



# THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

## Some Can See, Some Can't

8. But perhaps these declarations may seem to have less weight with those who wish to be instructed in divine things out of the holy Scriptures, and who seek to have it proved to them from that source how the nature of God surpasses the nature of bodies. See, therefore, if the apostle does not say the same thing, when, speaking of Christ, he declares, that "He is the image of the invisible God, the first-born of every creature." Not, as some suppose, that the nature of God is visible to some and invisible to others: for the apostle does not say "the image of God invisible" to men or "invisible" to sinners, but with unvarying constancy pronounces on the nature of God in these words: "the image of the invisible God."

Moreover, John, in his Gospel, when asserting that "no one hath seen God at any time," manifestly declares to all who are capable of understanding, that there is no nature to which God is visible: not as if, He were a being who was visible by nature, and merely escaped or baffled the view of a frailer creature, but because by the nature of His being it is impossible for Him to be seen. And if you should ask of me what is my opinion regarding the Only-begotten Himself, whether the nature of God, which is naturally invisible, be not visible even to Him, let not such a question appear to you at once to be either absurd or impious, because we shall give you a logical reason.

It is one thing to see, and another to know: to see and to be seen is a property of bodies; to know and to be known, an attribute of intellectual being. Whatever, therefore, is a property of bodies, cannot be predicated either of the Father or of the Son; but what belongs to the nature of deity is common to the Father and the Son. Finally, even He Himself, in the Gospel, did not say that no one has seen the Father, save the Son, nor any one the Son, save the Father; but His words are: "No one knoweth the Son, save the Father; nor any one the Father, save the Son." By which it

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All correspondence  
should be addressed to:

Voice of Elijah, Inc.  
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## *A Note From the Editor*

Fifty years ago next month, God called a man to restore The Apostolic Teaching and teach the Truth of the Scriptures to True Believers. That restoration process has been going on ever since and continues to this day. Every day that passes brings us one day closer to the reign of the Antichrist and the End of the Age. Because of the restoration of the Truth of The Teaching, True Believers have a concrete body of knowledge to cling to in these Last Days:

*The Truth is, The Teaching needs no defense. The content of that oral tradition was entrusted to God's Teachers for the benefit of born-again Believers who receive a God-given ability to understand The Teaching. But The Teaching will never be understood or accepted by those who have not been born-again, so why would anyone try to make them see the logic on which it is based? If unregenerate men cannot respond to the Gospel message preached by God's Evangelists, they certainly will not agree with The Teaching taught by His Teachers.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, September 2001, p. 5

As the world becomes more unhinged by the hour, logic alone would tell you that things are winding down (or is that "cranking up"?). Current events, as horrific as they are, are mere white noise in the grand scheme of things (or maybe that's just me). Shouldn't the proper fear of God and belief in the Truth reduce the fear of terrorism, political divides, civil unrest, international instability—genocide, refugees, increased nuclear capability—to a mere gnat buzzing around our ears? I can't speak for you, but that's my experience:

*In the fear of the LORD there is strong confidence,  
And his children will have refuge.*

*The fear of the LORD is a fountain of life,  
That one may avoid the snares of death.*

*(Proverbs 14:26–27)*

*Just be patient. Keep waiting faithfully. He won't be in the wind, the earthquake, or the fire. But He will come to rescue everyone who is humble enough to listen. And learn. And wait. All the while safeguarding the treasure He has hidden in the field. And what a treasure that is!*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, December 1992, p. 8

The inhospitable nature of the planet we inhabit is not a recent phenomenon. That feeling of "I don't belong here" and "what in the world am I doing in this nut house" is not unique to True Believers in our day alone. This world has long been an enemy to the Truth:

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*I began this article by quoting Peter's admonition that Believers should suffer injustice as Jesus did. As the Great Day of the Lord draws near, one would do well to heed his admonition. Suffering is never easy, but it is far better to suffer for Christ in this life than to suffer for your own folly in holy hell forever.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, July 1992, p. 22

*Irenæus knew he lived in a world that is hostile to the Truth of the Living Word of God. If you are not able to take on that same mind-set, you are going to remain complacent, and that complacency is eventually going to be your downfall.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, May 2008, p. 15

*Right before the End of the Age, the Living Word of God is going to ratchet up the debilitating "constriction" that He began to impose on "The Harlot" Planet Earth as each of the seven messengers sounded their "trumpets" in Revelation 8–11.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, January 2013, p. 16

*For the mind set on the flesh is death, but the mind set on the Spirit is life and peace, because the mind set on the flesh is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able {to do so}; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. (Romans 8:6–8)*

Might I suggest you put a priority on mastering The Teaching and become one of the children whose "heart" is being restored? Time is running short, and the knowledge you require to overcome is right at your fingertips:

*I have been called to provide True Believers the Truth they will need to overcome Satan's ultimate delusion. The rest is up to them. But if you are a True Believer, you'd best not delay. That final great battle is yet to come.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, November 1993, p. 7

*For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, that through perseverance and the*

*encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope. Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another according to Christ Jesus; that with one accord you may with one voice glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. (Romans 15:4–6)*

Because of God's call in 1966 and the restoration of The Apostolic Teaching that has followed, True Believers have hope and an incredible opportunity to overcome. We have access to the Truth that has been presented in newsletters, *Updates*, books, booklets, CDs, DVDs, Facebook, Twitter, and before very long, Harper's Standardized Study Bible.

*If you are seeking to overcome sin in your own life, you will find the key in The Teaching. I challenge you to seek God diligently and pray for the divine wisdom that makes it all possible. Don't settle for less. The promises of God are for those who overcome (Rev. 2:7, 11, 17, 26; 3:5, 12, 21), not for those who merely aspire to overcome. The one who has ears to hear will hear.*

**The Voice of Elijah®**, July 1992, p. 11

*From here on, for True Believers, there will be mainly quiet preparation for the Final Days. Toward that end, I have a body of information I have been charged to deliver to those of you who are God's Own.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, September 1992, p. 3

*The fact is, nothing compares to the opportunity God has granted those who have actually been born again.*

**The Voice of Elijah® Update**, March 1994, p. 6

I invite you to join me for a day of thanksgiving and praise on August 17, for all that the Lord is, all He has done, and all He has promised to do. I could not be more thankful for the restoration of the Truth and that He decided to begin that process **one final time** in 1966.

Thankful to be in Him,

*Marcia Harper*

# Why Would Anyone but a Fool Eat Sour Grapes?

**I**n the “Questions & Answers” column of this newsletter, I was asked a question I am going to answer in this article. The reader asked this:

*“Since you know the ‘real’ language and intention of the scriptures I figured I would get an answer I can live with. The question is this: Are we under the Mosaic Law now and should we be observing the original Jewish Sabbath? I am uncomfortable keeping Sunday as the day for church, etc., because I don’t know if we ought to be observing the day of rest from Friday night until Saturday night.”*

I am first going to give you the response that the Apostle Paul and the other Apostles give to this question, then I am going to explain why they say what they say. Listen to this:

<sup>11</sup>[Then], [when] [Cephas] [came] [to] [Antioch], [I withstood] [him]—[Face to Face]—[because] [he was] [found at fault]. <sup>12</sup>[For] [before] [some] [came] [from] [James], [he had been eating] [with] [The] [Gentiles]; [but] [when] [they came], [he drew back] [and] [was setting] [himself] apart from {them}—[being afraid of] [those who are] [part] [of] {the} circumcised. <sup>13</sup>[And] [The Rest of] [The] [Jews] [also] [joined in hypocrisy with\*] [him], [with the result that] [even] [Barnabas] [was carried away with] [them] [in their] [Hypocrisy].

<sup>14</sup>[But] [when] [I saw] [that] [they were] [not] walk- ing straight\*] [with regard to] [The] [Truth] [of The] [Gospel], [I told] [Cephas] [in front] [of everyone]: “[If] [You], [being] [a Jew], [are living] [like a Gentile\*] [and] [not] [like a Jew\*], [on what basis] [do You compel] [The] [Gentiles] [to live like Jews\*]? <sup>15</sup>[We] {are} [by Nature] [Jews], [and] [not] [Sinners] [from] [{the} Gentiles];

<sup>16</sup>[but] [knowing] [that] [a Man] [is] [not] exonerated] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law] [if] [not] [via] [Belief] [in Jesus], [The Anointed One], [even] [we] [believed] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [so that] [we could be exonerated] [on the basis] [of Belief] [in The Anointed One] [and] [not] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law], [because] [not] [all] [Flesh] [will be exonerated] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law].”

(Galatians 2:11–16) —my interim translation

Paul’s point in that passage is easy to understand: Peter was being hypocritical in living like a Gentile when Jews weren’t around and then pretending he was living like a Jew when a specific subset of Jewish Christians came to town. Paul did not chastise Peter for living like a Gentile, he stood up to him for caving in to Jewish Christians who were insisting Gentiles had to become Jews and live under the Mosaic Law in order to be saved. He makes that clear from what he says later on in his letter to the Galatians:

<sup>21</sup>[You] [who] [want] [to be] [subject to] [Law] tell [me]: [Do you] [not] hear [The] [Law]? <sup>22</sup>[For] [it has been written] [that] [Abraham] [had] [two] [Sons]—[one] [from] [The] [Slave Girl] [and] [one] [from] [The] [Free Woman]. <sup>23</sup>[But] (1) [the] [one] [from] [The] [Slave Girl] [was engendered] [in accordance with] [Flesh], [but] (2) [the other] [from] [The] [Free Woman], [via] [a Promise]; <sup>24</sup>[which] [is] [what is being implied figuratively\*], [for] [These Individuals] [are] [two] [Testaments]: (a) [one] {is}, [in fact], [from] [Mount] [Sinai], [which] [is] [Hagar], [who is engendering children] [into] [Slavery]. <sup>25</sup>[So] [Hagar] [is] [Sinai]—[a Mountain] [in] [Arabia]—[but] [she lines up with\*] [The] [present] [Jerusalem], [for] [she is a slave] [with] [her] [Children].



<sup>26</sup>(b) [But] [The] [Jerusalem] [above]—[Who] [is] [our] [Mother]—[is] [a Free Woman]. <sup>27</sup>[For] [it has been written]:

“[YOU, [BARREN WOMAN], MUST CELEBRATE]!  
[YOU], [THE ONE WHO IS [NOT] GIVING BIRTH],  
[MUST LET IT RIP] [AND] [CRY OUT],  
[YOU], [THE ONE WHO IS [NOT] IN LABOR];  
[BECAUSE] [THE] [CHILDREN]  
[OF THE ONE WHO WAS] [DESERTED]  
{Are} [MANY], [EVEN MORE] [THAN]  
[THE ONE WHO] [HAS] [THE] [MAN].”

<sup>28</sup>[So] [you], [Brothers], [are] [Children] [of a Promise]—[corresponding to] [Isaac]. <sup>29</sup>[But] [indeed, just as] [then], [the one who] [was engendered] [in accordance with] [Flesh] [pursued] [the one who was] [in accordance with] [Spirit], [so] [also] [now]. <sup>30</sup>[But] [what] [does [The] [Writing] say]?

“[THROW OUT] [THE] [SLAVE GIRL] [AND] [HER] [SON],  
[FOR] [THE] [SON] [OF THE] [SLAVE GIRL] [WILL] [DEFINITELY NOT] INHERIT [WITH] [THE] [SON] [OF THE] [FREE WOMAN].”

<sup>31</sup>[Wherefore], [Brothers], [we are] [not] [Children] [of a Slave Girl], [but] [of The] [Free Woman].  
(Galatians 4:21–31) —my interim translation

I am going to explain a bit more about how True Believers become *heirs of the promise* just as Isaac was; but first, I want to show you that Paul goes even further in his insistence that Believers are no longer under *The Law of Moses* in the following passage:

<sup>1</sup>[The Anointed One] [freed] [us] [into His] [Freedom]; [therefore], [you must stand] [and] [not] [be ensnared] [again] [by a Yoke] [of Slavery].

<sup>2</sup>[Take a look at {this}]: [I], [Paul], [tell] [you] [that] [if] [you are circumcised {by them}], [The Anointed One] [will] [not] [provide] [you] {any} [benefit] {at all}! <sup>3</sup>[So], [I testify] [again] [to every] [Man] [who is circumcised {by them}], [that] [he is] [obligated] [to act in accordance with] [The] [entire] [Law]. <sup>4</sup>[You] [who] [are being exonerated] [by] [Law] [have been discharged] [from] [The Anointed One]; [you have fallen away from] [The] [Favor]: <sup>5</sup>(1) [For] [we]—[in Spirit], [on the basis] [of Belief]—[are eagerly looking forward to] [a Hope] [of a Declaration of Not

Guilty]. <sup>6</sup>(2) [For] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [neither] [Circumcision] [nor] [Uncircumcision] [is capable of] [anything]; [but] [a Belief] [that is working in {us}] [through] [Love] {is}.

(Galatians 5:1–6) —my interim translation

It should be easy to see that Paul is insisting the Gentile Christians in the Galatian church were not under the same constraints that the Apostolic Church imposed on Jews who grew up with their consciences educated by *The Law of Moses*. That is confirmed by what the Apostles decided with regard to Gentile Believers in Acts 15:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [some], [after coming down] [from] [Judea], [were teaching] [The] [Brothers] [that] “[if] [you are] [not] [circumcised] [in] The [Custom] [of Moses], [you are] [not] [able] [to be saved].” <sup>2</sup>[But] [when] [an Uprising] [came about], [and] [not] [just a little] [Discussion] [with] [them] [by] Paul [and] [Barnabas], [they designated] [some] [of them]—[Paul] [and] [Barnabas] [and] [some] [Others]— [to go up] [to] [Jerusalem] [to] [The] [Apostles] [and] [Elders] [about] [This] [Issue]. <sup>3</sup>[Therefore], [some] [who were sent on their way] [by] [The] [Summoned Assembly] [were passing through] [both] [Phoenicia] [and] [Samaria], [describing at length and in detail] [The] [Conversion\*] [of The] [Gentiles] [and] [causing] [intense] [Joy] [in all] [The] [Brothers]. <sup>4</sup>[So] [when] {they} [arrived] [at] [Jerusalem], [they were accepted as legitimate] [by] [The] [Summoned Assembly] [and] [The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [Elders]. [And then] [they divulged] [as many things as] [The] {Living} God [had done] [for] [them]. <sup>5</sup>[But] [some] [of those] [from] [The] [Sect] [of The] [Pharisees] [who had believed] [stood up], [saying] [that] “[{one} has to] [circumcise] [them] [and also] [instruct] {them}] [to keep watch over] [The] [Law] [of Moses]!” <sup>6</sup>[Both] [The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [Elders] [were gathered] [to see] [about] [This] [Matter].

