cross under tremendous pain and suffocating, Jesus was still concerned about Mary the mother of His human body, the babe in the manger.

Isn't it strange that His half brothers were not the ones He asked to look after Mary, but rather John? Remember that they were not followers of Jesus until after the resurrection. The day of Pentecost made it possible for all who believed to become members of the Royal family of God. James did become a believer after the resurrection, and later become a staunch New Testament saint. He became a Christian of great authority, used by the Holy Spirit to write the book of James. (*Acts 12:17; Acts 15:13-29; Acts 21:17-18.*) Note what he wrote. "*James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ,*" (*James 1:1a*). James was one of the leaders of the church in the city of Jerusalem. James also was the leader over the first council, (*Acts 15*). He had a very religious background and was a great witness as to the Messiah through the tribe of Judah. "*My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons.*" (*James 2:1*) "*Humble yourselves in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.*" (*James 4:10*).

Christ the Eternal Son of God always has tender care for those who are His. The first evidence of this was His tender care of them during those 40 days after the resurrection. Then as He was about to ascend into heaven, He breathed the Holy Spirit upon His disciple. This was until the day of Pentecost, when they would be born again and indwelt by the Holy Spirit. Note what the Lord himself says, "*And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.*" (*John 14:16-17*).

Oh, the eternal love that Christ has for us to suffer that terrible agony upon the Cross! That is why we who are Christians can come to Him at any time for help. "*Casting all your care upon Him; for He careth for you.*" (*1 Peter 5:7*). We need to constantly exercise our faith, knowing that it matters to God concerning each member of that Royal family of God. Mary the mother of the Incarnate Jesus was supported by the Eternal Son of God, after Joseph died, with His personal care. We could ask, Where were the naturally born sons of Mary, that Christ had to turn the care of Mary over to John? They could not accept Christ to be the Messiah, as young men. It took the resurrection of Christ to prove to them that He was the Eternal Son of God.

We praise God for the written statements from James, and how the Holy Spirit used him to write the Book of James. May we just state that the Son of God as He hung upon the Cross was in full control of the situation and made all necessary preparations for those who were left behind. Remember also that God loves us as members of His eternal Royal family with an everlasting love.

4. "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"
(Matthew 27:46)

The Triune God, being absolutely holy and without the possibility of sinning, have an eternal impeccable character, and the Father and the Holy Spirit had to turn away from the Incarnate one, when He took the responsibility for the sins of the whole world.

During those hours, when God turned away from the cross, there was darkness for three hours over the land of Jerusalem. *"Now from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, la'ma sabach'thani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"* (Matthew 27:45-46).

There was no one by the side of Christ as He was burdened with total sin. *"But he was wounded for our transgressions; he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with his stripes we are healed."* (Isaiah 53:5). The holiness of God had to forsake Christ upon the Cross. *"But thou art holy, O thou who inhabitest the praise of Israel."* (Psalm 22:3) The Godhead could not look upon sin in any form, and the Son of man bore our sins as a propitiation before God the Father.

We have already studied, about this painful cry. The spiritual separation which caused it was greater than all the physical torture He endured. May I remind you that it was predicted long before the crucifixion, in God's omniscience. God has always known the end from the beginning and He is sovereign over all. God separated himself from total sin by causing the whole world to remain in darkness physically and spiritually, for that period of three hours.

The sum total of sin, past, present and future bore down upon our Redeemer, as He cried out to the Father, "Why hast Thou forsaken me?" God turned His back away from the member of the Godhead who was paying the total penalty of sin, removing that barrier, making possible "Whosoever will may come"! All God's creation is without excuse before God and "Sin" is no longer the issue, but rather "The Son" is the issue and the pivotal point for eternal life. Therefore the Cross is the culmination in God's plan to remove sin forever! Remember, God does not wish that one soul should perish and be cast forever into the Lake of Fire. (2 Peter 3:9). However, if mankind refuses God's solution to the sin question then they must face the consequences.

At the Great White Throne judgement, as the ungodly of all ages stand before Christ, they will see Him seated upon the throne. It will be then that the ungodly and self righteous will behold the one that they rejected. *"Wherefore, God also hath highly exalted Him, and given Him a name which is above every name. That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth, And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father."* (Philippians 2:9-11).

5. "I THIRST" (John 19:28)

You will recall from the Scriptures that the Holy Spirit recorded in the Old Testament that such a condition would occur during the crucifixion. *"My strength is dried up like a potsherd; and my tongue cleaveth to my jaws; and thou hast brought me into the dust of death."* (Psalm 22:15). This certainly must have been a terrible experience which our Lord passed through as He became the sacrifice for total sin. With all of these terrible things that the Eternal Son of God went through for us, it should cause us to realize how abhorrent sin is to God.

Christ the Creator of heaven and earth, suffered of thirst, and was given vinegar by creatures of His creation. He was the same one who could offer himself as the living water. The Samaritan woman at the well heard the Lord Jesus Christ's offer of living water to her. *"Jesus answered and said unto her, if thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee; Give me to drink, thou wouldst have asked Him, and He would have given thee living water."* (John 4:10) The Christ that thirsted upon the Cross also said, *"But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst, but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."* (John 4:14).

One day because of the great Divine love for us, that sent Christ to Calvary's Cross, we shall enter into that Paradise, fed by the rivers of water, flowing from the throne of God. *"And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth its fruit in its season; its leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper."* (Psalm 1:3) In God's book of Revelation concerning the eternal Paradise God says through John, *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bore twelve kinds of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations."* (Revelation 22:1-2) The fruit of the tree of life that was forbidden to Adam and Eve is now available to all, because of the Lamb of God who bore the sins of the whole world, upon Calvary's Cross. The Creator of all things that ever were created, subjected himself to such a

terrible death, to deliver us from the power of death!

6. "IT IS FINISHED". (John 19:30)

The question arises, "What is finished?" Certainly, Christ was not finished for He arose the third day, victor! What did He accomplish upon the Cross? He conquered sin and death, paying the complete debt of the sins of the whole world. *"Jesus saith unto them, My food is to do the will of Him that sent me, and to finish His work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? Behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest."* (John 4:34-35). The work of the Lord has made possible, for us as believers, to harvest precious souls from His finished work on the Cross. The Eternal Son of God, as He prayed to the Father said this, *"I have glorified thee on earth; I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do."* (John 17:4). As far as God is concerned, all that His sovereign will has purposed, is settled forever in the heavenlies. His immutable personality has been satisfied, and at the Cross the pivotal issue has been accomplished concerning the plan of the Godhead. *"Who hath wrought and done it, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the Lord, the first, and with the last; I am He."* (Isaiah 41:4). The Cross was the sign of victory, rather than defeat and the plan of God was exalted, defeating sin and death through the Lord Jesus Christ. The first phase of God's deliverance and victory was accomplished at the Cross.

The final blow through the wrath of God will be accomplished when all the forces of evil and ungodliness are cast forever into the Lake of Fire. The Lord mighty in all of His ways will accomplish His immutable plan. Please note in the Book of Revelation that as the last bowl of the wrath of God is poured out, we read, *"And the seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and there came a great voice out of the temple of heaven, from the throne saying, It is done."* (Revelation 16:17).

There will be a final blow of the wrath of God but first preparations will be made. The battle of Armageddon will be fought, preceding the 1,000 year reign of Jesus Christ in His Kingdom of Righteousness. The final defeat of all evil will come after the millennium when Satan is released for a season and attempts to take Jerusalem with his mighty force of the ungodly. This we know will be the last stand of evil against Almighty God. *"And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city; and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night forever and ever."* (Revelation 20:9 & 10)

**7. "FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY SPIRIT."
(Luke 23:46)**

All plans were being brought to pass exactly as God willed. Since God is Spirit and eternal, we have the testimony of the Son of God as He hung on the Cross. "And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit, and, having said this, He gave up the Spirit." (Luke 23:46) There are some who say that Christ's death on the Cross was in the Spirit's realm of the greatest importance. This is wrong, for the Word of God says, "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and without shedding of blood is no remission." (Hebrews 9:22) Christ did not commend unto the Father a dead spirit, but rather His living Spirit, the second person of the Trinity. The devil and his fallen angels would have loved to have destroyed the second person of the Godhead, if they would have been able to do so. Praise God, Christ was fully protected from the onslaughts of the evil ones as He hung upon the Cross. His task was accomplished, as both the sacrificer and the sacrifice. God the Father accepted His Son's blood atonement.

What lesson can we learn from this statement of Christ? There is much to be learned and believed by what Christ said. May we list some of the important facts from, "Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit."

1. Christ could not die in the realm of the spirit. (John 4:24)
2. As concerning the fallen angels, there is no redemption possible for them. (Hebrews 2:16-17; Hebrews 9:22)
3. Our redemption is through the shed blood on Calvary's Cross. (Revelation 5:9)
4. Christ was 100% God and 100% man without the possibility of sinning. (1 John 3:5)
5. God the Father laid upon Christ's physical body, the sum total of all sin. (Isaiah 53:6)
6. God had to become Incarnate in order to save our souls. (Galatians 4:4-5)
7. The remission of sins only comes by an impeccable physical body. (1 John 3:5)

These seven last sayings of Christ upon the Cross are the most significant, with tremendous meaning. May it help each of us to realize the great cost which the Triune God was willing to endure for you and for me. It was God's perfect way of adopting us into the Royal family of God. It also made the necessary preparations for the marriage of the Lamb to those who are born of God the Holy Spirit and indwelt with Him for eternity. "*Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the children of God; therefore, the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure.*" (1 John 3:1-3). Because Christ bore the total of sin upon the Cross, it makes possible a limitless atonement. "*For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.*" (Romans 10:13). God provides, and now each individual must decide, as to what they will do with Jesus!

B. THE PROPHETIC SHADOW REVEALED.

God in His omniscience had contemplated the Cross with all its severity, so that we might realize the terribleness of sin in His domain. As the Old Testament gives us the shadow of this death upon the Cross, it does so as a figure, portraying its cruelty. As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, showing a symbol of the poison of the serpent, the Eternal Son of God had to become the sin bearer, and paying the debt for the sum total of sin. The various forms of sacrifices for sins also had to be demonstrated, showing the necessity that without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sin. (Hebrews 9:22.) This was all preliminary to the supreme sacrifice of the Eternal Son of God, to not merely cover sin, but to remove it through the death of the Lamb of God. "*Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace was upon Him, and with His stripes we are healed.*" (Isaiah 53:4-5) This declaration of the punishment of the Son of God was thoroughly presented in the Old Testament, long before Calvary's Cross. The Old Testament saints, by faith, offered up these animal sacrifices as a shadow of the perfect Lamb of God.

C. THE PROPHETIC MESSIANIC REQUIREMENTS DEMANDED IT.

Since God cannot tolerate sin in any form, "thought, word or deed", provision had to be made by our holy God to remove sin forever from His creation. No one on earth could be found to remove the barrier of sin between

God and man. It would take the payment for sin by one who was sinless. That requirement was met through the Messianic hope.

In order to remove this sin barrier, God Himself had to provide a means, and that through a form of man, like unto himself. The seed of the woman was chosen through which God could enter into His creation and remove sin once and forever. Since mankind became "Totally Depraved" through sin, God had to enter the human race by a conception by God the Holy Spirit, to become totally available. This was the beginning of the spiritual battle upon this earth. *"And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; He shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise His heel."* (Genesis 3:15)

God had made preparation for this before sin ever existed, since He knows all things even before they come to pass. Within the Triune Godhead, God the Father planned so great salvation, God the Son provided it, and God the Holy Spirit proves it.

God the Son then took upon himself a form of man, even before the foundations of the world. It was the Lord Jesus Christ who walked in the cool of the evening with Adam and Eve, it was the Lord Jesus Christ who became King/Priest in the city of Salem, taking the name of Melchizedek. It is true that when the Messiah entered into this world he experience every type of human temptation and suffering possible yet He never sinned. *"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver and gold, from your vain manner of life received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot, Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you."* (1 Peter 1:18-20). From these brief references, we must conclude that it took the very Son of God to make possible the bruising of the head of the serpent as well as the removing of sin forever from the presence of God's future creations. God has thoroughly declared the necessity of providing this marvelous salvation for the removal of sin forever.

II. DECLARATION OF THE CROSS AND THE NECESSITY.

The Lord Jesus Christ claiming victory as He hung upon the Cross, crying out, "It is Finished," was the turning point in history. It changed from a mere covering of the individual sins through the blood sacrifices of animals, to the supreme sacrifice of the Eternal Son of God. The moment Jesus died on the cross the veil in the temple was torn from top to bottom signifying that access is now available into the Holy of Hollies to all who believe. Christ is our great high priest and He presented His blood to the Father for the remission of our sins, once and forever! This was necessary to remove the curse of sin, which demanded the supreme perfect and impeccable sacrifice through death.

A. THE CURSE OF SIN DEMANDED IT.

This whole earth is under the curse of sin and it is in mourning, until that curse is lifted during the Millennium reign of Christ. *"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore hath the curse devoured the earth, and they that dwell therein are desolate; therefore, the inhabitants of the earth are burned, and few men left."* (Isaiah 24:5-6). This curse could only be removed by God himself, for all mankind has sinned and came short of the glory of God. Sin demanded the death penalty and only God himself could fulfill those requirements and live. *"And you hath he made alive, who were dead in trespasses and sins; In which in times past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the sons of disobedience;"* (Ephesians 2:1-2)

The whole human race has been cursed by sin, and death has reigned because of sin, therefore in order to rejuvenate the human race, the curse of sin had to be removed. The laws of God had to be satisfied, and the Lamb of God had to die. Since we could not redeem ourselves or pay the debt of sin and live, God the Father sent His only begotten Son to become the sin bearer for us, removing the curse of sin. *"For this cause I bow my knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"* (Ephesians 3:14-15) Through the Cross of Christ, God has removed the curse and provided us with this newness of life. God has exchanged the curse of sin with Christ's love within! *"That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God."* (Ephesians 3:16-19)

B. THE LAWS OF GOD REQUIRED IT.

God is immutable, and is the same yesterday, today and forever, and cannot be altered or changed in any way. Therefore the total sum of God's laws must be maintained. The atonement for our sins had to be met to fulfill God's character. That is why God the Father had to turn his back upon His very own Eternal Son as He hung upon the Cross, for our sins. The laws of God are perfect and requires restitution when broken. That is why God sent His only Begotten Son to be the fulfillment of the law in our stead. *"For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."* (John 3:17). God has poured out His wrath

against sin, that He might show to us His hatred of sin , and His great love toward us. *“What if God, willing to show His wrath and to make His power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction; And that He might make known the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy, which He had before prepared unto glory,”* (Romans 9:22-23). God is like a potter and we are like his clay. God desires to make us into vessels well pleasing in His sight. God loved us so that He was willing to send His Eternal Son to the Cross to redeem us from the law of sin and death. Christ fulfilled the law of God and paid the penalty of sin through His death.

C. THE LAMB OF GOD ENDURED IT.

Suffering upon the Cross was the most painful that one could suffer, and through the Cross, God has revealed to us the most cruel means of death in order to show unto us the evilness of sin. For the Lamb of God endured the Cross in order to justify those who believed. *“For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us who are saved it is the power of God.”* (1 Corinthians 1:18). We look to the Lamb of God who has taken away the penalty of all of our sins. *“Looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him, endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.”* (Hebrews 12:2). The Lamb of God laid aside His eternal glory for a moment, so that we too could be partakers of the glory of God, making us new creatures, having endured the shame of the Cross. *“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath He made alive together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses, blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His cross; And, having spoiled principalities and powers, He made a show of them openly, triumphing over them in it.”* (Colossians 2:13-15). Christ has conquered death and hell and one day both shall be cast into the Lake of Fire to burn with an eternal fire. *“And death and hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”* (Revelation 20:14). May we be reminded that this second death is different from the first death in that it becomes a conscious death. It will be a living death with God’s continual wrath being poured out upon it.

III. THE REVELATION OF THE CROSS AND IT’S ULTIMATE AIM.

The Cross was one of the worst types of death to face with a gradual suffocation. However, God with His plan to rid sin forever from His vast domain chose the most cruel type of death to show to us the awfulness of sin. As Christ laid down His life for the penalty of total sin, so He was able to take it again. (John 10:18.) This was not a defeat but rather a dethronement of sin and all evil forces forever. God in His

sovereignty went to the Cross to claim victory over sin and provide eternal life to "Whosoever Will".

A. THE CRUELTY OF THE CROSS SECURED IT.

As has been previously stated that hanging on the cross is one of the most cruel forms of death, gradually strangling the victim to death with extreme pain. We have describe the prophetic reference to this from (*Psalm 22*). One can hardly imagine being stretched out to such an extent that your bones are all out of joint, being torn asunder. That is what the Creator of heaven and earth endured for us, that we might be freed from the penalty of sin and of death. The Triune God wants us to understand the terribleness of sin and rebellion against God. God was willing to endure all of this that He might redeem us from the slave market of sin. *"Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him; He hath put Him to grief. When thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the Lord shall prosper in his hand. He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied; by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities."* (*Isaiah 53:10-12*).

God the Father was pleased with the results of that cruel Cross, rather than the method of obtaining those results. This Cross upon which our Lord shed His blood is not an emblem to be worshiped. It is the tool that God used to provide eternal life to everyone who believes and accepts the gift of God. Praise God we who believe, have been set free from the law of sin and death. *"Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus, Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God, But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men; And, being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."* (*Philippians 2:5-8*). That debt of sin has been fully paid by the Incarnate Son of God upon the Cross. Every believer has been set free from the penalty of sin and has become a new creature in Christ Jesus, because of the Cross.

B. THE BETRAYAL AT THE CROSS.

It was for the purpose of removing the barrier of sin that Christ came into the world. Had there been any other way by which He could have redeemed us from the world of sin, God would have used it. Christ endured the Cross, and was mindful of His very own until His life was given for our sins.

He knew that He would be betrayed by Judas Iscariot, who was a tool in Satan's hand from the very beginning. He knew that Peter would betray Him three times over, and that all the disciples would scatter for fear of their

enemies. There was none that stood by the Lord, as He suffered alone upon the Cross. *"Be not far from me; for trouble is near; for there is none to help. Many bulls have compassed me; strong bulls of Bashan have beset me round. They gaped upon me with their mouths, like a ravening and roaring lion. I am poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint: my heart is like wax; it is melted within me."* (Psalm 22:11-14). Christ died of a broken heart as water and blood poured forth from His wounded side. (John 19:34.) This according to medical authorities is a sign of a broken heart. Yes, Jesus died of a broken heart, suffering alone, when even God the Father had to turn away from Him.

Yes it was alone that the Lord Jesus Christ gave His all that we may share His eternal wealth throughout eternity. It was not a light thing that God the Father and God the Holy Spirit had to forsake the second Person of the Trinity, as He bore the sins of the whole world. This was all endured by the Godhead, because of the eternal accomplishment which was at stake. The Triune God was dealing with the sin question once and forever! The New Heavens and the New Earth will be eternally freed from the possibility of sin occurring again. God will usher in "Everlasting Righteousness" where sin will be no more. (Daniel 9:24.) What a day of rejoicing that will be! We have been set free from the penalty of sin and the power of sin, and one day from the very presence of sin.

C. THE RESULTS THROUGH THE CROSS.

The Lord Jesus Christ was willing to suffer, bleed and die in order to remove the sin barrier between the believing saints and God. John the Baptist declared Him as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world. The results of the crucifixion upon the Cross has provided us with redemption from the penalty of sin, and God the Holy Spirit has been given to us so that we can overcome sin in our lives. *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16). God had, through the Cross of Calvary provided us this newness of life, making us new creatures in Christ Jesus. *"Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* (John 14:6). *"Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live. And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"* (John 11:25-26). These are strong statements, and they were spoken by the Eternal Son of God who went to the Cross to die alone. What we do about those words makes the difference between life and death. Christ as the Messiah is God's answer and cure of all sin, except the sin of rejection.

The religions of the world can point to a grave where their religious

leaders were buried or burned, but we point to a tomb that is empty. Our Savior arose, conquering death and hell and offers to those who believe, a place in Paradise.

May I further remind you that there is no other way into the heavenly home, but by the Eternal Son of God, who is the way, the truth and the life. God sent forth the prophets in past times to prepare the way for the coming of His Son. *"God, who at sundry times and in diverse manners spoke in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by His Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also He made the worlds. Who, being the brightness of His glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of His power, when He had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high."* (Hebrews 1:1-3).

Those that reject the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Savior will have to acknowledge Christ as the Eternal Son of God before they are cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. *"Wherefore, God hath highly exalted Him, and given him a name which is above every name, That at the name of Jesus, every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth. And every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God, the Father."* (Philippians 3:9-11). For those of us who have believed in the Lord as the Eternal Son of God, we joyfully have confessed to His saving grace. However those who have rejected Him as their Savior will one day have to accept Him as their Sovereign! That will take place when they stand before "The Great White Throne." Every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that He is the Eternal Son of God. Then, because they fall short of the glory of God, and they have rejected Jesus, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire and remain there forever, tormented in a living death. *"Therefore, we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip. For if the word spoken by angels was steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward, How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him. God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with diverse miracles and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?"* (Hebrews 2:1-4).

As I close this discussion on the reality of the Cross in it's past revelations, may we be mindful of the impact that it should have on each of us as we are led by the Holy Spirit. May I remind you that we do not worship the emblem of the cross, but rather the Eternal Son of God who gave his life a ransom for many. It cost God the Father a tremendous price, to send His Son to the Cross for the remission of our sins. May we take heed to God's Word. *"This, then, is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you that God is light,But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have*

fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son,cleanseth us from all sin.” (1 John 1:5-7).

As I close our study on the proclamation, declaration and revelation of the Cross, may I remind you to focus your attention upon the one who died on the Cross for your sins and my sins. We were dead in trespasses and sins, but God had an everlasting love for us and exercised His Divine Grace for us through the Cross of Calvary. I thank God for so great a salvation and that Calvary covers it all!

*“Oh the love that drew salvation’s plan,
Oh the Grace that brought it down to man,
Oh the mighty gulf that God did span at Calvary!”*

“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ, our Lord.” (Roman 6:23). “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God, Being justified freely by His Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in His blood, to declare His righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time His righteousness, that He might be just, and the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus. Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith without the deeds of the law. Is He the God of the Jews only? Is He not also of the Gentiles? Yes, of the Gentiles also: Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and the uncircumcision through faith. Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: Yea, we establish the law.” (Romans 3:23-26). May each of our lives be so yielded unto God that we will allow our Almighty God to mold and make us after His will. We cannot add to our salvation, but we can certainly manifest to God our appreciation of our salvation all because of the finished work on Calvary. May we as believers of the Royal family of God, dedicate our life to the service of our soon coming King of kings and Lord of lords. May I also remind you that we, who are like lost sheep, were sought by our Savior, that Great Shepherd. We have been found and brought into the fold of God to enjoy the blessings of God throughout eternity. I leave you at this moment with that marvelous hymn.

SINCE THE SAVIOR FOUND ME

SINCE THE SAVIOR FOUND ME, PARDON ALL MY SINS.
I HAVE HAD THE JOY AND LIVING HOPE WITHIN;
GONE IS ALL THE SHAME AND SORROW OF THE PAST,
THEY’RE UNDERNEATH THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF CHRIST AT LAST.
SINCE THE SAVIOR FOUND ME ALL TO HIM I OWE,

FOR HIS PRECIOUS BLOOD HAS WASHED ME WHITE AS SNOW;
NOW NO CONDEMNATION, HAPPY AS CAN BE,
I'M GLAD THAT JESUS JUSTIFIES AND SETS ME FREE.

SINCE THE SAVIOR FOUND ME I HAVE PERFECT REST,
LIVING IN THE REALMS OF JOY AND HAPPINESS;
LEANING ON MY SAVIOR, LOOKING FOR THAT DAY,
WHEN HE SHALL COME TO CATCH HIS WAITING BRIDE AWAY.

SAVED, SAVED, SAVED, I'M HAPPY ON THE WAY;
SAVED, SAVED, SAVED, I LOVE HIM MORE EACH DAY;
SAVED, SAVED, SAVED, I KNOW HE'S MINE EACH HOUR;
HE SAVES AND KEEPS AND SANCTIFIES ME BY HIS POWER.

GOD'S DIVINE LOVE IS MADE AVAILABLE TO ALL.

The Eternal Son of God suffered for the sins of the whole world, and all of mankind have no excuse whatsoever before God. *"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)* God has provided a way of escape for every soul born into this world with a limitless atonement. Salvation is full and free, all because of the Cross of Calvary. *"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: By which also He went and preached unto the spirits in prison; Which sometime were disobedient, when once the suffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was preparing wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water."* (1 Peter 3:18-20) It was Christ as He gave Himself a ransom for our sins upon the Cross that made possible His descent into Sheol and led captivity captive. Christ preached unto those saints in Sheol, among who were the eight souls saved from the flood, and others also who made light of the Ark. We do not have a clear picture of all that happened then, but we do have God's Word that Christ was there, as He conquered death. Praise God, as the thief on the cross was promised a place in Paradise, so we know that all who will put their trust in the Lord will be present in Paradise with the Lord.

God loved us with an everlasting love, before we were born! I cannot understand all of the mighty power of God, but He is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. He is omniscient and knows the end from the beginning. While we were dead in trespasses and sins, Christ died in our stead that we might live forever in the presence of God. *"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow His steps: Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth; Who, when He was reviled, reviled not again; when He suffered, He threatened not; but committed himself to Him that judgeth righteously: Who*

His own self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.” (1 Peter 2:21-24).

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER ONE.

1. What is your understanding of the meaning of the Cross?
2. Explain (*Numbers 21:6-8*); in the light of (*John 3:13-15*).
3. Why did God the Father have to turn away from His Son, when dying on the Cross?
4. When did the Godhead plan to have the second person of the Trinity to die on the Cross?
5. Compare (*Psalms 22*) with the actual crucifixion account in the New Testament. (*Matthew 27*)
6. Explain briefly the “Seven Last Sayings of Christ”. (*Luke 23:34; 23:43; John 19:26-27; Matthew 27:46; John 19:28-30; Luke 23:46*).
7. What do we learn about the Spiritual life from the Bible?
8. In the Incarnation of Christ, how much is He Deity and how much humanity?
9. Give some Old Testament illustrations leading up to the crucifixion.
10. Write a thesis on (*Isaiah 53:4-5*).
11. Explain (*Genesis 3:15*).
12. Explain (*1 Peter 1:18-20*).
13. Explain (*Isaiah 24:5-6*).
14. What protection do we have as New Testament saints against the prince of the power of the air? (*Ephesians 3:16-19*.)
15. Write an essay on, “God’s Law Requires Obedience”.
16. Explain (*Romans 9:22-23*).

17. Write an essay on, "The Lamb Of God".
18. What caused Christ to "Endure the Cross"?
19. Explain (*Isaiah 53:10-12*).
20. Give some Scripture examples of "Christ Forsaken At the Cross".
21. Give some Scriptural results through the Cross of Christ.
22. Why was it necessary for Divinity to pay the full price of sin?
23. What can we, who receive forgiveness of sin, do in appreciation of so great salvation?
24. What was the purpose of Jesus the Son of God enduring the crucifixion, the cruelest form of death, for our sins?

CHAPTER TWO



THE MEANING OF THE CROSS

There had to be a specific reason for the Godhead to propose such a death on the Cross. The Triune God had to love the creation of man very much, because the breath of life was given to him, making him a living soul. We were not created as mere animals driven by instinct, but rather we were created as free moral agents. In the previous chapter we have discussed the results of the Cross, which removed the barrier of sin, but we may ask, "Why did God wish to reclaim fallen man, and not fallen angels?" Well, we will consider this question in this chapter.

I. THE DEMAND OF THE CROSS FOR RESTITUTION.

God's written law stated, "*The soul that sinneth, it shall die.*" That is a definite statement, based upon the character of God. Restitution has not been made for the angels that sinned and we may ask, Why not? To answer that, a thorough study would need to be made on "Angelology." Since in this study we are primarily interested in mankind, and God's revelations dealing with mankind, our emphasis will be upon man. However, suffice it to say that the angels were not deceived about the nature of God, but were fully aware of the character of God when they sinned. They were in the presence of God in the heavenlies as free spiritual beings. They were without excuse when they followed Lucifer in his rebellion against God. Man did not actually rebel, but he was deceived by the serpent who told him that he would become like God. May I also add that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins, and angels do not have blood as we do. May I also say that, the Triune God had a supreme purpose for creating

mankind. Creating man became God's method in dealing with total sin once and forever, and to bring in everlasting righteousness. (*Daniel 9:24.*)

Primarily, as we have discussed the necessity of the Cross as portrayed in the Old Testament, the truth of God's dealing with sin is clearly observed. Someone was needed to die to remove the sin barrier, who could reclaim the life laid down at the Cross. The only one available and capable of doing this was the Triune God. God alone could make restitution for the sins of the world and provide the gift of eternal life. God could have had His Son die some other type of death, but this very cruel type of death was chosen. It was God's way of showing the terribleness of sin, with a great price to be paid, to remove sin from God's domain forever and ever. It cost the very Eternal Son of God the agony of the Cross to free us from the penalty of sin. We were purchased out from the slave market of sin by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. The full wages of sin was completely paid for at the Cross, but we must accept this gift of salvation from God as fully paid for at the Cross. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God - Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*"(*Ephesians 2: 8-10.*)

A. THE WAGES OF SIN PAID AT THE CROSS.

The Word of God clearly states, "*For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*"(*Romans 3: 23*). This is all inclusive and no human being is exempt from this condemnation. We also read, "*For the wages of sin is death,*"(*Romans 6: 23a*). This judgement is based upon the absolute holiness of the Godhead. This law cannot be changed and an act of sin requires the judgement of death. Our restitution must be activated by one in a human body, since sin has been committed by a human being. This demands either the death and eternal damnation of all individuals, since all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. Or, else a perfect sacrifice must be found as a substitute for the sinners. That was all worked out by the Godhead in their omniscience, and the second person of the Trinity was chosen to be both the sacrificer and the sacrifice.

