

**True
Worship**

By Herbert Morehart

Introduction

Define: Worship = By kneeling or prostration to do homage or make obeisance, whether to express respect or to make supplication.

This word “obeisance,” which is included in the definition of “worship,” is illustrated by the words of Joseph regarding his relationship with his eleven brothers.

Gen. 37:7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.

Gen. 37:9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.

These words from Joseph angered his brothers and caused them to despise Joseph and prompted them to cause harm to come to him. It is easy to understand how these brothers did feel, yet one must remember that Joseph was a type of our Lord Jesus Christ. He became a great man in the nation of Egypt and was instrumental in the saving of the lives of this family in the time of drought as they came to Egypt to get grain. The former words of Joseph came true when he inquired about the welfare of his family.

Gen. 43:28 And they answered, Thy servant our father is in good health, he is yet alive. And they bowed down their heads, and made obeisance.

Gen. 44:14 And Judah and his brethren came to Joseph's house; for he was yet there: and they fell before him on the ground.

This act of obeisance is further illustrated when Moses met his father-in-law, Jethro.

Exo. 18:7 And Moses went out to meet his father in law, and did obeisance, and kissed him; and they asked each other of their welfare; and they came into the tent.

It is illustrated by the actions of a follower of Saul after the death of the king, and the anointing of David to be king over Israel.

2Sam. 1:2 It came even to pass on the third day, that, behold, a man came out of the camp from Saul with his clothes rent, and earth upon his head: and so it was, when he came to David, that he fell to the earth, and did obeisance.

Joab, who was a supporter of Absalom's rebellion against king David, sent a woman to trick David by giving fake obeisance to the king.

2Sam. 14:4 And when the woman of Tekoah spake to the king, she fell on her face to the ground, and did obeisance, and said, Help, O king.

Absalom was a usurper to the throne of Israel, and encouraged the people to do obeisance and bow down to him.

2Sam. 15:5 And it was so, that when any man came nigh to him to do him obeisance, he put forth his hand, and took him, and kissed him.

Some Israelites bowed to good king Joash, then went and served groves and idols.

2Chr. 24:17 Now after the death of Jehoiada came the princes of Judah, and made obeisance to the king. Then the king hearkened unto them.

18 And they left the house of the LORD God of their fathers, and served groves and idols: and wrath came upon Judah and Jerusalem for this their trespass.

The ultimate requirement of God is expressed by Paul in his letter to the Philippians.

Phil. 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The purpose of this writing is to explore the teachings of the word of God regarding acceptable worship of him. Jesus recognized the worship of the woman of Samaria, but told her that she did not know what she worshipped. There are evidently many in the world today who are worshipping but it is not true worship, that is, worship according to the guide lines laid out in the Bible. It will be pointed out what was wrong with her worship, and also the worship of others. It will also be pointed out how to worship in the scriptural manner that will be accepted of the Lord.

John 4:19 The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet.

20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

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Chapter I

Worship in the Old Testament

The first mention of man building an altar to God is found in **Genesis 8** when Noah came off the ark and built an altar. The first offerings were made to the Lord by Cain and Abel, but nothing is said of either Noah or Cain and Abel about worshipping God.

Gen. 8:20 And Noah builded an altar unto the LORD; and took of every clean beast, and of every clean fowl, and offered burnt offerings on the altar.

The first mention of worship to God is found when Abraham was taking his son, Isaac, to offer him on an altar.

Gen. 22:5 And Abraham said unto his young men, Abide ye here with the ass; and I and the lad will go yonder and worship, and come again to you.

Israel worshipped God, but did not have altars, nor a house in which to worship. Not much is known of what they did as an act of worship. On one occasion just after God appeared to Moses and told him to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt, they bowed their heads and worshipped.

Ex 4:31 And the people believed: and when they heard that the LORD had visited the children of Israel, and that he had looked upon their affliction, then they bowed their heads and worshipped.

They worshipped after Moses told them of the Lord's promise to deliver them from bondage in Egypt. They did not build an altar nor did they have a house in which to worship. It will be seen from this and other experiences, that it was not necessary to have neither a house in which to worship, nor a specific place of worship until God designated it so, for it to be acceptable to Him.

Exo. 12:26 And it shall come to pass, when your children shall say unto you, What mean ye by this service?

27 That ye shall say, It is the sacrifice of the LORD'S passover, who passed over the houses of the children of Israel in Egypt, when he smote the Egyptians, and delivered our houses. And the people bowed the head and worshipped.

God gave instructions to Israel after they came out of bondage in Egypt, but prior to the building of the tabernacle, their first house of worship.

Exo. 24:1 And he said unto Moses, Come up unto the LORD, thou, and Aaron, Nadab, and Abihu, and seventy of the elders of Israel; and worship ye afar off.

God instructed Israel to build a tabernacle for a place to meet with Israel and then he appeared to them in the manner that he had promised. It should be seen that God is beginning to direct his people to worship him in a manner that is suitable to him. The reason that it suited God to have Israel to worship him from the mercy seat was that it was the designated place. They did not have to understand why God wanted them to worship him from above the mercy seat. God accepted their worship when they did it according to his instructions. When it was done this way, it was acceptable unto God. When God's instructions are followed today, worship will be accepted. All other is vain worship and God will not respond to it.

Exo. 25:22 And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

Exo. 33:10 And all the people saw the cloudy pillar stand at the tabernacle door: and all the people rose up and worshipped, every man in his tent door.

Now God begins to place restrictions on their worship of him, and also expects more of them than when they did not know as much about him. This is also seen in the words of Jesus to the woman of Samaria. At first notice, it may seem that Jesus is being too hard on her, but the restrictions that God has placed on his people as he has revealed more of himself to them are seen in his dealing with her. It will be seen later that as God revealed more of himself in Christ, that more is required of his people.

Exo. 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

Ex 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

Luke 12:48 But he that knew not, and did commit things worthy of stripes, shall be beaten with few stripes. For unto whomsoever much is given, of him shall be much required: and to whom men have committed much, of him they will ask the more.

God made a covenant with Israel and charged them that they should not fear other gods, nor bow down to them, nor serve them nor sacrifice to them. He begins to introduce himself to his people as a jealous God.

Exo. 20:4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

2Ki 17:36 But the LORD, who brought you up out of the land of Egypt with great power and a stretched out arm, him shall ye fear, and him shall ye worship, and to him shall ye do sacrifice.

Further instruction in the proper manner of worship is described in the following scripture.

1Chr. 16:29 Give unto the LORD the glory due unto his name: bring an offering, and come before him: worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness.

This beauty is described as a king and his royal majesty, but it is not only an endowment for royalty, but it is also an activity worthy of royalty. When one recognizes that he is King of heaven, then it follows that all his works are truth and his ways are judgment.

Dan. 4:37 Now I Nebuchadnezzar praise and extol and honour the King of heaven, all whose works are truth, and his ways judgment: and those that walk in pride he is able to abase.

His holiness is the essential nature of that which belongs to the sphere of the sacred and is distinct from the common or profane. It speaks of God with a measure of awe. It refers, not only to his power, but also to his character as totally good and entirely without evil. God will not deal kindly with those who fellowship with the evil ones and then expect him to bless their worship as they come to him in their own way in their own time.

David spoke of worship in fear.

Psa. 5:7 But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy: and in thy fear will I worship toward thy holy temple.

All of the kindreds of the nations shall worship before the Lord.

Psa. 22:27 All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the LORD: and all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee.

All of the earth shall worship God. The emphasis below is on his designated meeting place, truth and his word. The attitude of much of those who claim to worship Jesus Christ is that just as long as one goes to church somewhere, it is all right. The truth of the matter is that unless one worships in the manner prescribed in the Word of God, his worship is vain, as will be pointed out later in this writing. God has not given the option of leading clerics to pass judgment on various forms of worship and various objects of worship. The woman of Samaria worshipped in a temple that was prescribed by her religious leaders, but Jesus told her that she did not know what she worshipped.

Worshippers go through the motion as many did in the Old Testament without having any evidence that the god that they worship is alive or only exists in the minds of the people who were going through the motions of worshipping. Many made sacrifices to many gods, but did not ever hear from their god, even after they sacrificed their most beautiful young ladies in the fire. Some even had an idol set up to the unknown god, lest they anger one who was left out by mistake. More will be written on this later, but let all be reminded that God requires all the earth to worship him and to do so in the place designated by him. Just as in the case of the woman of Samaria, all other worship is vain worship and will not be accepted by our Lord. Jesus told her some things that could not have been known generally, and she became excited to find out that there was a God that was real and knew all about her and touched her heart by what He told her.

Psa. 66:4 All the earth shall worship thee, and shall sing unto thee; they shall sing to thy name. Selah.

Psa. 99:5 Exalt ye the LORD our God, and worship at his footstool; for he is holy.

Psa. 138:2 I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name.

CHAPTER II

False Worship in the Old Testament

God's covenant people were given instructions about the how to worship him in the Old Testament times. God offered the covenant to Israel through Moses and they accepted it and agreed to abide by the terms of it. This is the basic parts of any covenant, even in our world today. Covenants are made by the Federal government, state government, county government and city government. By our agreement to these covenants, we are bound to obey them, or a penalty of a fine or imprisonment is imposed on those who break the covenant. For example, one must agree to the covenant that the state requires one to purchase a license that allows one to operate a motor vehicle on the state roads. To act in violation of the covenant will bring a fine or punishment to the one in violation. God's covenant people failed in proper worship of God in the Old Testament after entering into a covenant regarding it.

Exo. 19:4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Shortly after this covenant was made between God and Israel, the Ten Commandments were given to Israel through Moses, the very first three of which had to do with their worship of God. One should realize that there was a reason for this.

Exo. 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

4 Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth:

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Moses went up Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments and other things of the law regarding building of the tabernacle, for example. While he was there the people decided to build for themselves a god to worship. It had only been a very short time since Israel had agreed to the covenant with God that specified that they would have no other gods before them. This reminds us of how little it takes to turn from the true God to worship false gods in our lives even today.

Exo. 32:1 And when the people saw that Moses delayed to come down out of the mount, the people gathered themselves together unto Aaron, and said unto him, Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.

2 And Aaron said unto them, Break off the golden earrings, which are in the ears of your wives, of your sons, and of your daughters, and bring them unto me.

3 And all the people brake off the golden earrings which were in their ears, and brought them unto Aaron.

4 And he received them at their hand, and fashioned it with a graving tool, after he had made it a molten calf: and they said, These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt.

5 And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, To morrow is a feast to the LORD.

Several things should be noted about this incident. Moses was in the mount with God only 40 days and nights according to **Exo. 24:18**. The Israelites wrote him off and wanted another god to lead them. They considered Moses a god? Folk need someone to lead them and they considered him a god. Aaron took the gold earrings and fashioned a golden calf and the people worshipped it and said that that it was the god that brought them up out of the land of Egypt. Aaron built an altar before it and he made proclamation and said **“To morrow is a feast to the Lord.”** This reminds me of Easter egg hunts and Santa Claus at church. Israel worshipped the golden calf. When confronted by Moses, Aaron replied with a lie about the whole matter.