<sup>7</sup>[Then] [after] [a Lot] [of Discussion] [had occurred], [after rising], [Peter] [said] [to] [them]: “[Men], [Brothers], [you] [are cognizant of the fact] [that] [from] [earlier] [Days] [among] [you], [The] {Living} God [chose] [that] [The] [Gentiles] [would hear] [The] [Word] [of The] [Gospel] [via] [my] [Mouth] [and] [would believe]. <sup>8</sup>[And] [The] {Living} God, [The One Who Knows the Heart], [has provided testimony] [for them], [after giving] {them}] [The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy] [just as] {he did} [to] us] [also]. <sup>9</sup>[And] [He did] [not] [make] {any} [distinction]

[between] [both] [them] [and] [us], [after cleansing] [their] [Hearts] [by] The [Belief]. <sup>10</sup>[Now], [therefore], [why] [are you testing] [The] [Living} God]—[to place] [on] [The] [Neck] [of The] [Disciples] [a Yoke of Slavery] [which] [neither] [our] [Fathers] [nor] [we] [have the ability] [to carry]? <sup>11</sup>[But], [we believe] [that {we} are saved] [via] [The] [Favor] [of His Majesty], [Jesus], [even in] [the same way] [as] Those Individuals.”

<sup>12</sup>[So] [The] [whole] [Multitude] [was silent], [and] [they were listening to] [Barnabas] [and] [Paul], [who were describing at length] [as many] [Signs] [and] [Wonders] [as] [The] [Living} God] [had done] [among] [The] [Gentiles] [via] [them]. <sup>13</sup>[Then], [after] [they] [were silent], [James] [responded], [saying]: “[Men]—[Brothers]—[listen to] [me]. <sup>14</sup>[Simeon] [has described {it} at length]; [The] [Living} God] [came to see] [just as] [at first], [to take] [from] [Gentiles] [a People] [for] [His] Name. <sup>15</sup>[And] [in] This, [The] [Words] [of The] [Prophets] [agree together], [just as] [it has been written]:

<sup>16</sup>[AFTER] [THESE THINGS] [I will return],  
[AND] [I WILL REBUILD] [THE] [TENT] [OF DAVID]  
[THAT] [HAS FALLEN],  
[AND] [I WILL REBUILD] [THE THINGS] [SHE HAS]  
[THAT] [HAVE BEEN DEMOLISHED],  
[AND] [I WILL SET] [HER] STRAIGHT AGAIN,  
<sup>17</sup>[SO THAT] [IT MIGHT BE THAT] [THE] [REMAINDER\*]  
[OF MEN] [MAY SEEK] [HIS MAJESTY],  
[EVEN] [ALL] [THE] [GENTILES] [OVER] [WHOM]  
[MY] [NAME] [HAS BEEN CALLED] [OVER] [THEM],  
[SAYS] [HIS MAJESTY], [WHO HAS BEEN MAKING]  
[THESE THINGS] <sup>18</sup>[KNOWN] [FROM] [PAST AGES].

<sup>19</sup>[Wherefore], [I] [decide] [not] [to hassle\*] [those] [from] [The] [Gentiles] [who] [are turning back] [to] [The] [Living} God], <sup>20</sup>[but] [to send] [them] a letter [that] [they} should stay far away from] [The] [Contamination\*] [of Idols] [and] [Sexual Promiscuity] [and] [The] [Meat of a Strangled Animal] [and] [Blood]. <sup>21</sup>[For] [from] [earlier] [Generations], [Moses] [has] [those who] [preach] [him] [in each and every] [City], [being read] [in] [The] [Synagogues] [each and] [every] [Sabbath].”

<sup>22</sup>[It [then] seemed] [to The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [Elders], [together with] [The] [entire] [Summoned Assembly], [that], [after choosing] [Men] [from] [them], [they} should send {them}] [to] [Antioch] [along with] [Paul] [and] [Barnabas]—[Judas], [the one who] [is called]

[Barsabbas], [and] [Silas], [Men] [who were esteemed] [among] [The] [Brothers]—<sup>23</sup>[after writing] [via] [their] [Hand]:

“[The] [Apostles] [and] [The] [older] [Brothers], [to] The] [Brothers] [throughout] [Antioch] [and] [Syria] [and] [Cilicia] [who are] [from] [Gentiles], [rejoice]! <sup>24</sup>[Since] [we have heard] [that] [some] [of] [us]—[to whom] we did [not] give a strict order—[have, [after going out], disturbed] [you] [with] Words [that are tearing up\*] [your] [Souls], <sup>25</sup>[it seemed] [to us], [after coming to be] [in complete agreement], [that], [after choosing] [Men], [we} should send {them}] [to] [you] [along with] [Barnabas] [and] [Paul], [our] [Beloved Brothers], <sup>26</sup>[Men] [who have handed over] [their] [Souls] [for the sake] [of The] [Name] [of our] [Master] [Jesus], [The Anointed One]. <sup>27</sup>[Therefore], [we have sent] [Judas] [and] [Silas] [and] [them] [who are reporting] [the] [same] things [via] [a {spoken} Word]. <sup>28</sup>[For] [it seemed] [to The] [Spirit] [that is] [holy] [and] [to us] [that {we} should [not] place [any greater] [Burden] on] [you] [than] [These] [essential\*] [Things]: <sup>29</sup>[to stay far away from] [Meats Sacrificed to Idols] [and] [Blood] [and] [Meat of a Strangled Animal] [and] [Sexual Promiscuity]. [From] [which], [carefully keeping] [yourselves], [you will be doing] [well]. [Farewell\*].”  
(Acts 15:1–29) —my interim translation

This decision by the Apostles, who were all Jewish, is reiterated in Acts 21:

“[Now], [we] [sent a letter] [about] [The] [Gentiles] [who have believed], [after deciding] [that] [they] should be on guard against] [both] [The] [Meat Sacrificed to Idols] [and] [Blood] [and] [Meat of a Strangled Animal] [and] [Sexual Promiscuity].”  
(Acts 21:25) —my interim translation

That tells us there are only four things related to the Mosaic Law that Gentile Christians need to observe. Neither circumcision nor the Sabbath are on that list. That is because the Apostles knew they were no longer required. And Paul even qualifies the eating of meat issue in 1 Corinthians 8. So that should settle the issue for most folks, but for some legalists it won't. They are absolutely hell-bent on limiting the freedom we have in Christ. So let me explain *why* Christians are no longer required to adhere to any of the rituals of *The*

*Law of Moses* other than those mentioned in Acts 15. But I will key on the Sabbath as a specific example.

The *significance* of the observance of the Sabbath as a *parabolic pantomime* that Moses instituted hinges on the things I have explained in the little booklet titled *In the Image and Likeness of God*. As I explain in those pages, our forefather Adam was created on the third “day” of Creation; and his woman Eve was created on the sixth “day”—after all the other creatures were created on the fifth and sixth “days.” Jesus Christ was also created on the sixth “day” as the “last Adam” that Paul mentions in 1 Corinthians 15. Finally, all the “male and female” Believers who are members of the Body of Jesus Christ will be created in the image and likeness of God at the End of this Age, right before the seventh “day” of Creation begins.

I won’t bother showing you all the statements in the Scriptures that tell us God is still working on the sixth “day” of Creation and has not yet begun to rest on the seventh “day,” because I have already done that elsewhere. I will just tell you that the observance of the Sabbath as a day of rest was, like all the other rituals required by *The Law of Moses*, a *parabolic pantomime* that the sons of Israel were required to observe as a reminder of things explained in *The Teaching of Moses*. In this case, the *parabolic* ritual is a depiction of Believers “resting” with God on the seventh “day” of Creation.

The question is, Why would the rituals required by *The Law of Moses* no longer apply to Gentile Christians? Good question; not so easy to understand the answer, especially if you don’t have insight into the plan of God. So let me give you just a little. To understand why Believers no longer need to observe the rituals established by *The Law of Moses*, you first need to know the things I explained in *The Inheritance of the Believer*. So I am going to give you a brief synopsis of what I said there.

In *The Inheritance of the Believer*, I told you God gave Adam and Eve a *promise* when He booted them out of the Garden of Eden. The gist of that *promise* was, if they would *hand the promise down* as an *inheritance* encapsulated in an *oral blessing*, whoever held title to *the promise*—by belief in *the promise* up to the time of their death—would *inherit what was promised*. After telling you that, I tracked *the promise* down through the genealogies of the Old Testament and explained how Jesus Christ became *the Heir of the promise* and *inherited what was promised* after He died. I also told you that Jesus made an *oral testament*

before He died, and He transferred title to *the promise* to His *heirs* by means of that *oral testament*. I pointed to the following passage as the point in time when He made the *oral testament* in which He identified His *heirs* as anyone who would “do” the will of His Father:

<sup>46</sup>[While [He] was [still] speaking] [to The] [Crowds], [guess what!] [His] [Mother] [and] [Brothers] [were standing] [outside], [seeking] [to speak] [to Him]! <sup>47</sup>[So] [someone] [told] [Him], “[Guess what!] [Your] [Mother] [and] [Your] [Brothers] [are standing] [outside], [seeking] [to speak] [to You]!” <sup>48</sup>[But] [in response], [He] [said] [to the one who] [was telling] [Him], “[Who] [is] [My] [Mother], [and] [who] [are] [My] [Brothers]?” <sup>49</sup>[And] [after stretching out] [His] [Hand] [over] [His] [Disciples], [He said]: “[Guess what! These are] [My] [Mother] [and] [My] [Brothers]! <sup>50</sup>[For] [whoever] [it might be who] [acts in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of] [My] Father, [the One Who is] [in] [the] Heavens, [he] [is] [My] [Brother] [and] [Sister] [and] [Mother]!”

(Matthew 12:46–50) —my interim translation

As part of my “little bit here, little bit there” way of explaining things, I explained the mechanics of that *oral testament* more than twenty-five years ago, so I won’t go over those things again here. (See “Did Jesus Leave a Will?” *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 1991.) The point is, when Jesus Christ died on the cross, the terms of His *oral testament* were invoked, and *the inheritance of the promise* as well as *the inheritance of what was promised* became possible for the Gentiles where it had previously been restricted to the sons of Israel. That is what the author of the Book of Hebrews is *talking about* in this passage:

<sup>11</sup>[But] [after [The Anointed One] arrived] [as] High Priest] [of The] [Good Things] [that came into being] [via] [The] [more important] [and] [more complete] [Tent] [not] [made by human hands]—[that] [is], [not] [of This] [Creation]—<sup>12</sup>[He went in] [to] [The] [Holy Things] [only one time], [after finding] [eternal] [Liberation], [not even] [via] [Blood] [of Goats] [and] [Calves], [but] [via] [His] [Own] [Blood]. <sup>13</sup>[For] [if] [The] [Blood] [of Goats] [and] [Bulls], [and] [sprinkling] [Ashes] [of a Heifer\*] on] [those who] [have had sexual intercourse] [makes {them} holy] [with regard to] [The] [Cleanness\*] [of The] [Flesh], <sup>14</sup>[how much] [more] {will} [The] [Blood] [of The] [Anointed One]—[Who], [via] [an] [eternal] [Spirit], [brought and presented] [Himself] [without blemish] [to The] [Living]



God]—[cleanse] [our] [Conscience] [of] [dead] [Works] [so] [that] [we] may serve as priests [for a [living] God]?  
<sup>15</sup>[And] [for] [This Reason] [He is] [Mediator] [of a [new] Testament], [so that]—[after [a Death] occurred] [for] [Complete Liberation] [from] The [Violations] [against] [The] [first] [Testament]—[those who] [have been invited] [could receive] [The] [Promise] [of The] [eternal] [Inheritance].  
<sup>16</sup>[For] [where] {there is} [a Testament], {there is} [a Pressing Need] [to bear] [the] Death [of the one who] [made the testament].  
<sup>17</sup>[For] [a Testament] {is} [confirmed] [by] [Those Who Are Dead], [since] [it does [not once] have the ability] [when] [the one who] [made the testament] [is living].  
 (Hebrews 9:11–17) —my interim translation

The author of that passage is mixing together some rather complex *parabolic imagery* and presenting it in one lump sum. I am not going to touch on the *parabolic rituals* related to sacrifice at this time, I am simply going to tell you the *significance* of what he says in the final three verses is this: The death of Jesus Christ was the point at which His *oral testament* became a legal document with the power to transfer title to *the promise* to His *heirs*. Knowing that, perhaps you can understand that the Apostle Paul is *talking about the inheritance of the promise* via that same *oral testament* in this passage:

<sup>1</sup>[O] [senseless] [Galatians\*], [Who] [cast a spell on\*] [you], [those] [for] whose [Eyes] [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [was written earlier] [as] having been crucified?  
<sup>2</sup>[I want] [to learn] [only] [This] [from] [you]: [Did you receive] [The] [Spirit] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law], [or] [on the basis] [of Hearing] [with Belief]?  
<sup>3</sup>[Are you] [so] [senseless]? [After starting] [in Spirit], [are you] [now] being finished [in Flesh]?  
<sup>4</sup>[Did you suffer] [so much] [for no good reason]—[if] [indeed] [even] [for no good reason]?  
<sup>5</sup>[Therefore], {is} [the One Who] [abundantly provides] [The] [Spirit] [for you] [and] [works] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [among] [you] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law], [or] [on the basis] [of Hearing] [with Belief]?