The death penalty was declared to Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden, if they partook of the tree of good and evil within the garden. "*And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to till it and to keep it. And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat; But of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it; for in that day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*"(*Genesis 2: 15-17*). This tree of good and evil was specifically placed in the garden of Eden as a test of obedience of man to his Creator. Adam was not an ignorant or uninformed creature, but was the sum total of all the wisdom of all of his prodigy. God has not only made him a very intelligent person, but also provided him with a perfect language. Adam was made in the image of

God. (*Genesis 1: 27*). "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and *breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.*" (*Genesis 2: 7*). This first man Adam was given such intelligence that God could have him give names to all living creatures. (*Genesis 2:19-20*). Who of us could name and retain all the names of the creatures which God created? We cannot even know all the names of these creatures, let alone retain them, having been named for us.

What was the result when Adam and Eve took of the forbidden fruit? They died as God said that they would! They died spiritually immediately and died physically eventually. This death has passed to all of us, by one man's sin, and praise God by one man's obedience we can be made new creatures. We have inherited a totally depraved nature from Adam and eternal death is the obvious result. However, God's grace is our ever present help, for which we can praise God forever more. "For the wages of sin is death, *but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*" (*Romans 6: 23*). Therefore, it is by the grace of God that we qualify to become members of the Royal family of God. May we by the grace of God, live up to the high calling given to us through the Lord Jesus Christ.

B. THE SHED BLOOD FOR SIN Poured OUT AT THE CROSS.

That gift from God cost God His very own eternal Son, to become our Redeemer. "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood, and *without the shedding of blood is no remission.*" (*Hebrews 9: 22*). God is always reasonable and righteous in His judgements and is always ready to show His mercy, removing the penalty in a just and holy manner. "Come now, and let us reason together, *saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow, though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.*" (*Isaiah 1: 18*). This process can only take place, when the shed blood of Christ upon Calvary washes away our sins. Our personal works, be they ever so great, cannot wash away our sins. Nothing but the blood of Jesus can cleanse and make us whole. "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son; In whom we have *redemption through His blood, even the forgiveness of sins.*" (*Colossians 1: 13-14*). It is only the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ that availeth before the throne of God. Grace, mercy and peace can only be obtained because of the shed blood of the Lord Jesus Christ on Calvary's Cross. Christ is our Passover, and when God the Father saw the blood of His Eternal Son, which washed away our sins, the angel of death passes over our lives. "Behold the Lamb of God, that taketh away our sins!" Nothing else is capable of removing sins from our lives, but the precious blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. We all have nothing in our lives worthy or capable of removing the terribleness of sin from us. Christ alone has completely removed the

penalty of sin, making us acceptable to God the Father. We can only sing that glorious hymn, "Nothing but the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ."

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD.

WHAT CAN WASH AWAY MY SIN?
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS;
WHAT CAN MAKE ME WHOLE AGAIN?
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

NOTHING CAN FOR SIN ATONE
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS;
NOUGHT FOR GOOD THAT I HAVE DONE
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

THIS IS ALL MY HOPE AND PEACE
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS;
THIS IS ALL MY RIGHTEOUSNESS
NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS.

C. GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE THROUGH THE CROSS.

God is not a respecter of persons, but He is a respecter of the person of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have discovered that without the shed blood of the Lord Jesus there is no forgiveness of sins. The unpardonable sin is the rejection of the only Redeemer, sent from God the Father to give His life a ransom for all. This salvation offered by God the Father through His Son cannot be substituted with good works in any fashion or form. "*For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God - Not of works, lest any man should boast.*" (Ephesians 2: 8-9). That does not mean that we abstain from good works, but rather to realize that our justification before God is based upon the finished work of Christ upon the Cross. May we remember, "*For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*" (Ephesians 2: 10). Our lives as Christians should be led by God the Holy Spirit, walking in the light of the Bible. "*But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ, His Son, cleanseth us from all sin.*" (1 John 1: 7).

When God's grace is applied, based upon the merits of God the Father's Eternal Son, then are we the recipients of God's mercy. according the personality of the Godhead. Sin can never be by passed or excused, for it must be dealt with at the Cross of Calvary. When mercy is applied to our life through Christ then we have confidence and peace. "*But now in Christ Jesus*

ye who were once far off are made near by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us.” (Ephesians 2: 13-14). It is marvelous and glorious to know that “Whosoever will may come”, to the throne of Grace and receive God’s mercy, creating a lasting peace within our souls. God desires to have His creatures to be filled with the glory of himself. “That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend, with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God.” (Ephesians 3: 17-19).

II. THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CROSS FOR RECONCILIATION.

God never by passes His standards of righteousness, and cannot look upon sin in any form to justify anyone. Sin had to be dealt with and dealt with permanently. That is why no substitute could qualify to remove the barrier of sin, except the Godhead. There was a need for us to be reconciled to God and that could only be possible by the penalty for sin being paid. That is why the penalty of the sin of the whole world had to be met in death. Who could pay that death and conquer death through a resurrection? It was only God himself that could meet this requirement, which was settled once and forever at the Cross.

A. SEPARATION UNTO GOD.

Reconciliation to God can only come by the penalty of sin being removed. “But God commended His love toward us in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of His Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom we have now received the reconciliation.” (Romans 5: 8-11).

Through the Cross of Christ, we not only have obtained, Grace, Mercy, and Peace with God, but have come into God’s favor and love as a friend. Being made a new creature in Christ Jesus, we need to realize that our life style should change. We are now the temple of the living God, and admonished not to be conformed to this world system. (Romans 12: 2). “And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.” (2 Corinthians 6: 16-18).

This is a tremendous statement from Almighty God and it should behoove us to want to live a life well pleasing to our Heavenly Father. With confidence, we as the saints of God can look forward to that day, when we not only have God the Holy Spirit dwelling within us but we shall see our Savior face to face and be like Him. (1 John 3:1-3.) *“And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God.”* (Revelation 21: 3).

B. THE BARRIER OF SIN.

Since we are children of light and have become new creatures in Christ, adopted into the Royal family of God, our whole mode of life should be changed. We are in this world, but not of it. We desire to be well pleasing with God, therefore we should walk worthy of the high calling in Christ Jesus. As we live this spiritual life, we are also confronted with the old fleshly life, the world as well as the devil. We know that we will some day stand before the Judgement seat of Christ, for rewards, according to our faithfulness to Him.

We also are aware that in this world we still have the sin nature and constantly must come before the Throne of Grace, to be cleansed from sin. If we neglect the provision which God has made, for cleansing (1 John 1:9), we not only grieve the Holy Spirit, but lose our fellowship with Almighty God. This barrier of sin must be removed by acknowledging our sins, in thought, word and deed, for God is faithful to forgive us and cleanse us from all unrighteousness. This is a continual process until the Rapture, when we will receive our glorified bodies. *“Let not sin, therefore, reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in its lusts. Neither yield ye your members instruments of unrighteousness unto sin, but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto God. For sin shall not have the dominion over you, for ye are not under law but under grace.”* (Romans 6: 12-14).

As sons and daughters of God, and of the Royal family of God, if we let sin reign in our mortal bodies, we become like a prodigal son. We then find ourselves living in the miry clay, when we could be rejoicing, and living in the blessings of God. Christ has removed the barrier of sin at the Cross and we certainly do not want to be cut off from the sweet fellowship of God. This does not mean that ones loses eternal life, but rather that ones loses the crown or reward as a faithful Christian. When sin reigns in our bodies, all of our works become as wood, hay and stubble and they will be destroyed at the judgement seat of Christ. Fellow believer, do not let sin reign in your mortal body! Always remember that your body belongs to God and it is the temple of God the Holy Spirit.

C. RECONCILIATION BEFORE GOD.

We know that one day, God will dwell with us, as Emmanuel. We shall see our Savior face to face and be like Him in a glorified body. God has given us the guarantee of this newness of life by giving us a new birth by the Holy Spirit, who continues to remain within us throughout eternity to come. *“But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it hath taught you, ye shall abide in Him.”* (1 John 2: 27). This refers to God the Holy Spirit, dwelling within you, who will guide you into all truth. That does not mean that you refuse to be taught by other saints of God. It means that as you study the Word of God and exchange Biblical truths with others, that you should constantly be under the teaching of the Holy Spirit, who dwells within you.

In order to be reconciled by God, you must obtain that reconciliation through the sacrificial blood from the Cross. Through Christ the Son of God, we have become friends of God the Father. *“For verily He took not on him the nature of angels, but He took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore, in all things it behooved Him to be made like his brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.”* (Hebrews 2: 16-17). The only way that we can be reconciled to God is through the death of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. *“Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creation; old things are passed away, behold, all things are becoming new. And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit, that God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them, and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation. Now, then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us; we beg you in Christ’s stead, be ye reconciled to God. For He hath made Him, who knew no sin, to be sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.”* (2 Corinthians 5: 17-21).

According to the Word of God, it is very clear that reconciliation before God is by grace through the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the Eternal Son of God in whom the Father is well pleased and He becomes the propitiation for our sins in becoming sin on the Cross in our stead. There is no other name, past, present or future, where by we can be reconciled to God the Father. Let us look a little more in extent to find the results of the cross toward our salvation.

Remember that as God paid the debt of sin that He also wants to remove it forever from His new creation. This will take place in the fullness of time, according to the sovereignty of God. Time is never an issue with God for He is from eternity past and He will be forever throughout eternity to come. We

have previously discussed the results of the Cross from God's viewpoint, now let's review the results of the cross for our personal benefit.

III. THE RESULTS OF THE CROSS FOR SALVATION.

The Cross of Christ not only removed the barrier of sin, but it also had other benefits to us. God could have removed the sin question and let us continue in a human fashion, but He went far beyond this with our wonderful salvation. Let's now review what God has completely accomplished in our behalf.

A. RESTORED TO GOD AS NEW CREATURES.

Whatever process it takes to bring the message of salvation to those who are dead in trespasses and sins, we are interested in the final results, that they may become new creatures in Christ Jesus.

To many, who as novices read the Word about the crucifixion of Christ upon the Cross, it may seem that somewhere God lost control of the whole situation. However, Christ was sent to this earth to establish the kingdom of righteousness. God in His omniscience was aware of every thought, word and deed, for He is and ever will be sovereign over all!

May I remind you of Pilate's plight to release Jesus, when he heard that Jesus declared himself the Son of God. *"When Pilate, therefore, heard that saying, he was the more afraid; And went again into the judgement hall, and saith unto Jesus, From where art thou? But Jesus gave him no answer. Then saith Pilate unto him, Speakest thou not unto me? Knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above; therefore, he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."* (John 19: 8-11). Certainly this is very plain and clear about God being sovereign over all. But perhaps we can add to this statement from the word of God. *"Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father."* (John 10: 17-18). It was for this very purpose that the Eternal Son of God came into this world as the Incarnate One. God sent His Eternal Son into this world to justify the righteousness of God and to establish God's truth forever.

Pilate was confused and became afraid, since his accusers said He made himself King of the Jews. *"Then Pilate entered into the judgement hall again, and called Jesus, and said unto Him, Art thou the King of the Jews? Jesus answered him, sayest thou this thing of thyself, or did others tell it thee of me? Pilate answered, Am I a Jew? Thine own nation and the chief priests have delivered thee unto me. What hast thou done? Jesus answered, My kingdom is*

not of this world; if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews; but now is my kingdom not from here. Pilate, therefore, said unto Him, Art thou a king, then? Jesus answered, Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the truth. Everyone that is of the truth heareth my voice." (John 18: 33-37).

The results of the Cross were not only to restore God's truth, but also to offer newness of life to those who are dead in trespasses and sins. God has offered a Divine spark of life to those who would accept Christ as their personal Savior. This all was made available at the Cross of Christ. As Christ was leaving this earth to return to His heavenly throne He said. *"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you." (John 14: 16-17).* That is why Christ said to Nicodemus, *"Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again."* (John 3: 7). This is the only way that you can obtain eternal life with Almighty God. *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."* (John 3: 16-17). All of this was made possible because Christ removed the barrier of sin at the Cross, by giving himself as a ransom for those who would believe. There is no limited atonement, but rather a limitless atonement. Because of the Cross of Christ, it is not an issue of "sin," but rather of "The Son". The purpose of God's Word is to point you to the way, the truth and the life, in Christ Jesus. *"But these things are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name."* (John 20: 31).

We become new creatures in Christ Jesus, not merely restored to what we had in Adam before he sinned, but now, we are indwelt by God the Holy Spirit, who will remain in us as our ever present help throughout eternity. When that glorified body is presented to us, God the Holy Spirit will remain within us forever and ever, with sin totally eradicated throughout eternity to come. This is a restoration through a regeneration, with sanctified temples of God supplied by God for eternity. This is the Divine spark provided to us through God the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will indwell us forever, in our glorified bodies and will be part of God's provision to us for the marriage of the Lamb. *"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready."* (Revelation 19: 7).

B. DIVINE LIFE PROVIDED.

Since God has provided us with a new life by God the Holy Spirit, we already have the Divine spark of life, as a guarantee of an eternal glorified body when the Rapture takes place. God has therefore provided a sinless and holy body, to those who believe, which will never be contaminated by sin again. As there are various types of Holy angels, so there will be various types of these Divine new creatures, in Christ Jesus. Let us list these various categories of these Divine souls.

1. The Old Testament saints of the antediluvian days before the flood, such as Enoch, Noah, and Seth. (*Genesis 5: 6-8*); (*Genesis 5: 24*); (*Genesis 6: 9*)
2. The Old Testament Saints according to the believers from Shem, Ham, and Japheth. (*Genesis 6: 10*)
3. The Old Testament Saints of promises according to the lineage of Shem as Abram was called to a land of promise. The blessings through Isaac. (*Genesis 13: 14-18*); (*Romans 9: 7*)
4. The Old Testament Saints under the Mosaic laws. (*Exodus 19-29*)
5. The New Testament Saints from Pentecost to the Rapture of the true church. (*Acts 2: 1-6*); (*Acts 8: 17*); (*Acts 10: 44-48*); (*Acts 19: 1-7*); (*1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18*)
6. The Tribulation Saints. (*Revelation 7: 9-14*)
7. The Millennial Saints who will have died during the Thousand years. (*Isaiah 65: 20*); (*Isaiah 11: 3-4*)

The believing saints of all ages will have part in the first resurrection, before the Great White Throne Judgement. The second resurrection will take place after the believers are all raised from the dead. This second resurrection will be for all unbelievers who will go to an eternal living death in the Lake of Fire with the Devil and his demons, with no escape route.

Let us now consider this great host of believers of all ages, who will be of the Royal Family of God. As wild olive branches, we have been grafted into the Olive tree, which is a symbol of unity in this age of grace. Israel remains separate and the bride of Christ is of those of the mystery age.

C. ADOPTED INTO THE ROYAL FAMILY OF GOD.

We are aware of at least two different groups within this Royal Family of God, namely "The Old Testament Saints", and "The New Testament Saints". The Old Testament saints will be recognized as the friends of the Bridegroom. (*John 3: 29*) The New Testament saints will become the Bride of Christ. (*Revelation 19: 7-9*) We as the future bride of the Lamb of God are especially privileged in this marvelous relationship with the Eternal Son of God. As the natural man was breathed upon and he became a living soul, so we have been given the Holy Spirit. Now we who are of the spiritual realm have been made new creatures washed in the blood of the Lamb. A place is being prepared for us in the Royal mansions of God the Father. It is taking some 2,000 years for the Bridegroom to prepare a place for every member of the "Body of Christ". Our royalty was obtained when we were born again by God the Holy Spirit, who also indwells us forever.

The meaning of the Cross is magnificent as we consider the great price that the Triune God has paid to transform us into our Redeemer's likeness. "*Beloved, now are we the children of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.*" (*1 John 3: 2*). This alone, should encourage us to live like members of the Royal Family of God. We are also admonished in the very next verse. "*And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself even as He is pure.*" (*1 John 3: 3*). This purification is not of a natural process but rather based upon the finished work on Calvary's Cross. The price for our sins and the sins of the whole world were fully paid on the cross, which made possible the cleansing of our soul and the removing of the judgement against us. We are acquitted of the penalty of sin, when we believe, cleansing us from all guilt, being washed in the blood of our Redeemer. In other words, the Eternal Son of God has taken our place in death shedding His blood and giving to us the newness of life, through His resurrection. His blood shed upon the Cross keeps on cleansing us from all sin. When the Rapture takes place, we will receive our glorified body, which will be free from all possibility of sin forever and ever. Amen and Amen! We can freely sing, "Glory to His Name," realizing that we will enjoy the presence of God forever and ever.

GLORY TO HIS NAME.

Down at the cross where my Savior died,
Down where for cleansing from sin I cried,
There to my heart was the blood applied,
Glory to His Name!

I am so wondrously saved from sin,
Jesus so sweetly abides within;

There at the cross where He took me in,
Glory to His Name!

O precious fountain that saves from sin,
I am so glad that I entered in;
There Jesus saves me and keeps me clean,
Glory to His Name!

Come to the fountain so rich and sweet,
Cast thy poor soul at the Savior's feet;
Plunge in today, and be made complete,
Glory to His Name!

Glory to His name, Glory to His name,
There to my heart was the blood applied;
Glory to His Name!

It certainly would have been sufficient for God to have merely freed us from the penalty of sin, but God in His marvelous grace brought us right into the Divine Royal family. We are also made joint heirs with the Lord Jesus Christ! This is a marvelous undertaking by God, for His wayward creatures. God's marvelous grace is beyond our human understanding, but praise God it has happened! We have entered into the Divine love of God through the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross, to save us from the penalty of sin. Praise God, death could not conquer the Incarnate Son of God, but He rose again, victor over sin and death. Glory to the Precious and Wonderful name of the Lord Jesus Christ! I am looking forward to seeing my Savior face to face and I pray that I might be faithful to Him throughout this whole life. If there be any crown of righteousness which is to be received for my labors here on earth, I only wish to present it to the King of kings and Lord of lords, for He alone is worthy of all honor and glory! Christ gave His life's blood as a ransom for our souls and by belief, we enter into the newness of eternal life with God. *"Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure."* (1 John 3: 1-3). We as Christians should have the highest of ideals in this newness of life, since we are already of the Royal family of God. We are God's witnesses to His saving grace and should be true witnesses of God in this present life. Let this wicked world know that we belong to Jesus and Jesus belongs to us. Study God's Word thoroughly and hide it within your heart that you might not sin against our heavenly Father. He has loved you with an everlasting love, why not show Him that we appreciate His love by being His living witnesses to His saving

grace?

In closing this chapter on the meaning of the Cross, may we be mindful of the message of the Cross. We have been separated from the ungodly and are now partakers of the glory of God, through the Lord Jesus Christ. We have a message to take to the nations, that of the saving grace of our loving Lord. Remain true to Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light. Do not neglect to assemble together with those of like faith. *“This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.”* (1 John 1: 5-7).

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER TWO.

1. What does the Cross of Christ mean to you?
2. How do we make things right with God? (Restitution)
3. How did God remove the sin barrier?
4. Write an essay on, “The Wages of Sin versus The Gift of God”.
5. Give the Biblical record as to how sin entered this world.
6. How are humans different from animals?
7. Explain the following Scriptures. (*Isaiah 1: 11*); & (*Hebrews 9: 22*).
8. Explain (*Colossians 1: 13-14*).
9. How does one obtain “Grace, Mercy, and Peace” with God?
10. Explain (*Ephesians 2: 8*) & (*1 John 2: 7*).
11. Explain (*Ephesians 3: 17-19*).
12. What are the requirements through the Cross of Christ to be reconciled to God? (*Hebrews 2: 16-17*) & (*2 Corinthians 5: 17-21*).
13. Explain (*Romans 6: 12-14*).

14. Write some results of Christ dying on the cross.
15. Was it a mistake that Christ was crucified on the cross? Explain your answer thoroughly.
16. Explain (*John 10: 17-18*) & (*John 20: 31*).
17. What help do we have as we fight, the world, the flesh and the devil? Name two main sources of help.
18. Give 7 groups in the Bible that have Divine life given to them.
19. Who at present have the first fruit of this Divine life? Scripture please.
20. Write a Thesis on, "The Royal Family of God."
21. Explain the meaning of reconciliation.
22. In our personal Christian life, how can we help others to be reconciled to God?
23. Why is it possible for God to exercise Grace, Mercy, and Peace to those who are condemned to death?
24. What is the difference between the shed blood of animals in the Old Testament and the shed blood of Christ in the New Testament?
25. What was represented by the Son of God as He died upon the cross?
26. How did we inherit the sin nature?
27. How do we qualify to become members of the Royal family of God?
28. Explain (*Hebrews 9: 22*).
29. Explain (*Colossians 1: 13-14*).
30. Explain (*Ephesians 2: 10-14*).

CHAPTER THREE



THE PREPARATION FOR CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS

As we study this phase of the Cross, may I remind you that great preparations had been made prior to the Eternal Son of God being crucified. We will study these preparations from both the Old Testament and the New Testament. There was no emergency anticipated, but before the foundation of the world, a body was prepared for the second Person of the Trinity to possess. Let us briefly consider some of these preparations as found in the Bible. May this study encourage you to thoroughly search the Scriptures for a better understanding of the death on the Cross of the Eternal Son of God. The incarnation of the second person of the Trinity was the plan of the Triune God, for the purpose of dealing with total sin.

I. OLD TESTAMENT PROPHECY CONCERNING THE CROSS.

What God foretold through the Old Testament about the cross, shows us the absolute and perfect plan of God for all ages. The sin question was not something that God had to quickly adjust to, but He knows the end from the beginning, and God's plans are perfect.

A. GOD'S SOVEREIGNTY MAINTAINED.

Although sin seems to be predominant in this world, with Satan as its great influence, God is still sovereign and is in complete control. The evil forces seem to be having the victory in all of creation, but their defeat has been settled at the Cross of Christ.

The sum total of all sin has been judged at the cross and condemned to eternal annihilation. However, the sentence has not been fulfilled at this present time, for the total filling of all iniquity is still in the future. God has a total plan, and time means nothing to God. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

There are several events which will take place before the final sentence of sin is completed. May I just list these for you, according to the Sovereignty of God? God has not left us in the dark as to His future plans, so let us look at some of these events to follow:

1. The Rapture of the Old Testament saints, as "The Friends of The Bridegroom". (*John 3: 29*); (*1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18*)
2. The Rapture of the true church as the body of Christ and the future "Bride of Christ." (*John 14: 1-6*); (*1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18*); (*1 Corinthians 15: 51-57*)
3. God's wrath to be poured out upon the ungodly during the 7 years of the great tribulation. (*Revelation 6-18*)
4. Satan will be cast out of heaven in the middle of the great tribulation and make his last stand against God upon planet earth. (*Revelation 9: 1-12*); (*Revelation 12: 7-12*)
5. The Abomination of Desolation will take place in the middle of that great tribulation. (*Daniel 9: 27*); (*Matthew 24: 15-28*)
6. Demons in the bottomless pit must be released with their destruction for 5 months. (*Revelation 9: 2-11*)
7. Demons under the Euphrates river must be released and destroy for one year, one month, one day and one hour. There will be one third of the people of the earth slain by them who number two hundred million. (*Revelation 9: 13-21*)
8. A mighty angel has to come from heaven and place his one foot on the sea and the other on the earth and hold forth God's title deed in the form of a scroll to the world which satan has stolen from God. (*Revelation 10: 1-7*)
9. Moses and Elijah must return. (*Revelation 11: 3-11*)
10. When Moses and Elijah are slain after 42 months of heralding the coming kingdom, they are made alive and taken up to heaven. Then a

tenth part of Jerusalem is destroyed, as well as seven thousand men. (*Revelation 11: 12-13*).

11. The children of Israel who will be left will receive their final punishment from God because they rejected the Messiah. Satan will be furious with them destroying many of them who do not flee to the mountains for refuge. (*Matthew 24: 15-28*); (*Revelation 12: 13-17*).
12. God will have a remnant from the great tribulation who will flee to the hills to remain there for three and one half years, in preparations of entering into the kingdom of righteousness. The sheep shall be separated from the goats during that time, with the goats slain and the sheep remain. (*Matthew 14: 15-28*); (*Matthew 25: 31-45*).
13. During the great tribulation a great revival will break out. God's 144,000, and the angelic hosts will preach the everlasting gospel. many Jews and Gentiles will be saved. However many will seal their belief by being slain and become tribulation saints in heaven. (*Revelation 7: 9-14*); (*Revelation 14: 1-8*).
14. The two ruling beast must come forth with all of their ungodliness and rule during the 7 years of the great tribulation. These will be under the control of Satan during the latter half of the great tribulation. (*Revelation 13: 1-18*).
15. The false religions of the world, the cults, the apostates will all be destroyed during the latter part of the great tribulation. (*Revelation 17-18*).
16. The Battle of Armageddon will take place after the great tribulation, but prior to the kingdom of righteousness being set up. (*Revelation 14: 14-20*); (*Revelation 19: 11-19*).
17. The cleansing of the temple will take place in preparation for the thousand year kingdom of righteousness. (*Daniel 12: 4-10*).
18. The beast and the false prophet will be cast alive into the Lake of Fire. (*Revelation 19: 20*).
19. Satan and his billions of demons shall be imprisoned. Satan will be chained and cast into the bottomless pit for the duration of the thousand year kingdom. (*Revelation 20: 1-3*).

20. The marriage of the Lamb of God shall take place in the heavens with the friends of the Bridegroom attending. (*Revelation 19: 7-10*); (*John 3: 29*).
21. The Millennium reign of Christ or the thousand years of righteousness. (*Revelation 20: 4*); (*Isaiah 11; 35; 65*); (*Psalms 72*).
22. The final battle with Satan and his demons, which results with all of the fallen angels or demons cast into the Lake of Fire to remain forever. (*Revelation 20: 7-10*).
23. The Great White Throne Judgement of all the ungodly of all ages who will have to bow before Christ the Eternal Son of God. (*Philippians 2: 9-11*); (*Revelation 20: 11-15*).
24. The old heavens and earth will be burned with fervent heat. (*2 Peter 3: 10-12*).
25. God will create a new heaven and a new earth. (*2 Peter 3: 13*); (*Revelation 21: 1-27*).
26. There will be a New Jerusalem as the abode for the Bride of the Lamb. (*Revelation 21: 9-27*).
27. There will also be a new Paradise too marvelous to describe. (*Revelation 22: 1-5*).

The next great event in God's great master plan is the Rapture of the Saints, to deliver them out from the wrath to come. (*1 Thessalonians 1: 10*). God is sovereign and He is aware of everything, and He is in control of all things. Time is no issue with God, but He controls time, and in the fullness of time His will is always done. It was nothing to God to set a specific time for the coming of His Son to present Him as the God/Man, the Incarnate One in the fullness of time. "*But, when the fullness of the time was come, God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons. And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying Abba, Father. Wherefore, thou art no more a servant, but a son; and if a son, then an heir of God through Christ.*" (*Galatians 4: 4-7*). These are tremendous statements from our Sovereign God, declared by God the Holy Spirit. According to the signs of the time as well as the usual period of two thousand years, the next great event will be the Rapture of both the dead in Christ and we who are alive in Christ. The dead will rise, and we who are

alive will be changed. Christ was the first fruits of the resurrection, having suffered, bled and died on Calvary's cross. Christ's resurrection is a guarantee to us that we too will be raised from the grave or if we still live, we will be gloriously changed. We serve the risen Savior who is everything to us, giving us a living hope to be part of eternity to come. That is why we can say like Paul, "*For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*" (Philippians 1: 21).

B. GOD'S OMNISCIENCE PROCLAIMED.

There is nothing that one can add to or take away from the knowledge of Almighty God. What He desires to do is to increase the knowledge of those who will allow Him to lead them by the Holy Spirit. "*That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him, The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints.*" (Ephesians 1: 17-18).

We are left in this world to grow in the knowledge of the character of God, through the study of the Word of God. "*Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.*" (Psalm 119: 105). We can thoroughly trust God's Word for He knows the end from the beginning, and nothing is hidden from Him. As we have seen in the Old Testament, the marvelous timing of sending forth His Eternal Son, with prophetic utterances, we can rest assured that God never needs to change His plan from eternity past, but all things come about just exactly according to His knowledge in the fullness of time.

C. GOD'S PREPARATION EXPLAINED.

May I remind you that the Triune God never changes but is constantly the same. "*Jesus Christ, the same yesterday, and today, and forever.*" (Hebrews 13: 8). The Son of God was prepared from eternity past to die on the cross, so that He might be the first fruits of the resurrection. Christ took upon Himself a form of man before the foundation of the world. This was no "after thought" of God, but part and parcel of the plan of God. God was planning a special creation which would voluntarily accept the eternal provisions where sin would never ever occur again. Yes, God allowed one third of His angels to fall and become demons, by their own choice. He knew that the first man Adam would cause all mankind to die both in spirit and in body, that in the fullness of time, those who would believe would be born again by the Holy Spirit. Being sealed by the Holy Spirit, a glorified body like unto the Lord Jesus Christ, would be theirs. In God's time the old order in heaven and earth will be changed, where sin will be no more. The key verse to God's wonderful plan is (Daniel 9: 24). There will be in God's new order, everlasting righteousness and an impeccable new creation. God has made eternal

preparation for a sinless eternity to come. This is beyond our understanding, but we accept it, because the Lord God Almighty has said it.

II. NEW TESTAMENT PREPARATION FOR THE CROSS.

As we have reviewed the Old Testament prophetic declaration of things to come, so now, may we briefly look at the preparations made for these fulfillments in the New Testament. God always had a remnant surrounding the Messianic lineage in the Old Testament. There were always those who never bowed their knees to baal or the other lifeless idols. He was very careful with the blessings of Abraham, singling out the continual lineage with a specific family from the lineage of Isaac.

Let me remind you what the Word says in Romans. *"Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom, as concerning the flesh, Christ came, who is over all, God blessed forever. Amen. Not as though the word of God hath taken no effect. For they are not all Israel, who are of Israel; Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children, but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called."* (Romans 9:4-7). This may help you to understand that all of Abraham's seed cannot claim the promises of God. This eliminates many who claim Abraham as their father. God had to specifically protect the Messianic lineage.