Exo. 32:23 For they said unto me, Make us gods, which shall go before us: for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him.
24 And I said unto them, Whosoever hath any gold, let them break it off. So they gave it me: then I cast it into the fire, and there came out this calf.

God warned them in **Exo. 20** and again in **Deut. 8:19** against worshipping other gods.

Deut. 8:19 And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the LORD thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish.

Against the will of God, Solomon married many strange women of nations other than Israel. This caused Israel to become worshippers of other gods as specified below. This included the god Baal, whom God defeated through Elijah many years before.

1Kings11:1 But king Solomon loved many strange women, together with the daughter of Pharaoh, women of the Moabites, Ammonites, Edomites, Zidonians, and Hittites;

1Kings 11:33 Because that they have forsaken me, and have worshipped Ashtoreth the goddess of the Zidonians, Chemosh the god of the Moabites, and Milcom the god of the children of Ammon, and have not walked in my ways, to do that which is right in mine eyes, and to keep my statutes and my judgments, as did David his father.

1Kings 16:31 And it came to pass, as if it had been a light thing for him to walk in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, that he took to wife Jezebel the daughter of Ethbaal king of the Zidonians, and went and served Baal, and worshipped him.

32 And he reared up an altar for Baal in the house of Baal, which he had built in Samaria.

The master of Naaman worshipped a god named Rimmon, who was the god of air-weather-storm, the giver of rain, maker of storms and wielder of the thunderbolt. After Naaman was cleansed of his leprosy, he wanted to give something to the prophet, Elisha. When Elisha would not accept anything, he asked if Elisha if the Lord would pardon him when he went into the house of Rimmon with his master when his master went there to worship.

2Ki 5:15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his company, and came, and stood before him: and he said, Behold, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, but in Israel: now therefore, I pray thee, take a blessing of thy servant.

16 But he said, As the LORD liveth, before whom I stand, I will receive none. And he urged him to take it; but he refused.

17 And Naaman said, Shall there not then, I pray thee, be given to thy servant two mules' burden of earth? For thy servant will henceforth offer neither burnt offering nor sacrifice unto other gods, but unto the LORD.

18 In this thing the LORD pardon thy servant, that when my master goeth into the house of Rimmon to worship there, and he leaneth on my hand, and I bow myself in the house of Rimmon: when I bow down myself in the house of Rimmon, the LORD pardon thy servant in this thing.

Chapter III

True Worship of the True God

Define: Worship = By kneeling or prostration, to do homage or make obeisance (to bow or show respect or reverential regard) whether in order to express respect of make supplication.

Dan. 3:14 Nebuchadnezzar spake and said unto them, Is it true, O Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, do not ye serve my gods, nor worship the golden image which I have set up?

15 Now if ye be ready that at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, and dulcimer, and all kinds of musick, ye fall down and worship the image which I have made; well: but if ye worship not, ye shall be cast the same hour into the midst of a burning fiery furnace; and who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?

16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 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.

18 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.

The account of Nebuchadnezzar and the three Hebrew men is a good picture of true worship of God. The idea of worshipping God in fair weather only is quite popular today. In the face of sure death from the fiery furnace, these men of God had determined to worship God regardless of what the king did. Be assured that God will not look kindly upon the person who worships God only when it is convenient or not dangerous. The three Hebrew men told the king that they would not worship the gods nor bow down to the golden image that the king had set up. This decision had been made before the threat had come to them. This is true worship.

God has instructed that no other gods be worshipped because he is a jealous God. The word used here for “jealous” is found only in the scriptures listed below.

Exo. 34:14 For thou shalt worship no other god: for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God:

See also **Exo. 20:5; Deut. 4:24; 5:9 and 6:15.**

This word used here for “jealous” is used solely of God in the context of his dealing with idolatry. It shows the parallel between adultery and idolatry. As a husband holds his wife to himself and is permitted to kill her and her partner in adultery, so God relates to his people.

Lev. 20:10 And the man that committeth adultery with another man's wife, even he that committeth adultery with his neighbour's wife, the adulterer and the adulteress shall surely be put to death.

Here God likens the adultery of the people of Israel with one another to idolatry of his people toward him and pronounces his judgment upon them.

Jer. 13:10 This evil people, which refuse to hear my words, which walk in the imagination of their heart, and walk after other gods, to serve them, and to worship them, shall even be as this girdle, which is good for nothing.

Jer. 13:27 I have seen thine adulteries, and thy neighings, the lewdness of thy whoredom, and thine abominations on the hills in the fields. Woe unto thee, O Jerusalem! wilt thou not be made clean? When shall it once be?

Jer. 13:14 And I will dash them one against another, even the fathers and the sons together, saith the LORD: I will not pity, nor spare, nor have mercy, but destroy them.

In order that Israel could understand how God felt about their idolatry, he compared it to the adultery that existed among the men and women of Israel. In order that it could be clearly understood, he asked the prophet Hosea to marry a wife of the whoredoms of Israel for Israel had committed great whoredom in departing from the Lord. **Hosea 1:2.** His wife, Gomer, gave birth to a son, then a daughter, and then another son whom God instructed them to name “Loammi”. He was apparently born to Gomer by another man while married to Hosea. This caused God to make this statement to the prophet regarding his people, Israel.

Hosea 1:9 Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

God was telling the prophet that Loammi was not his child just as Israel was not his children any longer. To be sure, the prophet was able to preach to Israel with conviction about illegitimate sons since he had experienced it first hand in his life. This is the same condition that the people of God are in today when idolatry is committed instead of being true to worshipping the one and only true God.

THE ACT OF HOMAGE OR REVERANCE TO GOD is simply set forth in the words in Christ, the Lord himself. It may be to some advantage for his people to examine themselves and see if it is the True God that is being worshipped, or if some other God is being served. The best way to determine this is to ask oneself the question “Am I serving God only?” In the positions that we take regarding the scriptures, in the decisions that are made regarding faithfulness in attendance at the house of the Lord, one is able to determine if God is being served and worshipped above all else. Is the answer that “I am going where Grandma and Grandpa went to church, and I am believing what they believed?”

Matt. 4:10 Then saith Jesus unto him, Get thee hence, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

These words were spoken by Jesus to Satan when he came to tempt him in the wilderness after he had been without food for forty days and nights. Satan had just told Jesus that if he would fall down and worship him, he would give him all of the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them. It is not known whether Satan knew that Jesus would one day have all these things through his redemptive work through his obedient life. It is strongly suspected that Satan did know what Jesus was about to accomplish and he was only offering to him what he would have one day by wresting it from Satan. Satan had become ruler of the world when Adam yielded to his temptation in the Garden of Eden.

More was lost than the spirits of mankind when Adam sinned. It is said in the word that Satan is the god of this world, and he became so when Adam failed to obey God and worship Him alone. Part of the curse on Adam affected the earth also since he was given the responsibility of ruling the earth. There is always a price to pay for failing to worship God and Him alone. Satan deceived Eve and she gave to Adam and he did eat of the forbidden fruit. It did not seem to her that Satan's offer was bad; rather it seemed to be a good idea of becoming like gods, knowing good and evil. It did not occur to her that failing to obey God would have these dire consequences, just as some today make the same mistake.

Gen. 1:28 And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

Gen. 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Gen. 3:17 And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life;

18 Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field;

19 In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.

2Cor. 4:4 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.

When God gave the ten commandments to Moses when he was on the mount, he was specific that Israel was to have no other gods before him. He stated that he was a jealous God and it is ever so today. The principle was re-stated to Israel later in the scriptures.

Exo. 20:3 Thou shalt have no other gods before me.

5 Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me;

Deut. 6:13 Thou shalt fear the LORD thy God, and serve him, and shalt swear by his name.

God speaks through the Prophet Isaiah to remind Israel of His purpose for them as His people.

Isa 43:7 Even every one that is called by my name: for I have created him for my glory, I have formed him; yea, I have made him.

This is not the rambling, repetitious writings that say the same thing in three different ways. God is laying claim to Israel as his people, and is telling them in no uncertain terms why he expects them to worship him and him alone. Three things are set forth in this scripture that binds Israel to God, and also applies to the church people in our day.

1) He said **“I have created him for my glory.”** The word “create” reverts back to the act in **Gen. 1:27 So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created him, male and female created he them.** He used the word “create” three times in this verse and each time he used the word **“bara”** which always means to create in the light of it being defined in the word. See also **Gen. 1:1, 21; 2:3.** This word **“bara”** denotes the concept of initiating something new. It also possesses the meaning of “bringing into existence.” It also emphasizes the initiating of the object. See **THEOLOGICAL WORDBOOK OF THE OLD TESTAMENT** by *Harris, Archer and Waltke.*

This truth is carried forth in the New Testament in several places. The following scripture tells us that not only was man created by God, but also in the image of God.

Col. 3:10 And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:

This scripture tells us that God created all things that are in heaven, earth, and the sea. This, of course, will include mankind.

Rev. 10:6 And sware by him that liveth for ever and ever, who created heaven, and the things that therein are, and the earth, and the things that therein are, and the sea, and the things which are therein, that there should be time no longer:

2) **Isa. 43:7** also says also that God said **“I have formed him.”** This is illustrated in the scriptures that teach us that God is the potter and man is the clay.

Isa. 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Jer. 18:3 Then I went down to the potter's house, and, behold, he wrought a work on the wheels.

4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

5 Then the word of the LORD came to me, saying,

6 O house of Israel, cannot I do with you as this potter? saith the LORD. Behold, as the clay is in the potter's hand, so are ye in mine hand, O house of Israel.

The Biblical account of the creation certainly does away with the theory of evolution that says man began as a one-cell creature and eventually evolved over a period of millions of years to become what he is today. This puts man in the same category with barnyard animals and promotes barnyard morals in people who are looking for a way to escape their responsibility to the creator that fashioned them.

There is no reason to believe anything but that when God created Adam, that he appeared upright on his feet, with an intelligence, a spirit and a body just as men and women are today. It goes without saying that he was not a sinner as men are born today, but becoming a sinner did not change his basic appearance from that which God created and fashioned to suit himself.

The whole argument could be put to rest if we would just remember that God created man in his image and likeness (**Gen. 1:26**), which probably included fashioning his body to look like Christ. He is the image of God, and man looked like the person of Jesus when he would be born into the world. God fashioned man

with hair on his head, two eyes, two ears, a nose and a mouth, with all the intricate nervous system, brain capabilities, digestive system, etc. that we see in ordinary people today. To argue otherwise is to fail to accept what the scriptures teach.

C) God says in **Isa. 43:7 I have made him**. The idea here is that God uses the Old Testament word “**asa**” to denote a thing which he has done with the people that he has created (**bara**) and then fashioned (**yatsar**) as a potter does the clay. This word (**asa**) is used to describe aspects of the creative work of God. God created all of mankind in Adam, but he **made** the nations, one to differ from the other, but expects all to come and worship before him. His hands also gave shape to the sea, earth and the heavens.