<sup>6</sup>{It is} [just like] [Abraham]: “[HE BELIEVED] [THE] [LIVING] GOD, [AND] [IT WAS RECKONED] [TO HIM] [AS] [A DECLARATION OF NOT GUILTY].”  
<sup>7</sup>[So then], [you know] [that] [those who are {children}] [on the basis] [of Belief], [These Individuals] [are] [Abraham’s] [Sons].  
<sup>8</sup>[But] [when] [The] [Writing] saw beforehand [that] [The] [LIVING] God [was going to exonerate] [The] [Gentiles] [on the basis] [of Belief], [it proclaimed the gospel earlier

to\*] [Abraham], [that] “[ALL] [THE] [GENTILES] [WILL BE BLESSED] [IN] [YOU].”  
<sup>9</sup>[So then], [those who are {children}] [on the basis] [of Belief] [are going to be blessed] [along with] [Abraham], [The] [Believer].

<sup>10</sup>[For] [as many as] [are {children}] [on the basis] [of Works] [of Law] [are] [under] [a Curse]; [for] [it has been written] [that] “[EVERYONE] [WHO] [DOES [NOT] CONTINUE ON IN] [ALL] [THE THINGS THAT] [HAVE BEEN WRITTEN] [IN] [THE] [SCROLL] [OF THE] [LAW]—[TO] [ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THEM]—{is} [COMPLETELY CURSED].”  
<sup>11</sup>[But] [the fact that] [nobody] [is exonerated] [by] [Law] [before] [The] [LIVING] God {is} [obvious]; [because], “[THE] [ONE WHO HAS BEEN EXONERATED] [WILL LIVE] [ON THE BASIS] [OF BELIEF].”  
<sup>12</sup>[But] [The] [Law] [is] [not] [on the basis] [of Belief]; [but] “[THE ONE WHO] [HAS ACTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [THEM] [WILL LIVE] [BY] [THEM].”  
<sup>13</sup>[The Anointed One] [bought us] back [from] [The] [Curse] [of The] [Law], [after becoming] [a Curse] [for our] sake—[because] [it has been written]: “[EVERYONE] [WHO] [HANGS] [ON] [A TREE] {is} [COMPLETELY CURSED]”—<sup>14</sup>(1) [so that] [The] [Blessing] [of Abraham] [could come] [to] [The] [Gentiles] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], (2) [so that] [we could receive] [The] [Promise] [of The] [Spirit] [via] [our] [Belief].

<sup>15</sup>[Brothers], [I am speaking] [with respect to] [a Man]; [nevertheless], [nobody] [disregards] [a [validated] Testament] [of a Man] [or] [adds a codicil\*].  
<sup>16</sup>[But] [The] [Promises] [were spoken] [to] [Abraham] [and] [his] [Seed]. [He does [not] say], “[And] [to The] [Seeds],” [as] [to] [Many], [but] [as] [to] [One], “[AND] [TO] [YOUR] SEED],” [which] [is], [The Anointed One].  
<sup>17</sup>[But] [this is what] [I am saying]: [The] [Law] [that came into being] [after] [four hundred] [and] [thirty] [Years] [does not] [invalidate] [a Testament] [that had been validated earlier\*] [by] [The] [LIVING] God, [so] [that] [it] [abrogates] [The] [Promise].  
<sup>18</sup>[For] [if] [The] [Inheritance] {is} [on the basis] [of Law], {it is} [no longer] [on the basis] [of a Promise]; [but] [The] [LIVING] God [had] [already] [granted a favor] [to] [Abraham] [via] [a Promise].  
<sup>19</sup>[Therefore], [why] [The] [Law]? [It was added]: (1) [by] [the] [Hand] [of a Mediator]—(2) [after directions were given] [via] [Messengers]—(3) [because] [of The] [Violations] [up to the time] [when] [The] [Seed] [to Whom] [it had been promised] [could come].

<sup>20</sup>[Now], [The] [Mediator] [is] [not] [for one]; [but] [The] [LIVING] God [is] [One].  
<sup>21</sup>[Therefore], {is} [The] [Law] [against] [The] [Promises] [of The]



[{Living} God]? [Certainly not]! [For] [if] [a Law] [that] [is able] [to give life] [had been given], [it might be that] [The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [really] [would be] [on the basis] [of Law]. <sup>22</sup>[But] [The] [Writing] [has confined] [Every Last One] [under] [Sin], [so that] [The] [Promise] [could be given] [to those who] [believe]—[on the basis] [of Belief] [in Jesus], [The Anointed One].

<sup>23</sup>[But] [before] [The] [Belief] [came], [we were being watched over] [by] [Law], [being confined] [for] [The] [Belief] [that was going to] [be revealed]. <sup>24</sup>[So then], [The] [Law] [became] [our] [Childhood Guide] [to] [The Anointed One], [so that] [we could be exonerated] [on the basis] [of Belief]. <sup>25</sup>[But] [since] [The] [Belief] [has come], [we are] [no longer] [under] [a Childhood Guide]; <sup>26</sup>(1) [for] [you are] [all] [God's] [Sons] [via] [your] [Belief] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]; <sup>27</sup>(2) [for] [as many as] [have been baptized] [into] [The Anointed One] [have slipped on] [The Anointed One].

(Galatians 3:1–27) —my interim translation

In that passage, Paul is explaining why the Mosaic Law does not place any “do this, don’t do that” conditions on *the inheritance of the promise*. Trouble is, he provides only a high-level summary of some rather amazing details because he had already explained those things to the Galatians *orally*. Since it’s up to me to explain what True Believers need to know about those things here at the End of the Age, I am going to do something I don’t normally do outside The Next Step program. I am going to summarize a few of the “little bit here, little bit there” things I have explained over the past two and a half decades.

If you are aware of the things I explained in *The Inheritance of the Believer*, you already know that, after Abraham *inherited the promise* from his father Terah, God demanded that he “cut off” Ishmael “from” *the promise* so that Isaac would become *the heir of the promise*. In a similar manner, Jacob became *the heir of the promise* after Esau “cut” himself “off from” *the promise*. Then Jacob did the unthinkable by dividing up *the promise* when he gave it to his sons right before he died, just as God had planned.

I told you God reunified *the promise* when He made the sons of Israel (“all Israel”) one *Corporate Person* under the terms of the *first Old Covenant*, when the representatives of *Corporate Israel* ratified that *first Old Covenant* in Exodus 24:

<sup>1</sup>[Then He said] [to] [Moses]: “[Come up] [to] [His Majesty]—[You] [and Aaron], [Nadab] [and Abihu], [and Seventy] [of {the} Elders of] [Israel]—[and prostrate yourselves] [a long ways away]. <sup>2</sup>[And [Moses] can approach] [His Majesty] [alone]. [But they] [can [not] approach], [and The People] [can [not] come up] [along with him].”

<sup>3</sup>[So [Moses] went in] [and recounted] [all] [{the} Words of] [His Majesty] [and] [all] [The Judgments] [to {the} People]. [And [all] [The People] responded] [{with} one] [Voice] [and said], “[We will do] [all] [The Words] [that] [His Majesty] [spoke]!” <sup>4</sup>[So [Moses] wrote down] [all] [{the} Words of] [His Majesty]. [Then he got up early] [in {the} Morning] [and built] [an Altar] [and [twelve] **Massebahs**] [for {the} twelve] [Branches of] [Israel] [at the foot of] [The Mountain]. <sup>5</sup>[And he sent] [{the} Youths of] [{the} Sons of] [Israel], [and they offered up] [Burnt Offerings] [and sacrificed [Bulls] as] [Communal Sacrifices], [{as} Peace Offerings] [to His Majesty]. <sup>6</sup>[Then [Moses] took] [Half] [of The Blood] [and put {it}] [in Goblets], [but [he tossed] Half] [of The Blood] [on] [The Altar]. <sup>7</sup>[Then he took] [{the} Scroll] [of The Legal Agreement] [and read {it}] [in {the} Hearing of] [The People]; [and they said], “[All] [that] [His Majesty] [has spoken] [we will do] [and we will listen]!” <sup>8</sup>[So [Moses] took] [The Blood] [and tossed {it}] [on] [The People]. [And he said], “[Look!] [{The} Blood] [of The Legal Agreement] [that] [His Majesty] [cut] [along with you] {is} [in accordance with] [all] [These] [Words].”

<sup>9</sup>[Then [Moses] went up]—[and Aaron], [Nadab] [and Abihu], [and Seventy] [of {the} Elders of] [Israel], <sup>10</sup>[and they saw] [{the} God of] [Israel]; [and beneath] [His Feet] [like What Someone Made] [of a Brick] [of Sapphire] [and like] [The Sea of Waters] [itself] [for Clarity]. <sup>11</sup>[And [He did [not] send out] [His Hand] [to] [The Eminent Ones of] [{the} Sons of] [Israel]; [but they beheld] [God], [and they ate] [and drank].

<sup>12</sup>[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Moses], “[Come up] [to Me] [on The Mountain] [and be] [there] [so that I may give] [You] [{the} Slabs of] [The Stone] [and The Teaching] [and The Commandment] [that] [I have written down] [to teach them].” <sup>13</sup>[So [Moses] [and Joshua], [his Minister], got up], [and [Moses] went up] [into] [{the} Mountain] [of The {Living} God]. <sup>14</sup>[But [he said] [to] [The Elders]: “[Sit down] [in this {place}] [for us] [until] [we come back] [to you]. [Now look!] [Aaron] [and Hur] {are} [with you]; [whoever] [owns] [Words] [can approach] [them].” <sup>15</sup>[Then [Moses] went up] [into] [The

Mountain], [and [The Cloud] covered] [The Mountain].  
<sup>16</sup>[And [the] Glory] [of His Majesty] resided] [on] [Mount] [Sinai], [and [The Cloud] covered it] [six] [Days]. [Then, [on [the seventh] Day], He called] [to] [Moses] [from the midst of] [The Cloud]. <sup>17</sup>[Now, [to the] Eyes of] [the] Sons of] [Israel], [the] Appearance] [of the] Glory] [of His Majesty] {was} [like a [consuming] Fire] [on Top] [of The Mountain]. <sup>18</sup>[So [Moses] went into] [the midst of] [The Cloud] [when he went up] [into] [The Mountain]. [And [Moses] was] [on The Mountain] [forty] [Days] [and forty] [Nights].  
 (Exodus 24:1–18) —my interim translation

In *The Inheritance of the Believer*, I told you it was impossible for Corporate Israel to keep the terms of the first Old Covenant because it provided no remedy in case one renegade member of Corporate Israel broke them. That is, if one person sinned, the entire Corporate Body became guilty; and there was no remedy; “all Israel” had to suffer the curse of the covenant. That happened before Moses even got down off the Mountain of God:

<sup>1</sup>[When [The People] saw] [that] [Moses] [was slow] [to come down] [from] [The Mountain], [The People] [congregated] [about] [Aaron] [and said] [to him]: “[Get up]! [Make] [Gods] [for us] [who] [will go] [before us], [because] [this] [Moses]—[The Man] [who] [brought us up] [from the] Land] [of Egypt]—[we do [not] know] [what] [has happened] [to him].” <sup>2</sup>[So [Aaron] said to them], “[Pull off] [the gold] [Rings] [that] {are} [in the] Ears of] [your Women], [your Sons], [and your Daughters], [and bring {them}] [to me].” <sup>3</sup>[Then [all] [The People] pulled off] [the gold] [Rings] [that] {were} [in their Ears], [and they brought {them}] [to] [Aaron]. <sup>4</sup>[And he took {it}] [from their Hand], [and had [it] formed] [with an Engraving Tool] [and had it made into] [a [Calf’s] Cast Image]. [Then they said], “[These] {are} [Your Gods], [O Israel], [who] [brought You up] [from the] Land] [of Egypt].” <sup>5</sup>[When [Aaron] saw {it}], [he built] [an Altar] [before it]. [And [Aaron] made a proclamation] [and said], “[A Feast] [to His Majesty] [Tomorrow]!” <sup>6</sup>[So they got up early] [on The Next Day], [offered up] [Burnt Offerings], [and brought] [Peace Offerings]. [Then [The People] sat down] [to eat] [and drink], [and they got up] [to have fun].

<sup>7</sup>[Then [His Majesty] spoke] [to] [Moses]: “[Go]! [Go down]! [Because] [Your People]—[whom] [You brought

up] [from the] Land] [of Egypt]—[is corrupt]!” <sup>8</sup>[They have [quickly] turned aside] [from] [The Way] [that] [I commanded them]. [They made] [a [Cast Image] Calf] [for themselves] [and prostrated themselves] [to it] [and sacrificed a communal sacrifice] [for it] [and said], “[These] {are} [Your Gods], [O Israel], [who] [brought You up] [from the Land] [of Egypt]!”” <sup>9</sup>[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Moses]: “[I have seen] [This] [People], [and guess what!] [He is] [a People] [with a [hard] Neck]. <sup>10</sup>[So now], [give [Me] a break], [and let [My Anger] be inflamed] [against them] [so that I finish them off]. [Then I will make] [You] [into a [great] Nation].” <sup>11</sup>[But [Moses] appealed to] [His Majesty], [his God], [and said]: “[Your Majesty], [why] [would [Your Anger] be inflamed] [against Your People] [whom] [You brought out] [of the] Land] [of Egypt] [with [great] Power] [and a [strong] Hand]? <sup>12</sup>[Why] [should [Egyptians] say], [He brought them out] [with a Bad Intention], [to kill] [them] [in the] Mountains] [and finish them off] [from on] [the] Surface of] [The Ground]”? [Turn back] [from the] burning] [Anger You have] [and be sorrowful] [over] [The Bad Intention] [toward Your People]. <sup>13</sup>[Remember] [Abraham], [Isaac], [and Israel], [Your Slaves] [to] [whom] [You swore an oath] [against Yourself] [and stated] [to them], [I will make [your Seed] as many] [as The Stars] [of The Sea of Waters], [and for a Burning Eternity] [they will also inherit] [This] [whole] [Land] [that] [I said] [I would give] [to your Seed].”” <sup>14</sup>[So [His Majesty] was sorrowful] [over] [The Bad Thing] [that] [He stated] [He was going] to do] [to His People]. <sup>15</sup>[Then [Moses] did an about face] [and went down] [from] [The Mountain] [with the] two] [Tablets of] [The Testimonies] [in his Hand]—[Tablets] [that were written] [on both of] [their Sides]; [they] [were written] [some on this side] [and some on that side]. <sup>16</sup>[Now The Tablets] [were] [What [God] Made], [and The Writing] [was] [God’s] [Writing]—[engraved] [on] [The Tablets].