A. THE MESSIANIC LINEAGE PRESERVED.

It is amazing how the Lord preserved the Messianic lineage from Abraham, to whom God gave an unconditional covenant, and through Isaac. Rest assured that God always keeps His word. (*Genesis 15: 1-18*); (*Hebrews 6: 16-17*). Then Isaac was also chosen (*Romans 9: 4-7*), then Jacob, then the tribe of Judah was set aside through which Christ would enter this world. David was anointed as the king of Israel of the tribe of Judah, and he was also given an unconditional covenant from God. (*1 Chronicles 17: 11-13*); (*2 Samuel 17: 16,24*); (*1 Kings 8: 23*); (*1 Kings 9: 5*). Then strangely enough, Bathsheba brought forth Solomon. The Messianic lineage was kept within the tribe of Judah, but had some strange combinations. That lineage was preserved through Queen Esther, which was challenged greatly by satanic forces. Then we also have Ruth and Boaz the Kinsmen redeemer, Rahab through her faith was brought into the lineage of the tribe of Judah.

These are but a few examples for you to review, showing that our God works in wonderful ways, past our finding out. We can only understand these things, when we realize that, *"...all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God."* (*Romans 3: 23*). There was every indication that the Messianic lineage would be destroyed because of the totally depraved race of mankind. But God had His hand upon His plan, and things worked out according to His

sovereign will. As the ten tribes were scattered into Syria, God separated the tribes of Judah and Benjamin and preserved them in the land of Babylon. After they returned to the land of Abraham, God then chose the virgin Mary through whom the Eternal Son of God would enter this world to become our Savior.

B. THE ENTRANCE OF THE MESSIAH OBSERVED.

The Old Testament gave us some clues as to the importance of (*Genesis 3: 15*). *"And I will put enmity between thee (Satan) and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; He shall bruise thy head, and thou shall bruise His heel."* From the very beginning, God had chosen the seed of the woman through which the Messiah would come. (*Psalm 22*) relates to the kind of a sacrifice upon a cross that would be necessary to redeem our souls. (*Isaiah 7: 14*) tells us that a Virgin would bring forth the Messiah, which explains "The seed of the Woman," which was mentioned in the garden of Eden. (*Isaiah 53*) explains that God Himself would pay the debt of our sins. But praise God for the following revelation. *"For unto us a child is born, unto us a Son is given, and the government shall be upon His shoulder; and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with justice and with righteousness from henceforth even forever. The zeal of The Lord of hosts will perform this."* (*Isaiah 9: 6-7*). This is a tremendous revelation from Almighty God who has completed part of this prediction and we can rest assured that He will totally complete the rest of it. That kingdom of righteousness shall be established forever. God is in no hurry to complete His plans, for time is no element in His economy. You and I continually think in terms of time because of the limited life that we live upon this earth.

God had chosen that special virgin through whom the Eternal Son would enter this world as the Incarnate Savior. *"And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth, to a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the virgin's name was Mary. And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou that art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among womenAnd, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name JESUS. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David: And he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be*

called the Son of God." (Luke 1: 26-35). This was the method in which the Eternal Son of God came into this world, to die for the sins of the whole world. Mary was that chosen vessel, through whom He sent His only begotten Son. May I firmly remind you that this Eternal Son of God took upon himself a form of man before the foundation of the world. Jesus did not lack a body to come into this world, but it was imperative that He would enter this world the natural way. This is but another way of the Godhead, working out a mighty struggle against sin which is past our finding out! "*He revealeth the deep and secret things; He knoweth what is in the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him.*" (Daniel 2: 22).

The second person of the Trinity came into this world in a very humiliating way, but with great compassion! He remained obscure for 30 years, doing the physical labor, supporting the family of Joseph, due to Joseph's death. "*For verily He took not on him the nature of angels; but He took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved Him to be made like unto his brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that He himself hath suffered being tempted, He is able to succour them that are tempted.*" (Hebrews 2: 16-18). The Eternal Son of God allowed himself to be subjected to every temptation faced by mankind, yet He never sinned.

Christ presented the kingdom principles of righteousness during His earthly ministry in preparation for the kingdom. "*For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.*" (Hebrews 4: 15-16). Christ was both King and High Priest, after the order of Melchizedek, the ruler of salem. This is a study in itself, just to better understand God's exact way of making His Eternal Son both King and High Priest. (Hebrews 5: 1-10); (Hebrews 6: 13-20); (Hebrews 7: 1-22). Take time and study these portions very carefully.

C. THE HERALDING OF THE KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS. BY THE SPIRIT OF ELIJAH.

Elijah must come before the kingdom of righteousness can be set up. This is a very important issue concerning the heralding of the kingdom age. "*Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord.*" (Malachi 4: 5). Then why was John the Baptist sent as the spirit of Elijah? It is pure and simple that in God's omniscience, He knew that Israel would reject the Messiah, and so John the Baptist was sent, even as it was prophesied. "*Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall*

prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the Lord of hosts.” (Malachi 3: 1). That is why the religious leaders kept asking and enquiring concerning John the Baptist, who admitted that he was not Elijah. As to John the Baptist, he was the spirit of Elijah. God knew that the Messiah would be rejected and the kingdom would be postponed. Yes, Elijah will appear during the last part of the Great Tribulation, along with Moses, and they both shall herald the coming Millennium which will occur after the Great Tribulation. This has been dealt with thoroughly in other writings by this author.

III. OPPOSITION TO THE CROSS BY GOD’S ADVERSARIES.

The real battle that we face is not of flesh and blood but rather in the realm of spiritual darkness. *“For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.” (Ephesians 6: 12).* There are many ways in which the Cross of Christ is attacked, and perhaps one of the most subtle ways is through “spiritual wickedness in high places.” The evil forces like to apply counterfeits to whatever God plans.

Satan’s purpose in these days is to keep sinners away from the Cross of Christ and substitute something else more appealing than the shed blood of Calvary. Satan doesn’t mind if you use the sign of the cross or wear a cross shaped piece of jewelry, but he doesn’t like us to take the purpose of the cross seriously. Satan has convinced some religious groups to actually say that Jesus Christ was not crucified, but someone else was substituted for Him. The truth is that the Son of God faced the complete combined forces of evil during those hours upon the cross. Praise God for the victory of the cross which totally defeated Satan and his host of demons and all other ungodly. Let us examine some of these tools of Satan which he uses to camouflages the Cross of Christ.

A. THE BLINDNESS OF ISRAEL.

The rulers of Israel were looking for an immediate deliverer from the heel of the Roman Government and in their blindness rejected the Lord Jesus Christ who came to pay the debt of all sin upon the Cross. To this day they by pass (*Isaiah 53*) and (*Psalms 22*), especially rejecting it’s reference to the Lord of glory. God has His remnant within Israel, who are accepting Him as their Messiah and are becoming Christians. After the Rapture takes place, there will be other Jews who will believe and, who will become God’s witnesses during the Great Tribulation. They are blinded now, but will discover that Jesus is the Christ and will testify for Him during the Great Tribulation and seal their belief with their deaths. Many will flee to the hills to the place of refuge which God will prepare for them. There will be the 144,000 from the tribes of Israel

except from the tribe of Dan. This all is prepared for by God and foretold in the Bible. (*Matthew 24: 15-21*); (*Revelation 12: 13-17*).

Yes, Israel has suffered blindness about the truth of the Messiah for some 2,000 years. The rulers of Israel cried out "Crucify him!" and rejected their Messiah 2,000 years ago. "*Pilate saith unto them, What shall I do then with Jesus which is called Christ? They all say unto him, Let Him be crucified.....When Pilate saw that he could prevail nothing.....he took water, and washed his hands before the multitude, saying, I am innocent of the blood of this just person; see ye to it. Then answered all the people, and said, His blood be on us, and our children.*" (*Matthew 27: 22-25*).

The blindness of Israel has brought world wide persecution of the Jews. They have suffered in many ways. They have been rooted up from the promised land and scattered throughout the whole world. Often they have suffered the most terrible of deaths, all because of their rejection of the Messiah.

Yes Christ's blood was and is upon the children of Israel until this day. Although they have been re-instated as a nation, they are surrounded by enemies and have been in a continual war since 1948. This will not be the end of their persecution for they will have 7 years of intense persecution during the Great Tribulation. Israel's chastisement, because of her deliberate blindness and rejection of Christ as the Eternal Son of God, is far from over. To this day they have been deprived of Jerusalem as their capitol, and the pressure will continue. But praise, God, when Christ returns to set up His kingdom of righteousness, Jerusalem will become the capitol of the world under the powerful rod of Christ Jesus.

B. THE GOD OF THIS WORLD SYSTEM.

There are religious cults which totally ignore the crucifixion of the Lord upon the Cross, even though they may have an ensign based upon the shape of the cross. This is all part and parcel of the god of this world's system and his great deception. The Word of God recognizes who he is and clearly identifies him. "*But if our gospel be hid it is hid to them that are lost, In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them who believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them. For we preach not ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shone in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ,*" (*2 Corinthians 4: 3-6*).

The god of this world system and age has the power to brain wash those without the knowledge of the gospel. That is why it is important that we fulfill that great commission which was given by the Lord himself. "*Go ye, therefore, and teach all nations!*" God has given us a great responsibility to

proclaim the Gospel, and Christ assured us, *"and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age. Amen."* (Matthew 28: 19)

We are aware of the power of Satan, the god of this world system, but he still is under the sovereign will of God. We can depend upon the power of the Gospel. Paul said, *"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ; for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the Jew first and also to the Greek."* (Romans 1: 16). Christ also reminds us, *"And Jesus came and spoke unto them, saying, All authority is given unto me in heaven and in earth."* (Matthew 28: 18).

God has given us a powerful protection against the god of this world system. Try not to do God's work in your own strength. *"But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us."* (2 Corinthians 4: 7). Our strength comes from the Holy Spirit who not only made us new creatures in Christ Jesus but who also dwells within us. Our commission is to "Go" and "tell the nations" of the saving grace of our loving Lord. I thank God for His Divine protection which we can fully depend upon.

C. THE REJECTION TO THE WORD OF GOD.

We as human beings must recognize that we are totally depraved apart from God and are solely dependant upon God to provide the resources to overcome the world, the flesh and the devil. God has already given us His Word in writing and there is no need of alterations. This Bible which has been entrusted to us gives us all of the information necessary to combat every enemy of God. *"For the Word of God is living, and powerful, and sharper than any two edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in His sight, but all things are naked and open unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do."* (Hebrews 4: 12-13). If the Word of God is rejected there is no escape route by which one can flee, to avoid the wrath of God. God's written Word is final and no other religious code of ethics will satisfy our living God who has made possible the only way of life at such great cost. Satan has used rejection of Bible as his tool to keep people from facing the primary issue of this life: "What will you do with Jesus"

It is the Word of God that brings life! It is the Word of God that points to the source of life through the Cross of Calvary. *"Neither is there salvation in any other; for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."* (Acts 4: 12). It was the purpose of the Eternal Son of God, coming into this world, to go to the Cross as the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the whole world. That is why the Lord Jesus Christ could say, *"I am the way, the truth, and the life; no man cometh unto the*

Father, but by me.” (John 14: 6b).

These statements are taken from the Word of God and cannot be ignored. If one wishes to enter into the eternal provision which has been established by the Triune God, it requires obedience to God’s Word. Rejecting the Bible as the Word of God, amounts to the same as rejecting the Lord Jesus Christ who died upon the Cross to save us from our sins. God’s Word has been established forever and ever. The Bible has been given to us by God the Holy Spirit for our admonition and instruction in God’s righteousness. Understanding God’s Word thoroughly furnishes us with foundational truths for Christian living. Living in the church age has given us tremendous resources, because we indwelt by God the Holy Spirit who will guide us into all truth, if we will let Him.

As we witness for the Lord among those of various religious backgrounds, they may refuse to accept the Bible in it’s entirety as the Word of God. If this is the case, there is very little that can be accomplished as to the salvation of their souls. God’s Word is the final authority as we worship Him in spirit and in truth. *“God is a Spirit: and they that worship Him must worship Him in spirit and in truth.” (John 4: 24).* There is one very important truth recorded in the Bible and with this verse, may we close this chapter. *“But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name.” (John 20: 31).*

We face this wicked system “the world, the flesh and the devil” as we preach the Cross, but praise God we don’t face them alone! As believers we will always have the indwelling of the Holy Spirit to withstand these evil forces. Paul the apostle by the power of the Holy Spirit reminded us. *“Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an example. (For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, they are the enemies of the Cross of Christ: whose end is destruction, whose god is their belly, and whose glory is in their shame, who mind earthly things.” (Philippians 3: 17-19).* In this present world, we have many religious and civic organizations that are by passing the Word of God. They will have a grain of truth to lure the ignorant into their club, deceiving them of their real purpose. There are some of these cults which are very strong and wealthy and present a pleasing front. We must be constantly aware of such. God the Holy Spirit dwells within us to show us the way. *“But there are false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them and bring upon themselves swift destruction. And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of. And through covetousness shall they with feigned words make merchandise of you: whose judgement now of a long time lingereth not, and their damnation slumbereth not. For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast them down to hell, and delivered them into*

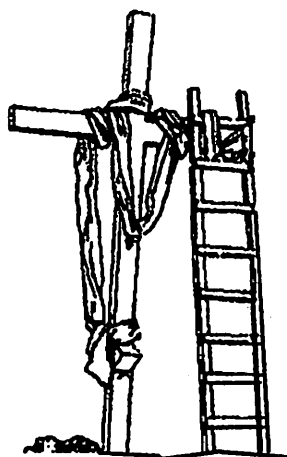
chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgement; And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly; And turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrha into ashes condemned them with an overflow, making them an ensample unto those that after should live ungodly; And delivered just Lot, vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked. (For that righteous man dwelling among them, in seeing and hearing, vexed his righteous soul from day to day with their unlawful deeds;) The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgement to be punished:" (2 Peter 2: 1-9). Be careful what you listen to, for there will come many who desire to draw you away from the Word of God. We are told by the Word of God. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (1 Jn.4: 1).

QUESTIONS ON CHAPTER THREE.

1. Name some of the preparations made, according to the Bible, for Christ's death on the Cross.
2. What does (*Psalm 22*) refer to, in New Testament revelation?
3. How does one become separated unto God?
4. Why should our whole mode of life be changed when we become a Christian?
5. Explain (*Romans 6:12-14*) and (*Hebrews 2:16-17*).
6. When will God dwell with us?
7. Why must old things pass away, when we become Christians? (*2 Corinthians 5:17-21*).
8. What Old Testament teachings do we find concerning the Cross?
9. What events will take place before the final fulfillment of all judgement against total sin?
10. Give a listing of future events to take place before the New Heavens and the New Earth are created?
11. What is the importance of the Omniscience of God?

12. What is the importance of the Immutability of God?
13. What is the importance of the Omnipresence of God?
14. What preparation were made as recorded in the New Testament for the cross of Christ?
15. Why was it necessary to separate Israel as a nation for the Messianic lineage? (*Deuteronomy 32:8.*)
16. From the New Testament teaching of the Messiah explain (*Genesis 3:15*).
17. Write an essay on, "God's Chosen Vessel The Virgin".
18. Explain (*Hebrews 2:16-18*).
19. Explain (*Hebrews 4:16-18*).
20. Why was John the Baptist sent to herald the Messiah instead of Elijah? (*Malachi 3:1*); and (*Malachi 4:5*.)
21. What are some of the reasons why Israel rejected Christ as the Messiah?
22. Explain (*2 Corinthians 4:3-6*).
23. Why is the Bible so important in our teaching about God?
24. Does the Word of God teach that there are many ways of worshipping God? Give Scriptural proof of your answer.
25. How do we fight against the enemies of God?
26. Give an exposition on (*Ephesians 6:10-20*).

CHAPTER FOUR



THE GLORIFICATION OF THE CROSS

There is a favorite hymn of mine which I love to sing, glorifying the Lord who was willing to lay down His life for us in Divine love.

IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST

In the cross of Christ I glory, towering o'er the wrecks of time;
All the light of sacred story Gathers round its head sublime

When the woes of life o'er-take me, Hopes deceive, and fears annoy,
Never shall the cross for-sake me: Lo! It glows with peace and joy.

When the sun of bliss is beaming Light and love upon my way,
From the cross the radiance streaming Adds more luster to the day.

Bane and blessing, pain and pleasure, By the cross are sanctified;
Peace is there that knows no measure, Joys that through all time abide.

The Cross was one of the most cruel forms of death imaginable and the Eternal Son of God was willing to endure it to save us from eternal damnation. This was God's way of expressing His great love for all of us, His human creatures. God's great love for us was expressed when Christ the Eternal Son of God died on the Cross to save us from the penalty of sin. Because of the Cross, we can be partakers of the glory of God.

**OH THE LOVE THAT DREW SALVATION'S PLAN,
OH THE GRACE THAT BROUGHT IT DOWN TO MAN,
OH THE MIGHTY GULF THAT GOD TO SPAN,
AT CALVARY**

The Cross of Christ cannot be separated from the Christ of the Cross, without Him our hopes of eternity would be very dim! It took the very Eternal Son of God to be able to bare the burden of total sin. Great preparation by the Godhead was necessary to arrange for such an undertaking. Let us search the Scriptures concerning the preparation by the Godhead.

I. THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD PREPARED TO GO TO THE CROSS.

Salvation by the way of the Cross was no after thought of the Godhead, but was planned before the foundation of the world. God purposely separated this planet earth from His billions of stars and planets for the very reason of dealing with the possibility of sin once and forever. May I remind you of that key verse in the Scripture which gives us the Divine purpose of the Cross. (*Daniel 9: 24*). God has set a time to eradicate sin forever from His vast domain! Sin has its fling but having been judged at the Cross and will terminate in the Lake of Fire!

There must have been a meeting of the Triune God as to who would make that supreme sacrifice in dealing with total sin. God the Father would dwell in a secluded realm in which all three have access freely, having been there together in all eternity past. God the Holy Spirit became the willing Person of the Godhead to provide Divine life to those who would believe and receive eternal life. This would be God's way of sharing part of the Divine everlasting glory with His creatures who would believe. God the second Person in the Trinity accepted the challenge to clothe Himself in the likeness of human creatures in preparation for going to the cross to remove the barrier of sin. God the Father would remain in their secluded realm of eternity to keep the sovereignty over all. God the Holy Spirit would be the silent messenger, giving a new birth to those who would believe. The Holy Spirit would then humbly dwell within each believer, and declare their bodies as the temple of God. This would be a special protection against the onslaught of the devil and his demons.

A. APPEARANCES OF THE SON OF GOD IN THE OLD TESTAMENT.

THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD TAKES ON THE FIRST FRUIT AS THE INCARNATE

We often put too much emphasis upon "The Babe In the Manger", the means by which the Messiah enter this world to deal with the issue of sin. However, there are several other appearances of the Son of God in the Old Testament that I want to mention briefly. You may ask, "How do we know that they are the same manifestation of God as The Babe in the Manger?" The

appearances of God recorded in the Old Testament did take place and the only one in the Godhead who can be both seen and felt is definitely, The Eternal Son of God! Now let us look at some of these appearance in the Old Testament. We know that one of the three Persons in the Godhead was seen by men of the Old Testament, and the only one who could possibly do this was the second person of the trinity, God the Son, who can be seen.

THE GARDEN OF EDEN.

“And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.” (Genesis 2: 7). “And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept: And He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof; And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made He a woman, and brought her unto the man.” (Genesis 2: 21-22). “And they heard the voice of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God amongst the trees of the garden. And the Lord God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?” (Genesis 3: 8-9). Isn't this amazing that the Lord God would come and visit Adam and Eve? No doubt the usual time for the Lord's visit was during the cool of the day. Apparently, God would come in the form of a man to teach them many things. God gave them their speech, their writing lessons and became the first teacher upon this earth. Adam and Eve did not have to grow up because they were created already mature so that they could care of the garden of Eden. It was easy for God to give mankind the original language, remember, it was God who multiplied one language into many languages at the tower of Babel.

Christ's appearance was not in a mystical form but in a fleshly body. It was Christ who also became the first tailor when He sewed the first garments for Adam and Eve. Let us explore other places where Christ appeared in the Old Testament.

ENOCH WALKED WITH GOD

“And Enoch walked with God: and he was not; for God took him.” (Genesis 5: 24) What a privilege that Enoch had in being able to walk and talk with God. It stands to reason that God told Enoch all about the plan that the Godhead had as well as all about heaven. No doubt Enoch begged God to take him to heaven, and God granted him that privilege. This all happened before the flood, which is also a picture of the saints of God being raptured out from the wrath to come, before the Great Tribulation. But before God took Enoch to heaven, he was given a very specific commission, and that was to write a warning to the dwellers of the earth. “And Enoch also, the seventh from

Adam, prophesied of these, saying, Behold the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints, To execute judgement upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against Him.” (Jude 14-15). I wish that we would have had more of what Enoch wrote and spoke, but this is sufficient evidence that Jesus Christ was present with Enoch. It also reminds us that early mankind were not cave men, or half monkey, but were created perfect with a living soul. However it does remind us that man devolved into an ungodly life as Enoch wrote about the ungodly of his day. God had wonderfully used Enoch as His witness in the early days of mankind.

MELCHIZEDEK

“And Melchizedek king of Salem brought forth bread and wine: and he was the priest of the Most High God. And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the Most High God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he gave him tithes of all.” (Genesis 14: 18-20). *“For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; To whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is King of peace; Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually.” (Hebrews 7: 1-3).* This is another marvelous revelation from God as to the existence of the Incarnate Son in the Old Testament days. This description could only be referring to the Eternal Son of God. The description given could not apply to anyone who was created, therefore it points directly to the Lord Jesus Christ. It had to be the Eternal Son of God who is the “Ancient of Days”, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

ABRAHAM

“And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Lord appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly. And Abram fell on his face: And God talked with him, saying, As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations. Neither shalt thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee.” (Genesis 17: 1-5). This is another astounding revelation of the existence of the Lord Jesus Christ as the Incarnate one. This had to be Christ, for no one may look upon the Father and live, and God the Holy Spirit cannot be seen but felt

in the lives of believers. The second Person of the Trinity has always existed and somewhere in the ages past, our Savior took upon Himself a form of man before the foundation of the world. God's ways are past finding out, but are sure and steadfast from eternity to eternity!

THE THREE MEN WITH ABRAM

*"And the Lord appeared unto him in the plains of Mamre: and he sat in the tent door in the heat of the day; And he lifted up his eyes and looked, and, lo, three men stood by him; and when he saw them, he ran to meet them from the tent door, and bowed himself toward the ground, and said, My Lord, if now I have found favour in thy sight, pass not away, I pray thee, from thy servant:" (Genesis 18: 1-3). A great feast was prepared for the three who stood before Abraham as men. Yes, God and the angels often appear in the form of men, and that relationship is normal. But note as Abram spoke to these men, he addressed them in the singular "My Lord," which reminds us of the Trinity as three Persons in One. Abraham recognized the one with whom he talked prior to this, as being the Incarnate Son of God. The conversation changed from they to "The Lord" after the disappearance of the three men. This is a very interesting revelation, as God was about to destroy Sodom and Gomorrah. *"And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the Lord," (Genesis 18: 22). The Lord as the Incarnate One remained in the presence of Abraham as Abraham pled for the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah. When not even ten righteous people could be found in the cities, Abraham stopped pleading for them. *"And The Lord went His way, as soon as He had left communing with Abraham: and Abraham returned unto his place." (Gen.18: 33).***

THE CAPTAIN WHOM JOSHUA SAW.

"And it came to pass, when Joshua was by Jericho, that he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, there stood a man over against him with a sword drawn in his hand: and Joshua went unto him, and said unto him, Art thou for us, or for our adversaries? And he said, Nay, but as captain of the host of the Lord am I now come. And Joshua fell on his face to the earth, and did worship, and said unto him, What saith my Lord unto His servant? And the Captain of the Lord's host said unto Joshua, Loose thy shoe off thy foot; for the place whereon thou standest is holy. And Joshua did so," (Joshua 5: 13-15). This is an amazing revelation from the Holy Spirit for this Captain had to be the Lord Jesus Christ for two reasons: first, Joshua's worship was accepted; and second, the ground upon which Joshua stood was holy. These signs of the Lord are very precious and we take great courage as we too go forth to battle against the evil forces. Jesus is the captain of our souls! One day that same

Lord will appear in the skies to take us to our heavenly home. Then in the fullness of time we will all return with the Lord and witness that great battle of Armageddon, where the Lord, single handed, will destroy all the wicked armies in the world. (*1 Thessalonians 4: 13-18*); (*Revelation 19: 11-21*).

THE ANGEL WITH WHOM JACOB WRESTLED.

There are several times that Jacob was approached by the Lord such as during the dream that Jacob had at Bethel. "*And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it. And, behold, the Lord stood above it, and said, I am the Lord God of Abraham thy father, and the God of Isaac:" (*Genesis 28: 12-13a*). Then we have God speaking to Jacob after he met with Esau and made peace. "*And God said unto Jacob, arise, go up to Bethel, and dwell there:"* (*Genesis 35: 1a*). These are but brief dealings that God had with Jacob, but I particularly want to deal with the angel of God who changed Jacob's name to Israel. "*And Jacob was left alone; and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his thigh: and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, I will not let thee go, except thou bless me. And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel: for as a prince hast thou power with God and with men, and hast prevailed."* (*Genesis 32: 24-28*). It is very interesting how God displayed himself in such a way to Jacob. The "Messianic Lineage" was preserved through this man Jacob, who became Israel. God purposely allowed Jacob to prevail, in order to seal that blessed hope of (*Genesis 3: 15*). The Lord didn't have to wrestle with Jacob, but He did and allowed Jacob to hold on for a blessing, in spite of his thigh being out of joint. God wants each of us to be strong in the Lord, and depend upon Him as the source of our strength.*

THE SON OF GOD IN THE FIERY FURNACE

"*And who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands? Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee -in this matter. If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us out of thine hand, O king. But if not, be it known unto thee, O king, that we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up. Then was Nebuchadnezzar full of fury, and the form of his visage was changed against Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego: therefore he spake, and commanded that they should heat the furnace one seven times more than it was*

wont to be heated. And commanded the most mighty men that were in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and to cast them into the burning fiery furnace. Then these men were bound in their coats, their hose, and their hats, and their other garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Therefore because the king's commandment was urgent, and the furnace exceeding hot, the flame of the fire slew those men that took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego. And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. Then Nebuchadnezzar the king was astounded, and rose up in haste, and spake, and said unto his counsellors, Did not we cast three men bound into the midst of the fire? They answered and said unto the king, True O king. He answered and said, Lo, I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God." (Daniel 3: 15b-25). The fire had no power over these three faithful men, whose hair wasn't even singed, nor did they smell of smoke. This great revelation of the Son of God was proclaimed throughout the kingdom. It was then that the whole known world was informed that there was no other God than that of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego, and all must worship Him. This was a reality and not an illusion, and should have stirred the whole world to belief, but deception took over once again, and the positive results were short lived.

B. THE ETERNAL PLAN OF THE TRIUNE GOD.

Let us note what the Scripture has to reveal about this eternal plan of the Triune God, as they dealt with the sin question. It is difficult for us as mortal beings to fathom that Created beings put to death the Creator, Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Son of God. It didn't happen by accident, but according to the will of God.

Remember that the character of God is holiness, righteousness, justice, impeccability, the sum total of truth, consistency or immutability and the source of all life. As such, God was desirous to have a perfect creation in which sin would be eradicated forever. God could have created a perfect creation under the complete control of Himself, without allowing individual choice. It would have been a creation of robots under God's complete command. However, His desire was to create a universe in which there would be freedom of choice where sin would be removed forever. According to (Daniel 9:24) God did derive such a system, whereby sin would be judged and removed forever from His vast domain. This plan had to be made absolute fool proof and perfect in order to deal with the sin question once and forever. As has already been mentioned, the plan had to be entirely in the hands of the Triune God. God the Father would take full control of their sovereignty, God the Eternal Son of God would clothe Himself in the first human body, and

God the Holy Spirit would provide the new birth to those who would believe. Let us consider these factors as we examine the glorification of the Godhead through the sacrifice for the sum total of sin, the sacrifice of Jesus' death.

C. THE GLORIFICATION OF GOD THROUGH THE CROSS.

In God's omniscience He created holy angels in the spiritual realm. They had the freedom of choice but some were deceived by Lucifer who became Satan. One third of the angels followed Lucifer and his deception. "*And his tail drew the third part of the stars of heaven, and did cast them to earth:*" (Revelation 12: 4a). The deception occurred after Lucifer chose to reject the holiness of God and set up his own domain. He proclaimed his desires as recorded in Isaiah. "*How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. They that see thee shall narrowly look upon thee, and consider thee, saying, Is this the man that made the earth to tremble, that did shake kingdoms; That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?" (Isaiah 14: 12-17). At the present time his domain includes this earth, and the Bible refers to Satan as the god of this world. "*In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.*" (2 Cor 4: 4) Satan still has access to heaven, but not for long.*

You may be inclined to think that Satan has already been cast out of heaven, but that is not what the Scriptures support. As Isaiah was given that vision, he saw it as though all of it had already taken place when it hadn't. I believe that the expulsion of Satan from Heaven is still a future event, because at the present time, Satan is accusing Christians of sin before God. That is why it is necessary that we have an advocate in heaven to intercede for us. Satan is constantly accusing us of sin, as he did with Job, and that is why Jesus Christ, the Righteous, is our advocate before God the Father. (1 John 2: 1-2).

God said to Satan, "*Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.*" (Isaiah 14: 15) In the book of Revelation we have another preview of this event, when Satan will be cast out of heaven. It will take place when the fifth trumpet will sound according to (Revelation 9: 1); which is a future event during the middle of the Great Tribulation. Let us turn to the report of this coming battle. "*And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels (fallen angels), and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the*

great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.” (Revelation 12: 7-9).

When Lucifer sinned, he brought the sin question, whether in thought word and deed, before God. However all was controlled according to the sovereign will of God, giving both the angels and mortal man the freedom of choice. We need not, at this time, review the sin of Adam and Eve, but sin was imputed upon all flesh from that time on. We know within ourselves that we have a sin nature, inherited from Adam. History reveals to us the total depravity of mankind.