Psa. 86:9 All nations whom thou hast made shall come and worship before thee, O Lord; and shall glorify thy name.

Psa. 95:5 The sea is his, and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land.

Psa. 96:5 For all the gods of the nations are idols: but the LORD made the heavens.

We have a threefold obligation to worship God. 1. He created us, 2) He fashioned us and 3) he made us. As God’s creation, we have the capability of seeing the wonderful things that he has done. He gives us the ability to know him as creator, the one who fashioned us and the one who made us. This allows us to have fellowship with him as he meant for his intelligent creatures to do when he created Adam in the beginning of all things. One who fails to do so is a great disappointment to God as was the world when he looked down upon the sinful race and repented that he had ever made man on the earth.

Gen. 6:5 And GOD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.

6 And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.

As one looks upon the activities of mankind today, it is quite easy to know how God must have felt when he looked upon his creation and saw that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. It must be understood that unless one worships God in the manner prescribed by him, he is in the same condition that the people were before the flood. The world today has arrived at the place where there are hundreds of religious groups in this country alone that are embraced by many followers. New religious groups are springing up every day that attract folks that are not content with worshipping God in truth and in Spirit. The general idea today is that a person may choose the religion that pleases him. When this is done, his attendance and support of this religion says that it is equal to all of the other religions, including the true religion that God established.

Little regard is given to whether this group pleases the Lord, or it gives a person the ability and privilege to fellowship with him. The modern day advice is that a person should go to the church of his choice, implying that that is better than not going at all. One needs to keep in mind that all these religious groups are different in the doctrines that they teach. This being true, the doctrines of religions that have started since the Lord's church was organized by Jesus in Jerusalem during his personal ministry, are opposing the doctrines of the true church of Jesus Christ. Folks today are more loose about their worship of God than most any thing in their life.

If a person becomes ill, he goes to the medicine cabinet and chooses the appropriate medication that will cure the ailment. He does not choose just any medication that comes to his vision, believing that it does not make any difference what he takes, that it will cure his sickness. Silly? Surely, yet a person who is untrained in the scriptures is told to choose the church of his choice, implying that it does not make any difference as long as he is in church service somewhere. A person gets off from work in the afternoon and is ready to go home. A decision must be made about what home he goes to. Following the logic above, it does not

make any difference which home he goes to as long as he goes to a home. Try that logic on your wife and see how it works!!!

There have been some true worshippers down through the ages ever since Adam and Eve. There have also been some who would not worship according to God's plan. **Hebrews 11** records the names of Old Testament men and women who walked by faith and received a good report by doing so. **V. 39.** The vast majority refused the will of God and died without having received a good report. The narrow way that God specifies for man to walk leads to life and the broad way that the multitudes choose leads to destruction. Life in this scripture denotes a full life in fellowship with Christ, and after death, the promise of reigning with Christ in the one thousand year kingdom age. Destruction is the opposite of the promises received in life. *The idea is not extinction but ruin, loss, not of being, but of well being.* EXPOSITORY DICTIONARY OF NEW TESTAMENT WORDS by W.E. Vine.

Matt. 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

God went to great trouble to create man, to fashion him and then make him a being that could have fellowship with his creator and give him praise and worship him. God never intended to give man the choice of how he would worship him. God always specified the way to come to him, and the means by which he could worship him and receive blessings from him. God should not be considered to be a some-time God when one gets into trouble or when one has a real physical problem that requires some help above that which man can provide for himself. God is able to provide help in these times, but isn't it bad time to come to God for help when one has not been talking to him at all until then? Several Old Testament saints stand out as being those who talked to God all of the time and then when trouble came, it was easy to trust him for help.

Consider Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego and their response to King Nebuchadnezzar. He made an image of gold about eighty five to ninety feet tall and eight to nine feet wide and set it up in the plain of Dura in the province of Babylon. He commanded that all the people fall down and worship it when they heard the sound of the cornet, flute, harp, sackbut, psaltery, dulcimer and all kinds of music. He warned that all who would not fall down and worship the image would be cast into the midst of a burning fiery furnace. The three Hebrew children refused to worship the golden image and the Chaldeans came near and accused the Jews. They were brought before the king who reminded them of the penalty for refusing to worship the golden image that he had set up. To do so they would have broken the law given to Israel and printed earlier in this chapter. Their reply was very simple and is recorded below in the word of God. This is true worship of the true God.

Dan. 3:16 Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king, O Nebuchadnezzar, we are not careful to answer thee in this matter.

17 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.

18 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.

Consider the experience of Daniel under king Darius. The presidents and princes sought to find occasion against Daniel but could find none. Then they came up with the idea the a law be established that for thirty days that no one ask a petition of God or man save of the king. The king signed it and then Daniel was found praying and making supplication to God. They cast Daniel into the den of lions. The king went to his palace and spent the night fasting and being unable to sleep. When he arose early the next morning he inquired of the welfare of Daniel. Daniel was alive and well and testified to the king of the angel that had come and shut the mouth of the lions so they would not hurt him.

Dan. 6:19 Then the king arose very early in the morning, and went in haste unto the den of lions.

20 And when he came to the den, he cried with a lamentable voice unto Daniel: and the king spake and said to Daniel, O Daniel, servant of the living God, is thy God, whom thou servest continually, able to deliver thee from the lions?

21 Then said Daniel unto the king, O king, live for ever.

22 My God hath sent his angel, and hath shut the lions' mouths, that they have not hurt me: forasmuch as before him innocency was found in me; and also before thee, O king, have I done no hurt.

Lessons can be learned from these Old Testament saints and many others who are listed in the Lord's honor roll of faith in his word. God expects his saints to worship and serve him even under the most adverse circumstances. He will be with his people even when the threat of physical death comes, just as he was with the three Hebrews and Daniel when they defied the order of a wicked king to pray to him only, and to serve his gods and worship the golden image that he had set up. It does not follow that these worshipped only after they had assurance that their lives would be saved. The attitude that is found in the Old Testament and is illustrated in the lives of the Hebrew children is the one that will bring glory to God. They said that God is able to deliver them from the fiery furnace, but if not, we will not serve thy gods nor worship the golden image that thou hast set up. This is true worship in the Old Testament.

Chapter IV

Worship In Spirit and In Truth

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

21 Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father.

22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

23 But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him.

24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Jesus left the land of Judea and traveled to Galilee, and in so doing, passed through the land of Samaria to a city called Sychar. There he met a woman that was come to the well of Jacob to draw water. Jesus asked her for a drink, and in the conversation that followed, the above statements were recorded. The woman knew that the Jews had no dealings with the Samaritans because of their ancestry which was partly Jewish and partly Assyrian. This came about when Sargon II led the armies of Assyria against the Northern kingdom of Israel. It is said that in the twenty five years that followed, more than 200,000 Israelites were removed from their land and resettled throughout the Assyrian empire.

These came to be known by some as the “lost tribes of Israel.” The Assyrians resettled the land with people from other conquered countries. These settlers intermarried with the remaining Israelites and produced people known as Samaritans, so detested by the Jews in later centuries because of their mixed blood. They were even regarded with less esteem than the Gentiles. The Samaritan woman that Jesus meet at the well had religious beliefs and,

outwardly, she seemed to be faithful to her teachings. She knew that the Jews had no dealings with them.

John 4:10 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 wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.

The Samaritans had lived so long under this idea that Samaritans were worse than Gentiles who the Jews called dogs, that she must have assumed that it would always be that way. She was not willing to cross the line that had been drawn for many years that separated the Jews from all the rest of the nations. She gave evidence that she knew little about Jesus, the Messiah who was promised to the Jewish nation. If she had been familiar with the Old Testament scriptures, she would have known that Jesus was coming to bring judgment to the Gentiles as well as the Jews.

Isa. 42:1 Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

2 He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

3 A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

6 I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles;

7 To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and them that sit in darkness out of the prison house.

Matt. 12:18 Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles.

19 He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

20 A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory.

21 And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

Jesus himself testified that this was included in the purpose of his coming into the world. It is true that he told the disciples to go to the Israelites, not in the way of the Gentiles. **Matt. 10:5.** But later, when Israel had rejected the Messiah, he called the Apostle Paul to go to the Gentiles. He took the message that Jesus had brought to Jew first and then to the Gentile through this Apostle.

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

She was like many today, in that she did not understand how Jesus could give her water to drink when he had nothing to draw with. She asked if Jesus was greater than their father, Jacob, who gave them the well and drank of it himself. It is apparent that she did not understand that Jesus was speaking of Holy Spirit, who was symbolized by the water. It seems that all she knew of the coming Messiah was that he would tell them all things when he came. This thought was continued in her thinking when she went into the city to tell the people about meeting this one who claimed to be the Messiah. Remembering that Jesus told her about her five husbands she told the city folks that he told her all things that she ever did.

John 4:25 The woman saith unto him, I know that Messias cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things.

29 Come, see a man, which told me all things that ever I did: is not this the Christ?

One of the greatest sermons that Jesus ever preached was to this lone Samaritan woman, who seemingly had an honest and good heart to know more of Jesus. After Jesus had asked her for a drink she told him that the Jews had nothing to do with the Samaritans. She misunderstood what Jesus came into the world to do. He explained that purpose to her when he mentioned the living water that was the gift of God. He explained to her what the living water was, which he called the gift of God, what he would do to all who would drink of it and how he could be received.

John 4:10 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 wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water.**

14 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 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, **If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.**

38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

Acts 5:32 And we are his witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him.

The gift of God is explained in the following scriptures:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said unto them, **Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.**

Acts 10:45 And they of the circumcision which believed were astonished, as many as came with Peter, because that on the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the Holy Ghost.

Acts 8:20 But Peter said unto him, Thy money perish with thee, because thou hast thought that the gift of God may be purchased with money.

Acts 11:17 Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as he did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God?

Jesus told her that this water would be a well of water springing up into everlasting life. So the promise is that one having Holy Spirit has everlasting life. Most of the time when the term “everlasting or eternal life” is mentioned in the scriptures, it is referring to that quality life that will allow one to inherit the kingdom with Christ for the one thousand year reign on the earth. If one makes it into the next age, then it is the same as life without end, for there is no change in one’s position after entering into and reigning with Jesus in the kingdom age. The following scripture states that we are heirs according to this hope.

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Reigning with Christ is quality life as opposed to being cast into the outer darkness where there is weeping and gnashing of teeth. This is the condition of the unfaithful, those who do not continue to believe after they have been saved. This is the real meaning of **John 3:16** and many other scriptures of promise. The word “believe” has the meaning of “believing” and if one stops believing, then he can no longer claim this promise of salvation into the age. His spirit is still saved (See **1 Cor. 3:15**) but he does not have the promise of inheritance with Christ to reign with him for one thousand years. The one who came running to Jesus in **Mark 10:17** and the ruler that came to him in **Luke 18:18** both

realized that Jesus had to help them if they were to have this quality life, for they did not attain unto it by their fleshly means.