(Exodus 32:1–16) —my interim translation

After I showed you that, I showed you where Moses pleaded with God for a second Old Covenant, and God granted his request:

<sup>1</sup>[Then [His Majesty] said] [to] [Moses], “[Carve out] [for yourself] [two] [Stone] [Tablets] [like the] First Ones]; [and I will write] [on] [The Tablets] [The Words] [that] [were] [on] [The [first] Tablets], [which] [You shattered]. <sup>2</sup>[So be] [prepared] [by Morning], [and come up]

[to] [Mount] [Sinai] [in {the} Morning] [and station Yourself] [before Me] [there] [on] [Top] [of The Mountain].<sup>3</sup>[But [no] Man] [can come up] [with You], [and also], [no] [Man] [can be seen] [on] [The [entire] Mountain]—[even] [The Flock] [and The Cattle] [cannot graze] [up to] [{the} Front] [of That] [Mountain].”<sup>4</sup>[So he carved out] [two] [Stone] [Tablets] [like {the} First Ones]; [and [Moses] got up early] [in {the} Morning] [and went up] [to] [Mount] [Sinai], [just as] [His Majesty] [commanded] [him]; [and he took] [two] [Stone] [Tablets] [in his Hand].<sup>5</sup>[Then [His Majesty] came down] [in {the} Cloud], [and he positioned himself] [there] [with Him], [and he called] [on {the} Name] [of His Majesty].<sup>6</sup>[And [His Majesty] passed by] [in front of him], [and [His Majesty] made a proclamation]: “[His Majesty] {is} [a [compassionate] [and gracious] God], [slow] [to Anger], [and more than enough] [Loving-kindness] [and Truth];<sup>7</sup>[One Who safeguards] [Loving-kindness] [for Thousands]—[One Who bears] [{their} Iniquity] [and Transgression] [and Sin]. [But He will [certainly] [not] acquit], [levying] [Reprehensible Acts] [of Fathers] [against] [Sons], [even against] [Sons of] [Sons]—[against] [the third] [and against] [the fourth].”<sup>8</sup>[And [Moses] moved quickly] [and knelt down] [to {the} Earth] [and prostrated himself].<sup>9</sup>[And he said], “[If] [I have found] [Favor] [in Your Eyes], [My Master], [please] [let [My Master] walk] [in our midst]—[because] [he] {is} [a People] [with a [hard] Neck]—[and forgive] [our Reprehensible Activity] [and our Sin], [and **receive us as an inheritance**].”<sup>10</sup>[So He said]: “[Guess what!] [I] [am going to cut] [a Legal Agreement]. [I will make] [Incomprehensible Things] [right in front of] [all] [Your People]—[{{things} that] [have [not] been created] [in all] [The Earth], [nor in all] [The Nations]; [and The [whole] People] [among] [whom] [You are] [will see] [What [His Majesty] Has Made], [because] [what] [I] [am going to make] [with You] [is] [fearsome].”

(Exodus 34:1–10) —my interim translation

I told you that, under the terms of the *second* Old Covenant, anyone who broke the terms of the covenant could offer a sacrifice and gain atonement for whatever wrong he had done. But as I explain in *Not All Israel Is Israel*, if he did not offer a sacrifice for his sin, he would be “cut off from” *Corporate Israel* in the same way that Ishmael and Esau had been “cut off from” *the promise*. I also told you that is the mechanism by which Jesus Christ came to be the sole Member of

*Corporate Israel* at the time of His death. All the other Jews were “cut off from” *Corporate Israel* just as John the Baptist said they would be (Matt. 3:7–10). The significance of that fact is, as the sole remaining Member of *Corporate Israel*, Jesus also became the sole *Heir of the promise* to which *Corporate Israel* had held title for more than a thousand years.

Now we come to the matter of perspective, that is, “*The Way*” that God expects you to view the two Old Covenants. So here it is: The *first* Old Covenant was a covenant of works. It demanded that *Corporate Israel* abide by the terms of the covenant, and it provided no means of atonement if *Corporate Israel* failed. The *second* Old Covenant had the same terms as the *first* Old Covenant, but it provided a means whereby the *individual* members of *Corporate Israel* could gain atonement for the sins they committed. Consequently, it was not actually a covenant, it was a testament (a will); and if someone actually believed *the promise*, they would offer the sacrifices necessary to avoid being “cut off from” *Corporate Israel*. Then, when *Corporate Israel* *inherited what was promised*, they would, “in Him,” *inherit what was promised*.

Under the terms of the *second* Old Covenant, the testator who made the testament was *Corporate Israel*, the *corporate* entity who held title to *the promise*. That is the case because the sacrificial rituals did not do away with sin completely, they merely transferred them to the Tabernacle, where they accumulated over time; and the terms of the covenant demanded that *Corporate Israel* die for those sins. That happened when Jesus Christ—*Corporate Israel*—died on the cross. That is *why* Paul says the following in the passage I quoted above:

<sup>13</sup>[The Anointed One] [bought [us] back] [from] [The] [Curse] [of The] [Law], [after becoming] [a Curse] [for [our] sake]—[because] [it has been written]: “[EVERYONE] [WHO] [HANGS] [ON] [A TREE] {is} [COMPLETELY CURSED]”—<sup>14</sup>(1) [so that] [**The] [Blessing]** [of Abraham] [could come] [to] [The] [Gentiles] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], (2) [so that] [we could **receive**] [**The] [Promise]** [of The] [Spirit] [via] [our] [Belief].

<sup>15</sup>[Brothers], [I am speaking] [with respect to] [a Man]; [nevertheless], [nobody] [disregards] [a [validated] Testament] [of a Man] [or] [adds a codicil\*]. <sup>16</sup>[But] [**The] [Promises]** [were spoken] [to] [Abraham] [and] [his] [Seed]. [He does [not] say], “[And] [to The] [Seeds],” [as] [to] [Many], [but] [as] [to] [One], “[And]



[to [Your] Seed], "[which] [is], [The Anointed One].  
<sup>17</sup>[But] [this is what] [I am saying]: [The] [Law] [that came into being] [after] [four hundred] [and] [thirty] [Years] [does not] [invalidate] [a Testament] [that had been validated earlier\*] [by] [The] [Living] God, [so] [that] [it] [abrogates] [The] [Promise].<sup>18</sup>[For] [if] [The] [Inheritance] [is] [on the basis] [of Law], [it is] [no longer] [on the basis] [of a Promise]; [but] [The] [Living] God [had] [already] [granted a favor] [to] [Abraham] [via] [a Promise].

(Galatians 3:13–18) —my interim translation

Paul's point is, Jesus Christ died under the curses that were part of the terms of both the *first* and *second* Old Covenants. His death *meant* those who remained members of *Corporate* Israel until their death under the terms of the *second* Old Covenant could finally *inherit what was promised*. But Paul's mention of *the promise* in the following verse tells the reader who has insight that there is even more to the story:

... (1) [so that] [The] [Blessing] [of Abraham] [could come] [to] [The] [Gentiles] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], (2) [so that] [we could receive] [The] [Promise] [of The] [Spirit] [via] [our] [Belief].

(Galatians 3:14) —my interim translation

Under the terms of the *oral testament* that Jesus Christ made, both Jews and Gentiles can *inherit the promise* to which He held title when He died. But Jesus had another not-so-insignificant asset that every True Believer *inherits* when they become an *heir of the promise* by believing *the promise* and apologizing to God for their sins. Jesus attained that asset when He accepted the terms of the *first* New Covenant at His Baptism. See if you can determine what it might be:

<sup>1</sup>[Now], [in] [Those] [Days], [John] [The] [Baptist] [arrives], [preaching] [in] [The] [Desert] [of] Judea  
<sup>2</sup>[and] [saying], "[You must apologize], [for] [The] [Kingdom] [of] The [Heavens] [has drawn near]." <sup>3</sup>[For] [This Individual] [is] [the one who] [was spoken of] [via] [The] [Prophet] [Isaiah], [who says]:

"[The] VOICE [of] ONE WHO IS CRYING OUT  
 [IN] [THE] [DESERT]:  
 'YOU MUST PREPARE [THE] [WAY] [of] HIS MAJESTY!  
 [YOU MUST MAKE] [HIS] [PATHS] [A STRAIGHTAWAY!'"

<sup>4</sup>[But] [John] [himself] [had] [his] [Clothing] [made] out [of Camel] [Hair] [and] [a Belt] [made of leather] [around] [his] [Loins], [but] [his] [Foodstuff] [was] [Locusts] [and] [wild] [Honey]. <sup>5</sup>[Jerusalem]—[and] [all] [Judea] [and] [The] [whole] Area Around [The] [Jordan]—[began going out] [to] [him] [then], <sup>6</sup>[and] [those who were admitting the truth concerning] [their] [Sins] [were being baptized] [in] [The] [Jordan] [River] [by] [him].

<sup>7</sup>[But] [after seeing] [Many] [of The] [Pharisees] [and] [Sadducees] [coming] [for] [his] [Baptism], [he said] [to them]: "[Descendants] [of] Vipers! [Who] [gave] [you] an indication [that] [you] should flee [from] [The] [Anger] [that is going to come]? <sup>8</sup>[Therefore], [you must produce] [Fruit] [worthy] [of your] [Apology], <sup>9</sup>[and] [not] [assume] [that] [you] can say [in] [yourselves], 'We have [a Father]—[Abraham].' [For] [I tell] [you] [that] [The] [Living] God [is able] [to raise up] [Children] [for Abraham] [out] [of These] [Stones]. <sup>10</sup>[But] [The] [Axe] [is] [already] [laid] [at] [The] [Root] [of] The [Trees]. [Therefore], [every] [Tree] [that is] [not] producing [exceptionally good] [Fruit] [will be cut off] [and] [thrown] [into] [a Fire].

<sup>11</sup>[I] [am, in fact], baptizing [you] [in] [Water] [for] [an Apology], [but], [the One Who] [is going to come] [after] [me] [is] [mightier than] [I], [Whose] [Sandals] [I am] [not] [worthy of consideration] [to carry]. [He] [will baptize] [you] [in] [a] [holy] Spirit [and] [Fire], <sup>12</sup>[Whose] [Winnowing Fork] [is] [in] [His] [Hand], [and] [He will cause] [His] [Threshing Floor] to be cleaned thoroughly\*; [and] [He will gather] [His] [Wheat] [into] [The] [Storehouse], [but] [He will burn up] [The] [Chaff] [in] an [unquenchable] Fire." <sup>13</sup>[Jesus] [comes] [from] [Galilee] [then], [over to] [The] [Jordan], [to] [John], [to be baptized] [by] [him]. <sup>14</sup>[But] [John] [repeatedly prevented\*] [Him], [saying], "[I] [have] [a Need] [to be baptized] [by] [You], [and] [You] [are coming] [to] [me]?" <sup>15</sup>[But] [in response], [Jesus] [said] [to] [him], "[You must let {Me}] [at this time], [for] [it is] [fitting] [for us] [to fully complete] [every] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [this way]." [He let] [Him] [then]. <sup>16</sup>[So], [after being baptized], [Jesus] [came up] [out] [of The] [Water] [straightaway], [and] [guess what!] [The] [Heavens] [were opened] [and] [He saw] [God's] [Spirit] [coming down] [and] [coming] [upon] [Him] [as though it were] [a Dove]. <sup>17</sup>[And] [guess what! There was] [A Voice] [out] [of The] [Heavens] [that said], "[This Individual] [is] [My] [Son]—[The] [Beloved One] [with] [Whom] [I am delighted]."

(Matthew 3:1–17) —my interim translation

I have already told you on various occasions that Corporate Israel *parabolically* played the role of the Firstborn Son of God in the Passover Parable that I explained in the little booklet titled *The Passover Parable*. You need to keep that in mind simply because Jesus Christ *parabolically* became the Firstborn Son of God when He became Corporate Israel at His Baptism. But there is more to the story than just that *parabolic image*. You see, at His Baptism, Jesus Christ also *received* the Holy Spirit that initiates the process whereby one is adopted as a Child of God. Paul had that process in mind when he said this:

<sup>1</sup>[So then], {there is} [not any] [Guilty Verdict] [now] [for those who are] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus]. <sup>2</sup>[For] [The] [Law] [of The] [Spirit] [of The] [Life] [in] [The Anointed One], [Jesus], [has freed] [You] [from] [The] [Law] [of The] [Sin] [and] [The] [Death]. <sup>3</sup>[For] [The] [Inability] [of The] [Law] {was} [because] [it was weak] [via] [The] [Flesh]. [The] [{Living} God], [after sending] [His] [Own] [Son] [in] [a Likeness] [of sinful] [Flesh] [and] [for] [Sin], [condemned] [The] [Sin] [in] [The] [Flesh], <sup>4</sup>[so that] [The] [Law's] [Verdict of Not Guilty] [could be fulfilled] [in] [us]—[those who] [are] [not] [walking] [in agreement with] [Flesh] [but] [in agreement with] [Spirit]. <sup>5</sup>[For] [those who] [are] [in agreement with] [Flesh] [have their mind set on] [the things] [of The] [Flesh], [but] [those who are] [in agreement with] [Spirit], [the things] [of The] [Spirit]. <sup>6</sup>[For] [The] [Mind-set] [of The] [Flesh] {is} [Death], [but] [The] [Mind-set] [of The] [Spirit] {is} [Life] [and] [Peace], <sup>7</sup>[because] [The] [Mind-set] [of The] [Flesh] {is} [Hostility] [toward] [God], [for] [it is] [not] [submitted] [to The] [Law] [of The] [{Living} God], [for] [it is] [not even] [able]. <sup>8</sup>[So] [those who] [are] [in] [Flesh] [are] [not] [able] [to please] [God].