These facts are brought before you so that you might be prepared to examine the glorification of the Triune God and the price that it cost God to remove the barrier of sin through the Cross. It would take one member of the Godhead to achieve this cruel deed, so that sin could be eradicated forever, in order to bring eternal glory to the Godhead. *“But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 10: 17).* The cruel death which has taken place by the Son of God, upon the Cross, made possible the eradication of sin, and for this cause we glory in the Cross. Christ Himself has something to say about this, so let us consider the crucifixion upon the Cross of Calvary.

D. THE FINISHED WORK ON CALVARY’S CROSS.

The pivotal point in dealing with the sin question is found at the Cross of Calvary. As the battle goes on between Satan and God, the evil forces seemed to have had a victory in the Cross, however, on the contrary, that is where their defeat took place. When Christ cried out *“It is Finished!”*, the barrier of sin was removed once and forever.

As the Eternal Son of God prepared to go to the Cross, we have a direct word from the Lord Jesus Christ. *“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again.” (John 12: 27-28).* This was the very comfort that the Eternal Son needed from His Father in heaven.

As the Lord faced the Cross and He and the disciples were gathered in the upper room, the devil took full possession of Judas Iscariot by entering into him for the betrayal. *“He then having received the sop went immediately out: and it was night. Therefore, when he was gone out, Jesus said, Now is the Son of man glorified, and God is glorified in Him. If God be glorified in Him, God shall also glorify Him in himself, and shall straightway glorify Him.” (John 13: 30-32).*

Certainly the glorification is not in the pain of that Cross, but rather in the results which occurred through the crucifixion on the Cross. The

crucifixion was planned by the Trinity and nothing could stop it. Pilate tried to shift the responsibility of the Cross to the rulers of Israel but in vain. *"Then said Pilate unto Him, Speakest thou not unto me? knowest thou not that I have power to crucify thee, and have power to release thee? Jesus answered, Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above, therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin."* (John 19: 10-11). This was all planned by God and it was God's way in dealing with sin once and forever.

The cruelty of the Cross was meant to show us the terribleness of sin. *"Then delivered He Him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led Him away. And He bearing His cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha. Where they crucified Him, and two other with Him, on either side one, and Jesus in the midst. And Pilate wrote a title, and put it on the cross. And the writing was, JESUS OF NAZARETH THE KING OF THE JEWS. This title then read many of the Jews: for the place where Jesus was crucified was nigh to the city and it was written in Hebrew, and Greek, and Latin. Then said the chief priests of the Jews to Pilate, Write not, The King of the Jews; but that He said I am the king of the Jews. Pilate answered, What I have written I have written."* (John 19: 16-22).

It was a finished work on Calvary's Cross, but it was the beginning of the wrath of God upon the Jewish nation. The enslavement of Rome was nothing, compared to what followed. History reveals the punishment which the Jews have been suffering until this present day. We will deal with this briefly as we study the lessons to be learned from the Cross.

II. THE LESSONS WE LEARN FROM THE CROSS.

BEARING OUR CROSS

There is only one who could bear the Cross and that was the Eternal Son of God who was appointed to be the Incarnate one, the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. We are admonished by the Scriptures, as Christ spoke to the rich young ruler. *"Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him. One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, take up thy cross, and follow me."* (Mark 10: 21). This is indeed a strange saying from the Lord, as He spoke about a cross. Yes, we have a cross to bear which is not the same as the Lord's but a cross of subjection to God our heavenly Father. The Lord has also said, *"And he that taketh not his cross, and followeth after me, is not worthy of me."* (Matthew 10: 38). It is very interesting and most significant that Jesus used the expression "the Cross" before the crucifixion, but the Lord was fully aware of going to the cross for

the sins of the whole world. Note what He said. *"Saying. The Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day. And He said unto them all, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it: but whosoever will lose his life for my sake, the same shall save it."* (Luke 9: 22-24). The Lord was preparing us all to take up our individual crosses in our Christian walk of faith. *"And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."* (Luke 14: 27).

THE PREACHING OF THE CROSS.

The preaching of the Cross is the core of the gospel as it is responsible for the removing of the barrier of sin. Of course those who are self righteous take offence with the cruelty of the Cross and often call it a bloody religion. Christ came to seek and to save those who are lost and not those who think that their self righteousness is sufficient for their acceptance by God. They do not realize that before God the Father, only the righteousness of Christ is acceptable. You can see then, that the first step to being saved is realizing that you are lost without Jesus and His death on the cross. *"For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. Where is the wise? Where is the scribe? Where is the disputer of this world? Hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (1 Corinthians 1: 18-21). We could enlarge on the preaching of the Cross, but I believe we have a glimpse of the value of the preaching of the Cross, for our blessed Lord has suffered upon the Cross to take our place in judgement, nailing our sins to the Cross. The preaching of the Cross is not merely to be thought of as wisdom in words but established in fact. *"For Christ sent me not to baptize, but to preach the gospel: not with wisdom of words, lest the Cross of Christ should be made of none effect."* (1 Corinthians 1: 17).*

PERSECUTED BECAUSE OF THE CROSS

The self righteous of this world would consider the preaching of the Cross very offensive and undesirable. Yes, to those who think that they are exceptionally good by their own merits, would take offence at the preaching of the Cross. In fact they would not only avoid listening to such, but would be on the aggressive in persecuted those that preach the Cross. Those of the Jews who were demanding the Gentiles to be circumcised that they may glory in

their flesh. *"For neither they themselves who are circumcised keep the law; but desire to have you circumcised, that they may glory in your flesh."* (Galatians 6: 13) They desired that the gentiles compromise and take physical signs identified with Judaism lest they should suffer persecution because of the Cross of Christ. (Galatians 6: 12)

It is the Cross of Christ in which we glory, because through the Cross of Christ, God the Father has exercised grace, bringing mercy, peace and salvation to those who believed. This becomes a battle against spiritual wickedness in high places. (Ephesians 6: 12) The enemies of the Cross will also say that the death of Christ on the Cross was unfortunate and availed nothing but defeat. Those of such reasoning are but tools in the hands of Satan. The Cross brought deliverance from the penalty of sin and peace within! God's love and mercy were expressed at the Cross, accomplishing God's marvelous grace. Christ the Eternal Son of God did not die as a martyr, but came into this world of sinful man to give himself a ransom for our souls. The Godhead is immutable and omniscient and every jot and tittle in God's Word shall be fulfilled!

Do not deviate from God's Word, but stand fast in the most holy faith. (1 Corinthians 16: 13) The preaching and teaching of the Word of God will bring opposition from the world, the flesh and the devil but greater is God the Holy Spirit who dwells within you than all the forces in the world. (1 John 4: 4) There are open doors to speed the Gospel light, so keep on keeping on! *"For a great door and effectual is opened unto me, and there are many adversaries."* (1 Corinthians 16: 9). Let that Divine love through the Holy Spirit be manifested in your life, lifting up the Cross of Christ before all! We are promised by Christ that He will do the drawing of precious souls to himself through the accomplishment of the Cross of Calvary. *"And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."* (John 12: 32)

PEACE BY THE CROSS

Yes, the sacrifice of the Incarnate Son of God upon the Cross of calvary brings perfect peace to those who are willing to be washed in the blood that flowed from Calvary's Cross. *"And, having made peace through the blood of His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven. And you, that were sometime alienated and enemies in your mind by wicked works, yet now hath He reconciled in the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblamable and unreproveable in His sight."* (Colossians 1: 20-22).

As I ponder upon the Cross of Calvary, I marvel at the great love that the Triune God had for their creatures that were dead in trespasses and sins, my thoughts go back to the song, "The Old Rugged Cross". Just look at those marvelous words! Let us pause for a moment and sing those precious thoughts

from the depths of our souls! To the world the Cross may be a stumbling block, but to us it is God's mercy poured out in Divine love.

THE OLD RUGGED CROSS.

ON A HILL FAR AWAY STOOD AN OLD RUGGED CROSS,
THE EMBLEM OF SUFFERING AND SHAME;
AND I LOVE THAT OLD CROSS WHERE THE DEAREST AND BEST
FOR A WORLD OF LOST SINNERS WAS SLAIN.

OH, THAT OLD RUGGED CROSS SO DESPISED BY THE WORLD,
HAS A WONDROUS ATTRACTION FOR ME;
FOR THE DEAR LAMB OF GOD LEFT HIS GLORY ABOVE,
TO BEAR IT TO DARK CALVARY.

IN THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, STAINED WITH BLOOD SO DIVINE,
A WONDROUS BEAUTY I SEE;
FOR 'T WAS ON THAT OLD CROSS JESUS SUFFERED AND DIED,
TO PARDON AND SANCTIFY ME.

TO THE OLD RUGGED CROSS I WILL EVER BE TRUE,
IT SHAME AND REPROACH GLADLY BEAR;
THEN HE'LL CALL ME SOMEDAY TO MY HOME FAR AWAY,
WHERE HIS GLORY FOREVER I'LL SHARE.

SO I'LL CHERISH THE OLD RUGGED CROSS,
TILL MY TROPHIES AT LAST I LAY DOWN;
I WILL CLING TO THE OLD RUGGED CROSS,
AND EXCHANGE IT SOMEDAY FOR A CROWN.

A. GOD'S ETERNAL LOVE.

May we always remember that the Triune God loved us with an everlasting love and made all of the necessary steps to provide an eternal escape from the penalty of sin by removing sin itself as a barrier between man and the Godhead. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the; but that the world through Him might be saved."* (John 3: 16-17). God's great love extends to the whole world, to every tongue and nation, without an exception! That is why Christ has given us that great commission, to go into all the world with the gospel. God is wanting to pour out His love upon the individuals who will believe. It is the "Whosoever" whom God Divinely loves, that is why He sent His Beloved Son to die on the Cross. Let us briefly examine the price that it

cost God the Father. May we also remember, *“For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.”* (John 3: 17).

B. THE PRICE THAT GOD PAID FOR SIN.

After the accusers of Christ, gave Him no rest throughout the whole night, and then brought Him to Pilate to be crucified. God the Father and God the Holy Spirit kept in absolute silence as the Eternal Son suffered for our sins. The Triune God was willing to pay the debt of our sins, loving us enough to let the Son of God to die for us. *“And when they had bound Him, they led Him away, and delivered Him to Pontius Pilate the governor.”* (Matthew 27: 2). When the sentence was past to crucify Christ, they treated the Eternal Son of God in the most terrible way. *“Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the common hall, and gathered unto him the whole band of soldiers. And they stripped Him, and put on Him a scarlet robe. And when they had platted a crown of thorns, they put it upon His head, and a reed in His right hand: and they bowed the knee before Him, and mocked Him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews. And they spit upon Him, and smote Him on the head.”* (Matthew 27: 27-30). One day they will stand before the same one and fall upon their faces before Him at the great white throne. Their destination will be the Lake of fire without an escape route, tormented day and night forever and ever!

God the Father and God the Holy Spirit remained in absolute silence while all of this was taking place. They knew that this was part of the suffering that the Godhead would have to endure to make available so great salvation to those who would believe. *“Then delivered He Him therefore unto them to be crucified. And they took Jesus, and led Him away. And He bearing His Cross went forth into a place called the place of a skull, which is called in the Hebrew Golgotha:”* (John 19: 16-17). However as we read other accounts, we learn that Jesus broke down under the heavy load. *“And as they led Him away, they laid hold upon one Simon, a Cyrenian, coming out of the country, and on him they laid the cross, that he might bear it after Jesus.”* (Luke 23: 26). It was a terrible price which God had to pay to remove the barrier of sin, but it has been accomplished to the praise and glory of God Almighty. God had a Divine plan, a costly plan. *“Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby.”* (Ephesians 2: 15-16). The price of total sin was paid for by God himself, so that God was free to receive unto himself sinful man, making him into a new creation. Oh what a day of rejoicing that will be when we behold the shekinah glory of God in the heavenlies!

C. TAKE UP OUR CROSS AND FOLLOW CHRIST.

Christ called His followers together for a very special commitment. *“And when He had called the people unto Him with His disciples also, He said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel’s, the same shall save it. For what shall it profit a man, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”* (Mark 8: 34-36). What did the Lord mean by such a statement? It is true that we cannot bare the cross of Christ, but we can bare a cross as we exalt the Lord and preach the gospel. We are in a battle against all evil forces, the world system and also our own fleshly desires.

The rich young ruler came to the Lord, asking Him as to what he could do to inherit eternal life. (Mark 10: 17) He was an upright person and kept God’s commandments to the best of his ability. He was no doubt telling the truth, for the Lord loved him. *“Then Jesus beholding him loved him, and said unto him, One thing thou lackest: go thy way, sell whatsoever thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasures in heaven; and come, take up thy cross and follow me.”* (Mark 10: 21). Do not misunderstand this teaching. Salvation was not the issue, but what Christ was doing was removing the problem of his love of money. *“But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content. But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. For the love of money is the root of all evil: which while some coveted after, they have erred from the faith, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows. But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.”* (1 Timothy 6: 6-12).

God does not forbid the saints from having money and possession, if wealth does not dominate ones life style. Before the Lord called me to go to Africa as His missionary, I had a great desire to become a millionaire. However, I laid aside that desire and answered God’s call. Since then, I have never lacked in the necessities of life as God always provided. (Philippians 4: 19). Yes, we are to take up our cross, giving up our personal desires to do God’s perfect will. (Romans 12: 2). The Lord has entrusted me with many great projects which run into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. In God’s work, I have become a different kind of billionaire. Not of money, but through the sending out of billions of Gospel tracts as well as one half million Biblical textbooks, making me a billionaire in the Lord’s work. I took up my

cross and followed Christ to His praise and glory alone! I give you this personal account, to encourage you to.

"Watch ye, stand fast in the faith, quit you like men, be strong. Let all your things be done with love." (1 Corinthians 16: 13-14). Do not be like the rich young ruler, who walked away from it all, sorrowfully and lost it all because he had the wrong type of love. He could have been greatly blessed with a new birth at Pentecost and had eternal life. Our human love cannot be compared to God's Divine love. *"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law."* (Galatians 5: 22-23). Dear fellow believer, Take up your personal cross and follow the Lord. *"Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not."* (Galatians 6: 7-9)

May our motto always be, "To God be the glory, great things He has done!" We also can say that God keeps on doing great things to share His eternal glory with His creation. It was necessary for God the Father and God the Holy Spirit to turn their back upon the Christ of the Cross. There was a physical black out upon this earth as well as a spiritual black out by God the Father. Sin was being dealt with at the Cross, and the Incarnate Son bore it all alone.

III. THE GLORIFICATION OF THE TRIUNE GOD BECAUSE OF THE CROSS.

God has given us the privilege to be partakers of His glory. We will discuss the glory of the Godhead briefly in the following paragraphs. Since our redemption through the Cross is all by the grace of God, it is our privilege and duty to glorify God through our Christian life.

A. GOD'S GLORY TO BE SHARED WITH HIS CREATION THROUGHOUT ETERNITY.

May I remind you that you cannot add anything to or take away anything from the Godhead, for they are complete and constant in glorification. One great example of this is found in the Incarnate Son's prayer to the Father. *"I have glorified thee on the earth: I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do. And now, O Father, glorify thou me with thine own self with glory which I had with thee before the world was."* (John 17: 4-5). This is a mighty statement from the Eternal Son of God, and we need to ponder on this.

During Christ's earthly ministry, He left the splendor of heaven to redeem us who were dead in trespasses and sin. The Father glorified His Son in a special limited way so that He might share that glory with those who believed. *"And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they*

may be one, even as we are one.....Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world." (John 17: 22-24). This reveals that eternal glory that the Lord Jesus Christ had before the foundation of the world. The Lord has arranged to share that eternal glory with those who believe, unifying the saints of all ages, into a Divine perfection.

The Old Testament saints beheld the Shekinah Glory of God, but were not partaker of it. (Acts 7: 2). As Stephen was being martyred, for the cause of Christ he looked up into heaven and saw the glory of God. (Acts 7: 55). God's glory will eventually be revealed in us, when we get those glorified bodies. (Romans 8: 18). God the Father has given us the opportunity to glory in the Lord as we patiently wait for the Rapture. "But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord." (2 Corinthians 10: 17). God the Father has already given us God the Holy Spirit to dwell in us forever, that during our time upon this earth, we might have great understanding and knowledge of God. "That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him." (Ephesians 1: 17).

God the Father wants to make known to the saints of all ages His eternal glory. "To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles which is Christ in you the hope of glory." (Colossians 1: 27). Christ is our hope and that hope is through His death upon the Cross. "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour: that He by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became Him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through suffering." (Hebrews 2: 9-10). In the Cross of Christ we glory and endure all things, knowing that the glory of God will be revealed unto us. "Therefore I endure all things for the elect's sakes, that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory." (2 Timothy 2: 10).

B. SIN WILL RUN IT'S WICKED COURSE UNDER GOD'S JUDGEMENT.

In God's economy, time is nothing and He patiently waits for the fullness of time to pour out His wrath upon total sin. The saints of all ages have escaped the final judgement, because Jesus paid the penalty of sin at the Cross. "Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross." (Colossians 2: 14). The Lord God has manifested His grace in our lives, all because of the finished work on Calvary's Cross. The Lord is our ever present help and He will deliver us from all evil forces, if we will let Him. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the

day of judgement to be punished.” (2 Peter 2: 9). There will be the coming of that terrible day of judgement upon all the ungodly, for they have rejected the Christ of the Cross and will suffer all loss! Our deliverance from the judgement to come is by the grace of God through the Son of God who gave himself a ransom for our souls upon the Cross. “He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” (John 3: 36).

All mankind is without excuse, if they fail to take advantage of God’s provision. Total sin has been paid for at the Cross, as God allowed that great burden to rest upon His Eternal Son. Christ bore it all alone, He removed the barrier of sin as the Lamb of God. God broke His fellowship with His Eternal Son as sin was being paid in full, so that you and I may enjoy an eternal unbroken fellowship with the Triune God forever and ever!

C. AN UNBROKEN DIVINE FELLOWSHIP IN ETERNITY TO COME.

The Lord Jesus Christ came to this earth to redeem us, and to deliver us from the wrath to come. This was accomplish upon the Cross and our sins have been totally removed from us, as far as the East is from the West. (*Psalm 103: 12*). This in itself would have shown God’s matchless love toward us, but in addition, because of the grace of God, the saints of all ages will be brought into a unified fellowship.

We have been sanctified for a Divine purpose in our lives. The purpose is to go forth into all the world with the Gospel. (*John 17: 17-18*). It was for this purpose that Christ left His home in glory to redeem, “whosoever will”, and to unify all who will believe. God wants an unbroken Divine fellowship with His creation and that has been made possible by the Cross and through the Holy Spirit who gives newness of life. The Eternal Son of God prayed to the Father that eventually all may be one as God the Father and God the Son are one. “Neither pray I for these alone, but for them also which shall believe on me through their word: That they all may be one: as thou, Father, art in me, and I in thee, that they all may be one in us: that the world may believe that thou hast sent me.” (*John 17: 20-21*). God could have forced us all to obey Him, implanting within us a mere instinct as in animals, but He preferred to give us a freedom of choice. As we are born again of God the Holy Spirit, then and then only can we understand the Divine viewpoint and aim toward a perfect unity in Christ. We know that these present vessels are earthen, but praise God we will get those glorified bodies which will secure an unbroken Divine fellowship throughout eternity to come.

CONCLUSION

Our eternal living Triune God want to share their eternal glory with all creation. Sin is running it's course under the control of the sovereignty of God. Total sin has been fully paid at the Cross and all mankind is without excuse. God's plan has never had to be altered for He is immutable. Because He is omniscient, God knows the end from the beginning, and He knows every thought and intent of every creature. There is nothing hidden from God. God did not put on a special impromptu act by sending His Eternal Son to the Cross. The three in one Godhead had plan long before the universe was created, and a supreme purpose for what has already been accomplished. The love of God shed abroad in our hearts was by grace alone. The eternal glory of God shall be shared with His new creation in eternity to come. Sin will be removed from our presence forever! There will be no evil thought in God's new creation, and there will be perfect unity. This earth was separated from all of God's creation in order to deal with total sin once and forever.

As I conclude this chapter, may I remind you that the Cross of Calvary was the most cruel method of death. It was God's way of showing to us how abhorrent sin really is. Sin had to be removed at such a great cost. The choice is ours; will we choose to rely our self righteousness, or by the grace of God, will we accept God's provision for the remission of our sins upon the Cross. *"How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard Him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to His own will? For unto the angels hath He not put in subjection the world to come, whereof we speak. But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man that thou art mindful of him?....thou crownedst him with glory and honour."* (Hebrews 2: 3-7a).

There were many times when the enemies of Christ tried to destroy the Son of God before He could accomplish God's purpose on earth, but He was preserved for that terrible death upon the Cross. They could not take His life from Him, for He had power to lay down His life and power to take it again. Christ's death was planned for the remission of sins as well as the removal of sin forever from God's great domain.

While in pain on the Cross Jesus Christ made 7 Cries. Those great cries of Christ upon the Cross were a display of God's perfection. May I just briefly restate what was involved in each cry from the Cross.

1. *"Father forgive them, for they know not what they do"* (Luke 23: 34)

This indicates the stability and control that Christ had on the Cross. It also showed His commission in laying down His life for the removal of sin. He recognized that these religious leaders were under the control of

Satan and helpless in combatting his power. It also indicated His love for the lost and dying world.

2. *"Verily I say unto thee, Today thou shalt be with me in Paradise."*(Luke 23: 43)

Previous to that statement from the Lord, the believing dead were in a place called Sheol, or the place of the dead. We know from the Scriptures that Christ descended into Sheol and led captivity captive, taking them to the heavenly Paradise. (*Psalm 68: 18*); (*Ephesians 4: 8*) Now with Christ's victory over sin, the grave and death, He was free to bring the saints of all ages to the heavenly Paradise. Certainly, if the thief on the cross would arrive in Paradise, all the Old Testament Saints would also have their abode in Paradise. This also confirms to us that all of the New Testament saint have gone to glory in the heavenly Paradise.

3. *"Woman behold thy son"!* Then He said to the disciple, *"Behold thy mother!"* (*John 19: 26-27*).

The Lord Jesus Christ was left in charge of Mary and Joseph's family when Joseph died, and even though He was in excruciating pain, He was mindful of those left behind. He had no thought for himself, for He knew it was for this purpose that He came into the world, to suffer, bleed and die for the sins of the whole world. What tender love, the Lord manifested as He hung upon the Cross! He experienced total human life, being totally the Son of God.

4. *"Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, My God, Why hast thou forsaken me?"* (*Matthew 27: 46*)

Christ bore total sin alone, completely cut off from God the Father as He died for the penalty of sin. He was shut off from the Father by a thick cloud of darkness for three hours when God the Father and God the Holy Spirit separated themselves from him while He bore our sins. Your sin and my sin was all placed upon our Redeemer, making new life possible, if we become born again by God the Holy Spirit. Christ took the total burden of all ungodliness upon Himself on the Cross. God the Father could not look upon His beloved Son as He paid the debt of sin. This affected Christ's relationship with the Father for the first time. He was cut off completely from the Father when He bore our sins.

5. ***“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the Scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I Thirst” (John 19: 28)***

After the mental and spiritual torture of being forsaken by the Father, we now observe Christ's physical torture. It should indicate to each of us that God actually suffered physically for us upon the Cross. In addition to the excruciating physical pain of being nailed to a cross the Creator of heaven and earth allowed himself to suffer thirst. It was Jesus who offered to give the water of life freely to all who would believe! This is again the manifestation of Divine love for His creatures. He was even deprived pure water in His hour of the greatest need.

6. ***“When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, He said. It is finished: and He bowed His head and gave up the ghost.”(John 19: 30)***

Certainly the work of Christ was not finished, but rather the debt for sin had been paid and finished once and forever! The eternal glory of the Triune God has been manifested upon the Cross. The judgement against all sin was sealed by the death of Christ upon the Cross. But, being very God, the grave could not hold the one who is the source of all life. ***“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures: And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures:” (1 Corinthians 15: 1-4).***

This is not a sign of defeat but of victory! Praise God that Christ finished the sin question by dying on the Cross and rising the third day according to the Scriptures. For this very cause, Christ came into this world to become both the sacrificer and the sacrifice because He desired to save our souls from the wrath of God.

7. ***“And when Jesus had cried with a loud voice, He said, Father, into thy hands I commend my Spirit: and having said thus, He gave up the ghost.” (Luke 23: 46).***

Evidently as Christ declared His mission complete and finished, it was simultaneously, or within seconds that He also declared His Spirit in the hands of the Father. Although the Father turned His back upon the Lord, they were still in speaking terms with each other. This statement of Jesus Christ is very important, because Christ died a physical death upon the Cross and commended His Spirit unto the Father. At that time, God's

grace became activated toward us, and the sin barrier was removed forever!

In closing this chapter, our attention has been drawn to the glorification of the Cross in every aspect. We have seen the terribleness of sin, that caused God the Father to send His only begotten Son to take our place that we might have an abundant life throughout eternity. May we be willing to take up our cross daily and glorify the Lord in and through our lives.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER FOUR.

1. Write an essay on, "The Cross of Calvary".
2. Why did God separate this earth from all other planets?
3. When did God plan to have His Eternal Son die on the Cross? When was that Incarnate body prepared?
4. Write an essay on, "The Incarnate Christ".
5. Name and explain 5 Old Testament appearances of Christ the Incarnate One. Scripture.
6. Explain (*Joshua 5: 13-15*).
7. How did God deal with Nebuchadnezzar? What were the results?
8. How did the whole world hear about the Living God by Nebuchadnezzar?
9. Did Christ become a martyr at the Cross? Explain.
10. What was Satan's purpose in setting up his own domain and where is it?
11. When will Satan be thrown out of heaven?
12. What was the finished work of Christ on the Cross?
13. Explain (*John 19: 10-11*).
14. How can Christians take up their cross and follow Jesus?
15. Explain (*Luke 9: 22-24*); and (*Luke 14: 27*).

16. Explain (*1 Corinthians 1: 18-21*).
17. Why are Christians persecuted as they preach the Cross of Christ and His shed blood that was offered for the sins of the whole world?
18. Explain (*Colossians 1: 20-22*).
19. Write an essay on "God's Eternal Love".
20. How do we bear fruit for God and glorify the Name of Jesus?
21. Explain (*Ephesians 1:17*).
22. How was Christ glorified through His death on the Cross?
23. When will sin be removed from God's creation?
24. Explain (*John 17: 20-21*).
25. How will God share His glory with His creation throughout eternity?
26. How will God establish an unbroken Divine fellowship in eternity to come. Give Scripture for your answer.
27. When will sin complete it's wicked course?
28. In (*John chapter 17*) as Christ prays to God the Father, what unity will He establish for eternity?
29. How can we bring glory and honor to the Lord by willingly, taking up our cross and following Him?
30. Explain the gospel of Christ.

CHAPTER FIVE



THE ETERNAL VALUE OF THE CROSS

Our eternal existence with God is entirely dependant on the price that the Godhead paid for us. God is perfection and His way of life cannot tolerate evil in any shape or form. We will discuss the process of redemption from sin, the eradication of sin, and the total removal from sin. God in His love and mercy desires His creation to be conformed to His glorification.

I. REDEMPTION THROUGH THE CROSS.

Since we have all sinned and come short of the glory of God, there is nothing that we can do to restore the right relationship with God. The Cross was God's solution for redeeming our souls. It also made possible the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit, restoring our fellowship with God, which was broken through the sin barrier. Sin has brought a curse into our way of life, and we have broken the perfect law of God. Praise God, "*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:*" (Galatians 3: 13). This is a direct reference to the Cross, upon which our Savior hung. Someday when we stand before the Lord God Almighty, we will sing that glorious praise, just before the Great Tribulation begins. "*And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And has made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*" (Revelation 5: 9-10).

A. GRACE, MERCY, AND PEACE OBTAINED BY THE CROSS.

Since we as human beings were helpless and unable to redeem ourselves by any means, we needed grace and mercy. Where could we go but to the Lord, who gave himself a ransom, purchasing us out of the slave market of sin. *"Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us, Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith; who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12: 1-2).* We will never know the full depth of God's love in and through Christ Jesus. However, let's look at three important acts of love accomplished through the Cross.

GRACE.

The marvelous grace of our loving Lord was made possible through the Cross of Christ. Grace is defined as a favor rendered by one who need not do so. It was His finished work on Calvary's Cross that was the gracious gift of God to us, His undeserving creatures. *"I thank my God always on your behalf, for the grace of God which was given you by Jesus Christ." (1 Corinthians 1: 4).* The Lord made possible for those who would believe, to be justified before Almighty God. *"Not of works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and the renewing of the Holy Spirit; Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life." (Titus 3: 5-7).*

It had to be upon grace principles that we were redeemed, for there is nothing in us worthy of God's love, apart from being in and through the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ fulfilled the laws of God in our stead that we might be made the righteousness of God through His stead. There is no way that the most religious person could satisfy the law of God in himself apart from Christ. *"But the God of all grace, who hath called us into His eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you. To Him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen." (1 Peter 5: 10-11).* Our lives as Christians should be based entirely upon the Grace of God. We should stand firmly upon God's grace and give all glory and praise to the Triune God. (1 Peter 5: 12). The death and resurrection of Christ upon the Cross has brought us grace and favor from God the Father. There is no other way whereby you can be partakers of the grace of God, but through the Lord Jesus Christ. *"Now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto*

all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus:" (Romans 3: 21-24). May we not waiver in our faith but be steadfast and sure in the promises of God. Let us go on in the things of the Lord, from faith to faith, trusting the Lord, who has manifested His love toward us, by dying upon the Cross of Calvary.

MERCY.

God's mercy is available because of the Cross and we must trust Him at all cost! It is not that God over looks our short comings, but rather that He undertakes for our short comings. Sin had to be dealt with according to God's law, and now we are eligible for His free gift by grace, becoming partaker of His mercy.