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

Luke 18:18 And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Mt 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

The above scriptures tell of those who will, in the kingdom age, come to Jesus with a complaint about the position that they have in that age. They plead that they had cast out devils, prophesied, and done many wonderful works in his name. Jesus did not deny their claim, but answered them by saying that he never knew (authorized their works) them. They did not come to Jesus as did the two mentioned above to find out what they had to do to inherit this eternal (quality) life. They apparently were dissatisfied with their position in the kingdom age, even though they were saved and worked in a manner that they felt was the proper thing to do.

One can understand this truth by realizing that a person does not go out and work with a group of laborers without first being hired by the person that has the authority to do so, and expect of be paid for their labors. The authority to work for Jesus was given to the New Testament church by Jesus himself. This commission to make disciples, baptize them and teach them what Jesus commanded was given to folk who had been saved, baptized and were walking in

the teachings of Jesus. One is not free to go out and begin having worship services, receive members and expect the Lord to recognize their works. Jesus said in **V.22 Many shall say unto me** implying that a “large part” of mankind would make this plea to him.

One needs only to drive down the highways and he will see many different church buildings with many different names on their signs that have arisen in the last few years. One could and should ask the question, “Who authorized these people to proclaim that they are a legitimate church” and offer promises to the people that come to their services?

John 4:16 Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither.

17 The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband:

18 For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly.

The woman at Jacob’s well told Jesus that they worshipped in the mountain (Gerizim) and she said that Jesus told them that they should worship in Jerusalem. The fact that this woman had five husbands is evidence that she had not been taught the truth about marriage and divorce. Jesus told her that she did not know what she worshipped. **V22.** If she had been taught the truth she would not have been divorced and married five times. True worship will produce some things in a life, such as having Holy Spirit to lead them.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

This will produce a quality life of obedience to the word of God. Anything less than a dedicated life is not a product of true worship. It is not likely that this woman was being led of Holy Spirit in true worship when she was married five times. This is

against the teachings of the word of God, and is illustrated by how loose some so-called churches have become in adhering to this teaching. God is not obligated to accept the practices of “the many” when they are different from his teachings. He will not bless when folks act against the leading of Holy Spirit.

Matt. 19:8 He saith unto them, Moses because of the hardness of your hearts suffered you to put away your wives: but from the beginning it was not so.

9 And I say unto you, Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery: and whoso marrieth her which is put away doth commit adultery.

Jesus told her that salvation was of (out of) the Jews. **V22.** The truth of this statement is seen in that Jesus was born of Mary, who was the espoused of Joseph, before they came together. So the promised Saviour came out of the nation of Israel. Salvation is in Christ, and so did salvation of the life originate in Jesus by his coming into the world. This woman’s life did not show evidence that she was keeping the Old Testament scriptures, because of her marriage experiences. Jesus is telling her of the new way of worship in Spirit and in truth that would save her life if she would hear it. The Father seeketh such to worship him and when this is done, Christ will be glorified. Spirit led people preach and teach and keep the truth. This is the real test of love for Christ.

John 16:13 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 shew you things to come.

14 He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and shall shew it unto you.

John 14:23 Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Jesus told this woman about her five husbands. The emphasis here is that the Samaritans were worshipping in the mountain (Gerizim) and Jesus told her she did not know what she worshipped. True worship will produce some things in a life, such as having Holy Spirit to lead. This will produce a quality life of obedience to the word of God. Anything less than a dedicated life is not a product of true worship. Having five husbands is evidence that she was not being led of Holy Spirit in the true worship of God.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

Jesus told her that salvation was of the Jews. Jesus was telling this woman that salvation came out from the Jews. He was not saying that only Jews could be saved. This is not logical nor scriptural since many were saved before there were any Jews. The nation of Israel began with the twelve sons of Jacob when he began to be called Israel. See **Gen. 32:28**. Jesus was born out of the nation of Israel and became the author of eternal salvation to all that would obey him.

Heb. 5:9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

This eternal salvation is unto a life of quality that originated with the coming of Christ into the world through Israel. Through the unbelief of Israel they, as the true branches, were broken off and the Gentiles were grafted in and became recipients of the promises that were originally made to Israel. There is a vast amount of difference between the salvation of the spirit and the salvation of the life. One's spirit is saved when he repents of sin and trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ. **Acts 20:21**. His life is saved as it is lived in the will of God each day. The idea that all future sins are forgiven when a person repents of sin and trusts in the Lord Jesus Christ cannot be found in the word of God.

What Israel lost when they turned from their Messiah is found in the promises of the new covenant that was made with them in the Old Testament. When they refused to accept Jesus as their Messiah, they forfeited any claim to these promises and then they were then given to the Gentiles in the New Testament church. When God first called Israel to be his people, he made promises, but they were conditional on their obedience to the commands made in the covenant. When they failed to be obedient, then the covenant was taken away.

Jer. 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

Exo. 19:3 And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel;

4 Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.

5 Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine:

6 And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel.

7 And Moses came and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the LORD commanded him.

8 And all the people answered together, and said, All that the LORD hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the LORD.

Hosea 1:2 The beginning of the word of the LORD by Hosea. And the LORD said to Hosea, Go, take unto thee a wife of whoredoms and children of whoredoms: for the land hath committed great whoredom, departing from the LORD.

9 Then said God, Call his name Loammi: for ye are not my people, and I will not be your God.

After Israel refused the claims of their Messiah, rejected and crucified him, God turned away from them, cut them off from his promises and turned to the Gentiles. He also warned the Gentiles that if they did not abide in the faith that he would also cut them off from his promises. He did hold out the promise of receiving Israel back to himself if they did not abide still in unbelief.

Rom. 11:20 Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear:

21 For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee.

22 Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.

23 And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graff them in again.

For about four hundred years, God did not speak to Israel as his covenant people because of their unbelief in his promises and the worship of false Gods. One can easily see how that the Samaritan woman at Jacob's well, who was only part Jewish, knew so very little about the manner of true worship and the coming of the Messiah. It was a hopeless situation when Jesus told her, **God is a Spirit and they that worship him, must worship him in spirit and in truth. John 4:24.** The Spirit had not yet been given to God's people, so it is easy to see how this woman did not know what she worshipped, as Jesus said in **V. 22. True worshippers shall worship in Spirit and in truth, for the Father seeketh such to worship him. V.23.** She was expecting the Messiah to come and tell them all things. **V.25.**

Jesus revealed himself to her as the Messiah that she had been waiting to see. She became excited, left her waterpot and went into the city and told them to come and see a man that told her all things that she ever did. She said, **Is not this the Christ? V.29.** Worshipping God in truth and in Spirit will get one's mind off of self and give him a mission in life. A true worshipper will have a testimony for the Lord, and will have a desire to bring others to him. It did not matter that she had been married five times; she still had a message and the people believed her.

A true worshipper will influence others to believe in the Messiah. **V.39.** One does not need to have a D.D. in theology to have a witness. One only needs to go and tell your friends that you have found the Messiah and tell what he has done for you. Has Jesus done anything for you? This is the testimony that people will hear and be influenced by. Did she become a true worshipper, even though she had been married five times? Some believed on him because of the saying of the woman and others believed because of his own word. Some did believe because of the saying of the woman. All can have a testimony for the Lord. Clean up your life, pray up, have a testimony then use it for the Lord.

John 4:39 And many of the Samaritans of that city believed on him for the saying of the woman, which testified, He told me all that ever I did.

40 So when the Samaritans were come unto him, they besought him that he would tarry with them: and he abode there two days.

41 And many more believed because of his own word;

42 And said unto the woman, Now we believe, not because of thy saying: for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world.

Now let us make a practical application of the lesson to us today. How do those who view your life respond to your testimony? This woman was much less than perfect in the flesh, yet she met Jesus and Jesus had a conversation with her that prompted her to respond in a positive way and cause many to come to the knowledge of

Christ. Would you hear the testimony of a woman who had been married five times? Can Jesus use a person like that? Jesus said, **Matt. 9:13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.** Jesus loves to give mercy to those who need it and ask for it. Will those who observe your worship believe that God is in you of a truth? His word says that every man has a different thing that he wants to do. They must all be done to the edifying of the Lord and his body.

1Cor. 14:25 And thus are the secrets of his heart made manifest; and so falling down on his face he will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth.

26 How is it then, brethren? when ye come together, every one of you hath a psalm, hath a doctrine, hath a tongue, hath a revelation, hath an interpretation. Let all things be done unto edifying.

Chapter V

True Worship is According to the Written Word

Lu 4:8 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.

It is important that one checks with the written word, the scriptures, to determine whom to worship, and in what manner he is to be worshipped. It has been previously established that true worship must be in Spirit and in truth. Much worship has been attributed to Spirit that he had nothing to do with, because it is not done in truth, that is, in harmony with the teachings of God's word. The word of God is the sword of the Spirit, and he will accompany that which God sent him to perform. He does not need our help, gimmicks, sleight of hand, lies, deceits, etc., but rather just speaking the truth in love, that will cause a person to grow up into him in all things.

Eph. 4:14 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;

15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

What does the Word of God say about the true worship of God? We shall see 1) the Heavenly scene, 2) the earthly scene between saints and angels, 3) testing of the people of God in their worship, 4) message of the angel to earth's inhabitants, 5) all nations will one day worship God.

1) SCENES OF HEAVENLY WORSHIP IN THE WORD

Three things are revealed by God to John as he calls him up to heaven to be shown things which must be hereafter.

Some believe that this is the time that the Lord calls his faithful church folk up to him in what is commonly called the rapture of the saints. It is said by some that the saints are not mentioned in the **Revelation** after the letters to the seven churches in chapters two and three. It is noticed that the summons to come up here is given to John only, to show him things that must be hereafter. He writes them in the book of Revelation so that the saints may read and understand the future things that God will do.

Rev. 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

John described a heavenly scene consisting of a heavenly throne and one sitting on the throne who must be the Lord himself

Rev. 4:2 And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne.

3 And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.

Twenty-four elders are seated before the one described in **Rev. 4:2-3**. An elder is one who holds his position by virtue of his wisdom and righteous works, indicated by their white clothing. These garments are explained in **Rev. 19:8** as being the righteous works of the holy ones. There seems to be no reason why we should not accept this interpretation here. In addition, a crown seems to be the token of accomplishment on the part of the wearer. The word used here is “stephanos” which is a garland of victory, a victor’s crown, a token of public honor for distinguished service. Therefore, these elders are enthroned in heaven as a result of what they previously accomplished or more accurately, what they have or will accomplish on earth, depending on whether they have died at this time or will die in the future.

Rev, 4:4 And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.

10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Twenty-four is the sum of two twelves, and twelve is God's number of governmental perfection. God has established two governments on the earth, which are the nation of Israel, and the New Testament church. Thus the elders seem to refer to the twelve tribes of Israel, to be brought into governmental perfection in the Millennium or Kingdom age, and to the church as represented by the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

In a sense, the church has already come into governmental perfection, but this perfection will be made ultimate also in the Millennium. Therefore, the twenty-four elders would be a token of heavenly firstfruits of what God will ultimately accomplish in his two chosen people. This is illustrated in the description that the Lord gives of the holy city, Jerusalem that is the future eternal dwelling of the saints of God.