<sup>9</sup>[But] [you] [are] [not] [in] [Flesh], [but] [in] [Spirit]—[if indeed] [God's] [Spirit] [is residing] [in] [you]: (1) [So] [if] [anyone] [does] [not] [have] [The Anointed One's] [Spirit], [This Individual] [is] [not] [His]. <sup>10</sup>(2) [So] [if] [The Anointed One] {is} [in] [you], [The] [Body] {is}, [in fact], [dead] [because of] [Sin], [but] [The] [Spirit] {is} [Life] [because of] [a Declaration of Not Guilty]. <sup>11</sup>(3) [So] [if] [The] [Spirit] [of the One Who] [raised] [Jesus] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [is residing] [in] [you], [the One Who] [raised] [The Anointed One] [from] [Those Who Are Dead] [will] [also] [give life to] [your] [mortal] [Bodies] [via] [His] [Spirit] [residing] [in] [you].

<sup>12</sup>[So then], [therefore], [Brothers], [we are] [not] [obligated] [to The] [Flesh]—[to] [live] [in agreement with] [Flesh]. <sup>13</sup>[For] [if] [you live] [in agreement with] [Flesh], [you are going to] [die]; [but] [if] [you are putting] [The] [Activities] [of The] [Body] [to death] [by Spirit], [you will live]: <sup>14</sup>(1) [For] [as many as] [are being led by] [God's] [Spirit], [These Individuals] [are] [God's] [Sons]. <sup>15</sup>(2) [For] [you have] [not] [received] [a Spirit] [of Slavery] [again], [for] [Fear]; [but] [you have received] [a Spirit] [of Adoption], [by] [which] [we shout], "[Abba!] [Father]!" <sup>16</sup>[The] [Spirit] [Himself] [is testifying with] [our] [Spirit] [that] [we are] [God's] [Children]. <sup>17</sup>[But] [if] [Children], [also] [Heirs]—[Heirs] [of God], [in fact]; [and then] [Joint Heirs with] [The Anointed One]—[if indeed] [we suffer with {Him}], [so that] [we may] [also] [be glorified together with\* {Him}]: <sup>18</sup>(1) [For] [I reckon] [that] [The] [Sufferings] [of The] [present] [Time] {are} [not] [worthy] [of] [The] [Glory] [that is going to] [be revealed] [to] [us]. <sup>19</sup>(2) [For] [The] [Ardent Longing] [of His] [Creation] [is eagerly looking forward to] [The] [Revelation] [of The] [Sons] [of The] [{Living} God]. <sup>20</sup>(3) [For] [His] [Creation] [was made to submit] [to our] [Futility]—[not] [voluntarily], [but] [because of] [the One Who] [made {her} submit]—[with] [a Hope] <sup>21</sup>[that] [His] [Creation] [would] [itself] [also] [be freed] [from] [The] [Slavery] [of our] [Perishable Body] [into] [The] [Freedom] [of The] [Glory] [of The] [Children] [of The] [{Living} God]. <sup>22</sup>(4) [For] [we know] [that] [The] [whole] [Creation] [is groaning together\*] [and] [is in labor together\*] [until] [now]. <sup>23</sup>[Yet] [not] [only] {this creation}, [but] [also] [those] [who have] [The] [First Fruits] [of His] [Spirit], [we] [and] [they] [are groaning] [within] [ourselves], [eagerly looking forward to] [Adoption]—[The] [Complete Liberation] [of our] [Body]. <sup>24</sup>(5) [For] [we have been saved by] [our] [Hope], [but] [a Hope] [that is seen] [is] [not] [Hope]. [For] [does] [anyone] [hope for] [what] [he sees]? <sup>25</sup>[But] [if] [we hope for] [what] [we do] [not] [see], [we eagerly look forward to] {it} [with] [Perseverance].  
(Romans 8:1–25) —my interim translation

Paul is speaking in terms of *parabolic imagery* in which the Earth is "The Harlot" described in the Book of Revelation. When the "Seed" of the Word of God takes root in "The Harlot," a new Child of God is "engendered" in "The Woman" and begins to grow. But that Child will not actually be "born" until it is separated from "The Woman" at the Resurrection of the Righteous.

That, in a nutshell, is the *parabolic imagery* that stands behind the salvation process commonly called the “new birth.” The new birth begins when the Believer *receives* the Holy Spirit as part of his *inheritance* under the terms of the *oral* will that Jesus Christ made. The question is, Why did Jesus Christ *receive* the Holy Spirit when He was baptized by John? The answer lies in the New Covenant passages in Jeremiah and Ezekiel—passages like this one:

<sup>27</sup>“[Look!] [Days] [are coming],” [declares] [His Majesty], “[when I will sow] [the] [House] [of Israel] [and the] [House] [of Judah] [as the] Seed [of Adam] [and the] Seed [of a Beast]. <sup>28</sup>[Then it will be that] [just as] [I kept watch] [over them] [to uproot] [and to tear down] [and to break down] [and to send to Abaddon] [and to do bad things], [so also] [I will keep watch] [over them] [to build] [and to plant],” [declares] [His Majesty]. <sup>29</sup>“[In [those] Days] [they will [not] say] [any longer]:

‘[The] Fathers [ate] [the] Sour Grapes], [But the] Teeth [of the] Sons [tingle].’

<sup>30</sup>[But] [Everyone] [will die] [for his own Reprehensible Activity]. [The] Teeth [of] [any of] [The Adam] [who eats] [The Sour Grapes] [will tingle].

<sup>31</sup>[Look!] [Days] [are coming],” [declares] [His Majesty], “[when I will cut] [a [new] Legal Agreement] [with] [the] House [of Israel] [and] [the] House [of Judah], <sup>32</sup>[not] [like the] Legal Agreement [that] [I cut] [with] [their Fathers] [on the] Day [when I took hold] [of their Hand] [to bring them out] [of the] Land [of Egypt]—[when] [they] [made [My Legal Agreement] null and void], [even though I] [owned] [them],” [declares] [His Majesty]. <sup>33</sup>“[Because] [this] [is] [The Legal Agreement] [that] [I will cut] [with] [the] House [of Israel] [after] [Those] [Days],” [declares] [His Majesty], “[I will put] [My Teaching] [within them], [and I will write it] on [their Heart]. [Then I will become] [their] [God] [and they will become] [My] [People]. <sup>34</sup>[And they will [no] [longer] teach]—[Each One] [his Neighbor] [and Each One] [his Brother]—[saying], ‘[Know] [His Majesty],’ [because] [all of them] [will know] [Me]—[from the] least of them [even up to] [the] greatest of them,” [declares] [His Majesty], “[because] [I will forgive] [their Reprehensible Activity] [and I will [no] [longer] remember] their Sinful Act.”

(Jeremiah 31:27–34) —my interim translation

I trust you can see that “eating sour grapes” is a euphemism for “sinning.” The people at that time were facing exile in Babylon, and Jeremiah and Ezekiel were telling them *Corporate* Israel was suffering the curses of the Old Covenant because the *Corporate* Body had sinned against God for generations.

The people didn’t like being told they were suffering for the sins of their fathers, so God told them He was already planning a better “Way.” “*The Way*” He had planned was, His Spirit would take up residence in each individual rather than in the Temple. Jeremiah and Ezekiel told the people that God would initiate that New Covenant at some point in the future, and God did that when John the Baptist ratified the terms of the New Covenant with *individual* Jews at the time of Christ. The terms of the New Covenant were exactly the same as the terms of the Old Covenant, just made with each *individual* rather than the *Corporate* Body.

Everyone who accepted the terms of the *first* New Covenant faced exactly the same problem that *Corporate* Israel faced under the terms of the *first* Old Covenant. That is, if you sin just once, you invoke the curse. So you tell me: Could you keep those terms? I don’t think so; but Jesus did, right up to the moment He died on the cross. Therefore, although He died under the curse of the Old Covenant, God was obligated to resurrect Him under the terms of the New Covenant, which He did.

Pay close attention now: Every True Believer *inherits the promise*, as well as the same relationship to God that Christ had, under the terms of an *oral testament* that requires him to do nothing other than *receive the promise* by belief in *the promise*. True Believers are not required to observe any of the *parabolic* rituals established by Moses, including the Sabbath, because those *parabolic* rituals pertain to the salvation work of the *Corporate* Body, Jesus Christ. Therefore, anyone who insists Believers must observe any of them is rejecting the salvation work that Christ did on our behalf:

<sup>2</sup>[Take a look at {this}: [I], [Paul], [tell] [you] [that] [if] [you are circumcised {by them}], [The Anointed One] [will] [not] provide [you] {any} benefit {at all}]! <sup>3</sup>[So] [I testify] [again] [to every] [Man] [who is circumcised {by them}], [that] [he is] [obligated] [to act in accordance with] [The] [entire] [Law]. <sup>4</sup>[You] [who] [are being exonerated] [by] [Law] have been discharged] [from] [The Anointed One]; [you have fallen away from] [The] [Favor].

(Galatians 5:2–4) —my interim translation ■





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

**Editor:** A woman recently wrote in with a question she said has been plaguing her. She states:

*“Since you know the ‘real’ language and intention of the scriptures I figured I would get an answer I can live with. The question is this: Are we under the Mosaic Law now and should we be observing the original Jewish Sabbath? I am uncomfortable keeping Sunday as the day for church, etc., because I don’t know if we ought to be observing the day of rest from Friday night until Saturday night.”*

**She also would like to know when your new Bible translation is going to be published. She tells us:**

*“I can’t wait to get a copy and fill my mind with the light it is going to shed. I was raised in the Protestant churches, always attended as a kid, and since then I have crashed my way through Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism, and Sikhism, always searching for what is the best way to live and believe.”*

**Elijah:** I will answer the first part of this question in the main article for this issue of the newsletter. That way, I can answer more of the other questions that have been waiting over the past several issues. As for the second part, I am hoping to release Harper’s Standardized Study Bible, New Testament sometime next year, hopefully earlier in the year rather than later.

**Editor:** When the following email arrived, the man who wrote it was immediately sent a copy of *The Mystery of Scripture* to help him with the questions he asked. Since others have sent us questions concerning the same subject, would you address the questions he brought up?

*“When ‘The Antichrist’ booklet arrived in my mailbox a few days ago, I almost tossed it out. I must have ordered it but didn’t remember. This afternoon (being laid-up with back problems) I read the entire book on one sitting. Your use of early Church Fathers interested me: I’ve wrongly written off the entire bunch of them; I should have been more careful. Secondly, your reference to ‘The Teachings’ interested me very much. It sounds similar to what is known as ‘Oral Torah’ in Judaism—which I hold in very low esteem, but I’m respectful of any real tradition of oral history. I’m also opposed to most rabbis as I am to contemporary church leaders; none of them seem to speak the Truth of God’s Word. As a Messianic Believer, I need to know your position on Torah: is it for today or not? From what I read today I suspect your answer is “yes.” Please clarify for me if you will. I’m a serious student of God’s Word, but as you noted in your book, the Church provided me with no teachers or mentors. One day I asked a church deacon what he knew about the New Covenant. He didn’t know what it was—had no idea! Now he’s an elder. (I was booted from that church as a heretic for my Messianic stand.)”*

**Elijah:** The first thing I would say is, I do not believe I have ever referred to anything as “The Teachings.” That would imply there is more than one Truth, which I do not believe there is, or ever will be. However, I have explained in *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1* that Moses gave the sons of Israel both an oral *Torah* and a written *Torah*, but those two *Torahs* are one and the same Teaching. The oral *Torah* was sealed up in the Scriptures (written *Torah*) to confirm for Believers at the End of the Age what the oral *Torah* would have been if the sons of Israel and the Church had handed it down orally as they were supposed to. The written *Torah* has now been unsealed so that anyone who wants to can read it for themselves, and we will see whose beliefs (oral *Torah*) are in line with what the Scriptures actually say.

I assume from what I just told you, that your reader can see that I firmly believe both the written *Torah* and the oral *Torah* are valid today. The difficulty

with that is, every group of believers has an *oral Torah* that they *hand down* from one generation to another. The Baptists believe one thing; the Methodists believe another. The Roman Catholic Church believes one thing; the Greek Orthodox Church believes another. Beyond that, every individual believes something slightly different than everybody else, yet everyone tends to believe that *what they believe* is the Truth, the whole Truth, and nothing but the Truth.

So the real test in “*The Way*” God has set up His offer of salvation is this: Whose *oral Torah* is a person going to *choose* to believe here at the End of the Age? That is a decision that every individual is going to make for themselves. Those who have a love for the Truth will keep looking until they find the Truth, one way or the other. Those who don’t, won’t. The only warning I would issue is this: Salvation has never been about *that you believe*; it has always been about *what you believe*. To put that another “*Way*,” belief in the Truth is what saves you, belief in a lie will only garner you a one-way ticket on that fast train to Hell. So whose *oral Torah* are you going to *choose* to believe?