"But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many." (Romans 5: 15). God in His omniscience knows all and is sovereign over all! There is no exception before God, whether under the law or without the law. "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that He might have mercy upon all." (Romans 11: 32). The Lord Jesus Christ has come and cleared the way for us to come boldly before the throne of Grace and receive the mercy of God. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Romans 15: 16).

We should therefore rejoice in the Lord and be fervent in serving the Lord. God is waiting to receive our appreciation for His Grace and Mercy poured out on our souls. We have been made alive in Christ Jesus, who were dead in trespasses and sins. *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to His abundant mercy hath He begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." (1 Peter 1: 3). God has been merciful in making a way possible for us not only to approach God, but also to dwell with God.*

Because of God's mercy to us through the Lord Jesus Christ we can joyfully sing.

IT IS WELL WITH MY SOUL.

When peace like a river, attendeth my way,
when sorrows like sea-billows roll;
what ever my lot, Thou has taught me to say,
It is well, it is well with my soul.

Though Satan should buffet, thou trials should come,
Let this blest assurance control,
That Christ has regarded my helpless estate,
and has shed His own blood for my soul.

My sin - oh, the bliss of this glorious thought-
My sin not in part, but the whole-
Is nailed to the cross and I bear it no more,
Praise the Lord, praise the Lord, O my soul.

And, Lord, haste the day when the faith shall be sight,
The clouds be rolled back as a scroll,
The trump shall resound and the Lord shall descend,
“Even so” - it is well with my soul.

God's Grace and Mercy through the Cross have given us an inward Peace that passes all understanding. God has given us the good news to share with the world. This world is in turmoil and strife, but God has provided a better way through the Cross.

PEACE.

The Lord Jesus Christ, before He left to return to His splendors in heaven, did not leave His disciples without comfort and peace. He promised them that the Comforter would come and dwell within them. *“Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send Him unto you.”* (John 16: 7). *“And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you for ever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you. Howbeit when He, the Spirit of truth, is come, He will guide you into all truth: for He shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever He shall hear, that shall He speak: and He will show you things to come.”* (John 16: 13). *“Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.”* (John 14: 27).

Here we have just a few verses of Scripture, which are direct words from the Lord himself. If you are a Christian and do not experience this comfort and peace, there must be some besetting sin that causes it. You may be that carnal Christian that is out of fellowship with the Lord, grieving the Holy Spirit. If so, you cannot expect to get comfort from the Holy Spirit while you remain in that condition.

The whole world that lies in turmoil and in the grips of Satan cannot

know the peace of God. *“Destruction and misery are in their ways: And the way of peace have they not known: There is no fear of God before their eyes.”* (Romans 3: 16-18). Praise God, we who know the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior are partakers of God’s grace, mercy and peace! *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ: By whom also we have access by faith into this grace wherein we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”* (Romans 5: 1-2). This peace that we have is not based upon the temporary peace in this world, but is part and parcel of God the Holy Spirit. *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”* (Galatians 5: 22-23). This is a single fruit from God the Holy Spirit, and if you lack any portion of it, you are not allowing God the Holy Spirit to fill your life completely. However, remember that you do not get the Holy Spirit in portions, but completely! The issue in the filling by the Holy Spirit is, He gets all of you, rather than you keeping Him in a corner of your life. Let go and let God have full control of your life.

B. REDEEMED BY THE BLOOD OF THE LAMB THROUGH THE CROSS.

We have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb of God who takes away the sins of the whole world. God has so ordered His plan of all ages so that sin would not be the question, but rather His Son would be the issue. *“Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”* (1 Peter 1: 18-19). Our hope and glory is in the Cross where the Lamb of God paid the debt for “total sin”. Our sins have nailed Him to the Cross, so that God the Father could give us the forgiveness of our sins and removed the barrier of the sins of the whole world. He gave His all that we might be accepted by the Father of all. *“All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all.”* (Isaiah 53: 6). The Lord gave His life a ransom for many that through our faith, in His finished work on the Cross, we might receive the forgiveness of our sins. The Father has so declared that His Eternal Son will be all in all. *“Who is the image of the invisible God, the first born of every creature: For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: All things were created by Him, and for Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the first born from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of*

His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven.” (Colossians 1: 15-20). Christ gave His life blood upon the Cross so that you and I might have the newness of eternal life. Christ being the source of life, could lay his life down and take it up again. He said, “***Therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again. No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.***” (John 10: 17-18).

The death of Christ upon the Cross is the key to our salvation. The very God, became both the High Priest and the one who lay upon the altar that we might be made alive in Him who is from everlasting to everlasting. There is none greater than He and He was willing to take our place at the Cross. “***Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, He humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.***” (Colossians 2: 5-8). There is no way what so ever to repay such a debt which we owe to our Lord Jesus Christ, so let us live well pleasing to Him. Your first step to do this, is to dedicate your life to Him. Then, by the power of the Holy Spirit, conform to the image of the Lord and not to this world’s system.

THAT NEW SONG OF THE REDEEMED.

It will be a glorious thrill to sing that new song in the presence of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. It will be the song of the saints of all ages, redeemed by the blood of the Lamb. “***And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.***” (Revelation 5: 9-10). What a wonderful future we have as those who have been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb! God in desiring to share His eternal glory with us, has not only redeemed us from the penalty of sin, but has brought us to Divine heights, by the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit. This gives us a status far above the holy angels, with the new birth by the Holy Spirit and His presence within us forever and ever. I cannot fathom such great love and redeeming power which God has bestowed upon us as members of the body of Christ. Not only has our redemption given us the Holy Spirit within, but we shall one day be members of the bride of Christ. (Revelation 19: 7-10). This new song of redemption also has great anticipations of being partakers and rulers in the kingdom of God. This is but the results of being members of the Royal family of God.

Christ has given His life’s blood as a ransom for us who were dead in

trespasses and sins. Now we have become new creatures in Christ Jesus, redeemed by His life giving blood. We now have become the royal members of God's holy family. "*Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is." (1 John 3: 2). This is all necessary for the future Kingdom of Christ, when we shall become a kingdom of priests to rule and reign with Him forever. "*And I saw thrones, and they that sat upon them, and judgement was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the Word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years.*" (Revelation 20: 4). There will be those from the Great Tribulation which will join us during the reign of righteousness upon this earth. This will be the beginning of the reign of righteousness, which will continue throughout eternity. The Old Testament Saints will be there, as well as the Tribulation saints, and we as the Bride of Christ, we will all preach the kingdom of righteousness throughout the whole world.*

REDEEMED

Redeemed - how I love to proclaim it
 Redeemed by the blood of the Lamb;
 Redeemed through His infinite mercy,
 His child and forever I am.

Redeemed and so happy in Jesus,
 No language my rapture can tell,
 I know that the light of His presence,
 With me doth continually dwell.

I think of my blessed Redeemer.
 I think of Him all day long,
 I sing for I cannot be silent,
 His love is the theme of my song.

I know I shall see in His beauty,
 The king in whose law I delight,
 Who lovingly guided my foot -steps,
 And giveth me songs in the night.

Redeemed, - Redeemed
 Redeemed by the blood of the lamb;
 Redeemed - Redeemed,
 His child and forever I am.

C. SIN REMOVED FROM THE PRESENCE OF GOD'S CREATION FOREVER, BECAUSE OF THE CROSS.

God is carrying out His eternal plan. That plan is to eradicate sin from His domain forever. However, God is waiting for the fullness of time, allowing sin to run its wicked course, under His sovereignty. Christ bore total sin upon the Cross, judging it once and forever. Sin cannot exist in the presence of God and eventually it will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever.

There are a few very important statements in Isaiah chapter 53 to which I would like to draw your attention. In the suffering of the Lord for our sin, all creation had to turn away from Him, and He bore it all alone. Please note the following truths. "*Smitten of God and afflicted*" (Isaiah 53: 4), "*The Lord hath laid on Him, the iniquity of us all*". (Isaiah 53: 6), "*He was cut off from the land of the living for the transgressions.*". (Isaiah 53: 8) "*Yet it pleased the Lord to bruise Him;*" (Isaiah 53: 10). These important statements from the Word of God show how very much it cost to make our redemption possible. God the Father looked beyond the suffering of the Cross to the great accomplishment through the Cross.

It was God the Father's plan in dealing with the total sin question. Now since sin has been dealt with, God has thoroughly and completely fulfilled the requirements of His eternal law, setting us free from the penalty of death. This also made possible God's grace and mercy to us, bringing peace within our souls. Praise God for our Redeemer who was willing to take our place at the Cross.

II. THE TOTAL ERADICATION OF SIN BECAUSE OF THE CROSS.

In everything that God does, He has a purpose, and nothing needs to be altered in any way. We can now look at the issue of sin as something of the past. Total sin, past present and future, was paid for at the Cross, but sin has not been removed until it runs its complete course. God has been showing us, down through the ages that under all circumstances, nothing but the blood of Jesus, is the sufficient to pay the penalty of sin. God is removing every excuse that man may have to by-pass the blood of Jesus, and all man made attempts at salvation will come short of the glory of God. Let us search the Scriptures and see how God will totally remove sin from the new creation.

A. SIN REMOVED FROM GOD'S NEW CREATION FOREVER AND EVER.

We are aware of God's statements in (Daniel 9: 24) there will be no more sin, and eternal righteousness shall reign forever. "*Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy City, (1) to finish the transgression, and (2) to make an end of sins, and (3) to make reconciliation*

for iniquity, and (4) to bring in everlasting righteousness, and (5) to seal up the vision and prophecy, and (6) to anoint the most Holy.” (Daniel 9: 24). That is quite a dramatic statement from God’s Word and we need to understand just how God intends to usher in such perfect conditions. The character of God is perfect and without sin, being just and righteous, but the problem arose in God’s creation, when a freedom of choice was given. Christ’s death on the cross made several goals possible:

1. TO FINISH TRANSGRESSION.

There has never been an age where mankind has not transgressed the laws of God. How in God’s creation will God bring about such a wonderful atmosphere where there will be no transgressing of God’s perfect law? Well, God said that there would be such a time and that time will be in the future when God makes a new creation of all things. Total sin has been paid for, but under the present circumstances, man is totally depraved in this old nature. On that day, our complete nature and God’s creation will be changed. At the present time, in the spiritual realm, we have become “New Creatures” in Christ Jesus, and old things are passed away, but they are still present in this world to tempt us. *“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” (2 Corinthians 5: 17).* This only has reference to those who are in Christ Jesus, and the sin nature still exists.

This is certainly not the era in which transgressing shall cease, even among Christians. Therefore, God is speaking of another time in His total plan for all ages. When shall that be? According to the Word of God, all transgressions shall cease when the New Heavens and the New Earth are created. This will occur after the White Throne Judgement when all those not written in the Lamb’s Book of Life will be judged and cast into the Lake of Fire to remain there forever and ever. Every evil being that ever existed will be cast into the Lake of Fire, including the beasts, Satan and all of the demons. After that, all of God’s creatures including the holy angels will never again have the capacity to sin . All shall be justified, sanctified and glorified for eternity.

2. MAKE AN END OF SINS.

It would have been a simple thing for God to declare an end of transgressions by force, but He did not choose to do that. In His just laws God chose to deal with the sin question a better way. God, in His sovereignty, is in the process of allowing sin to run it’s course, and He is allowing his creatures to make their choices. In the fullness of time, God paid the total debt of sin upon the Cross.

Sin has contaminated God's first creation and so all of it, both the heavens and the earth must be burned with fervent heat. (2 Peter 3: 10). Christ dying upon the Cross has paid the debt and offered to all, who would trust in Him, eternal life in the new creation. Sin is running it's course now, but, *"Nevertheless we according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness."* (2 Peter 3: 13) (Revelation 21: 1-7). The sum total of sin will be purged forever in the Lake of Fire, which is the second death. *"But for the fearful, and unbeliever, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* (Revelation 21: 8). That judgement and separation of sin, will precede the sinless new creation of God, in which all evil will be separated from God's righteousness for the rest of eternity.

3. MAKE RECONCILIATION FOR THE INIQUITY.

In God's economy and holy character, every thing must be reckoned with and accounted for. We were enemies of God in our depravity and could not approach God in any way. The barrier of sin had to be dealt with and removed in order for His creatures to have their fellowship restored. The barrier had to be removed permanently, and only one who was impeccable could pay the debt to restore God's creatures to eternal fellowship. The only one who could do that was the Lord Jesus Christ. *"And all things are of God, who hath reconciled us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of reconciliation; To wit that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation."* (2 Corinthians 5: 18-19). God the Father provided His Son to make possible this reconciliation, and now we have been sent forth to proclaim this reconciliation to mankind. Please note, that God was in Christ, making possible this reconciliation. *"Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; and that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby:"* (Ephesians 2: 15-16). *"For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell; And, having made peace through the blood of His Cross, by Him to reconcile all things unto himself; by Him, I say, whether they be things in earth, or things in heaven."* (Colossians 1: 19-20).

God the Father was in Christ, His Eternal Son, making reconciliations for us, removing the guilt of our sin and making possible an eternal establishment of perfect righteousness in His presence. God has dealt with total sin at the Cross, giving life to us at a tremendous cost! Apart from the Lord Jesus Christ all are totally depraved and destined to the Lake of Fire. We are commissioned and commanded, as Christians, to "Go Tell" the glorious

Gospel message, while there is still time.

4. BRING IN EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS.

The Lord is going to have a trial run of perfect righteousness during His reign of one thousand years on this earth. This will not be an easy task but will have to be enforced with "A Rod of Iron". It will be the final test for mankind under the most favorable conditions, with nature restored and prosperity enjoyed! Justice, peace and righteousness will reign throughout the whole world, ruled by the Lord Jesus Christ. The saints of all ages shall be kings and priests throughout the world in our glorified bodies. (*Revelation 20:4.*) As believers, we will have part in the first resurrection and be tireless witnesses for the King of kings, and Lord of lords. "*Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.*" (*Revelation 20:6.*) The millennial kingdom will be preliminary to the eternal reign of righteousness, after God makes all things new. (*Revelation 21:1-7.*) We will enter into that everlasting righteousness only because of the Cross of Calvary. "*And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.*" (*Revelation 21:5a*)

The new creation would be a useless effort of God if there was any possibility that sin would return. However, we must remember that total sin was paid for with the blood of the Lord Jesus Christ upon the Cross. "*For He has made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him.*" (*2 Corinthians 5:21.*) The Holy Spirit prompted Paul to write to the Philippian church, "*And be found in Him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith.*" (*Philippians 3:9.*) Paul wanted them to make sure that they were not depending upon their own righteousness before God Almighty, but on the righteousness of God in Christ.

5. SEAL UP THE VISION AND PROPHECY.

God's Word must be completely fulfilled, for God has a time table which must be observed. Having known the end of events from the very beginning, God has no problem with the events of all ages. God knows all things and is impeccable as well as immutable. I believe that the most outstanding Book in the Old Testament as to a great span of prophecy, is the Book of Daniel. He not only takes us through a short existence of four great empires, but the revival of the final empire of the last days. We have studied these empires previously, but I merely want to mention God's dealing with the nations foretold by Daniel. This revelation takes us right through the revival of the Roman Empire and includes many details along the way. The Holy Spirit even

revealed to Daniel as to when the Messiah would be "Cut Off". (*Daniel 9:25-26.*) It gives us a clue to the "Abomination of Desolation" which will happen in the Great Tribulation. (*Daniel 9:27.*) Daniel also foretells the breaking of a seven year covenant that the beast makes with Israel during the Great Tribulation. (*Daniel 9:27.*)

"Daniel answered and said, Blessed be the name of God forever and ever: for wisdom and might are His: And He changeth the times and the seasons: He removeth kings, and setteth up kings: He giveth wisdom unto the wise, and knowledge to them that know understanding: He revealeth the deep and secret things: He knoweth what is the darkness, and the light dwelleth with Him." (*Daniel 2:20-22*). God is sovereign over all and is completely in control of all things. The evil forces are subjected to God and can only go as far as God will permit them. All that is recorded in the Bible will be fulfilled in the fullness of time and according to God's will. God is patiently waiting for the fullness of time to complete all that the Triune God had set out to do. God's sovereignty has never been relinquished in any shape or form and everything will continue to go according to God's plan.

6. ANOINT THE MOST HOLY.

God the Father has appointed His Eternal Son to be glorified above all! It was through the Lord Jesus Christ that sin has been dealt its final blow at Calvary's Cross. God is therefore, highly exalting Him above everything. *"Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature. For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things He might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in Him should all fullness dwell;"* (*Colossians 1:15-19*). We do not know just when that final coronation will take place, but we do know that every believer will be present to witness the exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ above all. It will be a heavenly scene as we all gather together in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ. We have record of that unusual event of the "Transfiguration". Perhaps we could consider that event as a forerunner of when all of us are gathered together and see the Lord in all of His glory in that heavenly home. *"And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God:"* (*Revelation 19:1*). That will be a great day as all the choruses of heaven and earth join together as we glorify the Lord Jesus Christ. We will be there as the bride of Christ and given a special place with the billions of saints of God and the hosts of holy angels.

B. ETERNAL UNBROKEN FELLOWSHIP WITH OUR CREATOR.

It is a glorious experience to feel the presence of the Lord as we assemble together, as well as God the Holy Spirit bearing witness with our spirits that we are the sons of God. (*Romans 8:16.*) In this present life we do have broken fellowship with our God, because of sin and disobedience. At times, we grieve the Holy Spirit (*Ephesians 4:30.*) and break our fellowship with the Lord as well as with each other.

In this Christian life, we are constantly required to renew our fellowship with each other and with the Lord. There are those things which break this fellowship and we need to come with forgiveness in our hearts to restore our fellowship. Sin breaks our fellowship with God, and we need to use God's method to be restored again with our heavenly Father. *"If we say that we have fellowship with Him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin. If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."* (*1 John 1:6-9*). This has to do with our present earthly relationship with Almighty God. It is very essential that we keep in close fellowship with our Lord, while we journey through this life, for it is only then that we become effective witnesses for the Lord.

Now, let us consider what God has to say about an eternal unbroken fellowship with our Creator in the New Heavens and the New Earth. We have studied concerning sin being eradicated before God's new creation, so sin will no longer be a problem. All sin and ungodly creatures will be cast into the Lake of Fire forever and ever. The sum total of all evil will remain in that eternal fire where it will never be able to escape. In that coming Paradise and glory of God there will be no evil and no curse whatsoever. *"And there shall be no more curse; but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever."* (*Revelation 22:3-5*). Praise God, there shall be a continual fellowship with God, for sin will never contaminate God's new creation. This will be an unbroken fellowship with Almighty God throughout eternity to come.

C. GOD'S ETERNAL UTOPIA ESTABLISHED.

As we reviewed the revelation given to Daniel of the things to come, we can rest assured that God himself will bring this to pass. Sin is running it's

course in this present era, but total sin has already been judged and condemned at the Cross of Calvary. God is waiting for the sum total of all sin to express itself, so that all will be cast into the Lake of Fire, including death and hell. (*Revelation 21:14*). Praise God, we have come under the cloak of the Lord Jesus Christ, who has paid the debt of our sins in full. God has His time for bringing into existence the New Heavens and the New Earth, and this new creation will be without the taint of sin. We will have our glorified bodies, and be like Jesus and will be free from sin forever! (*1 John 3:1-3*).

God's "Utopia" will be established in God's own time. This is part of God's eternal plan to do away with sin forever. This planet earth has been used as the place to deal with the sin question, using the Cross of Christ as the way and means of separating sin and the ungodly from God's future "Utopia". Man is constantly trying to establish a one world government and religion, but has failed in the past and will fail in the future. We must depend upon God to bring in an everlasting kingdom of righteousness. *"And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new."* (*Revelation 21:3-5a*). God has promised to those who believe, to change their lives completely in this life and make their lives in eternity to come, free from evil, thought, word and deed forever and ever! What a day of rejoicing that will be!

III. THE GLORIFIED ETERNAL STATE OF GOD'S NEW CREATION.

Glorification must come from God through the Lord Jesus Christ. There is no other way in which one can be partaker of a glorified body. God has prepared through Christ a glorified body, free from sin and Divinely prepared for God the Holy Spirit to dwell within us forever. This has already been promised to us. *"And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you forever; Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."* (*John 14:16-17*). God the Holy Spirit has given us our new birth. (*John 3:5-6*) We have also been baptized by the Holy Spirit. (*1 Corinthians 12:13*). When one is born of the Holy Spirit and being indwelt by Him, then we personally give our all to Him, so that we keep on being filled by the Holy Spirit. (*Ephesians 5:18*). There are also gifts to be given by the Holy Spirit as a preliminary measure to be used to glorify the Lord. (*1 Corinthians 12-14*). When that Rapture takes place and we receive our glorified bodies, we will be ready to live in that new creation with God and His holy angels, as well as with each other.

In preparation for that eternal glory that God is preparing for us, let us glorify

God now so that the world will know that we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. *"But he that glorieth, let him glory in the Lord. For not he that commendeth himself is approved, but whom the Lord commendeth."* (2 Corinthians 10:17-18). There is a glory that God has reserved for all those who are faithful to Him, during this life span. Some Christians are called to suffer more than others because of various circumstances. regardless of this, we can rejoice in the Lord and in spite of the circumstances which we face, for the Lord has reserved a special glory to be revealed. *"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestations of the sons of God."* (Romans 8:18-19). *"But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord."* (2 Corinthians 3:18). The glory that we will have when sin is removed forever will be the reflection of the Lord Jesus Christ. *"To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory:"* (Colossians 1:27).

As we are faithful to the Lord during our Christian life, we are to receive a crown of Glory from our Savior. (1 Peter 5:4). God is aware of everything that you do to lift up the name of Jesus before mankind. Our bodies are the temple of God and therefore we should glorify the name of God! *"What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). The Lord Himself will come to rapture us home and present us unto the Father as His future bride. This will be a wonderful experience for the Old Testament saints who will be there as well. They will be the friends of the Bridegroom. There will be billions of us together in the presence of the Lord. *"When He shall come to be glorified in His saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day."* (2 Thessalonians 1:10).

A. PARADISE FOUND IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD.

To be found in the presence of God will be far beyond our expectations. As we are presented to the Father in our glorified bodies the shekinah glory of God will fill our souls. The angelic hosts will be there and our personal guardian angels will be present with us as we stand in our heavenly glorified bodies. The reunion of all the saints of all times will be beyond words! Note the very words from Christ as He prayed to the Father. *"And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them."* (John 17:10). That is why there will be a glorious reunion in the heavenlies when we are presented by Christ to His Father as His bride. It is hard for us to comprehend the eternal future where sin will be no more and everlasting righteousness will be established. This will be a Paradise richer than anything that we have known,

even greater than the Garden of Eden. *"That the name of our Lord Jesus Christ may be glorified in you, and ye in Him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."* (2 Thessalonians 1:12).

Now let us see what the Word of God has to say about that Paradise of the future, where a pure river of the water of life will be flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb. There is nothing that can take the place of crystal clear water, for it is a source of sustaining life. *"And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the midst of the street of it, and on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and His servants shall serve Him: And they shall see His face; and His name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign forever and ever."* (Revelation 22:1-5). Let us just list some of the characteristics of Paradise that will be experienced in the presence of God and of the Lamb.

1. The water supply will be without pollution and will not need treatment.
2. The water supply will be under the complete control of God.
3. There will be a variety of fruit available every month and no drought.
4. There will be no sickness for the tree of life will bring forth healthy leaves.
5. There will be no possibility of the curse of sin.
6. There will be pleasant work to be done, serving the Creator and Lord.
7. The Lord Himself will be present and we shall see Him face to face.
8. There will be no need for electricity, for the Lord Himself will be the light in His shekinah glory
9. The sun will shine, but we will not have to depend upon the sun for light, as the God of glory will be there.
10. There will be nations of glorified beings and the saints of God shall reign with Christ forever and ever.

This gives us a glimpse of the things to come when the Creator of heaven and earth shall reign forever and ever. God has given us enough truth to establish our confidence in Him, being born again by God the Holy Spirit. We accept these biblical statements because they are from God the Holy Spirit. Our faith is further strengthened by numerous fulfilled prophecies.

The saints of God who have arrived in heaven are enjoying a temporary Paradise, waiting for the new creation. The glories of the present heavens will not compare to the glories to come, when all things are made new. God who made all of heaven and earth out of nothing, certainly is not limited in making all things new. Since sin has contaminated God's heavens and earth, God is going to remove even the stain of sin from His eternal realm to come.

You and I, as believers, have been redeemed from this present creation by the blood of the Lamb which flowed from Calvary's Cross. The ungodly of all ages along with sin and death will all be cast into the Lake of Fire and never escape. This is part of God's wonderful plan to do away with all evil forces forever. God has given this freedom of choice for the purpose of choosing out those who will trust Him and take Him at His word. Paradise will be something of great splendor and absolute perfection, with crystal clear waters flowing directly from the throne of God.

B. THE NEW HEAVENS AND THE NEW EARTH BECOMES GOD'S DOMAIN FOREVER AND EVER.

Paradise will be the special realm of God. When we consider the heavens and earth however, we are talking about the vast domain of God, the heavens of heaven and the earth beneath! We have yet to see the edge of our universe, but as vast as this universe is, God will destroy it all and start over with a new creation. There will be numerous differences, especially upon earth. Let us read what God has to say. "*And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea.*" (Revelation 21:1). In those few words we have a vast revelation from God to be considered. No more sea, it is hard to imagine, but with the absence of sin the new earth will be perfect in every way like a garden of eden every where you look.

We do not have any details about what the new heaven will look like, for we have nothing to compare it with. Before the new creation takes place however, we will see the present heaven in all of it's glory and then we will be able to compare. John had a pre-televised view of Paradise, the New Jerusalem and the new heaven. God did not give us any details about the new creation which John foresaw, but we do behold the present universe and the present earth which has the curse of sin upon it. In spite of the curse on this earth, there are still many marvelous beauties, but these will be nothing compared to that which is to come.

We have a little knowledge from the Bible about the kingdom age, when nature will be restored and the righteousness of God shall rule. This we will enjoy as we reign with Christ during the thousands years in our glorified bodies. We have dealt with the kingdom age in previous studies, but right now we are concerned about the things which will exist on into eternity after God makes all things new. "*Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.*" (Isaiah 42:9).

This new creation of God will be outstanding and will be far better than anything that we have ever seen. "*For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.*" (Isaiah 65:17). One cannot imagine what beauty God has in store for us, that the former things will not even be remembered. This new creation shall be the final domain of the Lord, for sin will be removed forever and there will be no need to create another universe.

As part of God's new creation the Bible mentions and describes a New City of Jerusalem. At that time, all things will become new, including:

- New heavens,
- New Earth,
- A new people (*Revelation 21:3-8*),
- New Bride (*Revelation 21:9-21*),
- New Temple (*Revelation 21:22*),
- The new source of light (*Revelation 21:23-27*),
- New Paradise (*Revelation 22:1-10*),
- New Jerusalem. (*Revelation 21:9-27*)

Let's consider the New Jerusalem in more detail. John was carried away in the spirit to a great mountain from which he was shown a preview of the holy City. This was not some unfounded dream but was a revelation of a real city which God plans to build. How do I know this? Because this Holy City was measured, and it was descending out of heaven, filled with the glory of God. (*Revelation 21:10-11.*) The length and breadth and height of it were all calculated. It must have been a beautiful scene to behold as it descended from heaven. This event hasn't happened yet, but John saw it as a preview of what was going to take place. Let us just enumerate some of the outstanding features of this Holy City, the New Jerusalem.

1. Twelve gates of pearl with a special angel at each gate.
2. The twelve tribes of Israel will each have their name on one of the gates.

3. Their will be twelve foundations to this mighty City, each with a name of one of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.
4. The city will be four square, measuring some 1500 square miles.
5. The foundations will be of precious stones of great value.
6. All the streets will be paved with solid gold.
7. There will be no church or temple in the city for the presence of God will be there.
8. There will be no electric lights in the streets for there will be no night there.
9. The sun and the moon will shine but will not be needed as it will never get dark.
10. The New Jerusalem will be the capital of the world and nations and rulers shall visit it with glory and honor.
11. The gates of pearl will never be closed for there will be no war and all will be in harmony and peace.
12. The special passport will be our names written in the Lamb's Book of life. Praise God, we also have a new name written down in glory, according to our faithfulness in this present world. That is why I need to constantly remind you to take up your personal cross of tribulations and sorrow and follow Christ.

C. THE ABSOLUTE PERFECTION OF GOD.

The Cross of Calvary was the turning point in the total plan of God. It was a terrible ordeal for the Son of God, but absolutely necessary to make a new creation that will be absolutely perfect and will be free from all sin. Total sin was dealt with and judged at the Cross, and all evil has been found guilty and sentenced to the Lake of Fire forever and ever. There will be no parole or escape forever and ever! The key verse to this whole situation as found in the Bible is (*Daniel 9:24*). Make no mistake about it, this is the crux of the whole matter in God sending His Eternal Son to the Cross. May I remind you again

of the contents of (*Daniel 9:24*).

1. God will finish all transgression forever.
2. God will, bring to an end all sin, being judged on the Cross.
3. Christ made reconciliation for those who would put their trust in Him. (*2 Corinthians 5:18-19*); (*Colossians 1:21*).
4. God Himself will bring in everlasting righteousness.
5. All prophecy will be fulfilled in the fullness of time.
6. There will be a crowning day for the Lord Jesus Christ as we stand before the Throne of God.

We look forward to that great and mighty day when God's perfection shall rule over all. As total sin will be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, there will be shouts of joy from all of God's creation. Sin shall be no more and everlasting righteousness shall reign forever and ever! The Divine love that sent Christ to the Cross and provided us with God the Holy Spirit, shall have the eternal victory. "*For now we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as I am known.*" (*1 Corinthians 13:12*). God has promised to make all things new and we can take Him at His word.

All that God predicted would happen before now, has happened just like He said, so we can rest assured that what He says will happen in the future is just as certain. Yea and Amen! "*But it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God has prepared for them that love Him. But God hath revealed them unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*" (*1 Corinthians 2:9-10*). God wants us to study diligently and thoroughly, what He has recorded in the Bible. This gives us confidence and stability and we work toward maturity. "*O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are His judgements, and His ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been His counsellor? Or who hath first given to Him, and it shall be recompensed unto Him again? For of Him, and through Him, and to Him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.*" (*Romans 11:33-36*).