Rev. 21:10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God,

11 Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious, even like a jasper stone, clear as crystal;

12 And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel:

13 On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates.

14 And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

The four beasts are introduced in the following verses:

Rev. 4:6 And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.

7 And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle.

8 And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.

9 And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever,

The four beasts (living creatures) represent the animal life that will live on the earth during the kingdom reign of Christ. The renovated earth is made suitable for the presence of Jesus as he reigns and also the glorified saints and also the animal life that will live in peace and harmony during the thousand years. Everything that was lost in the sin of Adam is restored in the obedience of Jesus while he was here on the earth. This is the redemption that will come to the ruined creation when the saints are raised with a new body. The creation could not speak for itself, so God gave Adam the authority to speak for it. It is obvious what happened in the fall of Adam, so the second Adam, Jesus, acted on behalf of the ruined creation and it will be redeemed with man when he is raised in glory at the coming of Jesus in glory.

Rom. 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for the manifestation of the sons of God.

20 For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope,

21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

22 For we know that the whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now.

23 And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body.

There is not much said in the scriptures about any animals being on the glorified earth. They were present in the scene in the Garden of Eden, but were denied the privilege of living in that ideal place. Since they were adversely affected by the sin and fall of Adam, it seems only logical that they will be in the group that is redeemed to live on the glorified earth. These were the creatures that were saved from the flood by God's instruction to Adam. Other scriptures speak of the creation that could be understood to include animals and birds.

Gen. 7:2 Of every clean beast thou shalt take to thee by sevens, the male and his female: and of beasts that are not clean by two, the male and his female.

3 Of fowls also of the air by sevens, the male and the female; to keep seed alive upon the face of all the earth.

Col. 1:15 Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

Rev. 3:14 And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God;

Mark 13:19 For in those days shall be affliction, such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be.

2Pet. 3:4 And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation.

The spokesmen for these four living creatures, who may be Cherubim or angelic beings in nature, attributed holiness unto the Lord and gave glory, honor and thanks to him that sat upon the throne who lives forever and ever. These creatures do not worship him until it is recorded later in the Revelation. This is after the redemption of man as is stated in **Rom. 8:19**.

Rev. 19:4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

The worship of the four and twenty elders is introduced after the four beasts (living creatures) and seems to represent the two perfect governments. They fall before him that sat on the throne and worship him that liveth forever and ever. These elders remove their crowns from their heads and cast them down in the presence of the Lord sitting on the throne. They thus confess glory to God far above any glory due to themselves. They, along with the four living beings, praise God for creation.

Rev. 4:10 The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying,

11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

It is definitely stated that the creation came into existence because it was the will of God for it to be so. It is also specified that God is the author of creation. There is no sensible explanation for the creation other than that it was made by an all powerful and infinitely wise and benevolent God. The theory of evolution denies all scientific principles on which scientific facts rest. Science says that for every effect there must be a significant cause. Evolution says the effect of creation was produced without sufficient cause.

There is a scene between the angelic beings and John that is of some note. It happens at the marriage of the Lamb as recorded in **Rev. 19:1-10**. A voice attributes salvation and glory and honor and power unto the Lord. They attribute righteousness to the judgments of the Lord who has just judged the great whore. They say “alleluia” to him twice. The twenty four elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped him, then the bride is introduced.

Rev. 19:1 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:

3 And again they said, Alleluia. And her smoke rose up for ever and ever.

4 And the four and twenty elders and the four beasts fell down and worshipped God that sat on the throne, saying, Amen; Alleluia.

6 And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth.

Rev. 19:7 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.

John then sees the heavenly being and falls at his feet to worship him. The response was that he was not to do that and stated the reason for what he said. The he said unto John “**Worship God.**” The sum and substance of this is that angels are not to be worshipped by man, for all worship is to be directed to the Father.

Rev. 19:10 And I fell at his feet to worship him. And he said unto me, See thou do it not: I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren that have the testimony of Jesus: worship God: for the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

God is now instructing the angel to measure the religious world in worship.

Rev. 11:1 And there was given me a reed like unto a rod: and the angel stood, saying, Rise, and measure the temple of God, and the altar, and them that worship therein.

2 But the court which is without the temple leave out, and measure it not; for it is given unto the Gentiles: and the holy city shall they tread under foot forty and two months.

This measuring is to take place just before the tribulation period begins. God is taking a religious census of all the people in the world. He specifies two different groups of people. One is the worshippers in the temple, and the other is the group in the court who tread under foot the city for forty two months of the tribulation period. It should be understood that the first group are the true people of God, and not Israel. The literal temple does not exist, neither is Israel worshipping God at this time. These must be the church people who are worshipping God in Spirit and in truth.

God tells John not to measure those outside the temple. Those outside the temple are the people who are not worshipping in truth and in Spirit. Included in the group that God does not want measured are the Jews who rejected Christ and the apostate religious world. There is no essential difference between the two since they both reject Christ as Lord and accept the antichrist at this time. One can only imagine how God the Father must feel toward those who reject the claims of the Messiah, the Son of God, but accept the anti-christ when he comes claiming to be the true Christ.

John 5:43 I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive.

2Thess. 2:3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

God issues a last call to worship God before judgment comes. Some make the accusation against God that he does not like them and sits upon his throne with a big stick in his hand, ready to pounce upon mankind at the slightest provocation. Scriptures tell us of his attitude toward his creation as one of desire that all would come to him and worship him, which was what he intended in the beginning of the creation. Yet, many fail to read the scriptures and see that he is a God of love and expects his creatures to come to him in humility and worship.

Matt. 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

29 Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

30 For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.

Matt. 19:14 But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.

John 6:65 And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.

God has always given the world a warning before he brings his judgment upon the sons of men. Many times it is not heeded because of the sinful hearts of men who decide that they just will not yield to the will of God that they might be saved from his wrath. This is seen in the actions of Cain when he brought his offering to God, evidently knowing that God would not accept it. He became angry with Abel and when they were in the field, he rose up and slew his brother. Scripture explains why he did it.

1John 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Rev. 14:6 And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,

7 Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

Rev. 14:1-5 tells of the church saints who are not included in those who are invited to come and worship him, for they are already with him. Those excluded from his warning are described in certain terms by the song of the one hundred forty four thousand who have the Father's name written in their foreheads. They learned the new song that was the song of redemption. These were not defiled with women (false religion). They were redeemed from among men. They were the firstfruits unto God and the Lamb. There was no guile found in their mouth. They are without fault before the throne of God.

The invitation is to all those who are left on the earth. They can qualify to miss this great hour of his judgment just as these mentioned above. The result of his judgment is found in the following verses:

Rev. 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Please take note that the reason that the Lord is bringing his wrath upon these people is the fact that they have worshipped the beast and his image and have received his mark in his forehead or in his hand. This took place during the seven years of tribulation in order to escape the punishment of the anti-christ. Note in **V.3** that the ones who worship the Lord have the Father's name written in their forehead. This indicates ownership of God the Father. Would one not think that these deserve the wrath of God for refusing to worship the Father through Jesus Christ, and then freely worshipping the anti-christ when he comes? The word (wrath) used here is the stronger word than is usually used in the scriptures for wrath. The word used here means "boiling passion" and the normal usage being the "nature of God that stands in opposition to man's disobedience."

The word "wrath" that means "boiling passion" is used only eight times in the scriptures, six of them in the Book of Revelation when speaking of Jesus coming to bring judgment upon a sinful world. This is a result of the wrong choice of worshipping the anti-christ instead of the real Christ. God gave his only son, Jesus Christ, in order that we could be saved and have fellowship with the Father through the Lord Jesus Christ. Would you not agree that God has the right to be angry with those who spurn his love made available through Jesus Christ, and then worship the anti-christ, who is the tool of Satan himself? God gave mankind the ability to make choices, but then will bless or punish according to the choices made.

After the seven seals are opened, the seven trumpets have been blown and the seven vials have been poured out upon the people who have refused to worship Jesus Christ, they will be forced to come and worship before the Lord. Would it not be better to make the right choice to accept Jesus as Lord, worship him, and escape the wrath of God than to be forced to worship him after the wrath has been poured out upon all the world? Mankind has been known to turn from Jesus Christ and do their own method of worshipping a lower form of creation, yet expect God's blessings to be upon

them. The selling that Satan has done to mankind is this: “Don’t worry about me, I will be all right when the time comes.” The fatal mistake made is that many look upon God as being one who is similar to themselves, overlooking faults and sins of others. God is the same, year after year, and does not change. Just as this promise is true to God’s people, it is also true to the rebellious.

Mal. 3:6 For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed.

Nahum 1:3 The LORD is slow to anger, and great in power, and will not at all acquit the wicked: the LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet.

Rev. 15:4 Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Rev. 15:1-3 tells of those who have gotten the victory over the beast, his image, his mark, and the number of his name. God is praised by these because great and marvelous are his works, and just and true are his ways. Jesus Christ never wins a victory by power apart from righteous principles. This is how he wins the right to become king of the nations.

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent:

31 Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.

CHAPTER VI

True Worship As To Those Of Superior Rank

Let us be reminded that true worship is defined by kneeling in prostration to do homage or make obeisance whether in order to express respect or to make supplication.

Much worship is not true worship, for it must be done in spirit and in truth. The Samaritan woman worshipped in the mountain. Did she think this was the thing that made it true worship?

John 4:20 Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.

John 12:20 And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast:

21 The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus.

Is seeing the physical Jesus true worship? Some have said "If I had been with Jesus in the flesh, I would have worshipped him." True worship is in spirit by faith. Jesus told the Greeks that a grain of wheat had to fall into the earth and die.

John 4:24 God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.

John 12:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.

An Ethiopian eunuch, one of great authority under Candace, queen of Ethiopia, having charge of all her treasure, came to Jerusalem to worship. Yet he did not know whom he worshipped. But he understood authority and doing obeisance and homage to one in authority.

Acts 8:27 And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship,

32 The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth:

33 In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth.

34 And the eunuch answered Philip, and said, I pray thee, of whom speaketh the prophet this? of himself, or of some other man?

Satan wanted Jesus to bow down and worship him. This is in keeping with his character that was manifested to God. Satan recognized the authority of superior rank and desired it for himself, so that all would bow down and worship him.

Matt. 4:9 And saith unto him, All these things will I give thee, if thou wilt fall down and worship me.

Isa. 14:12 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!

13 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:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

15 Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.

16 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;

17 That made the world as a wilderness, and destroyed the cities thereof; that opened not the house of his prisoners?

TRUE WORSHIP OF CHRIST AS THE SON OF GOD

Not all who came to Jesus came for the purpose of true worship, for not all recognized Jesus as the Son of God and the one whom God sent into the world.

The wise men came from far off in the east and worshipped him. Proof is seen in the gifts that were brought and presented unto him. Gold was the symbol of royalty, recognizing Jesus as the coming king. Frankincense was used in the Old Testament offerings in the meal which made a sweet savour and symbolized the character of Christ. Myrrh was used in embalming, signifying that Jesus born to die for the sins of the world. Did these bring these gifts by chance? There is every indication that they knew what they were bringing and why.