*Editor: That same reader wants to know when you expect to publish the second volume of The Mystery of Scripture. He also said, “I’m very interested in your work but find it difficult to keep track of what you’re doing. I’ve written two letters, sent by USPS, but received no response.”*

*Elijah:* First of all, I don’t have time to respond to questions individually. I respond in this column so that everyone can see my response and, hopefully, benefit from it. I trust your readers understand my reasons for doing it that way, but I express my apologies to everyone who has been waiting for an answer to a question they submitted. I have been so completely immersed in working on my translation of the New Testament and providing your readers insight into the Book of Revelation that I haven’t responded to questions in quite some time. Hopefully, that is behind me now and I can respond in a more timely fashion.

As for when I expect to publish *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 2*, I can’t say. For the past six years, I have been working eighty to ninety hours a week, week in and week out, year in and year out, trying to complete my standardized translation of the New Testament; taking time off only long enough to keep

from getting locked into the dreaded “doldrums,” which is somewhat similar to “writer’s block,” but much more encompassing. Once my New Testament translation is published, I can begin working full-time on my translation of the Old Testament. I need that translation so that I can use it to show the reader what the Prophets said about their mission of *restoring “The Way”* from which the sons of Israel were forever and always “turning aside.” Without it, I would have to spend a lot of time correcting the translation of those who have no insight at all into the *meaning* and *significance* of the Hebrew idiom “walk in *The Way*.”

*Editor: We have a number of requests for references to several topics of study you’ve covered in your writings. One person asks for a “list of the Early-Church Teaching the Church has long-since lost.” Another tells us he has read three of your publications in which you “mention the Apostolic Teachings that the Church has lost and the Teachings of Moses.” He would like to know if you have published anything that succinctly describes these two sets of teachings. A third request is for “a resource to resolve {an} ignorance” of what you mean by “parabolic image” and “parabolic pantomime.” The last request for help comes from a man who tells us, “I started your book, The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ. However, when I got to the chapter, ‘Creation Not Finished,’ you lost me. Up till then I thought it had many valid points, but found this rather confusing: two Adams—two chapters apart. I’ll go back and reread it, but maybe you could help me?”*

*Elijah:* I have not provided a list of the beliefs that the Early Church lost—and have no intention of doing so—simply because my calling preempts that. To put it a bit more bluntly, if someone wants to be spoon-fed the Truth rather than spending the time it takes to learn how to feed themselves, they need to go back to the putrid pablum the Church offers. Nothing I have been called to teach will benefit them. I have been intentionally stating the things I understand “a little bit here and a little bit there” to make it difficult for lazy folk to ferret it out for themselves. I have also done that to entice fools who have too high an opinion of themselves into the folly of summarizing what I have stated so that lazy folk find it easier to pretend to understand.

The Book of Proverbs offers a scathing indictment of those intellectually lazy people who are not willing to

do anything at all to attain knowledge of the Truth yet stupidly *think* they already know the Truth just because they *think* they know the Truth. Most of them have no interest in learning much of anything new, much less the Truth; they just want to have things stated simply so that they can see whether or not those things agree with what they have already *chosen* to believe. If what they hear doesn't agree with their current beliefs, they then have an overwhelming urge to defend what they already believe by vehemently arguing against the Truth. So I have not been called to make it easy for them to store up even more wrath against themselves. I intend to do exactly what Jesus said we should do, and exactly what the Early Church did—through the process of excommunication:

*“You must [not] give] [what is] [holy] [to The] [Dogs], [nor] [throw] [your] [Pearls] [in front] [of The] [Pigs], [so that not once] [will they trample on] [them] [with] [their] [Feet] [and]—[after turning around]—[rip [you] apart].”*  
(Matthew 7:6) —my interim translation

Since I have not been called to convince anyone that what I teach is true, I have absolutely no intention of summarizing what I am teaching in a series of succinct statements that fools can bandy about as though they actually understand them. That is an essential part of my calling. Those who are honestly seeking the Truth will know it when they see it; and they will not only spend the time necessary to master it, they will enjoy every minute they spend mastering it. Fools will try to understand, but only because they consider it one more legalistic “work” they must do. They will also seek an easier “way” to assimilate the Truth. Just so you know: I am not going to provide any—until the time comes.

I want to give you the *meaning* and *significance* of a few things every True Believer needs to keep in mind while reading the Book of Proverbs. The author of that work, like the other Prophets of Israel, refers to *The Teaching of Moses* as “*The Way*.” That underlying theme runs through his entire work. Consequently, he uses the term *knowledge* to refer to *knowledge* of *The Teaching of Moses* that the Prophets of Israel were continually trying to *restore*. He uses the term *understanding* to refer to an *understanding* of the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses*. He uses the term *wisdom* to refer to the *wisdom* of those who, through *knowledge* and *understanding*, are able to “walk in *The Way*” of *The Teaching of Moses*.

Now that you know those few things about the Book of Proverbs, I want to show you what that book of *parables* says about the intellectually lazy idiots, imbeciles, and morons who reject the Truth so they can go on reveling in the easy believism that allows them to do whatever they want without fear of consequences. I did not say, “without consequences”; I said, “*without fear* of consequences.” Big difference. And, as the author states at the outset, fear of the Lord is what he seeks to instill in fools who have no knowledge of the Truth:

<sup>1</sup>[The Parables of] [Solomon], [Son] [of David],  
[King] [of Israel] {are};  
<sup>2</sup>(1) [For the purpose of knowing] [Wisdom]  
[and Admonishment];  
(2) [For the purpose of providing an understanding of]  
[Statements of] [Understanding];  
<sup>3</sup>(3) [For the purpose of [the] one who gains insight]  
accepting] [Admonishment],  
[A Declaration of Not Guilty], [as well as a Decision  
Based on the Truth] [and What Is Right];  
<sup>4</sup>(4) [For the purpose of giving] [Shrewdness]  
[to Morons],  
[Knowledge] [and a Sense of Purpose] [to a Boy];  
<sup>5</sup>(5) [One who is wise] [will listen],  
[and he will continue] [Instruction];  
[And one who understands] [will acquire] [Guidance].)  
<sup>6</sup>(6) [For the purpose of providing an understanding of]  
[a Parable] [and a Mocking Poem]—  
[The Words of] [those who are wise] [and their Riddles].  
<sup>7</sup>[The Fear of] [His Majesty]  
[is] [the] Beginning] [of Knowledge];  
[Idiots] [despise] [Wisdom] [and Admonishment].  
(Proverbs 1:1–7) —my interim translation

Verse 6 tells us the things stated in the Book of Proverbs (a.k.a. Book of *Parables*) are both *parabolic* in nature and a mockery of those who have no understanding of what the *parables* mean, yet *think* they do just because they *think* they do. I have already given you one of the Hebrew idioms on which the *parables* of the Book of Proverbs are based. That idiom is “walk in *The Way*.” If you don't know the *meaning* and *significance* of that idiom, you can find it in *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1*. I am only going to show you what the Book of Proverbs says about the dimwitted fellows who love to tell everyone what they *think* they “know” but have no interest at all in hearing anything that disagrees with it.



To put it mildly, anyone who fits that description is an *imbecile*:

“[How long] [will you [Morons] love] [Moronity],  
[And those who scoff] [desire] [Scoffing],  
[And **Imbeciles**] [hate] [Knowledge]?”  
(Proverbs 1:22) —my interim translation

“[The Apostasy of] [Morons]  
[will [definitely] kill them],  
[And {the} Self-satisfaction of] [**Imbeciles**]  
[will send them to Hell]!”  
(Proverbs 1:32) —my interim translation

[Every] [Intelligent Person] [will act] [with Knowledge],  
[But an **Imbecile**] [will lay out] [Idiocy].  
(Proverbs 13:16) —my interim translation

<sup>7</sup>[Walk] [away from right in front] [of an **imbecile**] Man],  
<sup>8</sup>[Or You will [never] know] [Lips with] [Knowledge].  
[The] Wisdom of] [an Intelligent Person]  
[provides an understanding of] [His Way],  
[But {the} Idiocy of] [**Imbeciles**] {is} [Deceit].  
(Proverbs 14:7–8) —my interim translation

[The] one who is wise] [is afraid]  
[and turns away] [from What Is Bad],  
[But {the} **Imbecile**] [is infuriated] [and trusts].  
(Proverbs 14:16) —my interim translation

[The] Crown] [of those who are wise]  
{is} [their Riches].  
[The] Idiocy] [of **Imbeciles**] {is} [Idiocy].  
(Proverbs 14:24) —my interim translation

[Wisdom] [rests] [in {the} Heart]  
[of one who has understanding],  
[But [it will be made known] among] [**Imbeciles**].  
(Proverbs 14:33) —my interim translation

[The] Tongue] [of those who are wise]  
[will make [Knowledge] good],  
[But {the} Mouth of] [**Imbeciles**]  
[will articulate] [Idiocy].  
(Proverbs 15:2) —my interim translation

[The] Lips of] [those who are wise]  
[spread out] [Knowledge],

[But {the} Heart] [of **Imbeciles**] {is} [not] [likewise].  
(Proverbs 15:7) —my interim translation

[The] Heart] [of one who has understanding]  
[seeks] [Knowledge],  
[But {the} Mouth of] [**Imbeciles**] [grazes on] [Idiocy].  
(Proverbs 15:14) —my interim translation

[A Rebuke] [comes down deeper]  
[into one who provides understanding]  
[Than [a hundred] attacking] [an **Imbecile**].  
(Proverbs 17:10) —my interim translation

[Meet] [a Bear] [bereaved of cubs] [by a Man],  
[But not] [an **Imbecile**] [in his Idiocy].  
(Proverbs 17:12) —my interim translation

[Why is] [this]? [The] Market Value]  
{is} [in {the} Hand] [of an **Imbecile**],  
[But [there is not] a Heart] [to acquire] [Wisdom]!  
(Proverbs 17:16) —my interim translation

[An **Imbecile**] [will [not] be pleased]  
[with Understanding],  
[Except] [when revealing] [his {own} Heart].  
(Proverbs 18:2) —my interim translation

[You must [not] speak]  
[in {the} Hearing of] [an **Imbecile**],  
[Because] [he will despise] [the] Insight]  
[in] Your Utterances].  
(Proverbs 23:9) —my interim translation

<sup>3</sup>[A Whip] {is} [for a Horse],  
[A Bit] {is} [for a Jackass],  
[And a Branch] {is} [for {the} Back] [of **Imbeciles**].

<sup>4</sup>[Do [not] respond to] [an **Imbecile**]  
[in accordance with his Idiocy],  
[So that] [You] [are [not] [also] comparable] [to him].

<sup>5</sup>[Respond to] [an **Imbecile**]  
[in accordance with his Idiocy],  
[So that [he is] not] [wise] [in his {own} Eyes].

<sup>6</sup>[One who scrapes off] [Feet] {is}  
[one who drinks] [Malice]—

{Is} [one who sends] [Words]  
[by {the} Hand] [of an **Imbecile**].

<sup>7</sup>[Thighs] [draw water] [out of {the} Passover],  
[But a Parable] [in {the} Mouth] [of **Imbeciles**]

<sup>8</sup>{Is} [like a Stone] [bound up] [in a Slingshot\*];  
[Likewise] {is} [{the} one who gives] [Glory]  
[to an **Imbecile**].

<sup>9</sup>[And a Parable] [in {the} Mouth] [of **Imbeciles**]  
{Is} [a Hook] [that goes up] [into {the} Hand]  
[of a Drunk]—

<sup>10</sup>{Is} [an Archer] [who makes [everyone] squirm].  
[And {the} one who hires] [an **Imbecile**]—  
[Even {the} one who hires] [those who are passing by]—

<sup>11</sup>{Is} [Like a Dog] [returning] [to] [his Vomit\*].  
[An **Imbecile**] [will do so again] [in his Idiocy].  
(Proverbs 26:3–11) —my interim translation

The final two verses in that passage describe a subcategory of imbeciles who have heard the Truth of *The Teaching*, understood it well enough to realize it is true, then turned right around and went back to following those who mouth the stupid clichés they believed before they heard the Truth. The Apostle Peter talks about those dimwitted individuals when he says the following about false beliefs and the false teachers who introduced them into the Apostolic Church. Notice how he follows the author of the Book of Proverbs in using the *parabolic image* of *The Teaching* as “*The Way*” before concluding with a quote from Proverbs 26:11. He did that because he understood the things I have told you about the Book of Proverbs:

<sup>1</sup>[But] [False Prophets] [also] [came to be] [among] [The] [People], [as] [also] [False Teachers\*] [will be] [among] [you]—[those who] [will surreptitiously introduce\*] [Sects] [of Destruction] [and] [deny] [The] [Slave Owner] [Who bought] [them], [bringing upon] [themselves] [an [imminent] Destruction]. <sup>2</sup>[And] [Many] [will take off after {them} in] [their] [Licentiousness], [via] [whom] [The] [Way] [of The] [Truth] [will have false religious claims made about it]. <sup>3</sup>[And] [in] [Selfishness] [they will trade on] [you] [with fabricated\*] [Words]; [for whom] [The] [Judgment] [from long ago] [is [not] idle\*], [and] [their] [Destruction] [is [not] nodding off].