God has promised to come and rule in perfect righteousness. May we allow Him to mold and make our life according to His will. "*Behold the Lord will come with strong hand, and His arm shall rule for Him: behold, His reward is with Him, and his work before Him. He shall feed His flock like a*

shepherd: He shall gather the lambs with His arm, and carry them in His bosom, and shall gently lead those that are with young. Who hath measured the waters in the hollow of His hand, and meted out heaven with the span, and comprehended the dust of the earth in a measure, and weighed the mountains in scales, and the hills in a balance? Who hath directed the Spirit of the Lord, or being His counsellor hath taught Him?" (Isaiah 40:10-13). Nothing is impossible with God Almighty. The creation in which we find ourselves seems so wonderful, yet this is nothing when compared to what God will do. It was Solomon in all his wisdom, who desired to build a house for God. Solomon then wrote. "But who is able to build Him an house, seeing the heaven and the heaven of heavens cannot contain Him?" (2 Chronicles 2:6a). The God of all creation is preparing to make all things new and we will behold His mighty hand of creation. "Thou, even thou, art Lord alone: thou has made heaven, the heavens of heaven, with all their hosts, the earth, and all things that are therein, the seas, and all that is therein, and thou preservest them all; and the host of heaven worshipeth thee." (Nehemiah 9:6).

As we conclude this chapter, we must constantly be aware that God is sovereign and over all! God has brought about redemption through the Cross, and the judgement for total eradication of sin because of the Cross. We are looking forward to the time when sin shall be no more and the eternal state of glorification of God takes place. God has a set plan for the ages to come and we will be partakers of that glory to come. Christ endured the shame of the Cross so that we might share in His eternal glory. This will all come about by the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ, the Eternal Son of God.

QUESTIONS CHAPTER FIVE.

1. Why did God choose the most cruel type of death for His Son to die to pay the debt of sin?
2. What do you understand about the curse of the law? Scripture please.
3. How does one obtain Grace, mercy and peace with God?
4. Explain (1 Peter 5:10-11); (Romans 3:21-24).
5. Explain (Romans 11:32).
6. How does the Holy Spirit bring comfort to a believer? Scripture please.
7. From what have believers been redeemed?
8. Explain (John 10:17-18).

9. Why did the Eternal Son of God have to take a form of man to redeem us? (*Colossians 2:5-8.*)
10. Write an essay on "A NEW SONG" (*Revelation 5:9-10.*)
11. When will we as saints of God rule with the Lord Jesus Christ?
12. When will all possible sin and evil be removed from God's creation?
13. In the New Heavens and the new earth will there be any more sin? Why?
14. Write about (*Daniel 9:24.*)
15. How are we reconciled to God and freed from the penalty of sin?
16. When will God bring in everlasting righteousness?
17. How do we keep fellowship with God?
18. What will God's "UTOPIA" be like from what the Bible says?
19. When will we have everlasting fellowship with God?
20. Explain (*John 14:16-17.*)
21. Explain (*1 Corinthians 6:19-20.*)
22. Write about "ETERNAL PARADISE" according to God's Word.
23. Write about what is revealed from the Bible as to the New Heavens and the New Earth.
24. Write a brief account about "THE NEW JERUSALEM".
25. Will all things in God's creation ever be perfect and how God wants it?

CHAPTER SIX.



THE ETERNAL AIM OF THE TRIUNE GOD

As I have previously stated, God has undertaken on an eternal plan to eliminate all possible opposition to His character. He could have had a declared policy with no possibility of contention. God could have demanded that all of His creation be subservient to His desires without giving them any choice in the matter. But God desired to give both the angels and mankind the freedom of choice. We call creatures like that free moral agents. Let us look into these various aspects of God's wonder working power.

I. THE SHARING OF GOD'S ETERNAL GLORY.

The Triune God is the same yesterday, today and forever and is absolutely self existent and all in all. May I again remind you that you cannot add to or take away from the Godhead in any manor. *"Do not err, my beloved brethren. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning. Of His own will begat He us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of His creatures."* (James 1:16-18). As we studied concerning the eternal aim of God, we will understand the importance of the earth being separated from the heavenlies.

A. GOD'S ETERNAL GLORY SHARED WITH HIS CREATURES.

1. ANGELS

We do not have too much information concerning the angels, but we have sufficient information from the Bible that they had a freedom of choice, causing a division among them. Without a shadow of a doubt, there were billions of angels which God created. These angels also had various capacities and there were legions of them capable of fighting. These are celestial beings and are capable of appearing in the earthly realm, but are of the spiritual realm, and in close contact with the Godhead. God has set aside some of these angels for the sole purpose of ministering to man. (*Hebrews 1:4*). They are invisible to man, but can be revealed to man, sometimes in human form. (*John 20:12*); (*Acts 1:10-11*.) Angels are mentioned in the Bible some 275 times. Sometimes as direct reference to the Lord himself, but most of the time in reference to those beings in the spirit realm.

Angelology is a separate study and very important, but what I want to draw your attention to at this time is their freedom of choice. One aspect of God's eternal Glory involves the freedom of choice. God shared that gift of self determination with the angels as well as with mankind. Only those angels who exercised their freedom of choice correctly will share the rest of God's eternal glory. About one third of the angels followed Lucifer's example and chose the wrong goals.

2. LUCIFER.

The reason why we know that angels had a God given freedom of choice, is the account that we have of Lucifer. There are different types of angels with specific responsibilities. Lucifer was a Cherub with great authority, probably the most powerful creature ever created. We have a record of him in (*Ezekiel 28:12-19*). He was given the great responsibility of guarding the privacy of God, with a great army of angels at his disposal. Cherubim angels are created as defenders and guards for the Godhead. They do not reproduce other cherubim of like kind for they are singly created. (*Matthew 22:28-30*.)

It was Lucifer who chose to rebel against God. When he exercised his freedom of choice unwisely and selfishly, he drew one third of God's angels with him, and set up his stronghold upon this earth. (*Revelation 12:4*.) His choice is recorded in (*Isaiah 14:12-17*). Here are recorded the five "I Wills" that he proclaimed which changed him completely, into an enemy of God. He was renamed Satan, the devil, the serpent, and that evil one. He made his choice and caused one out of every three of God's angels to fall with him. Some of those that fell were so wicked that they had to be placed in chains of darkness (*Jude 6*.) Others are under the Euphrates (*Revelation 9:13-21*.) We

have another great army in the bottomless pit. (*Revelation 9:1-11*). I have mentioned these in previous writings, such as my Book on Revelation.

The issue that I want you to consider here is, that they had a freedom of choice, but they used it foolishly and were judged at the Cross. There is no way that these angels can be reinstated into God's eternal plans, but are destined to the Lake of Fire. Lucifer was offered God's eternal glory but he took his eyes off God and settled for momentary self exaltation.

3. CHERUBIM.

Lucifer has lost his position before God but he still has his power under the sovereignty of God. He was chief among the cherubim but has been dethroned from this, having chosen to go his own way.

Perhaps we could also briefly speak of those "Living Creatures", which John saw in his vision while he was on the Isle of Patmos. There are four in particular that John mentions, and they most likely are the angels who have taken Lucifer's place to protect God's privacy.

God still has a mighty force of angels with a variety of responsibilities, such as Michael the archangel, Gabriel, the mighty angel of (*Revelation 10*), the angels that will blow the trumpets of the Great Tribulation, the seven angels that pour out the vials. These are but a few of the legions of angels at God's command and they are the holy angels. They have remained faithful to their Creator and shall serve the Lord throughout eternity. They consist of the angels that have overcome and are secure within the heavenly ranks. They will share the Glory of God for all eternity.

There is still another group of angels which will share God's glory and they are the Seraphim.

4. SERAPHIM.

These angels are very special for they remain before the throne of God and continually worship the Most High God. They are equipped with six wings which they use in the worship of the Lord. With two wings they humbly cover their faces before God, and with two wings they cover their feet when they worship their Creator, and with the two remaining wings they fly in His service.

All angels whether Cherubim or Seraphim were directly created. (*Colossians 1:16-17*). All angels have been given unique assignments and we know that this earth is covered with guardian angels, keeping a hedge around our lives as they did with Job. Their power is direct from God for specific use. Some have thrones and are over great armies of angels, as was Lucifer, and Michael the archangel. Some angels have been given dominions, and

others are over principalities and authorities.

We are aware that we as saints of God are in constant danger from the evil demons and we need to wear the whole armor of God to withstand their attacks. Praise God, we have God the Holy Spirit living within us, who is greater than all that is in this wicked world.

All holy angels are of the elect as we are, who have put our trust in the Lord. We do not know all the various groups of angels, because some are only known by their service. (*Genesis 19:13*); (*2 Samuel 24:16*); (*2 Kings 19:35*); (*Ezekiel 9:1-7*); (*Daniel 4:13,23*); (*Revelation 9:11*); (*Revelation 14:18*); (*Revelation 16:5*); (*Psalms 78:49*). We have sufficient evidence that God created the angels in heaven, and that those holy angels are part of God's plan for all ages, and that they will share God's glory throughout eternity.

5. MANKIND.

As God is sharing His eternal glory with those holy angels, so He desires to share it with the saints of all ages. With the freedom of choice which has been granted to us, we can choose to obey our Creator or go our own way and suffer the consequences. The popular way of this present age is a life of immorality and "Do Your Own Thing"! Yes, there is a way that seemeth right to mankind but the results happen to be the way of judgement and eternal living death. "*There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*" (*Proverbs 16: 25*)

As God separated the holy angels from the fallen angels, so He will separate the saints of God from the ungodly. This will be a permanent separation and it will occur when the New heavens and the new earth are created. At that time God will share His everlasting glory with all of His holy angels and with the redeemed of mankind, and the presence of sin will be removed from our new home for ever.

B. THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB BECAUSE OF THE CROSS.

Because of the Cross of Christ, God the Holy Spirit has given those who believe, a new life and a new nature. We now have the dwelling of the Holy Spirit within us. This has provided us with the Divine spark, thus becoming members of the body of Christ. When that body of Christ is complete, the Rapture will take place, with a great "Air Lift" into the very presence of God. Christ himself will lead us into heaven, and present us to God the Father. When that trumpet sounds great changes will take place. The graves will be opened as proof to the world of the resurrection. All dead believers shall rise first then all living believers will be lifted up to heaven to be with the Lord. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise

first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." (1 Thess 4: 16 & 17)

When Jesus rose from the dead, His tomb was opened, not to let Him out but rather to let witnesses go in. Also, at the same time that Jesus rose from the dead, there were a few other graves opened around Jerusalem and the resurrected ones were seen in Jerusalem. (*Matthew 28:1-2*); (*Matthew 27:52-53*).

In like manner, at the rapture, the tombs of dead saints will be opened to show the world that they have been resurrected from the dead. We have a wonderful future ahead of us as members of the body of Christ. That marriage of the Lamb will be a thrilling experiences to all the saints of God. There will be some preparations for that wedding such as the following.

1. The judgement seat of Christ for rewards given to believers.
(*1 Corinthians 3:9-16*); (*1 Corinthians 2:5-10*.)
2. The church taken to the bridal chamber in the mansions of God.
(*John 14:1-6*.)
3. The Church clothed and made ready for the marriage.
(*Revelation 19:7-8*.)

THE MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB.

John the Baptist was approached, concerning Christ the Messiah and John's disciples were concerned about John's prestige. (*John 3: 26*). "John answered and said, A man can receive nothing, except it be given him from heaven. Ye yourselves bear me witness, that I said, I am not the Christ, but that I am sent before Him. He that hath the bride is the bridegroom: but the friend of the bridegroom, which standeth and heareth Him, rejoiceth greatly because of the bridegroom's voice: this my joy therefore is fulfilled." (*John 3:27-29*). John the Baptist was not a member of the body of Christ, but was an Old Testament prophet, heralding the coming of the Messiah. (*Malachi 3:1*.) The bride of Christ will be those from Pentecost to the Rapture, all others will be as John the Baptist, namely, "Friends of the Bridegroom."

Christ has sent forth His disciples to gather together the members of the body of Christ of all nations, kindreds and tongues in preparation for that great marriage in heaven. It will be the greatest and largest wedding of all ages with billions of angels attending as well as Old Testament saints. There will be a great feast for all of the billions attending and the breaking of bread and the drinking of the fruit of the vine. Christ made a vow to us that He would not drink of the fruit of the vine, until He drank it with us in His

Father's kingdom. (*Matthew 26:29.*) I do not know just when this will take place in the marriage ceremony, but I do know that it will take place.

Let us consider what the Bible says about this heavenly marriage to the Lamb of God. "*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife hath made herself ready: And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*" (*Revelation 19:7-8*). The bride will be made up of only those from Pentecost to the Rapture. The other groups will be made up of Old Testament saints, the friends of the Bridegroom. This marriage will take place in heaven while the Great Tribulation takes place on earth. The Word declares that we will be taken out from the wrath to come. (*1 Thessalonians 1:10.*)

"*And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*" (*Revelation 19:9*). All of the Old Testament saints will be gathered together as the friends of the Bridegroom, as is John the Baptist. God will have millions of His angels busy, probably setting up the tables with utensils of gold or silver, and heavenly food will be made ready for that great occasion. It will be a thrilling experience for us as members of the bride of Christ, in the presence of God and His holy angels.

"Why does God present His Eternal Son as The Lamb?" There are countless reasons that we could give concerning this question, but primarily the lamb was the animal God chose for Old Testament sacrifice, and Jesus Christ willingly became our New Testament sacrifice for all sin, once for ever. Because of the Cross, God's absolute plan for eternity can be fulfilled. God the Father has placed all praise, glory, honor and power into the hands of His Eternal Son!

As those bought with the precious blood of Christ, we are to be partakers with Him on into eternity. It will be a glorious eternity for us, when these things come to pass. "*And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying. Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal."* (*Revelation 21:9-11*). There will be some connection between the New Jerusalem and the Lamb's wife. Will the Lord be taking us from the mansions of God the Father and placing us in that beautiful City of New Jerusalem? We don't know, but whatever it will be, we know that the glory of God will shine forth forever!

C. A FRUITFUL ETERNITY WITH CONTINUAL JOY.

Bearing in mind, God's ultimate aim, of an absolute perfect and sinless creation, the holy angels were the first creatures to be sealed with sinless perfection. God is now working with the souls of mankind, separating those in Christ from the ungodly. We do not know how much longer he will wait before returning for the true church, the bride of Christ. There is limitless atonement and the election is in Christ for "whosoever will". He is not willing that one soul should perish.

At present we glorify God the Father by bearing much fruit among precious souls. "*Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples.*" (John 15:8). God will bring to pass a fruitful eternity and only joy and gladness will be experienced by His eternal family. There will never again be the slightest taint of sin in God's eternal realm. There will be plenty of activity and no more sorrow, pain or death. It is hard for us to realize what God is preparing for those who love Him. Our eternal relationship with God will be one of the family of God. "*And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new.....He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son." (Revelation 21:5-7).*

God's creation is beyond description, for there is nothing impossible with Him. "*For thus saith the Lord that created the heavens; God himself that formed the earth and made it; He hath established it, He created it not in vain, He formed it to be inhabited: I am the Lord; and there is none else.*" (Isaiah 45:18). The curse of sin has fallen upon God's present creation, in which we live. In spite of this, there is still an abundance of beauty for us to behold on this earth. However, when the Lord makes the new heaven and the new earth, it will be without a single imperfection or curse. As we have been reminded, the new Paradise with its continual fruitfulness, will make this world but a tarnished sample of what God is preparing to make for all who love Him. This will take place after God removes all evil from His domain forever and ever.

II. THE ERADICATION OF SIN FOREVER AND EVER.

God has dealt with total sin at the Cross of Christ, but the final sentence is pending. God reminds us of the various events to take place before total wickedness shall be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. God is in no hurry, as He is patiently waiting for many precious souls to be born into this life, and then to be reborn for the life to come.

May we review the events that must take place before all things are made new. You have already studied these, but we want to mention them again briefly for your admonition.

- The Rapture of the saints. (John 14:1-6); (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18).

- The seven years of the Great Tribulation. (*Revelation 6-18*).
- The battle of Armageddon. (*Revelation 19:17-21*).
- Satan bound and cast into the bottomless pit for one thousand years. (*Revelation 20:1-3*).
- The millennium or one thousand years reign of Christ. (*Revelation 20:4-6*).
- Satan and demons loosed for a season and the "Battle of Jerusalem". (*Revelation 20:7-9*).
- The Devil and all his demons cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone to be tormented forever and ever with no escape. (*Revelation 20:10*).
- The Great White Throne Judgement where all the ungodly of all ages will bow before Christ, then judged and cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone, to remain forever and ever under the wrath of God. (*Revelation 20:11-15*).

A. DEATH AND HELL CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE.

Before God will make all things new there must also be an elimination of death and hell. These two shall be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone and remain there forever and ever. God will seal off all ungodliness and wickedness so that it will never appear again. God's new creation shall be the final aim of the Triune God in fulfillment of (*Daniel 9:24*). "*And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.*" (*Revelation 20:14-15*). This will be the final judgement from God, before all things are made new.

I am sure that both the angelic hosts as well as the saints of all ages will join together in a great company of singing. "*And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous are His judgements:*" (*Revelation 19:1-2a*). This is but a forerunner of those heavenly choirs to exalt our Almighty God.

B. ETERNAL SECURITY IN A "SINLESS FOREVER".

God's promises are yea and amen, and we can thoroughly trust Him to bring to pass what He says. "*My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish,*"

neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one." (John 10:27-30). This is but a sample of the mighty power of the Triune God.

Our Blessed Savior knew that He could not trust the issue of total sin to any creature, but had to seal our salvation by His own blood upon Calvary's Cross. While He is at the right hand of God the Father, He has had the Father send the Holy Spirit to us for a new birth. Not only has the Holy Spirit given us this new birth, but He continues to dwell within us and will be there throughout eternity. (John 14:16-20) Since we have been made secure in the Lord and sealed by God the Holy Spirit, our destination is in the presence of the Lord forever. "For He hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me." (Hebrews 13:5b-6). We have studied concerning the new heavens and the new earth and we know from God's Word that God will bring an end to all sin and unrighteousness. The kingdom that will come will be one with total righteousness, according to God's eternal plan.

C. GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS TO REIGN FOREVER AND EVER.

God's righteousness will reign forever and ever, in the fullness of time. At this present time, God is gathering obedient creatures throughout this whole world. We are sent ones to proclaim the grace of God through our Lord Jesus Christ who gave himself a ransom for all who would believe. As the Eternal Son of God was sent forth to redeem us from the penalty of sin, so we are sent forth to witness to the world, of the saving grace of our loving Lord. The Christ of the Cross of Calvary has completely solved the sin problem for all eternity. In the economy of God, sin was merely covered in the Old Testament, but was removed forever when the Eternal Son of God died upon the Cross. Praise God, He arose, victor over total sin, and entered into the Holy of Hollies once and forever. "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us: Nor yet that He should offer himself often, as the high priest entereth into the holy place every year with blood of others; For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath He appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement: So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for Him shall He appear the second time without sin unto salvation." (Hebrews 9:24-28).

In the economy of God, the issue of sin has been dealt with thoroughly and will never appear again. God righteousness shall reign forever and ever for total sin was paid for in full by Christ upon the Cross. Christ cannot be

crucified again, for the debt of sin has been fully paid. If it were possible for some believers to fall away, but it isn't, it would be impossible for them to return to the Lord for salvation. *"For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put Him to an open shame."* (Hebrews 6:4-6).

This portion of God's Word clearly describes such a situation as a hypothetical case. Those that claim that they were saved and then lost and eventually saved again, are false in their beliefs. If Christ dying upon the Cross did not give eternal life that would remain, then it would be necessary for Him to return to the Cross and die again. Such a situation is in error according to God's Word. *"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God."* (Hebrews 6:1). God expects us to be built up in the most holy faith in preparation for the new and eternal establishment of God's righteousness. Every event which God has foretold will come about before everything becomes new.

III. THE ABSOLUTE PERFECTION OF GOD IN ALL HIS CREATION.

God has a plan of perfection when His righteousness shall reign forever and ever. All opposition shall be removed and cast forever into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. The battle is not over and victories need to be won. God's creatures have a choice, in accepting God's light or their darkness and uncertainty. Yes, you can do your own thing, and delve into a life of sin, or you can choose to have God's will done in your life. That choice that you make will mean the difference of a glorious life in the Paradise of God, or a tormented life forever, in the Lake of Fire and Brimstone.

A. GOD'S WILL ESTABLISHED.

According to the Word of God, the perfect will of the Triune God will be accomplished. *"The mighty God, even the Lord, hath spoken, and called the earth from the rising of the sun unto the going down thereof. Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined. Our God shall come, and shall not keep silence: a fire shall devour before Him, and it shall be very tempestuous round about Him. He shall call to the heavens from above, and to the earth, that He may judge His people. Gather my saints together unto me; those that have made a covenant with me by sacrifice. And the heavens shall declare His righteousness: for God is judge himself."* (Psalm 50:1-6). God is sovereign over all and is in supreme control, regardless of the enemies.

As believers, our hope is secure in the presence of God and His will is predominant over all. We need to realize that He is the source of power in our lives and in God's vast domain. "*Strengthened with all might, according to His glorious power, unto all patience and longsuffering with joyfulness;*" (Colossians 1:11). May we submit to the perfect will of God in every phase of our life. God's will shall be accomplished above everything else. We have seen God's will established in the past, and we can rest assured that God will accomplish His perfect will in the present as well as in the future. As the Eternal Son of God faced the Cross, that bitter cup, He cried out to God, "*Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt.*" (Matthew 26:39b).

As we pray to the Father, we too need to make our prayer request in this same manner, "According to God's will". God's perfect plan for all ages will come to pass exactly as God desires. Our own personal lives are not governed by chance but by the providence of God. It is comforting to know that God's will is established for all eternity.

We as believers have entered into God's plan and it is essential that we abide in Christ according to God's will. If we do otherwise we lose our fellowship and grieve God the Holy Spirit. May we constantly, be well pleasing in the sight of God, as members of the Royal family of God. "*Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvelous work among this people, even a marvelous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid.*" (Isaiah 29:14). God has given each of us the freedom of choice, but has also provided us with the perfection of choice through the Lord Jesus Christ. Through the filling of God the Holy Spirit, we have the ability to choose according to God's will, under the control of the Divine viewpoint. If we fail to be led by the Holy Spirit, we will fail to do the will of God, which is established forever.

B. GOD'S NEW CREATION SUPREME.

Under the sovereignty of God, sin has been allowed to run its wicked course and it was judged at the Cross, therefore it has been found guilty and destined to be cast into the Lake of Fire and Brimstone. All that have rejected God's Redeemer will also be cast into the Lake of Fire, with no exceptions. The Sin question has been fully dealt with, through the Christ of the Cross and will never appear in God's new creation of perfection. The complete old order of creation will be dissolved, making room for the supreme new creation. "*And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.*" (Isaiah 34:4). This has also been confirmed in (2 Peter 3:10-12); as well as other places in

the Bible. God will make room for His new creation, which will be far superior to anything of the past. John, on the Isle of Patmos saw in advance what God is planning, beyond the thousand year kingdom of righteousness. There will be marvelous creations beyond all expectations! Wickedness and sin will never appear again in God's new creation. There will be perfect harmony in everything and sin and death will be removed forever. Our glorified bodies will be free from all burdens and we will rejoice forever more, in the presence of the Lord. God has given a little insight into the things to come through the kingdom age. This will not be the final stage of God's wonder working power, but it will be preliminary to the final. All of this present heaven and earth will have to be burned with fervent heat, since sin has contaminated it. God has already made us new creatures in Christ Jesus, but we are waiting for the Rapture when we will receive those new glorified bodies. I thank God for such a great hope in Christ.

C. GOD EMMANUEL.

As we have the guarantee of God the Holy Spirit within us, we can rest assured that one day in the near future, the Eternal Son of God will dwell with us forever. This new relationship, prophesied long ago, certainly will come to pass as promised by God. *"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel." (Isaiah 7:14). "Behold a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is God with us." (Matthew 1:23).* Emmanuel is a marvelous name, "God with us"! What could we ask for more than this? During the Millennium, Christ, the Son of God will be ruling the world from Jerusalem, and we as a kingdom of priests will get to be with Him from time to time. We will rule with the Son of God for one thousand years, and then we will experience the final battle that Satan and his demons will fight. God will send fire from heaven and destroys the ungodly armies, and cast Satan and all of the demons into the Lake of Fire. After that, the Great White Throne will appear and all of the ungodly from all ages will fall before the Lord, confess Him as the King of kings and Lord of lords. Then they will receive their final judgement which will be the Lake of Fire.

God will then burn both heaven and this earth with fervent heat, in preparation to make all things new. He may call all the holy angels and the saints of God together and carry us into a prepared place as the old burns and the new is created. We will see the marvels of God, and be with Him forever and ever. God's plan has always been to have a sinless creation to share with His holy angels and the saints of all ages. What a glorious eternity is in store for us, all because the Eternal Son of God was willing to go to the Cross and redeem us from sin. *"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I,*

but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” (Galatians 2:20).

CONCLUSION.

God’s eternal plan is being fulfilled and we have a brief insight into it, through the Bible. God desires to share with His creation His eternal glory and He has made all the preparations necessary to attain that purpose. The Word of God gives us sufficient information that total sin will be removed forever and God’s “Utopia” will come to pass in the fullness of time. God has loved us with an everlasting love and proved it, when He allowed His Son to die on the Cross. *“That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of His calling, and what riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set Him at His own right hand in the heavenly places, far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: And hath put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be the head over all things to the church, Which is His body, the fullness of Him that filleth all in all.” (Ephesians 1:17-23).*

God is keeping the very best until sin is forever eradicated from His domain. There is very little that we know from the Bible of the New heavens and the new earth. God has brought us this far along in His great love, and we know that this Divine love will continue throughout all of eternity. When we enter into the new heavens and the new earth, they will be so magnificent that these former beauties that we have beheld upon this earth will not even be remembered. Nothing of the past will compare to what God is preparing for the future. May we give of our best to the Master, while passing through this life! We have already been blessed with all spiritual blessings in the Lord (*Ephesians 1:3*), so let us continue to press on toward eternity and be found faithful unto the Lord. Use what gifts you naturally have and God the Holy Spirit will add to them according to His will. Assemble together with those of like faith, remembering that we as saints of God are all members of the one body of Christ. Do your work as unto the Lord, expecting His return at any moment, to rapture you home. Continue to have a vision of the fields that are ripe unto harvest, and labor for the Lord Jesus Christ. God is depending upon you to fulfill that great commission, commanded by the Lord.

“And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching

them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen.” (Matthew 28:18-20).

QUESTIONS CHAPTER SIX

1. For what reason has God made the angels and mankind with a freedom of choice?
2. Explain (*James 1:16-18*).
3. According to God’s plan, how will He be sharing His eternal glory with His creatures?
4. Write an essay on, “The Angels of God”.
5. Explain (*Ezekiel 28:12-19*) and (*Isaiah 14:12-17*).
6. Explain (*Matthew 22:28-30*).
7. Give the difference between Cherubim and Seraphim from the Scriptures.
8. Name the various groups of saints of all ages.
9. Give the difference between (*2 Corinthians 5:10*) & (*Revelation 20:11-15*)?
10. What preparations will be made before the wedding of the church?
11. Who are the friends of the Bridegroom?
12. Who all will be included in (*Revelation 19:7-8*) and (*Revelation 19:9*)?
13. Are the New Jerusalem and the Bride of the Lamb the same?
14. Explain (*John 15:8*) and (*Isaiah 45:18*).
15. When will total sin be removed from God’s creation?
16. From the Rapture give the order of events to take place.
17. Why will death and hell be cast into the Lake of Fire? (*Rev. 20:11-15*)
18. Explain (*John 10:27-30*).
19. Explain (*Hebrews 9:24-28*).

20. Explain (*Hebrews 6:4-6*).
21. What is God's plan for creating a perfect eternal kingdom?
22. Write an essay on , "God's Sovereign Will to be Established".
23. What does the name of "Emmanuel" mean to you? (God with us)
24. What does (*Ephesians 1:17-23*) mean to you in the light of all things becoming new?
25. What should our life style be, knowing that God has a wonderful future for us?
26. Give your opinion according to the Bible as to the future new heavens and the new earth.
27. Explain (*Galatians 2:20*).
28. Why was it necessary for the Eternal Son of God to come into this world through a virgin birth?

CHAPTER SEVEN



IN THE CROSS OF CHRIST IS ETERNAL GLORY

The Christ of the Cross paid in full our debt of sin, and gave us remission of sins if we receive His gift. He suffered in tremendous agony and became our sacrifice, for the debt of our sin. May we remind ourselves that Christ not only removed the penalty of sin, but He also removed total sin for the eternal glory of God. Through His death and resurrection, we have been restored to fellowship with the Godhead and also have been given a new birth, by God the Holy Spirit. We are a new creation in Christ with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit. This is all in preparation for those who believe to share in the eternal glory of God.

I. THE ANGELIC HEAVENLY PRAISES.

The angelic hosts have been watching all of the plan of God unfold according to His purpose. Perhaps some of the clearest scenes of heaven are found in the Book of Revelation. There, the angels are described as singing glory to their Creator as they preview the many things to come. Let us search the Bible for evidence of their awareness to all of these great events of God.

A. ANGELIC REJOICING.

The Lord does not lack in multitudes of angels, for they all are of His creation. *"The chariots of God are twenty thousand, even thousands of angels: the Lord is among them, as in Sinai, in the holy place."* (Psalm 68:17). There

is no shortage of God's holy angels, who are at His command when ever necessary. They are waiting patiently for that day when all things shall be created new. *"The Lord hath prepared His throne in the heavens; and His kingdom ruleth over all. Bless the Lord all, all ye His angels, that excel in strength, that do His commandments, hearkening unto the voice of His word. Bless ye the Lord, all ye His hosts; ye ministers of His, that do His pleasure. Bless the Lord, all His works in all places of His dominion: bless the Lord, Oh my soul."* (Psalm 103:19-22). God's praise comes forth from His vast creation, in spite of the evil forces which have rebelled against Him. *"Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise Him in the heights. Praise ye Him, all His angels: praise ye Him, all His hosts. Praise ye Him, sun and moon; praise Him, all ye stars of light. Praise Him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens. Let them praise the name of the Lord: for He commanded, and they were created."* (Psalms 148:1-5). We get a picture of the vastness of God's domain, and all is under His sovereign control.