2Sam. 12:30 And he took their king's crown from off his head, the weight whereof was a talent of gold with the precious stones: and it was set on David's head. And he brought forth the spoil of the city in great abundance.

Lev. 6:15 And he shall take of it his handful, of the flour of the meat offering, and of the oil thereof, and all the frankincense which is upon the meat offering, and shall burn it upon the altar for a sweet savour, even the memorial of it, unto the LORD.

Lev. 5:11 But if he be not able to bring two turtledoves, or two young pigeons, then he that sinned shall bring for his offering the tenth part of an ephah of fine flour for a sin offering; he shall put no oil upon it, neither shall he put any frankincense thereon: for it is a sin offering.

Matt. 2:2 Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him.

Matt. 2:11 And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

The angels of God were required to worship him.

Heb. 1:6 And again, when he bringeth in the firstbegotten into the world, he saith, And let all the angels of God worship him.

The following quotation is from the Septuagint version of:
Deut. 32:43 Rejoice ye heathen with him and let the angels of God worship him. Rejoice ye Gentiles, with his people and let all the sons of God strengthen themselves in him.

The Apostles worshipped him at his ascension.

Luke 24:52 And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy:

Again at the sight of Jesus after his resurrection they worshipped him.

Matt. 28:17 And when they saw him, they worshipped him: but some doubted.

Mary and Martha worshipped him after the resurrection.

Matt. 28:9 And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet, and worshipped him.

OTHERS WORSHIPPED THOSE OF SUPERIOR RANK

The bible gives us examples of those of the Lord's people who may not have worshipped him in spirit and in truth, but as one who was superior in rank. This may be the reason that some go to church and obey the teachings of the denomination by one who has several letters after his name, because he is greater in rank.

The mother of Zebedee's children came and requested that her two sons sit, one on his right hand and the other on the left hand of Jesus in his kingdom. She may have worshipped him for personal reasons, that is, to gain favor for her sons. Perhaps there was nothing wrong with her request, but it is not true worship because it was done for the wrong reason.

Matt. 20:20 Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him.

21 And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these, my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom.

22 But Jesus answered and said, Ye know not what ye ask. Are ye able to drink of the cup that I shall drink of, and to be baptized with the baptism that I am baptized with? They say unto him, we are able.

A leper came and worshipped him because he believed that Jesus could make him clean. Jesus could and did cleanse him, but is this true worship? In truth and in spirit is a position or condition that one comes to abide in through the word and Spirit of God, and not because the Lord did some fleshly favor for us. Another time, ten lepers came to Jesus and asked to be cleansed, which Jesus did, but only one turned back to glorify God as they turned to go.

Matt. 8:2 And, behold, there came a leper and worshipped him, saying, Lord, if thou wilt, thou canst make me clean.

Luke 17:12 And as he entered into a certain village, there met him ten men that were lepers, which stood afar off:

13 And they lifted up their voices, and said, Jesus, Master, have mercy on us.

14 And when he saw them, he said unto them, Go shew yourselves unto the priests. And it came to pass, that, as they went, they were cleansed.

15 And one of them, when he saw that he was healed, turned back, and with a loud voice glorified God,

A ruler of the synagogue came and worshipped him, and asked that he come and restore life to his daughter that had just died. He realized that Jesus was able to do this, and this is a good thought, but true worship goes farther than life itself, or even good health. True worship does not guarantee good health, but will provide the good grace to accept the position in which we find ourselves.

Matt. 9:18 While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live.

The woman of Canaan, a Gentile, who had a daughter vexed with a devil, came and worshipped Jesus and asked him to help her. She was not in the position to receive God's blessings that were promised to his covenant people, but Jesus answered her request in the positive, because he said that her faith was great. This was an example of faith being rewarded because her faith was greater than that which Jesus said he had seen in Israel.

Matt. 15:25 Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me.

26 But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs.

27 And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

28 Then Jesus answered and said unto her, O woman, great is thy faith: be it unto thee even as thou wilt. And her daughter was made whole from that very hour.

The scripture records the actions of Cornelius in **Acts 10**. He was a devout man, feared God with all his house, gave much alms to the people and prayed to God always. **Vs2** Yet God would not answer his prayer **VV4-6** until he did something required of him which was the truth recorded in God's word. That truth was that baptism and fellowship in the body of Christ must precede true worship of God. As Peter came to him, Cornelius fell down and

worshipped him. **Vs25** Peter made him stand up told him that he was just a man also. **Vs26** There is a tendency to worship those who are superior in rank to the one in need. This should not be done.

A debtor forgave his servant a tremendous debt that he could never have paid. He worshipped the debtor and asked him to have patience and he would repay all. One who bestows material benefits is more likely to be worshipped than the one who enables us to worship in truth and in Spirit.

Matt. 18:26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all.

The man with an unclean spirit came and worshipped Jesus before he had cast out the evil spirit. Jesus made him feel better and he did homage to him, realizing that Jesus was greater and had more authority to deal with these matters.

Mark 5:6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him,

The blind man for whom Jesus opened his eyes, believed and worshipped him after Jesus told him who he was. It is difficult to worship the Lord if he is not known to the person healed. This refutes the notion that Jesus only heals those who have great faith.

John 9:35 Jesus heard that they had cast him out; and when he had found him, he said unto him, Dost thou believe on the Son of God?

36 He answered and said, Who is he, Lord, that I might believe on him?

37 And Jesus said unto him, Thou hast both seen him, and it is he that talketh with thee.

38 And he said, Lord, I believe. And he worshipped him.

Some fail to recognize the superior rank of Jesus and worshipped him in mockery. They did not know about Jesus, only that they had rank over him as they crucified him. They did not know what God had decided to do for Jesus because he had humbled himself before these wicked men and became obedient unto death, even the death on the cross.

Mark 15:19 And they smote him on the head with a reed, and did spit upon him, and bowing their knees worshipped him.

Phil. 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

10 That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;

11 And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

Instead of worshipping Jesus in mockery like they did as they scourged him prior to crucifying him, one should avail himself of the scriptures that tell us of Jesus Christ and what he expects of us. One day all will stand before him in judgment unless preparation is made in this life to have sins forgiven so that one can stand before him to receive reward instead of punishment.

CHAPTER VII

True Worship Brings Everlasting Life

John 4:14 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.

Two sets of words used in the King James Version of the Bible, “everlasting life” and “eternal life”, come from precisely the same words in the language from which the Bible was translated, that being “Zoen Aionion”. This is graphically illustrated in **John 3:15** where **eternal life**” is used, and in **John 3:16** where **“everlasting life”** is used, both coming from the same words which are described above. It is not the writer’s attempt to show how much Greek that he knows, for I know very little, but to make a point about which some other things will be mentioned later.

It may be good to define these terms at this point. The word **“life”** comes from **Zoen** and the words **“eternal”** or **“everlasting”**

come from the word **Aionion** which has the meaning age, hence the meaning “life into the age”, eternity. These two words are then translated as **“Eternal or everlasting life”**. It is important to recognize these words as referring to those who are saved and are believing in the teachings of Christ daily, that is, on a continuing basis. The words in both passages are participial verbs and mean “the one believing” and not “One who has believed”. It is incorrect to teach that this promise applies to one who was saved some years ago and has never followed through on his profession. It is not sufficient to qualify for these promises for one to have believed to the saving of the spirit. One must continue to believe as the life is lived on a daily basis.

It would be well to note at this time that the words **“shall live forever in John 6:51, 58”** can be properly used as “life into the age”. The usage here tells us the saints have this life with Christ until the age of the Millennium or kingdom age when, at that time,

will be changed into a glorified body to reign with him. At the end of the thousand year reign, then the saints move into the holy city, new Jerusalem, where the promises of no tears, no crying, nor death will be realized. It should be easy to see that once the saints enter into the kingdom age that no changes will ever be made, nor could be made in their relationship to Jesus. See **Eccl. 11:3**. This is the true sense of everlasting or eternal life or quality life and joyous life of living forever with Jesus Christ and the Father.

Jesus promised that Holy Spirit would abide with the church **for ever**. **John 14:16**. When Jesus comes to call the saints (the faithful members of his true church) out of the world, it will not be necessary for Holy Spirit to abide with her any longer, for then the church saints will be with Jesus Christ in person. Holy Spirit was promised to the church because Jesus was going away. When he is present with the church again, Holy Spirit is not needed any longer. Thus He is present with the church forever or into the kingdom age of one thousand years.

The same is true of the promise of the presence of Jesus as high priest to the church forever. **Heb. 5:6**. When Jesus comes back to the earth to set up his kingdom, he will not be high priest any longer, but will reign as king over the entire world. The promise was good until the beginning of the kingdom age.

The promise to some are **raging waves of the sea, foaming out their own shame; wandering stars, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever**. **Jude 13**. This promise is to those who live ungodly lives in this life, with no regard to the demands that the Lord makes upon them for righteous living. This blackness of darkness is reserved to them forever or into the age. They will be cast into hades to await the second resurrection as promised in **Rev. 20:13**. They will miss the beauty and glory of the kingdom age of reigning with Christ over all the earth.

In some places in the Bible is found the term **forever and ever** such as **Heb. 1:8** where it speaks of the throne of God. This term,

“For ever and ever” actually translated means “into the ages of the ages” and always means endless eternity. This is the meaning that many Bible students give to the general terms “forever,” “eternal life” or “everlasting life” which is interpreted incorrectly to mean endless eternity. Only one reference **“for ever and ever”** speaks of the glorified saints and this is speaking of their reigning in the holy city new Jerusalem, and does not refer to their salvation. See **Rev. 22:5**.

One reference, **Rev. 14:11**, speaks of the torment of the beast worshippers as being **“for ever and ever.”** Another reference, **Rev. 19:3**, speaks of the destruction of the great whore. Another reference, **Rev. 20:10**, speaks of the torment of Satan. The remaining 17 verses that mention **“for ever and ever”** have to do with the glorified saints and their relation to God as they give him praise and honor and glory.

These words **“for ever and ever”** are never used to describe the relationship of man in his salvation. The words **“eternal, everlasting, and forever”** are never used in the context of endless life in salvation. They speak primarily of life into the age. God does not guarantee life in the holy city new Jerusalem to all who have trusted the Lord in salvation of the spirit. He does promise “salvation” of the life to all who will **“lay hold on eternal life,” 1 Tim. 6:12, 1 Tim. 6:19, “that they may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.”**

One of the most beloved and oft-quoted scriptures in all of the Bible teaches us that one **“should not perish”** which tells us that one may or may not perish. This word is in the subjunctive mood and expresses doubt or contingency. It is in the middle voice, denoting the subject acting upon self or concerning self. Keep in mind that this is not speaking of the spirit that was saved when we repented of sin and trusted in Jesus, but it is speaking of the life that can be saved or lost. The statements above say that we may also obtain the salvation which is in Christ. It also admonishes us to lay hold on eternal life, and that we should not perish, but have everlasting life or life into the age.