<sup>4</sup>[For] [if] (1) [The] [{Living} God] [did [not] spare] [Messengers] [who sinned], [but] [after imprisoning {them} in Tartarus\*] [with Cords\*] [of Nether Gloom], [He handed over] [those who are being kept] [for] [Sentencing]; <sup>5</sup>[and] (2) [{if} He did [not] spare] [The [ancient] World] [but] [guarded] [an eighth {person}], [Noah], [a Preacher] [of a Declaration of Not Guilty], [after bringing [a Flood] upon] [The World] [of {those

who are} ungodly]; <sup>6</sup>[and] (3) [{if}, when {he} burned {them} to ashes\*], [He condemned] [{the} Cities] [of Sodom] [and] [Gomorra] [in an Overthrowing] [that was put down as] [a Perfect Example] [for those who were going] [to be ungodly]; <sup>7</sup>[and] (4) [{if} He delivered] [One Who Had Been Exonerated], [Lot], [who was being harassed] [by] [The] [Behavior] [of those who were] [morally corrupted] [by] [Licentiousness]—<sup>8</sup>[for] [The] [One Who Had Been Exonerated], [by Seeing\*] [and] [Hearing] [while dwelling\*] [among] [them] [Day] [after] [Day], [was tormenting] [an [exonerated] Soul] [by Works] [without law]; <sup>9</sup>[His Majesty] [knows how] [to deliver] [a godly {one}] [from] [a Test], [yet] [keep] [Those Who Have Been Declared Guilty]—[those who are being detained]—[for] [{the} Day] [of Sentencing], <sup>10</sup>[but] [in particular] [those who] [go] [after] [Flesh] [with] [a Desire] [for Defiling\*], [and] [those who despise] [Lordship]. [Stubborn] [Risk Takers\*], [they do [not] tremble] [when making false religious claims about] [Glory], <sup>11</sup>[where] [Messengers], [who are] [more tremendous] [in Might] [and] [Supernatural Power], [do [not] bring] [against] [them] [{the} Sentence] [of one who makes false religious claims] [against] [His Majesty]. <sup>12</sup>[But] [These Individuals] [will [also] be corrupted] [by] [their] [Perishable Body], [like] [irrational] [natural] [Living Creatures]: (1) [who have been engendered] [for] [Capture\*] [and] [a Perishable Body]; (2) [who are making false religious claims] [about] [things that] [they do not understand]; <sup>13</sup>(3) [who are being treated unfairly] [{as} a Wage] [for Immoral Behavior]; (4) [who deem] [Pleasure] [The] [Luxury] [for] [a Day]; (5) [who are [Stains] [and] [Blemishes\*] living luxuriously\*] [in] [their] [Deceptions], [while feasting together with] [you]; <sup>14</sup>(6) [who have] [restless\*] [Eyes] [filled with] [an Adulteress] [and] [Sin]; (7) [who are enticing] [unsettled] [Souls]; (8) [who, having] [a Heart] [that has been trained] [in Selfishness], {are} [Children] [of a Curse]; <sup>15</sup>(9) [who [straightaway] leave [a Way] behind]. [They have been led astray] [after taking off after {them} in] [The] [Way] [of Balaam] [the {son}] [of] [Beor\*], [who] [loved] [a Wage] [for Immoral Behavior]. <sup>16</sup>[But] [he had] [a Public Rebuke\*] [for his own] [Illegality\*]: [A Pack Animal] [without a voice] [that spoke something openly] [in] [a [Man’s] Voice] [prevented] [The] [Insanity\*] [of The] [Prophet].

<sup>17</sup>[These Individuals] [are] [Springs] [without water] [and] [Mists\*] [that are being propelled] [by] [a Gale Force Wind], [for whom] [The] [Nether Gloom] [of The]

[Darkness] [has been kept]. <sup>18</sup>[For] [those who openly speak] [Pompous Things] [about Futility] [are enticing]—[via] [the} Desires] [of {the} Flesh] [for Licentiousness] —[those who] [briefly\*] [escape from] [those who] [are conducting themselves] [in] [Deceit], <sup>19</sup>[those who are promising] [them] [Freedom] [while being] [Slaves] [of The] [Perishable Body] [themselves]. [For] [by whatever] [someone] [is overcome], [to [This] he has been made a slave]. <sup>20</sup>[For] [if] [those who have escaped from] [The] [Defilements\*] [of The] [World] [by] [Full Knowledge] [of our] [Master] [and] [Savior] [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [are [then] overcome] [after being entangled] [again] [in These Things], [for them] [The] [Last] [has become] [worse than] [The] [First]. <sup>21</sup>[For] [it was] [better] [for them] [not] [to have realized] [The] [Way] [of The] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [than], [after realizing {it}], [to turn back] [from] [The] [holy] [Commandment] [that was handed over] [to them]. <sup>22</sup>[The {reality}] [of The] [true] [Proverb] [has happened] [to them]:

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

[and],

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

If the foregoing doesn't sufficiently answer the questions you received, let me put it this "Way": I have spent the last twenty-six years writing and recording the things I understand about the *parabolic images* and Hebrew idioms that the Prophets of Israel used to seal up the Truth of *The Teaching of Moses*. During all that time, I have done my best to fulfill my calling by making it difficult for anyone but those who love the Truth to "see" the same things that I "see" in the Scriptures. So I have no intention of changing "The Way" I do things at this late stage. I will leave that to prideful fools who think they can do a "better" job than the one that God called me to do.

**Editor:** *We've had an inquiry concerning the beliefs of VOE. The man who asked the question writes:*

*"My brother says that you believe you can only go to Heaven if you speak in strange tongues? Evangelical and Pentecostal are very different to me, so I thought I'd ask if my brother is correct."*

*That is not part of our statement of beliefs found on our webpage, so this man's brother must have read a newsletter or Update publication where he believes he has read what is stated above. In the October 2011 newsletter, on p. 14, you did briefly mention the Holy Spirit taking up residence in a person when he is born again and that Spirit having the ability to speak through that person in every language imaginable; but do you recall ever making the statement quoted by the man above?*

*Also, after coming into contact with some of your writings, a woman had a similar question to ask you:*

*"I was told that speaking in tongues was a sign you were born again, a rather quick process while here on earth, like born again = speaking in tongues = born of the spirit. I could never believe that. I thought speaking in tongues was a gift.?! I do believe that here on earth we get baptized in water, and my new birth of the Spirit is during the resurrection, when I (God willing) will be like Him. True or fake?"*

**Elijah:** Did you know outsiders accused the Early Church of cannibalism? That's the ridiculous "spin" that Satan put on the ritual that we call "the Lord's Supper." If that dimwitted dullard was willing to go to that extreme way back then, why should we expect anything less of him today? So, no, I have never said a person cannot go to Heaven unless they speak in tongues or that speaking in tongues is a sign that a person has been born again. But I will tell you forthrightly that a lot of people who speak in tongues have never been born again and even more are not going to Heaven. If you doubt that, you have obviously never read what Jesus said about religious numbskulls who think they have been guaranteed a spot there:

<sup>13</sup>[You must come in] [through] [The] [narrow] [Gate], [because] [The] [Gate] {is} [a Thoroughfare] [and] [The] [Way] [that] [leads {them} away] [to] [Destruction] {is} [spacious\*]; [and] [those who] [come in] [through] [it] [are] [many]. <sup>14</sup>[How] [narrow] {is} [The] [Gate] [and] [hemmed in] {is} [The] [Way] [that] [leads {them} away] [into] [The] [Life]? [And] [those who] [find] [it] [are] [just a few]. <sup>15</sup>[You must beware] [of] [The] [False Prophets]—[those who] [are going to come] [to] [you] [in] [Sheep's] [Clothing] [but] [are] [vicious] [Wolves] [on the inside]. <sup>16</sup>[You will recognize] [them] [from] [their] [Fruits]. [They do] [not by any means] cull] [Bunches of



Grapes] [out] [of Thorns], [or] [Figs] [out] [of Thistles]!  
<sup>17</sup>[So also], [every] [good] [Tree] [produces] [exceptionally good] [Fruit]; [but] [The] [rotten] [Tree] [produces] [nasty] [Fruit]. <sup>18</sup>[A [good] Tree] [can] [not] [produce] [nasty] [Fruit], [nor] [a [rotten] Tree] [produce] [exceptionally good] [Fruit]. <sup>19</sup>[Every] [Tree] [that is [not] producing] [exceptionally good] [Fruit] [is cut off] [and] [thrown] [into] [a Fire]. <sup>20</sup>[So then], [you will [indeed] recognize] [them] [by] [their] [Fruits]. <sup>21</sup>[Not] [everyone] [who] [says] ‘[Your Majesty]! [Your Majesty]!’ [to Me], [will come in] [to] [The] [Kingdom] [of The] [Heavens], [but] [the one who] [acts in accordance with] [The] [Will] [of My] [Father], [Who is] [in] [The] [Heavens]. <sup>22</sup>[Many] [will say] [to Me] [on] [That] [Day], ‘[Your Majesty]! [Your Majesty]! [Did we [not] prophesy] [{in} Your] [Name], [and] [cast out] [Demons] [{in} Your] [Name], [and] [do] [a lot of] [Supernaturally Powerful Things] [{in} Your] [Name]?’ <sup>23</sup>[And] [I will [then] make an acknowledgment about] [them], [that] ‘[I [never] knew] [you]. [YOU [WHO] [ARE DOING] [THE] [LAWLESS DEED] DEPART] [FROM] [ME].’”  
 (Matthew 7:13–23) —my interim translation

I have stated frequently and repeatedly that the only thing God requires for anyone to be saved is belief. But that is belief in the sense of *what you believe*, not in the sense of *that you believe*. Everybody believes something about the *Living God*; but the determining factor in salvation has always been whether or not *what you believe* about the *Living God* is the Truth. That is what Jesus is *talking about* when He says the following about Himself as the *Living Word of God*:

<sup>1</sup>“[Without doubt]! [Without doubt] [I tell] [you], [the one who] [does [not] go in] [via] [The] [Door] [into] [The] [Courtyard] [of The] [Sheep], [but] [comes up] [somehow other\*], [That Individual] [is] [a Thief] [and] [a Robber]. <sup>2</sup>[But] [the One who] [goes in] [via] [The] [Door] [is] [The] [Sheep’s] [Shepherd]. <sup>3</sup>[The] [Doorkeeper] [opens] [{for} This Individual], [and] [The] [Sheep] [heed] [His] [Voice], [and] [He calls out to] [His] [Own] [Sheep] [by] [Name] [and] [leads them] out. <sup>4</sup>[When] [He takes [all] [His] [Own] out], [He goes] [ahead] [of them], [and] [The] [Sheep] [follow] [Him] [because] [they know] [His] [Voice]. <sup>5</sup>[But] [they will [definitely not] follow {the voice}] [of another], [but] [will flee] [from] [him], [because] [they do [not] know] [The] [Voice] [of [the] others].” <sup>6</sup>[Jesus] [told] [them] [This] [Proverb], [but] [Those Individuals] [did

[not] know] [what] [it was] [that] [He was speaking] [to them]; <sup>7</sup>[therefore], [Jesus] [said] [again]: “[Without doubt]! [Without doubt] [I tell] [you] [that] [I] [Am] [The] [Door] [of The] [Sheep]. <sup>8</sup>[They are] [all]—[as many as] [came] [before] [Me]—[Thieves] [and] [Robbers], [but] [The] [Sheep] [did [not] heed] [them]. <sup>9</sup>[I] [Am] [The] [Door]! [If] [anyone] [goes in] [via] [Me], [he will be saved], [and] [he will go in] [and] [go out] [and] [find] [a Legacy].”  
 (John 10:1–9) —my interim translation

Since the Bible claims to contain information that God revealed about Himself, the only logical approach for those who honestly want to know the Truth would be to make sure that they know what the Bible actually says, rather than what someone else says it says. That is, they should logically start examining *what they believe* about the *Living God* on the basis of the Bible itself rather than blindly accepting what others say about the Bible. In my humble opinion, a good place to begin would be with a statement like this one:

<sup>1</sup>“[When] [His Majesty], [Your God], [brings You] [into] [The Land] [where] [You] [are going in] [to take possession of it], [and He clears out] [many] [Gentiles] [in front of You]—[the Hittites] [and the Girgashites] [and the Amorites] [and the Canaanites] [and the Perizzites] [and the Hivites] [and the Jebusites]—[seven] [Gentiles], [many more], [and more numerous], [than You], <sup>2</sup>[and [His Majesty], [Your God], gives them up] [before You], [then You must viciously attack them]. [You must put them] [completely] [under the ban]; [You must [not] cut] [a Legal Agreement] [with them], [and you must [not] show them mercy]. <sup>3</sup>[And You must [not] intermarry] [with them]: [You must [not] give] [Your Daughter] [to his Son], [and [You must [not] take] his Daughter] [for Your Son], <sup>4</sup>[because] [he will turn [Your Son] aside] [from following Me], [and they will be slaves to] [other] [Gods]. [Then] [{the} Anger] [of His Majesty] will become inflamed] [against you], [and He will wipe You out] [quickly]. <sup>5</sup>[But] [this is what] [you must do] [to them]: [You must tear down] [their Altars] [and [shatter] their Masebahs]; [then you must sever] [their Asherim] [and burn [their Graven Images] up] [in a Fire]. <sup>6</sup>[Because] [You] {are} [a [holy] People] [to His Majesty], [Your God]; [His Majesty], [Your God], [has chosen] [You] [to become] [His] [People], [a Treasured Possession] [out of all] [The Peoples] [who] {are} [on

{the} Surface of] [The Ground]. <sup>7</sup>[His Majesty] [did [not] have a desire] [for you] [and choose] [you] [because you were more] [than all] [The Peoples], [because] [you] {were} [the most insignificant] [of all] [The Peoples]. <sup>8</sup>[Because] [of [His Majesty's] Love] [for you], [and because of His keeping] [The Sworn Oath] [that] [He swore] [to your Fathers], [His Majesty] [brought [you] out] [with a [strong] Hand] [and ransomed You] [out of a House] [of Slaves]—[out of {the} Hand] [of Pharaoh], [King] [of Egypt]. <sup>9</sup>[So You know] [that] [His Majesty], [Your God], [is] [The {Living} God], [The God] [Who has proven worthy of belief], [Who keeps] [His Legal Agreement] [and His Loving Kindness] [for a Thousand] [Generations] [for those who love Him] [and for those who keep] [His Commandments]; <sup>10</sup>[but He is going to repay] [those who hate Him] [face to face], [to send him to Hell]. [He will [not] linger] [over {anyone} who hates Him]; [He will repay] [him] [face to face]."  
(Deuteronomy 7:1–10)—my interim translation

Now, if you take what that text says about the malevolent nature of the Living God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and put it together with what you find in the next few passages I am going to show you, you should be able to see that the angry, jealous God of the Old Testament that Moses describes is the same angry, jealous God that the Apostles preached. Here is what John the Baptist says about that God:

<sup>1</sup>[Now], [in] [{the} [fifteenth\*] Year] [of The] [Esteemed Leadership\*] [of Tiberius\*] [Caesar], [while [Pontius] [Pilate] was the esteemed leader] [of Judea], [and] [Herod] [was tetrarch] [of Galilee], [but] [his] [Brother] [Philip] [was tetrarch] [of The] [Country] [of Ituraea\*] [and] [Trachonitis\*], [and] [Lysanias\*] [was tetrarch] [of Abilene\*], <sup>2</sup>[at the time] [of High Priest] [Annas] [and] [Caiphas], [God's] [Statement] [came] [to] [John], [The] [Son] [of Zacharias], [in] [The] [Desert]. <sup>3</sup>[And] [he came] [into] [The] [whole] [Area Around] [The] [Jordan], [preaching] [a Baptism] [of an Apology] [for] [Forgiveness] [of Sins]; <sup>4</sup>[as] [it has been written] [in] [a Book] [of {the} Words] [of Isaiah] [The] [Prophet]:

"[{The} VOICE] [OF ONE WHO IS CRYING OUT]  
[IN] [THE] [DESERT],  
[PREPARE] [THE] [WAY] [OF HIS MAJESTY],  
[MAKE] [HIS] [PATHS] [A STRAIGHTAWAY].