B. ANGELIC GLORIFICATION OF THEIR CREATOR.

The angelic hosts are aware of their Creator and are constantly at His command. As Christ foretold of His death and resurrection, He also claimed great power and glory with His angels. *"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of His Father with His angels; and then He shall reward every man according to his works."* (Matthew 16:27). The holy angels are ever present to glorify their Creator and stand ready to defend at a moments notice. As they wait upon the Lord they continually praise His holy name. The Lord has assigned some of His angels to look after the little ones in this present world. *"Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven."* (Matthew 18:10).

The holy angels are God's messengers that glorify His name. I am sure that our individual guardian angels will be right there by our sides when the Rapture takes place and we're "Air Lifted" into Heaven. That trumpet will sound, blown by an holy angel of God , and we shall be changed in that moment, receiving that glorified body which will be capable of ascending into the heaven of heavens. It will be a new experience for the holy angels as well as for those who believe. (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.)

The revelation given to John on the Isle of Patmos, was filled with the presence of holy angels praising and glorifying God. *"And I beheld, and heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the creatures and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour,*

and glory, and blessing.” (Revelation 5:11-12). What a marvelous revelation. Take notice that these angel were continually rejoicing as God unveiled His eternal plans before them. “And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four creatures, and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, Saying, Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power and might, be unto our God forever and ever. Amen.” (Revelation 7:11-12).

C. ANGELIC PRAISE.

When we refer to the angels we are aware that there are evil angels which have become demons. These are separate from God’s holy angels and are not doing the will of their Creator, but are obeying the command of Satan. Under the sovereignty of God they can only operate as God allows them to.

We are dealing with the holy angels of God who have never ceased praising their Creator. These holy angels have their power from God and are mighty before our heavenly Father. When the Incarnate Son of God came forth, the angels of God knew who He was and worshipped Him. “*And again, when He bringeth in the first begotten into the world, He saith, And let all the angels of God worship Him. And of the angels He saith, Who maketh His angels spirits, and His ministers a flame of fire.*” (Hebrews 1:6-7).

Wherever God goes forth, His holy angels are with Him and at His command, with praise and thanksgiving. We are not come before Mount Sinai as believers but to Mount Zion and to the Holy City of God. It will be a joint note of praise from both the angels and the saints of God in that resurrection day. “*But ye are come to Mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels. To the general assembly and church of the first born, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect. And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*” (Hebrews 12:22-24). God’s angels are present wherever the work of God is exposed and are always ready to praise the Lord for His wonder working power. Our Lord Jesus Christ who finished the work of the Cross is now seated at the right hand of God the Father as our Advocate and Mediator, with countless angels as His side. “*Who is gone to heaven, and on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.*” (1 Peter 3:22).

II. THE GLORIOUS PRAISE BY THE BRIDE OF CHRIST.

As members of the body of Christ, we are being prepared to become the bride of Christ. In this mystery age of grace, God is calling out the future bride of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. The gathering of the body of Christ began on the day of Pentecost

and will continue until the day of the Rapture of the true church. We are a separate group of the saints of God and are made up of believers from every nation, race and tongue in this world. We are well informed by the Epistles of being members of the body of Christ. *“So we being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another.”* (Romans 12:5). Regardless of race color or language, we make up one body in Christ being related one to the other through God the Holy Spirit. *“What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own? For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your own body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). This tells us that we are destined to be in a very special relationship with God, as members of the future bride of Christ. This should bring forth a glorious praise from the Bride of Christ. The Lord Jesus Christ has abolished the enmity of the law by fulfilling the law in His own body. *“Having abolished in His flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that He might reconcile both unto God in one body by the Cross, having slain the enmity thereby:”* (Ephesians 2:15-16). It is Christ’s desire to present to himself a glorious church or body of believers, before the marriage as of a Lamb. *“That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, That He might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.”* (Ephesians 5:26-27). This is a glorious relationship that we have with the Creator of heaven and earth. We now as members of the body of Christ speak a different form of language, being led by the Holy Spirit, who dwells within us. Our body language or actions will speak to the world of our spiritual priorities. *“For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto himself.”*

It is all by the grace of God, because of the Cross of Christ that we can rejoice in the Lord for the future marriage to the Lamb of God. *“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him; for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife has made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”* (Revelation 19:7-8).

A. ETERNAL GLORY BECAUSE OF THE CROSS.

This eternal glory that the wife of Christ will have is all because of that Divine love that sent Christ to Calvary’s Cross. When we read of the great inheritance that the body of Christ has already been blessed with, we can understand the love that sent Christ to the Cross in order to make us new creatures by God the Holy Spirit. We have already entered into that eternal glory in Christ Jesus. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:”* (Ephesians 1:3). We have already been partakers of the glory of God

through the Lord Jesus Christ. Our guarantee is the seal of the Holy Spirit. This could never have taken place if the Son of God would have refused to give His life a ransom for many upon the Cross.

B. FEASTING UPON THE GLORIOUS HEAVENLY MANNA.

As Christ offered living water to the woman at the well, that water has become a living spring within our soul. We are feasting upon the Lord Jesus Christ, the manna that has come down from heaven. *“For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world.....And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst.”* (John 6:33-35). The Lord who is the Word of God, admonishes us to feast upon the Word of God which will become within you the bread of life and the living water.

C. THE PRECIOUSNESS OF THE NAIL PRINTS OF THE LAMB OF GOD.

When one considers that the saints of God will have absolutely perfect glorified bodies for all eternity, it thrills one's soul. There will be one permanent series of scars or could we say wounds in heaven and that will be the nail prints in Christ's hands and feet and the wound in His side. On the road to Emmaus those two disciples had an outstanding experience. *“And it came to pass, that, while they communed together and reasoned, Jesus himself drew near, and went with them. But their eyes were holden that they should not know Him.....and He said unto them, Why are ye troubled? and why do thoughts arise in your hearts? Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have. And when He had thus spoken, He showed them His hands and His feet. And while they yet believed not for joy, and wondered, He said unto them, Have ye here any meat? And they gave him a piece of broiled fish, and of an honeycomb. and He took it, and did eat before them.”* (Luke 24:15-43). This is very revealing to us that in that glorified body, Jesus ate and proved that these glorified bodies will have such a capacity. They were then convinced as Jesus ate that it was really Him. There is another occasion that we might mention where Jesus prepared a breakfast for the disciples that went a fishing. Jesus met them at the sea shore after they toiled all night and caught nothing. But when they listened to Jesus, they cast their net on the right side of the boat and they had fish in abundance. Jesus had already made a fire and had fish on ready to eat. *“Jesus saith unto them, Bring of the fish which ye have now caught.....Jesus saith unto them, Come and dine. And none of the disciples durst ask Him, Who art thou? knowing that it was the Lord. Jesus then cometh, and taketh bread, and giveth them, and fish likewise.”* (John 21:10-13). Those hungry disciples were hand fed by the Lord Jesus Christ, but their

spiritual hunger was satisfied when they saw their Savior face to face.

Jesus appeared to the disciples in the upper room when Thomas was not there. He would not believe them when they declared that Christ arose from the grave. *"The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my fingers into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe. And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you. Then saith He to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto Him, My Lord and my God. Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou has seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed."* (John 20:25-29).

III. THE ETERNAL PRAISES FROM THE SAINTS OF ALL AGES.

Those nail prints which the Incarnate Son of God has permitted to mar His absolutely perfect body will be most precious to the saints throughout eternity. Our glorified bodies will be sinless and perfect because of Christ our Redeemer. The grace of God was provided for us, nailing our sins to the Cross. *"Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to His Cross;"* (Colossians 2:14). The saints of all ages will count it a special privilege to serve the Lord throughout eternity to come, sing praise to His name. We could never have paid the debt of our sins and Christ died and rose again for us that we might live in the righteousness of God forever. The Lord has admonished us as saints of God to take up our cross, denying ourselves of the temporal pleasures and living according to His will. (Luke 9:23-26.) Let us not wait until we are called to glory before we glorified the Lord, but may it be our daily praise to Him now, as we travel through this present life.

Since the Cross of Christ is the cause of life, our privilege is to preach the Gospel of the Cross. *"For the preaching of the Cross is to them that perish foolishness; but to us which are saved it is the power of God."* (1 Corinthians 1:18).

A. THE MUTUAL PRAISE OF ALL THE SAINTS.

As we will, behold the Lamb of God in the heavenlies, it will be a constant reminder to us of the Cross of the Lamb. As the saints of all ages, were totally dependent upon the sacrifice of the Son of God upon the Cross, there will be a continual praise throughout eternity to the Christ of the Cross. There will be a mutual praise of the saints of all ages. In (Psalm 22) we have that terrible picture of the suffering which the Lord endured that we might be free from the law of sin and of death. But as the Lord hung upon the Cross, He was mindful of His own and made every provision for them, in spite of His

terrible suffering. *"I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. Ye that fear the Lord, praise Him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify Him; and fear Him, all ye seed of Israel."* (Psalm 22:22-23). May we continually give thanks to God the Father for sending His Eternal Son to us that we might live eternally in the presence of the Lord. *"My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear Him. The meek shall eat and be satisfied: they shall praise the Lord that seek Him; your heart shall live for ever. All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: and all kindreds of the nations shall worship before Thee. For the kingdom is the Lord's : and He is the governor among the nations."* (Psalm 22:25-28). It will be a glorious day when we see our Savior face to face in our glorified bodies. We do not know all that the future holds, but we do know the Living God who holds the future!

B. THE SWEET FELLOWSHIP THROUGH ALL AGES.

The fellowship with the saints of all ages will be a rich and everlasting experience to each of us. The imperfections of the past will all be gone and all things will be made new. As we study in our Bible of the saints down through the ages from Adam and Eve, we will not be strangers in heaven with each other. We will realize that all of us have been saved from the depths of sin and brought into the heights of God's glory. When one thinks of the billions of saints to get acquainted with, besides our forefathers, families and friends, it will be a continual praise service through out eternity. *"The earth is the Lord's and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein. For He hath founded it upon the seas, and established it upon the floods. Who shall ascend into the hill of the Lord? Or who shall stand in His holy place? He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul into vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. He shall receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of His salvation."* (Psalm 24:1-5). We can claim the righteousness from God because of the Cross of Calvary

C. ALL THINGS HAVE BECOME NEW.

Because of our faith in the finished work upon the Cross by the Lamb of God, we shall be partakers of the new creation of the heavens and the earth. We do not have all of the particulars of how God will create everything new, but we do know that He has already made us new creatures in Christ Jesus. *"He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of His people shall He take away from off all the earth: for the Lord hath spoken it."* (Psalm 25:8). The kingdom of righteousness of the thousand years will be but a forerunner of the eternal things to come. It will be the final test upon this present earth, as God makes

His final bid for precious souls in this old order of life. After the final battle with Satan and the Great White Throne judgement, there will be the final separation of evil from God's righteousness. The ungodly of all ages will be cast into the eternal Lake of Fire and brimstone, along with the beast and false prophet and Satan and all his demons and will remain within the constant fire forever and ever, Sin will never appear again when all things are made new. *"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind."* (Isaiah 65:17). We have God's word that the new shall be so much better than anything of the old creation, that we will forget about this present creation and enjoy forever all things being made new. *"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea."* (Revelation 21:1). God has already revealed it to the apostle John on the Isle of Patmos with a pre-televised view. It must have been a glorious sight to behold. God is abiding His time, and gathering together the saint, waiting upon the fullness of time, when all things shall become new for His new creatures in Christ Jesus of the Cross of Calvary. Whosoever will may come, and may we be God's faithful witnesses, telling the world of our Redeemer who is the way, the truth, and the life. May our priorities be right, knowing - *"While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal."* (2 Corinthians 4:18).

CONCLUSION

The study of the Cross of Christ has enlightened my soul and caused me to understand in a deeper way, the suffering of the Godhead to remove the barrier of sin and judge it in full at the Cross. God has been patiently waiting some 6,000 years to finalize all judgement of sin, hell, death and the ungodly. The Cross was no afterthought for God, but it was planned before the foundation of the world. God in His omniscience, looked down the corridors of time and saw the new creation which would be free from sin forever, and was willing to pay the price for total perfection in eternity to come.

The holy angelic hosts are enjoying the impeccable conditions given to them and are waiting for that final blow of God against all ungodliness. I am sure that these angels have some wonderful Bible studies in the heavenlies as they wait for the final redemption and the new creation of heaven and earth. May each of us take up our cross and follow the Lord through this life as living sacrifices holy acceptable in God's sight. *"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."* (1 Peter 4:12-13).

The Lord will soon be coming to claim His own with the Rapture, then the wrath of God shall be poured out upon this sinful world. Praise God we will be call out from the wrath to come! (*1 Thessalonians 1:10.*) We shall see our Savior face to face and be like Him in a glorified body. (*1 John 3:1-3.*) Let us as believers be found faithful to that high calling in Christ Jesus and await patiently our redemption from this ungodly world. "*And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last*" (*Revelation 22:12-13*).

Rev. Dr. Andrew J.Losier

In the beginning

Was the Word, and the Word was with GOD
and the Word was GOD

JOHN 1:1

Eternity Past

THE ABSOLUTE GOD
THE ABSOLUTE PLAN
DAN. 9:24

GOD - THE FATHER planned it,
JOHN 10:15-18 : HEB. 10:5b

GOD - THE SON provided it,
JOHN 10:17

GOD - THE HOLY SPIRIT proved it.
1 COR. 12:13

THE ABSOLUTE BLUEPRINT
to achieve a PERFECT
ETERNAL PARADISE-
FREE FROM EVIL
throughout Eternity to come,
based on the Word of GOD

GOD created the
Heaven and the
Earth
GEN. 1:1 : PSALM 19:1

The creation of the Angels

and the realm of their habitation

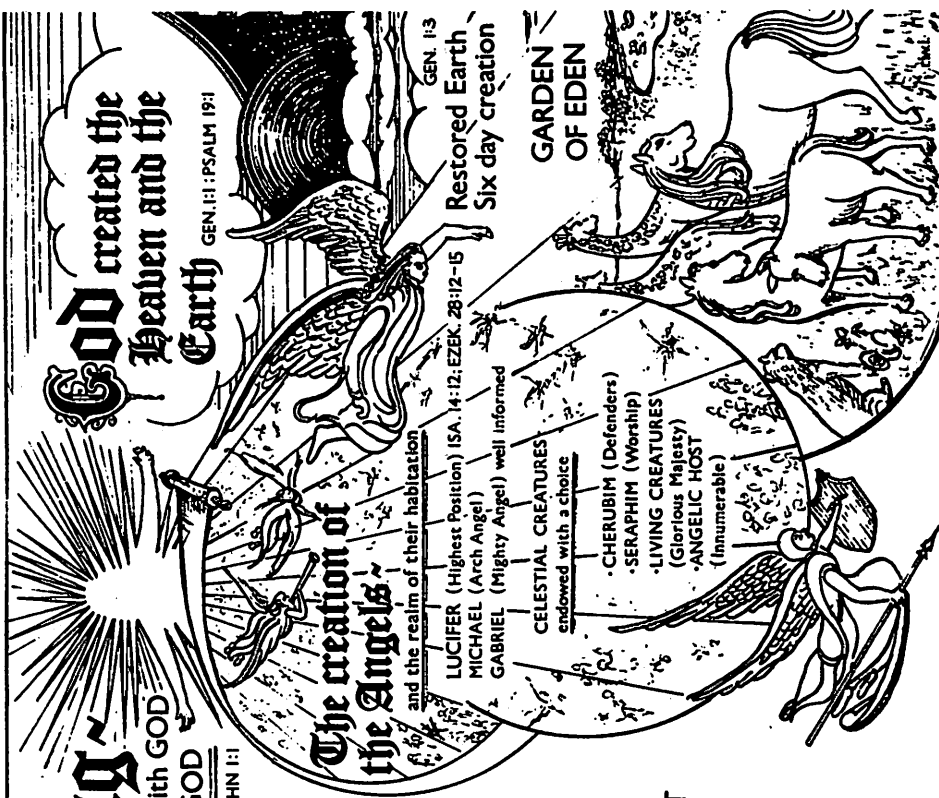
LUCIFER (Highest Position) ISA. 14:12; EZEK. 28:12-15
MICHAEL (Arch Angel)
GABRIEL (Mighty Angel) well informed

CELESTIAL CREATURES
endowed with a choice

- CHERUBIM (Defenders)
- SERAPHIM (Worship)
- LIVING CREATURES (Glorious Majesty)
- ANGELIC HOST (Innumerable)

Restored Earth
Six day creation

GARDEN OF EDEN



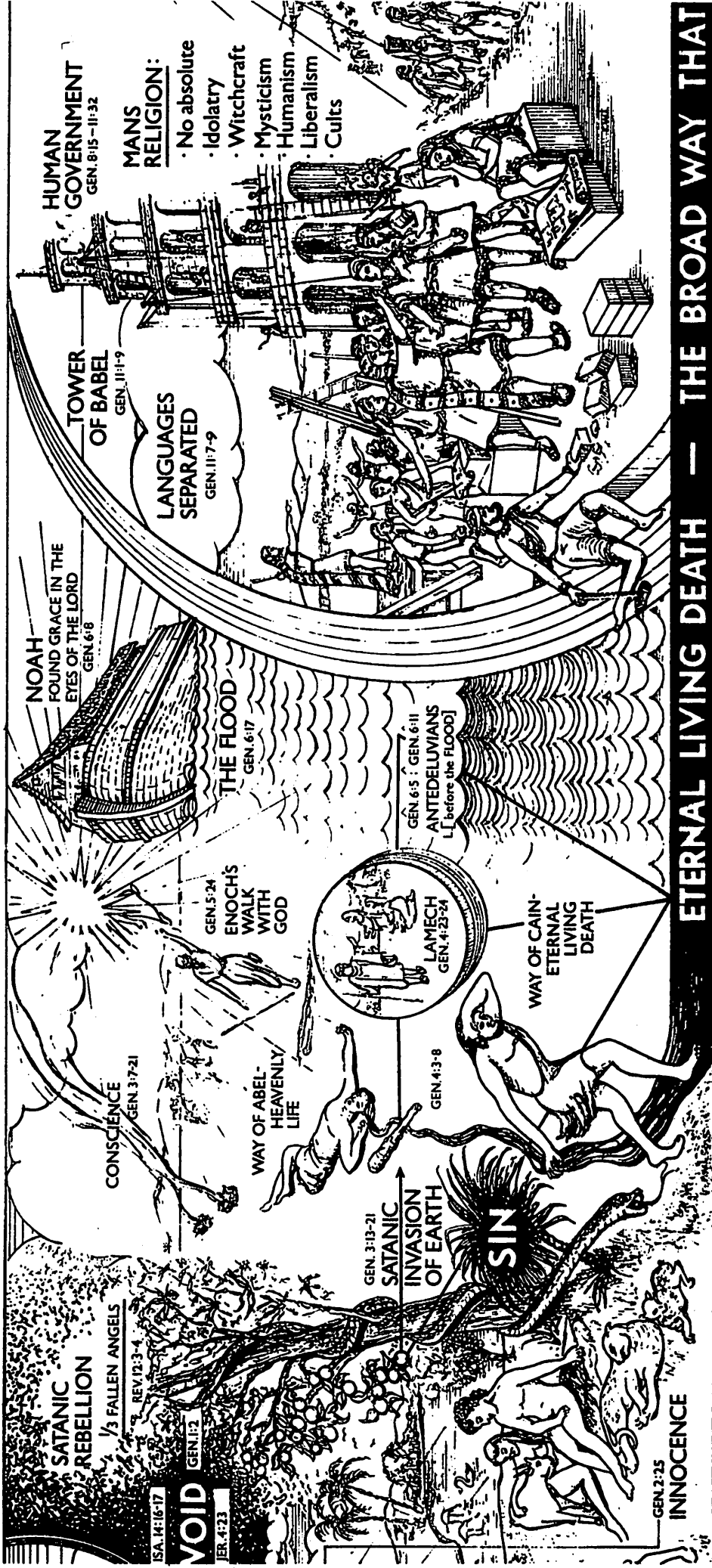
GOD'S PLAN OF ALL AGES by REV. DR. ANDREW LOSIER
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The following pages have been perforated and printed on one side only for those who wish to remove the God's Plan of All Ages Chart and assemble it on a wall or into a scroll.

NOT TO BE SOLD





HUMAN GOVERNMENT
GEN. 8:15-11:32

MANS RELIGION:
• No absolute
• Idolatry
• Witchcraft
• Mysticism
• Humanism
• Liberalism
• Cults

TOWER OF BABEL
GEN. 11:1-9

LANGUAGES SEPARATED
GEN. 11:7-9

NOAH FOUND GRACE IN THE EYES OF THE LORD
GEN. 6:8

THE FLOOD
GEN. 6:17

GEN. 6:5 : GEN. 6:11
ANTEDELLUVIANS
[before the FLOOD]

GEN. 5:24
ENOCH'S WALK WITH GOD

GEN. 4:23-24
LAMECH

WAY OF CAIN- ETERNAL LIVING DEATH

CONSCIENCE
GEN. 3:7-21

WAY OF ABEL- HEAVENLY LIFE

GEN. 4:3-8

GEN. 3:13-21
SATANIC INVASION OF EARTH

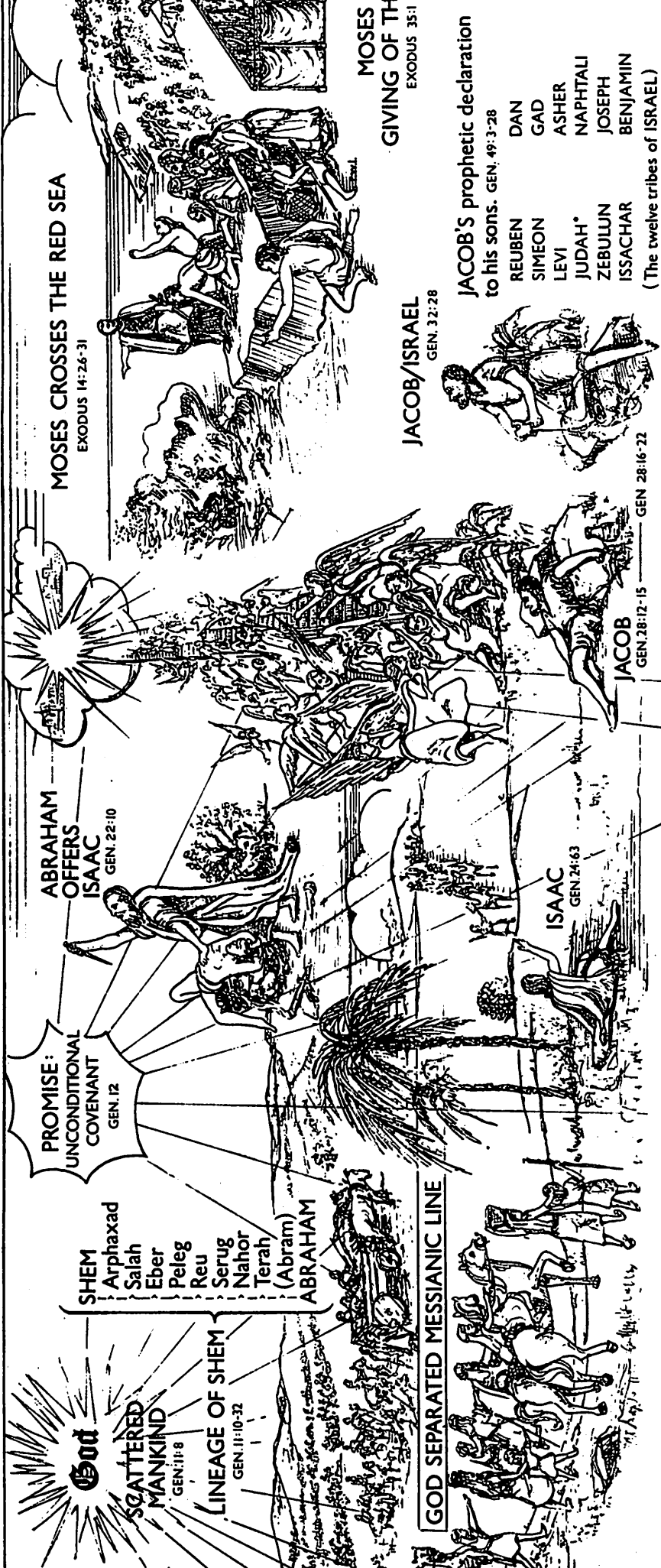
SIN

SATANIC REBELLION
1/3 FALLEN ANGELS
ISA. 14:16-17
REV. 12:3-4

VOID
GEN. 1:2
JER. 4:23

GEN. 2:25
INNOCENCE

ETERNAL LIVING DEATH — THE BROAD WAY THAT



MOSES CROSSES THE RED SEA
EXODUS 14:26-31

ABRAHAM OFFERS ISAAC
GEN. 22:10

PROMISE: UNCONDITIONAL COVENANT
GEN. 12

- SHEM**
- Alphaxad
 - Salah
 - Eber
 - Peleg
 - Reu
 - Serug
 - Nahor
 - Terah
 - (Abram)
- ABRAHAM**

LINEAGE OF SHEM
GEN. 11:10-32

God
SCATTERED MANKIND
GEN. 11:8

GOD SEPARATED MESSIANIC LINE

JACOB/ISRAEL
GEN. 32:28

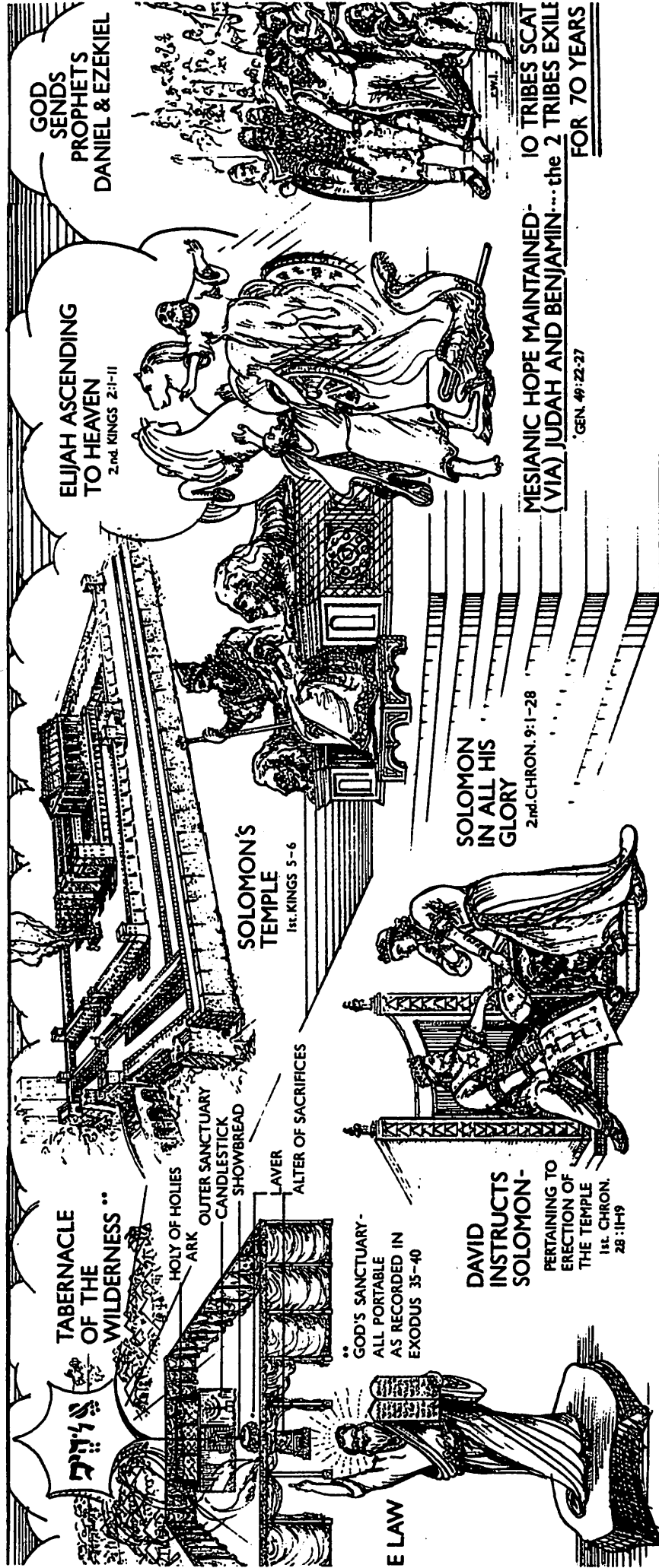
- JACOB'S prophetic declaration to his sons.** GEN. 49:3-28
- REUBEN
 - SIMEON
 - LEVI
 - JUDAH*
 - ZEBULUN
 - ISSACHAR
 - DAN
 - GAD
 - ASHER
 - NAPHTALI
 - JOSEPH
 - BENJAMIN
- (The twelve tribes of ISRAEL)

JACOB
GEN. 28:12-15 — GEN. 28:16-22

ISAAC
GEN. 24:63

MOSES
GIVING OF THE
EXODUS 35:1

LEADS TO DESTRUCTION GAL. 5:19-21; ADULTERY, FORNICATION, UNCLEANNE



TABERNACLE OF THE WILDERNESS ..