The following scriptures teach us that there is something that the saints must do to retain that life that is in Christ and that there is something that can be lost by failing to do so. If the saints endure unto the end, hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end, the Lord will give them power over the nations, which means that the glorified saints will reign with him in the kingdom age of one thousand years.

Matt. 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Mark 13:13 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Heb. 3:6 But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

Rev. 2:26 And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations:

Rev. 20:6 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.

1 Pet. 5:10 But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Let us examine for the purpose of clarity, the word “life” as it is used with the words “eternal or everlasting.” “Life” as is read in the scriptures, comes from the root word “Zao” and has the simple meaning of “to live, be among the living, be alive, not lifeless, not

dead.” This is understood in the physical realm, that if a person is alive, he is not dead.

Then the term “eternal or everlasting life” is examined in the context of its use in the religious world today. Most use this term to mean that one is saved, without regard to whether it is used of salvation of the spirit or salvation of the life. It really becomes confused when it is understood that this term was never intended to be used in this context, but rather it needs to be seen that the word teaches us that all people that have ever lived on the earth have eternal or everlasting life, meaning that one has the breath of life in him that God breathed into Adam. When at physical death the body returns to the earth from which it was taken, and the spirit returns to God who gave it to await the resurrection of the body from the dead to receive reward or to be condemned according to the following scriptures.

Gen. 2:7 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.

Eccl. 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

**John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,
29 And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**

See also Rev. 20:1-15.

So it can be seen that all have “eternal or everlasting” life in the sense that it is used, or rather mis-used, by religious people today. All live forever, so when Jesus died on the cross to give to mankind “eternal or everlasting” life, he was either providing for something that man already had (ridiculous isn’t it?) or the life that

Jesus was making possible when he died on the cross did not pertain to length of life, but quality of life that is in Jesus Christ.

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 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.

The never ending life is a fact, promised by God, though some would like to have that promise withdrawn. It is inherent with mankind, and one is not required to do anything to have it, it comes with being born into the world. However, there is another “life” that is promised to those who are the “believing ones”, the term that is used in all of the following scriptures.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 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 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.

John 6:35 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.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. **Believest thou this?**

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

There are many other scriptures that could be listed, that teach this same truth. This is the life salvation that is ignored by many Bible students today to their own confusion. This life is conditional, provided as long as one continues to believe on Jesus Christ. It is evident in **John 3:15-16**, when the scriptures make the promise to everyone believing in him, noticing that this is written in the participial verb form, requiring continual belief if one is to continually claim these promises. The perishing mentioned here is of the life and not the saved spirit of man. This is further illustrated in the **“losing of the soul (life)”** in the following scriptures, else one must confess to the losing of spirit salvation.

Matt. 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

Mark 8:36 For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?

Deut. 30:15 See, I have set before thee this day life and good, and death and evil;

19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

So, if life cannot be understood by its length, then what is the real meaning of “eternal or everlasting” life? It is defined by *J.H. Thayer* in his GREEK ENGLISH LEXICON as “life, real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed. The portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new accessions (increase by something added, the act of coming to or reaching a throne, an office or a condition, such as manhood) (among them a more perfect body) to last forever. Life is the ability to exercise all one’s vital powers to the fullest, death being just the opposite. The writers of the Old Testament have anticipated this concept by employing words to denote a happy life and every kind of blessing.” See **Deut. 30:15,19** above.

Mal. 2:5 My covenant was with him of life and peace; and I gave them to him for the fear wherewith he feared me, and was afraid before my name.

Prov. 8:35 For whoso findeth me findeth life, and shall obtain favour of the LORD.

Prov. 12:28 In the way of righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death.

This life is defined by *J.H. Thayer* in his GREEK ENGLISH LEXICON as “the absolute fullness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through him to Christ, the word that was made flesh and dwelt among us.” This life is in Christ, because in him life was comprehended. The heathen and ungodly reflect none of the character of Christ, because they comprehend him not through the study of the word. The life was the light of men because the life of men is self conscious, and thus a fountain of intelligence springs up. The Logos (word) having life in itself and communicating to others, was manifested in Christ, clothed in flesh. From this divine fountain of life flows forth that life which has been defined above.

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

Joh 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

1John 1:1 That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life;

2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

John 4:14 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 7:38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

This life is defined by usage in the following scriptures.

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Col. 3:4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory.

1John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

1John 5:20 And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.

2Tim. 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, according to the promise of life which is in Christ Jesus,

John 5:26 For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

See also **John 6:51,53; Rom. 7:10; Phil. 2:16; 2 Pet. 1:3; Eph 4:18.**

Life (Zoa and Zao) is used of the blessing of the real life after the resurrection in the scriptures below.

Matt. 7:14 Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

Acts 3:15 And killed the Prince of life, whom God hath raised from the dead; whereof we are witnesses.

2Cor. 5:4 For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life.

2Tim. 1:10 But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

Other scriptures that deal with this subject are found in: **Matt. 18:8-9; John 5:29; James 1:12; Rev. 2:7,10; 22:12,14,19.**

Then there is the book of life, which is the roll of those faithful saints for which the kingdom inheritance is intended.

Phil. 4:3 And I intreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel, with Clement also, and with other my fellowlabourers, whose names are in the book of life.

Rev. 3:5 He that overcometh, the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels.

Rev. 13:8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev. 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Rev. 21:27 And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.

CHAPTER VIII

How to Have and Hold Eternal Life

The word of God defines eternal or everlasting life. They come from the same word in the old language. We are admonished by God to seek it and hold on to it. Some do not know what it is, thinking that it is received by trusting in Jesus for salvation of the spirit. Old Testament prophets did not know what it was since they inquired into it and sought it, yet God would not reveal it to them. To insist that eternal or everlasting life is salvation of the spirit, then one must insist that the Old Testament prophets were not saved. Something came about with the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ and with his second coming that would become available to the saints of God. It is that salvation of **verse 10**, and the grace and glory that would follow it.

1Pet. 1:10 Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come unto you:

11 Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow.

The angels also desire to look into it, that is, that gospel which was preached with the Holy Spirit accompaniment sent down from heaven. This brought more privileges than the angels had ever experienced in their relationship with God. They evidently still do not understand that joy that the saints have with the Saviour, nor perhaps will never understand it. These privileges come with faith in Christ as Saviour and walking with him daily as our sins are confessed and forgiven.

1Pet. 1:12 Unto whom it was revealed, that not unto themselves, but unto us they did minister the things, which are

now reported unto you by them that have preached the gospel unto you with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into.

The rich young man that came to Jesus sought it. Sadly, he went away, grieved because he would not obey the Lord. He was no doubt saved in spirit, but one would wonder what kind of salvation this is that would cause a person to be grieved. Surely there are some today that are saved in spirit, but the life is not committed to the Lord in order that it, too, might be saved. The question here does not involve spirit salvation, which is not inherited. The eternal or quality life is not received when one believes in Jesus, but rather it is inherited when Jesus returns to the earth.

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 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 the cross, and follow me.

22 And he was sad at that saying, and went away grieved: for he had great possessions.

Some in the church sought it by patient continuance in well doing, which is the proper manner in which to seek it.

Rom. 2: 7 To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

Paul admonished Timothy to lay hold on to it, and also told him to charge them that are rich, to be rich in good works, laying a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

1Tim. 6:12 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.

1Tim. 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not highminded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

18 That they do good, that they be rich in good works, ready to distribute, willing to communicate;

19 Laying up in store for themselves a good foundation against the time to come, that they may lay hold on eternal life.

Life is in the Father and in the Son. Life originated with God and not with some single celled amoeba. Eternal (quality) life is also in the Father and in the Son.

John 1:4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men.

1John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus promised eternal (quality) life to his sheep. Let it be understood that Jesus is not referring to those who are qualified by being saved in spirit, for Jesus described them as those who hear his voice and follow him (Christ).

John 10:27 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me:

28 And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

Jesus promised everlasting (eternal) (quality) life to those who “**believeth**” in him. This word is a participial verb which this one has as a continual, abiding belief in Jesus. This word is used in all of the scriptures mentioned below. If one quits believing, then he quits having eternal life. This is not falling from grace, losing ones spirit salvation, but rather losing the promise of a glorified body in the resurrection that qualifies one to reign with Jesus in the kingdom age of one thousand years.

John 3:15 That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.

16 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 3:36 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.

It is the gift of God through (in) Jesus Christ our Lord that brings us into church position where God can be glorified in the life.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Eph. 3:21 Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

This eternal life is promised to those whom God gave to Jesus Christ. They are defined as those who have kept his word, that Jesus is glorified in them, and Jesus wants to be with them. These are no ordinary nominal believers.

John 17:2 As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.

6 I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world: thine they were, and thou gavest them me; and they have kept thy word.

John 17:10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

John 17:24 Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world.

Eternal life is promised to those who will forsake all and follow the Lord Jesus Christ. This cannot be done without Holy Spirit presence. This is not speaking of spirit salvation, but rather the quality life in Christ resulting in the glory resurrection and reigning with him in the kingdom age of one thousand years.

Mark 10:29 And Jesus answered and said, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's,

30 But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

John 4:14 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.

Jesus stated firmly that everlasting life could only be found in him by this continual believing. Peter understood this and confessed it to be so.

John 6:27 Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him hath God the Father sealed.

40 And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.

John 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.

John 6:68 Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life.

Some thought they had eternal life and did not. Jesus is revealed in the scriptures, and in them eternal life is revealed, but these refused to come to Jesus that they might have this life. One cannot have everlasting life if the scripture is only known. It must be acted upon by repentance of sin and fleeing to Jesus for the blessings that are needed. Knowledge can be a prideful thing if nothing else comes of it.

**John 5:39 Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.
40 And ye will not come to me, that ye might have life.**

A rich young ruler in the New Testament understood what “eternal life” meant. He asked what he had to do to “inherit” it. Strange that so few today have their curiosity aroused by this subject. Jesus told him that he could have it by selling all that he had and giving to the poor that he might have treasure in heaven, and then to coming and following Jesus. Is this how one receives salvation of the spirit today? Be careful, lest one rebukes the words of Jesus. This is how one becomes in position to inherit eternal life, just a simple answer to a simple question. Will one argue with the Lord about his answer? Yet if the conventional thinking is followed, Jesus will be rebuked for preaching works for salvation, church salvation, etc., yet these do not have an answer for the question **“What shall I do to inherit eternal life?”** Jesus said that it was difficult for those who have riches to enter into the kingdom. Eternal life is related to kingdom blessings, and not to salvation of the spirit.

Mark 10:17 And when he was gone forth into the way, there came one running, and kneeled to him, and asked him, Good Master, what shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?

18 And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God.

19 Thou knowest the commandments, Do not commit adultery, Do not kill, Do not steal, Do not bear false witness, Defraud not, Honour thy father and mother.

20 And he answered and said unto him, Master, all these have I observed from my youth.

21 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 the cross, and follow me.