HOLY OF HOLIES
ARK
OUTER SANCTUARY
CANDLESTICK
SHOWBREAD
LAVAR
ALTER OF SACRIFICES

GOD'S SANCTUARY - ALL PORTABLE AS RECORDED IN EXODUS 35-40

DAVID INSTRUCTS SOLOMON - PERTAINING TO ERECTION OF THE TEMPLE. 1st. CHRON. 28 :1-19

ELIJAH ASCENDING TO HEAVEN 2nd. KINGS 2:1-11

SOLOMON'S TEMPLE 1st. KINGS 5-6

SOLOMON IN ALL HIS GLORY 2nd. CHRON. 9:1-28

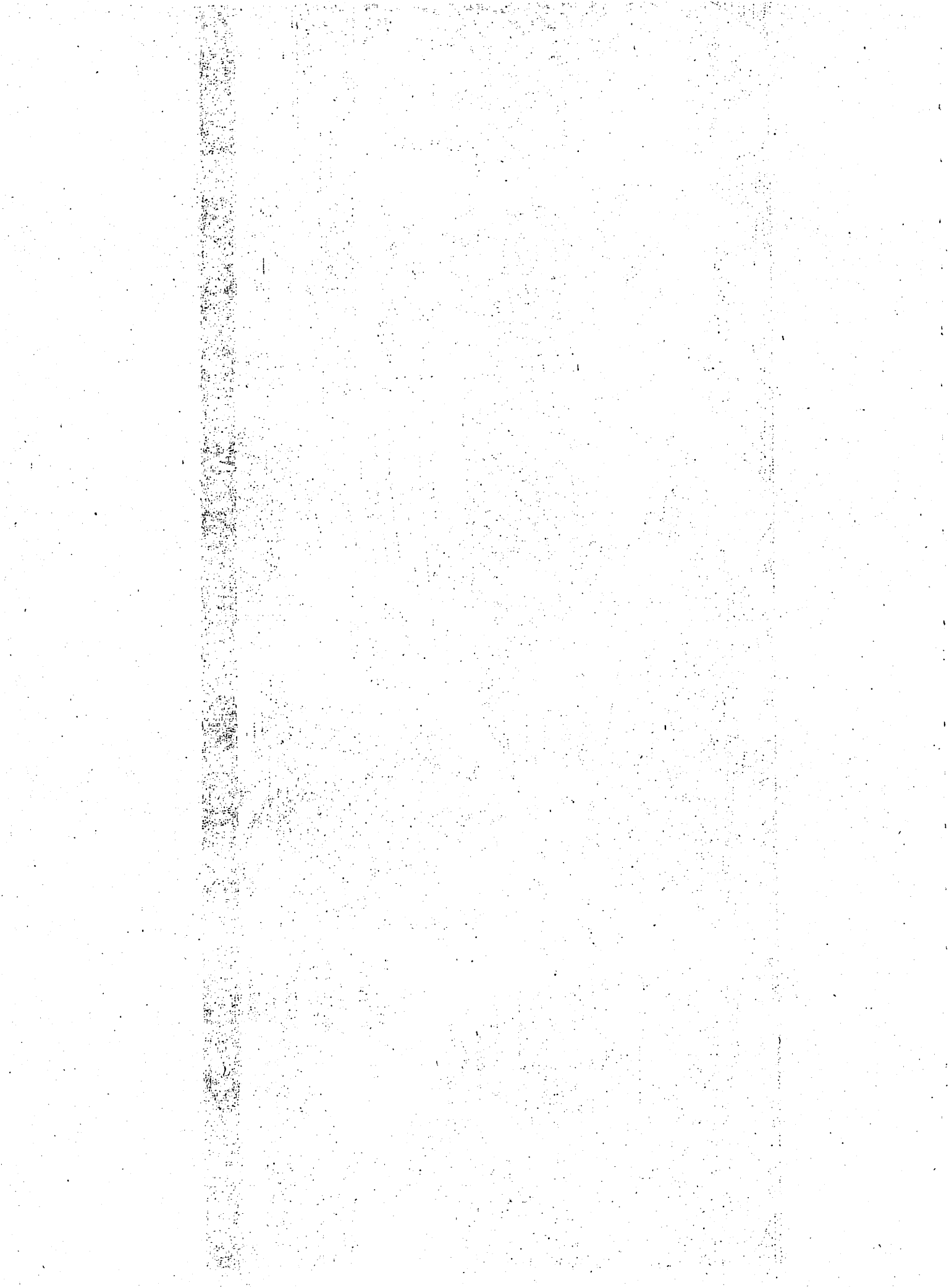
MESIANIC HOPE MAINTAINED - (VIA) JUDAH AND BENJAMIN... the 2 TRIBES EXILE FOR 70 YEARS GEN. 49:22-27

GOD SENDS PROPHETS DANIEL & EZEKIEL

10 TRIBES SCAT the 2 TRIBES EXILE FOR 70 YEARS

ESS, LASCIVIOUSNESS, IDOLATRY, SORCERY, HATRED, STRIFE, JEALOUSY,

E LAW



NEBACHADNEZER'S DREAM
(THE FOUR GREAT KINGDOMS)

DANIEL INTERPRETS IT.....
DAN. 2

GOLD — BABYLONIAN EMPIRE
DAN. 7:4

SILVER — MEDO-PERSIAN EMPIRE
DAN. 7:5

BRASS — GRECIAN EMPIRE
DAN. 7:6
Alexander's Kingdom - four div.

IRON — ROMAN EMPIRE
DAN. 8:8-12

IRON & CLAY — THE FOURTH BEAST
DAN. 7:7-8
Revival of the ROMAN EMPIRE
DAN. 2:34-35 & DAN. 2:45

LEOPARD
DAN. 7:6

BEAR
DAN. 7:5

LION
DAN. 7:4

DANIEL'S PRAYER
The seventy weeks foretold to DANIEL by GABRIEL
DAN. 9:21-26

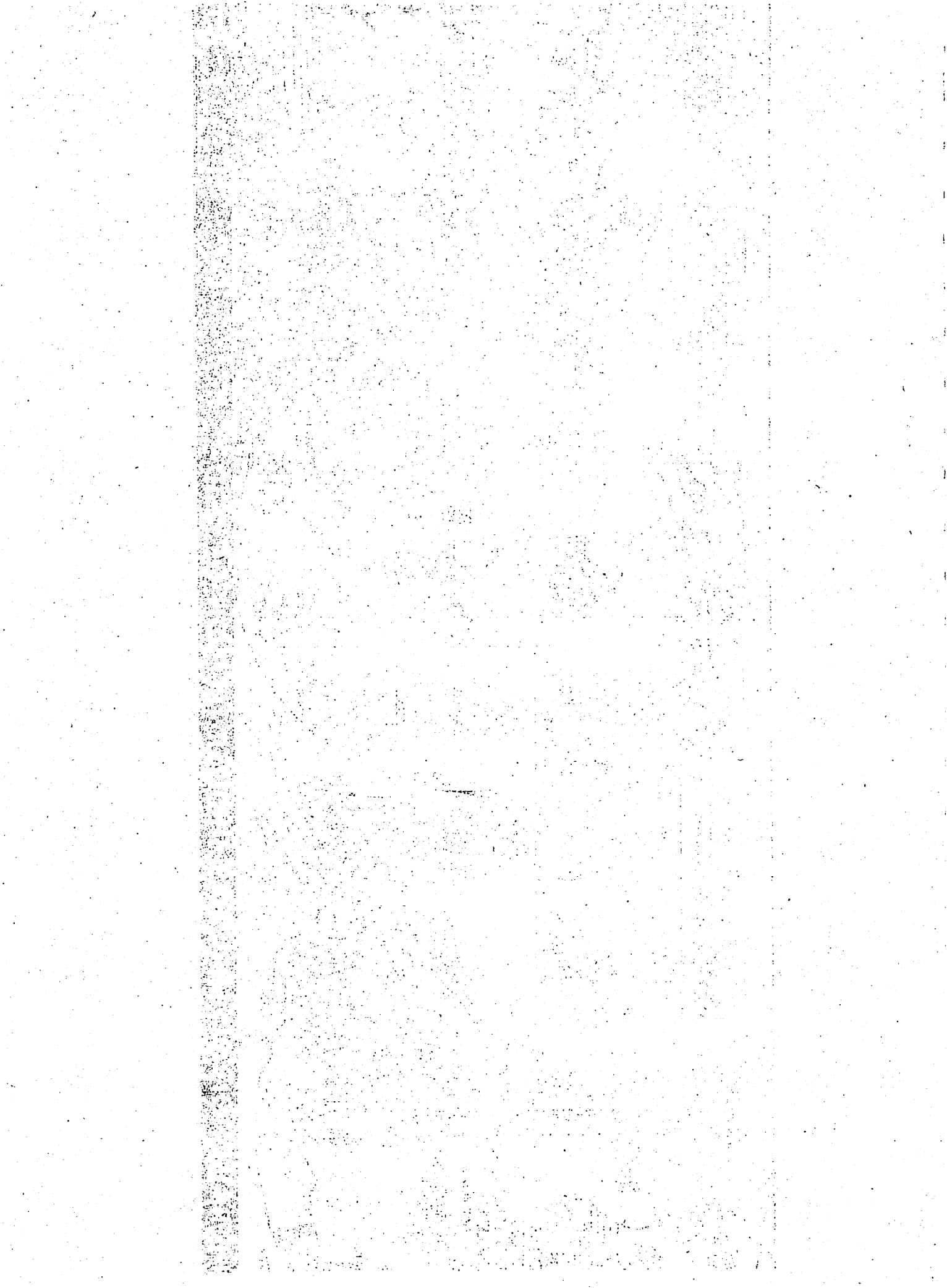
CYRUS DECREES
483 YEARS until MESSIAH IS CUT OFF — (CRUCIFIED) FOR ALL OF THE SINS OF THE WHOLE WORLD

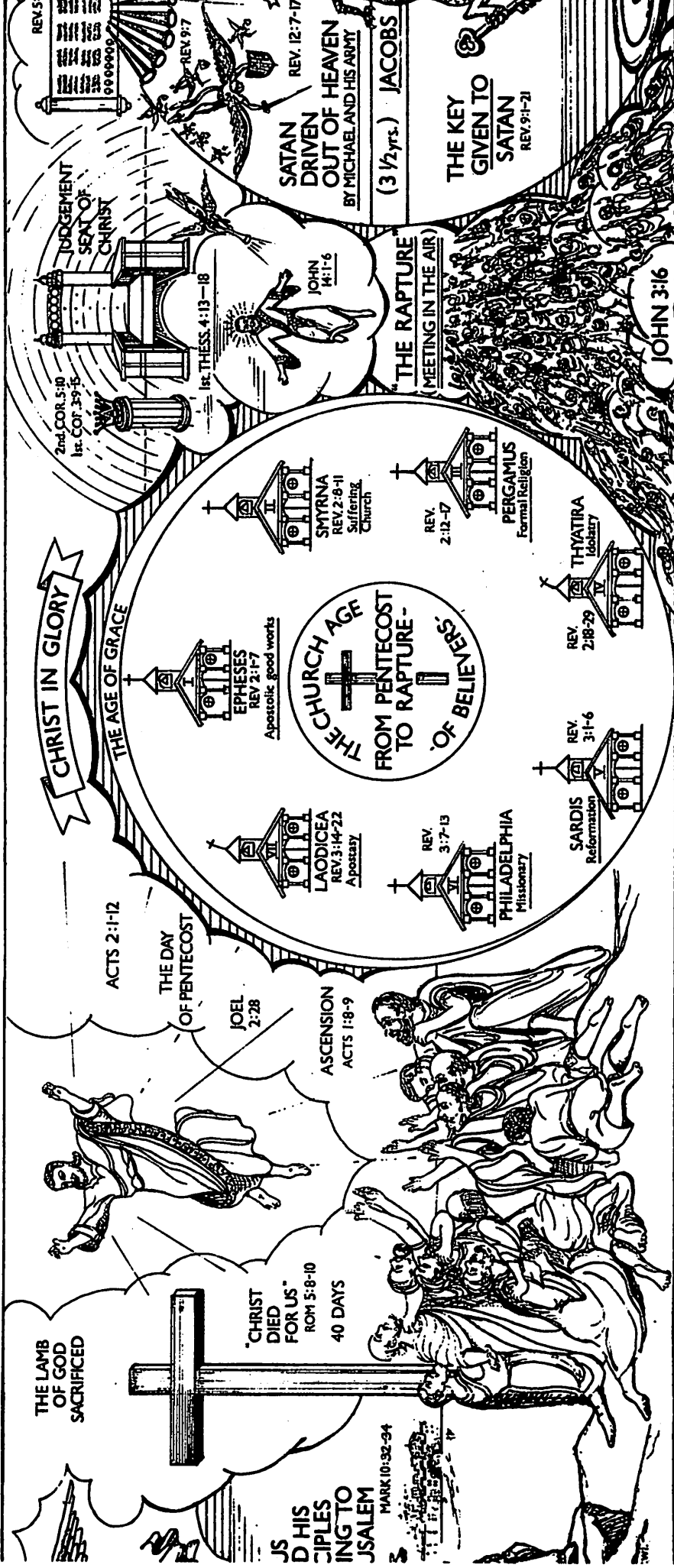
BEHOLD, I BRING YOU GOOD TIDINGS OF GREAT JOY, — LUKE 2:10

JOHN THE BAPTIST BORN TO HERALD THE COMING OF CHRIST
MATT. 3:1-12
MARK 1:1-8
LUKE 3:1-20
JOHN 1:6-8

JESUS
AN
DE
GO
JER

WRATH, FACTIONS, SEDITIONS, HERESIES, ENVYINGS, MURDERS, ETC. T





THE LAMB OF GOD SACRIFICED

"CHRIST DIED FOR US" ROM 5:8-10
40 DAYS

HE REJECTION OF CHRIST AS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD

MARK 10:32-34

CHRIST IN GLORY

ACTS 2:1-12

THE DAY OF PENTECOST

JOEL 2:28

ASCENSION ACTS 1:8-9

Apostolic, good works

THE CHURCH AGE FROM PENTECOST TO RAPTURE - OF BELIEVERS

I. EPHESUS REV 2:1-7

VII. LAODICEA REV 3:14-22
Apostasy

VI. PHILADELPHIA REV 3:7-13
Missionary

V. SARDIS REV 3:1-6
Reformation

IV. THYATIRA REV 2:18-29
Fornal Religion

III. PERGAMUS REV 2:12-17
Fornal Religion

II. SMYRNA REV 2:8-11
Suffering Church

THE RAPTURE (MEETING IN THE AIR)

JOHN 14:1-6

1st. THESS 4:13-18

2nd. COR. 5:10
1st. COR. 3:9-15

JUDGEMENT SEAT OF CHRIST

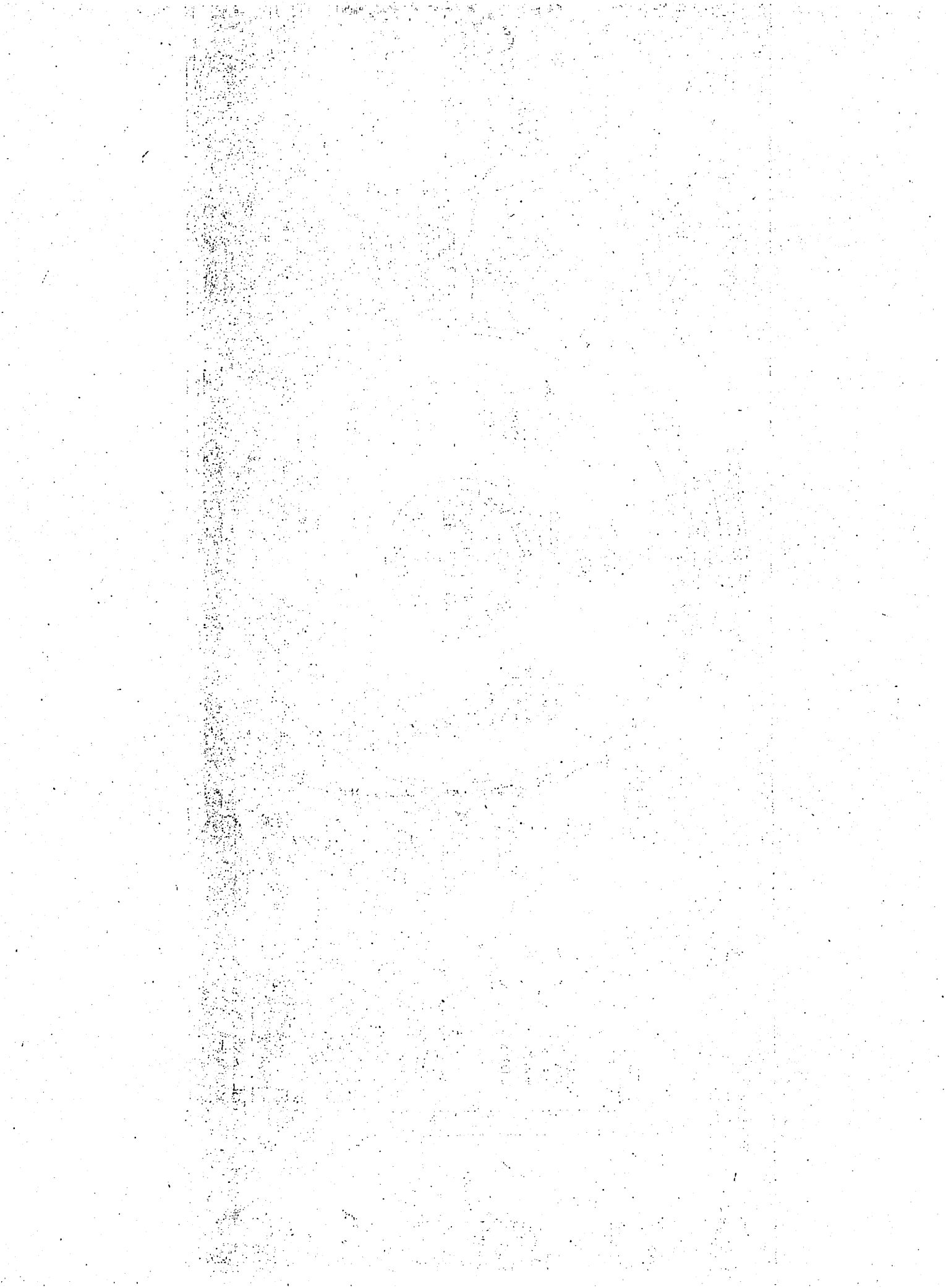
SATAN DRIVEN OUT OF HEAVEN BY MICHAEL AND HIS ARMY (3 1/2 yrs.) JACOBS

REV. 12:7-17

THE KEY TO SATAN REV. 9:1-21

JOHN 3:16

HE REJECTION OF CHRIST AS THE ETERNAL SON OF GOD



MARRIAGE OF THE LAMB OF GOD
REV. 19:7
THE MARRIAGE SUPPER
REV. 19:17

ABOMINATION OF DESOLATION
MATT. 24:15

MYSTERY BABYLON
REV. 17:18
REV. 18:1-24

TROUBLE (3 1/2 yrs.)

THE GREAT TRIBULATION
(70th. - Seven)

OF DANIEL
9:24
9:26, 27

THE BEAST & FALSE PROPHET

CAST INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE
REV. 19:20

THE LORD JESUS CHRIST RETURNS TO REIGN OVER HIS

(RIGHTEOUS) KINGDOM ON EARTH

1st THESS. 3:13 : REV. 11:15
REV. 19:11-21 : ISAIAH 40:10

HEAVENLY RIGHTEOUSNESS COMING DOWN UPON THE EARTH

"Thy Kingdom come,
Thy will be done
ON EARTH,
as it is in
HEAVEN"
MATT. 6:10

1000 YEAR KINGDOM OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ESTABLISHED
REV. 20:6

NATURE RESTORED
ISAIAH 11:6-9

THE SAINTS SHALL TEACH GOD'S RIGHTEOUSNESS
REV. 5:10
LIFE SPAN EXTENDED
ISA. 65:20

FIRE FROM HEAVEN
REV. 20:9



IS A CONSUMING FIRE
HEB. 12:29

SATANS LAST STAND AS HE DECEIVES THE NATIONS

SATAN CAST INTO THE

BOTTOMLESS PIT FOR

1000 YEARS

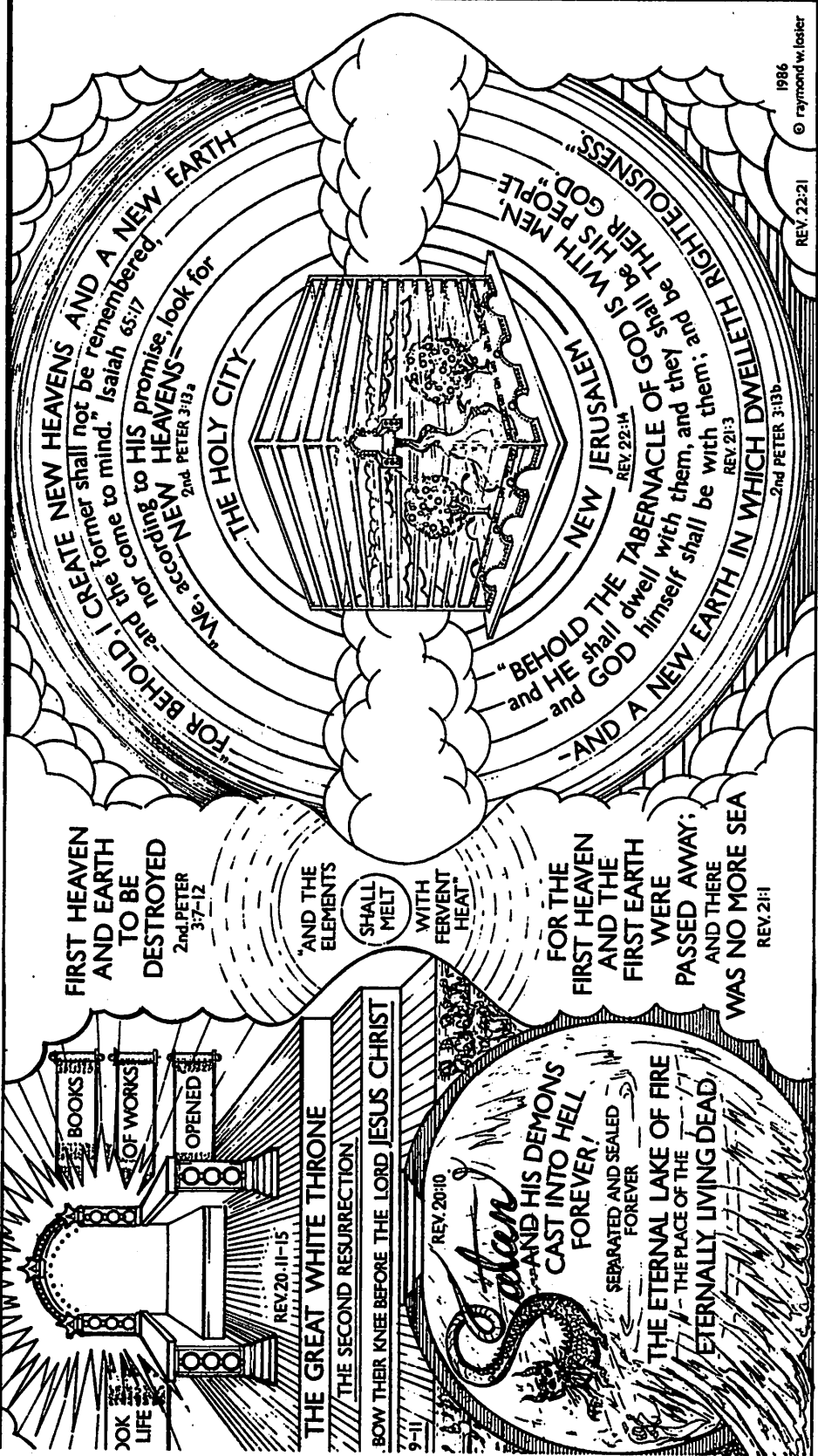
REV. 20:1-3

SATAN IS LOOSED FOR A LITTLE SEASON

REV. 20:7-10

ALL SHALL
PHIL. 2:

BC
OF
(REV. 20:5a)



FIRST HEAVEN
AND EARTH
TO BE
DESTROYED
2nd PETER
3:7-12

"AND THE
ELEMENTS
SHALL
MELT
WITH
FERVENT
HEAT"

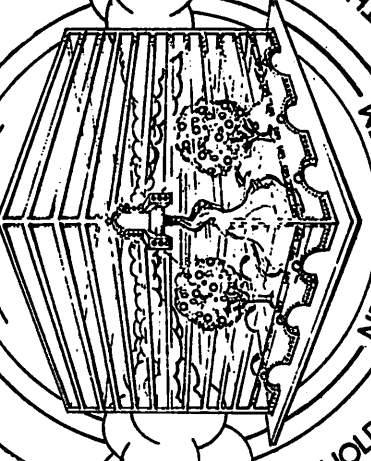
FOR THE
FIRST HEAVEN
AND THE
FIRST EARTH
WERE
PASSED AWAY;
AND THERE
WAS NO MORE SEA
REV. 21:1

BOOKS
OF WORKS
OPENED
REV. 20:11-15
THE GREAT WHITE THRONE
THE SECOND RESURRECTION
BOW THEIR KNEE BEFORE THE LORD JESUS CHRIST
9-11

REV. 20:10
Satan
AND HIS DEMONS
CAST INTO HELL
FOREVER!
SEPARATED AND SEALED
FOREVER

THE ETERNAL LAKE OF FIRE
THE PLACE OF THE
ETERNALLY LIVING DEAD
REV. 21:8

"FOR BEHOLD, I CREATE NEW HEAVENS AND A NEW EARTH
and the former shall not be remembered,
nor come to mind." Isaiah 65:17
"We, according to HIS promise, look for
NEW HEAVENS"
2nd PETER 3:13, 14
THE HOLY CITY



NEW JERUSALEM
REV. 22:1-4
"BEHOLD THE TABERNACLE OF GOD IS WITH MEN,
and HE shall dwell with them, and they shall be HIS PEOPLE,
and GOD himself shall be with them,
AND A NEW EARTH IN WHICH DWELLETH RIGHTEOUSNESS."
REV. 21:3
2nd PETER 3:13b

Publications

by
Rev. Dr. Andrew J. Losier

A Study of the Book of Daniel

Amazing Grace

Analytical Theological Questionnaire Vol I and Vol II

Battleground and Warfare of Christians

Biblical Outline of Sermons

Christ the Eternal Son of God

Difficult Biblical Questions Answered

I am Alpha and Omega

Know Your Bible Rightly Divided

Memoirs of Africa

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The Inspired Word of God

The Book of Romans

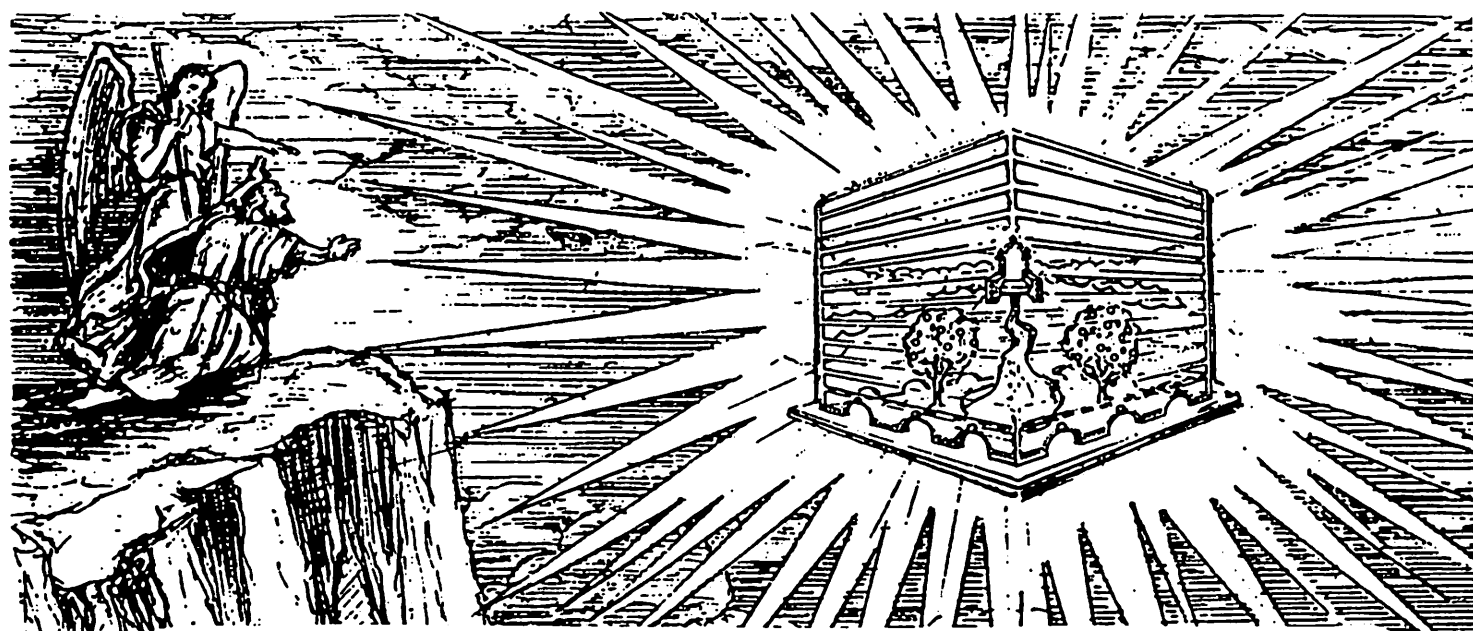
The Cross of Christ

The Holy Spirit

The Glory of God

Treasure Chest of Eternal Gems

What Does the Future Hold?



"And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain and showed me that great city, the Holy Jerusalem, descending out of Heaven from GOD" – Revelation 21 : 10

Author: Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier

Missionary in Africa since 1938, established the first of the Christian Literature and Bible Centers in Kenya, East Africa in 1952. Since then, over a billion pieces of FREE CHRISTIAN LITERATURE have been distributed throughout Africa in approximately 50 different languages. The overwhelming response of African Christian leaders to the WORD OF GOD, inspired Rev., Dr. Andrew J. Losier to write this book.

JESUS said "I am ALPHA and OMEGA"

Revelation 1:8