A lawyer used this subject to tempt Christ. He wanted to justify himself, but Jesus would have none of it, giving him the parable of the good Samaritan. See **Luke 10:25, 30-37**. God took this promise from Israel and gave it to the Gentiles. Israel put it (thrust it) from them, judged themselves unworthy of everlasting life, and God had Paul turn from them to the Gentiles. Hence the words of **Rom. 1:16**. The Jew first then to the Greek. This is the salvation that the Old Testament saints desired to look into, and from which Gentiles were excluded until the scriptures tell of it below.

Acts 13:46 Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles.

47 For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.

48 And when the Gentiles heard this, they were glad, and glorified the word of the Lord: and as many as were ordained to eternal life believed.

Rom. 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

The source of eternal life is in the Father and was manifested in the Son. John said it was manifested, he saw it, bears witness of it, shows it unto us “that eternal life”. God gave it, men want it, but the only place it can be found is in his son, Jesus Christ.

1John 1:2 (For the life was manifested, and we have seen it, and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;)

1John 5:11 And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

One is promised to receive eternal life by being saved, then being baptized into Christ, and then by walking continually in the faith once delivered unto the saints.

Rom. 6:3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?

4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Gal. 3:27 For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

But how can one have assurance that he will remain in this position? The elements used in the Lord’s Supper are symbolic of the flesh and blood of Jesus Christ. This should give us a strong hint that this life is in the body of Christ, which is the church.

John 6:54 Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.

It is not sufficient to be on the church roll, attend the services, sing, pray, give, etc. as a nominal church member. One must have that vital relationship with Christ that comes in true fellowship with him in his sufferings, death and resurrection, from among the

dead ones (the world). In doing this one becomes a partner of Jesus Christ.

Phil. 3:10 That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death;

11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead.

Abiding in Christ and the Father brings eternal life. It is one thing to be in Christ, but another matter entirely to abide in him. One can lose his position in the inheritance, but cannot lose his spirit salvation.

1John 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life. See also John 15:1-14.

Grace reigns through righteousness unto eternal life. There is benefit to right living.

Rom. 5:21 That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Paul said that he lived in hope of eternal life. God promised it and he cannot lie.

Titus 1:2 In hope of eternal life, which God, that cannot lie, promised before the world began;

We can be heirs according to this hope. Not merely saved in spirit, but heirs of the kingdom.

Titus 3:7 That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

CHAPTER IX

False Worship

John 4:22 Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews.

Where there is true worship, there is false worship, for Satan attempts to get the entire world to worship him. He even attempted to get Christ to fall down and worship him in the wilderness temptation. The reason for this is that his chief aim is to turn God's worshippers toward himself, and thereby defeating the purpose of God in his creation of man.

Rev. 4:11 Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Worship defined: "By kneeling or prostration to do homage to or make obeisance (to bow and show respect or do homage) whether in order to express respect or to make supplication."

The warfare of man recorded in **Romans 7th chapter** is brought about by desiring the worship of man through the Spirit and the Word of God. Satan is desiring the worship of man through the mystery of iniquity, which is the evil influence of Satan and his demon spirits in the world. This appeal comes to man through the natural senses.

Satan is a counterfeiter. Just as there is a Holy trinity, there is an evil trinity. Everything that God does or has done, Satan attempts to duplicate it, and for a good reason. The purpose is to draw mankind away from God and true worship of him, and to deceive that person into thinking that the false worship is toward God.

SATAN, THE DEVIL, THE BEAST AND THE DESTROYER are all names given to the evil one who opposes God. He has been

content to be the deceiver by working behind the scenes to deceive mankind into turning from God, without seeming to be the evil thing that he is. Scripture speaks of his rising up out of the sea, that is, the masses of people give worship unto him and he then makes himself manifest to be worshipped by the multitudes.

Rev. 13:1 And I stood upon the sand of the sea, and saw a beast rise up out of the sea, having seven heads and ten horns, and upon his horns ten crowns, and upon his heads the name of blasphemy.

2 And the beast which I saw was like unto a leopard, and his feet were as the feet of a bear, and his mouth as the mouth of a lion: and the dragon gave him his power, and his seat, and great authority.

3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

We see that today, men are becoming more bold in worshipping that which is openly opposed to God. He becomes so bold that he sits in the God's rightful place, claiming to be God, in opposition to all that is called God. These things are spoken of the beast, who is the anti-christ, but the praise for his actions goes both to the dragon which gave power to the beast, and the beast also, saying **"who is like unto him?"** Make no mistake about it; the desire of the Devil, Satan, is to receive the worship that is rightfully due to God the Father. He is the counterfeit of God, the Father.

2 Thess. 2:4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Rev. 13:4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

Isa. 14:13 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:

14 I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.

The beast is the counterfeit of our Lord Jesus Christ. He is the physical manifestation of Satan and is head of the false religious, economic and political systems that have existed since the time of Cain. He receives power, which is authority, from the dragon, Satan, and is to continue for forty two months or 3 ½ years. All the world will wonder after him, meaning to be filled with wonder, to admire, to regard with admiration, to adore, etc. They will worship the beast and think there is no one like him, and that no one is able to make war with him.

Rev. 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed: and all the world wondered after the beast.

4 And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?

5 And there was given unto him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies; and power was given unto him to continue forty and two months.

He blasphemes God, his tabernacle (the Lord's church), and them that dwell in heaven (God, Jesus Christ, the angels etc.). He makes war with the saints and overcomes them, and all mankind will worship him whose names are not written in the book of life. An angel warns the people not to worship the beast and gives the penalty to all who worship him. An incentive is given to those who do not worship the beast.

Rev. 13:6 And he opened his mouth in blasphemy against God, to blaspheme his name, and his tabernacle, and them that dwell in heaven.

7 And it was given unto him to make war with the saints, and to overcome them: and power was given him over all kindreds, and tongues, and nations.

8 And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.

Rev. 14:9 And the third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, If any man worship the beast and his image, and receive his mark in his forehead, or in his hand,

10 The same shall drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out without mixture into the cup of his indignation; and he shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels, and in the presence of the Lamb:

11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

The false prophet is called the image (likeness) of the beast. The evil trinity is enumerated in the word, the dragon, beast and false prophet. The false prophet is the counterfeit of Holy Spirit in that he causes men to worship the first beast who had the deadly wound and was healed. He does great wonders, calling fire down from heaven in the sight of men and deceives men by the miracles that he has power to do in the sight of men.

Rev. 13:15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

Rev. 16:13 And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs come out of the mouth of the dragon, and out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet.

Re 13:13 And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men,

14 And deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles which he had power to do in the sight of the beast; saying to them that dwell on the earth, that they should make an image to the beast, which had the wound by a sword, and did live.

15 And he had power to give life unto the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak, and cause that as many as would not worship the image of the beast should be killed.

The false prophet causes all to receive the mark of the beast in their right hand or forehead. No man can buy or sell (frequent or do business in the market place) unless he has the mark. God's word gives the doom of those who do take the mark of the beast. It is elaborated on in the word when the angel pours out the first vial upon the earth.

Rev. 13:16 And he causeth all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and bond, to receive a mark in their right hand, or in their foreheads:

Rev. 14:11 And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.

Rev. 16:2 And the first went, and poured out his vial upon the earth; and there fell a noisome and grievous sore upon the men which had the mark of the beast, and upon them which worshipped his image.

The entire unholy trinity is cast into the lake of fire and will be tormented there.

Rev. 19:20 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

Rev. 20:10 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 for ever and ever.

Demon worship is prevalent in the world today, and men brag about worshipping them. One has but to see the plagues that God has to bring upon the demon worshippers to realize the foolishness of so doing. It would be much simpler to worship God and expect blessing in the future, rather than plagues from God.

Rev. 9:13 And the sixth angel sounded, and I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God,

14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

15 And the four angels were loosed, which were prepared for an hour, and a day, and a month, and a year, for to slay the third part of men.

16 And the number of the army of the horsemen were two hundred thousand thousand: and I heard the number of them.

17 And thus I saw the horses in the vision, and them that sat on them, having breastplates of fire, and of jacinth, and brimstone: and the heads of the horses were as the heads of lions; and out of their mouths issued fire and smoke and brimstone.

18 By these three was the third part of men killed, by the fire, and by the smoke, and by the brimstone, which issued out of their mouths.

19 For their power is in their mouth, and in their tails: for their tails were like unto serpents, and had heads, and with them they do hurt.

20 And the rest of the men which were not killed by these plagues yet repented not of the works of their hands, that they should not worship devils, and idols of gold, and silver, and brass, and stone, and of wood: which neither can see, nor hear, nor walk:

Idol worshippers in Israel were warned of God according to the words of Stephen who enumerated the things that they suffered because of their idol worship.

Acts 7:41 And they made a calf in those days, and offered sacrifice unto the idol, and rejoiced in the works of their own hands.

42 Then God turned, and gave them up to worship the host of heaven; as it is written in the book of the prophets, O ye house of Israel, have ye offered to me slain beasts and sacrifices by the space of forty years in the wilderness?

43 Yea, ye took up the tabernacle of Moloch, and the star of your god Remphan, figures which ye made to worship them: and I will carry you away beyond Babylon.

Rev. 22:8 And I John saw these things, and heard them. And when I had heard and seen, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel which shewed me these things.

9 Then saith he unto me, See thou do it not: for I am thy fellowservant, and of thy brethren the prophets, and of them which keep the sayings of this book: worship God.

It is true that Job suffered mightily at the hand of Satan. We must remember that this happened because God permitted it, to show to Satan that some will not turn from God, regardless of the cost. It is perhaps true that we read of Job and determine that we will not suffer as he did. Then we begin to concoct schemes that cause men to teach false doctrines in order to escape suffering at the hands of Satan. The most popular false doctrine is that the saints will be called out of the world just before the tribulation begins. The problem with this doctrine is that there are absolutely no scriptures that support it.

The reason this doctrine is so popular is that many of us do not want even to consider suffering for the cause of Christ. Plain teachings of the scriptures tell us that if we do not suffer with him, we will not reign with him. One has to search high and low to find

a church member that will agree with the idea of missing the one thousand years of reigning with Christ is in his future. Yet the rebellion of suffering in the seven years of tribulation is very plain, and some get red faced in their denial that God's people will be called upon to endure this for the Lord.

The scriptures teach that Jesus suffered for us and died on the cross in order that we might be saved and have the freedom that comes as a result. Many will readily agree that they appreciate what the Lord has done for them, but vehemently deny that Jesus asks his people to suffer and possibly die for him. The tribulation period of seven years is a time when God's people will have an opportunity to witness for him as never before in our lives. Would we desire to miss this time?

Millions of God's people died during the dark ages when they would not recant their faith. Records indicate that many of these went to their death singing praise to the Lord and a smile on their face because God was with them and gave them grace to die the death of a martyr. These events are recorded to two books entitled FOX'S BOOK OF MARTYRS and also MARTYR'S MIRROR. There is a reality to life when one is willing to suffer and even die for the one who died for us of the cross of Calvary. When one is worshipping in truth and in Spirit and not a false worship, God will supply the grace to meet the trials of life, yes even the death of a martyr. My prayer is that God will prepare our hearts for the perilous times that are ahead. Worship Him!!!!