<sup>5</sup>[EVERY] [RAVINE\*] [WILL BE COMPLETELY FILLED],  
[AND] [EVERY] [MOUNTAIN] [AND] [HILL]  
[WILL BE BROUGHT DOWN];  
[AND] [THE] [CROOKED PLACES]  
[WILL BECOME] [A STRAIGHTAWAY],  
[AND] [THE] [JAGGED PLACES], [A [SMOOTH\*] WAY].  
<sup>6</sup>[AND] [ALL] [FLESH] [WILL SEE]  
[THE] [SALVATION] [OF THE] [{Living} GOD]."

<sup>7</sup>[Therefore], [he was saying] [to The] [Crowds] [going out] [to be baptized] [by] [him]: "[Descendants] [of Vipers]! [Who] [gave [you] an indication] [that {you} should flee] [from] [The] [Anger] [that is going to come]? <sup>8</sup>[Therefore], [produce] [Fruits] [worthy] [of The] [Apology], [and] [you must [not] begin] [to say] [within] [yourselves], [We have] [Abraham] [as a Father], [for] [I tell] [you] [that] [The] [{Living} God] [is able] [to raise up] [Children] [for Abraham] [out] [of] [These] [Stones]. <sup>9</sup>[But] [The] [Axe] [is [also] [already] laid] [at] [The] [Root] [of The] [Trees]. [Therefore], [every] [Tree] [that is [not] producing] [exceptionally good] [Fruit] [is being cut off] [and] [thrown] [into] [a Fire]."  
(Luke 3:1–9)—my interim translation

On another occasion, John indicated the God Who spoke through the Prophets in the Old Testament was still making a distinction between those who will be saved and those who won't. He says this:

<sup>23</sup>[Now], [John] [was] [also] [baptizing] [in] [Aenon\*] [near] [Salim\*], [because] [there was] [a lot of] [Water] [there]. [And] [they were coming] [and] [being baptized], <sup>24</sup>[for] [John] [was] [not yet] [thrown] [into] [The] [Guard House]. <sup>25</sup>[Therefore], [a Discussion] [about] [Cleansing] [came about]—[some] [of The] [Disciples] [of John] [with] [a Jew]. <sup>26</sup>[And] [they came] [to] [John] [and] [told] [him]: "[Rabbi, [the One Who] [was] [with] [You] [on the other side] [of The] [Jordan]? [The One for Whom] [You] [have provided testimony]? [Take a look at] [This Individual]! [He is baptizing {them}], [and] [they are [all] coming] [to] [Him]!" <sup>27</sup>[John] [responded] [and] [said]: "[A Man] [is [not] able] [to accept] [not even] [One Thing] [if] [it is] [not] [given] [to him] [out] [of] [Heaven]. <sup>28</sup>[You] [are [yourselves] providing testimony] [for me] [that] [I said] [that] [I] [am] [not] [The] [Anointed One], [but] [that] [I am] [one who has been sent] [ahead] [of That Individual]!" <sup>29</sup>[The One Who] [has] [The] [Bride] [is] [a Bridegroom]. [But] [The] [Friend] [of The] [Bridegroom] [who] [stands]

[and] [listens to] [Him] [rejoices] [with Joy] [because of] [The] [Voice] [of The] [Bridegroom]. [Therefore], [This] [Joy] [that] [I have] [is fully complete].<sup>30</sup>[That Individual] [has to] [grow], [but] [I], [to be made less].<sup>31</sup>[The One Who] [comes] [from up above] [is] [over] [everything]. [The one who] [is] [out] [of The] [Ground] [is] [out] [of The] [Ground], [and] [he speaks] [out] [of The] [Ground]. [The One Who] [comes] [out] [of] [Heaven] [is] [over] [everything].<sup>32</sup>[What] [He has seen] [and] [heard], [He provides] [This] as testimony; [and] [nobody] [is accepting] [His] [Testimony].<sup>33</sup>[The One Who] [accepted] [His] [Testimony] [has set His seal] [that] [The] [Living] God [is] [truthful].<sup>34</sup>[For] [the One Whom] [The] [Living] God [sent] [is making] [The] [Statements] [of The] [Living] God, [for] [He does] [not] give {Him}] [The] [Spirit] [in] [a Measure].<sup>35</sup>[The] [Father] [loves] [The] [Son], [and] [He has given] [everything] [by] [His] [Hand].<sup>36</sup>[The one who] [believes] [in] [The] [Son] [has] [eternal] [Life]. [But] [the one who] [is not persuaded by] [The] [Son] [will] [not] see [Life], [but] [The] [Anger] [of The] [Living] God [remains] [on] [him].”

(John 3:23–36) —my interim translation

One could blithely make the assertion that John is talking about the nature of God prior to the death and Resurrection of Jesus Christ. In so doing, one would do little more than reveal his ignorance of things the other New Testament writers say about such things. Take a look at what the Apostle Paul says in the first chapter of the Book of Romans:

<sup>16</sup>[For] [I am] [not] ashamed of [The] [Gospel]: (1) [for] [it is] [God’s] [Supernatural Power] [for] [Salvation] [in] everyone [who] [believes] {it}, [both] [Jew] [first] [and] [Greek];<sup>17</sup>(2) [for] [God’s] [Declaration of Not Guilty] [is being revealed] [in] [it]—[on the basis of] [Belief] [in] [a Belief]—[just as] [it has been written], “[SO] [THE] [ONE WHO HAS BEEN EXONERATED] [WILL LIVE] [ON THE BASIS] [OF BELIEF]”;<sup>18</sup>(3) [for] [God’s] [Anger] [is going to be revealed] [from] [Heaven] [against] [all] [Ungodliness] [and] [Immoral Behavior] [of Men] [who] [are holding] [The] [Truth] fast [in] [Immoral Behavior]—<sup>19</sup>[because] [what is] [known about] [The] [Living] God [is] [well-known] [within] [them], [for] [The] [Living] God [has made] {it} well-known [to them]—<sup>20</sup>(4) [for] [His] [invisible] {characteristics}—[both] [His] [everlasting] [Supernatural Power] [and]

[Divine Nature\*], [which are understood by] [The] [Things] {He} Made—[are plainly seen\*] [from] [World’s] [Creation] [so] [that] [they] [are] [without excuse];<sup>21</sup>[because], [when] {they} knew [The] [Living] God, [they did] [not] glorify {Him}] [as] [God] [or] [give thanks], [but] [became futile\*] [in] [their] [Speculations]; [and] [their] [Heart], [without insight], [was darkened].<sup>22</sup>[Alleging] [that] {they} were [wise], [they became stupid],<sup>23</sup>[and] [exchanged] [The] [Glory] [of The] [imperishable] [God] [for] [a Likeness] [of an Image] [of a] [perishable] Man [and] [of Winged Creatures] [and] [of Quadrupeds] [and] [of Reptiles].<sup>24</sup>[Wherefore], [The] [Living] God [handed] [them] over [to] [an Uncleaness] [by] [The] [Desires] [of their] [Hearts] [so that] [their] [Bodies] [would be dishonored] [by] [them]—<sup>25</sup>[those who] [exchanged] [The] [Truth] [of The] [Living] God [for] [The] [Lie]—[and] [were in awe of] {it}\*—[and] [served as priest] [for His] [Creation] [rather than] [the One Who] [created] {it}, [the One Who] [is] [blessed] [for] [The] [Ages to Come]. [Without doubt]! (Romans 1:16–25) —my interim translation

The point of that passage is simple: Everybody begins with an innate knowledge of God. The stupid ones give it up so that they can do whatever they want to do. The really stupid ones end up denying even the possibility that God exists. So much for the “genius” theoretical physicist who publicly proclaimed there is no God. He is engaged in an investigation into God’s habitat on a daily basis, yet he has not even the faintest clue as to what he is looking at. But I digress, let me show you what Paul believed about the wrath of God:

<sup>1</sup>[Wherefore], [O] [Man]—[everyone] [who] [judges]—[You are] [without excuse]. [For] [by] [whatever] {measure} [You judge] [The] [Other], [You condemn] [Yourself]. [For] [the one who] [judges] [is involved in] [the] [same] things. <sup>2</sup>[But] [we know] [that] [The] [Judgment] [of The] [Living] God [is] [in accordance with] [Truth] [against] [those who] [are involved in] [Such Things]. <sup>3</sup>[So] [do You reckon] [This], [O] [Man]—[the one who] [is judging] [those who] [are involved in] [Such Things] [and] [is doing] [them] {himself}—[that] [You] [will escape] [The] [Judgment] [of The] [Living] God? <sup>4</sup>[Or] [do You despise] [The] [Wealth] [of His] [Benevolence] [and] [Forbearance] [and] [Patience], [not understanding] [that] [The] [Benevolent Activity] [of The] [Living] God [leads] [You] [to] [an Apology]? <sup>5</sup>[But]—[in



accordance with] [Your] [Impenitence\*] [and] [unapologetic\*] [Heart]—[You are storing up] [Anger] [for Yourself] [for] [a Day] [of Anger] [and] [the] [Revelation] [of The] [Living} God's] [Impartial Judgment\*], <sup>6</sup>[Who] [WILL PAY [EACH ONE] BACK] [IN ACCORDANCE WITH] [HIS] [WORKS]: <sup>7</sup>(1) [on the one hand], [Glory] [and] [Honor] [and] [an Imperishable Body] [for those who] [are seeking] [eternal] [Life] [by] [Perseverance] [in good] [Work]; <sup>8</sup>(2) [but on the other], [Anger] [and] [Rage] [for those who], [because] [of Self-centeredness] [and] [not being persuaded by] [The] [Truth], [allow themselves to be persuaded], [but] [by their] [Immoral Behavior]. <sup>9</sup>[A Cruel Exercise of Authority] [and] [Confinement] {will be} [on] [every] [Soul] [of Man] [who] [brings about] [what is] [awful]—[on both] [Jew], [first], [and] [Greek], <sup>10</sup>[but] [Glory] [and] [Honor] [and] [Peace] [on everyone] [who] [works for] [what is] [good]—[on both] [Jew], [first], [and] [Greek]: <sup>11</sup>(1) [For] [there is] [no] [Partiality] [with] [The] [Living} God]; <sup>12</sup>(2) [for] [as many as] [have sinned] [without law] [will also] be done away with] [without law], [and] [as many as] [have sinned] [with] [Law] [will be judged] [via] [Law]; <sup>13</sup>(3) [for] [The] [Hearers] [of Law] {are} [not] [Those Who Have Been Exonerated] [by] [The] [Living} God], [but] [The] [Doers] [of Law] [will be exonerated]; <sup>14</sup>(4) [for] [when] [Gentiles] [who] [do not] have] [a Law] [do] [by Nature] [the things that are] [required by} The] [Law], [These Individuals] [who do not] have] [a Law] [are going to be] [their own] [Law]—<sup>15</sup>[those who] [are presenting] [The] [Work] [of The] [Law] [written\*] [on] [their] [Hearts] as evidence], [while] [their] [Conscience] ([and] [their] [Theories]) is testifying with {their hearts}], [making accusations against {them}] [or] [even] [presenting a defense] [between] [one another]—<sup>16</sup>[on] [a Day] [when] [The] [Living} God] [will judge] [The] [Secrets] [of Men] [in accordance with] [my] [Gospel], [via] [The Anointed One], [Jesus].  
(Romans 2:1–16) —my interim translation

Did you see what Paul says in verse 8 about those who are not persuaded by the Truth? Put that right alongside what he says in verse 16 about God judging us in accordance with the Gospel that he preached. Paul's point is, all that anyone has to "do" to avoid being condemned on Judgment Day is hear the Truth, believe it, and apologize to God. That's not quite as easy as it might seem, especially if you are not at all concerned about whether or not *what you believe* is the

Truth. But those fortunate few who have believed the Truth and honestly apologized to God can identify completely with what Paul says in this next passage:

<sup>1</sup>[Therefore], [we—[those who have been exonerated] [on the basis] [of Belief]—have] [Peace] [with] [The] [Living} God] [via] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], <sup>2</sup>[via] [Whom] [we also]—[by] [our] [Belief]—have] [Access] [to] [This] [Favor] [in] [which] [we stand], [and] [we boast] [about] [a Hope] [of The] [Glory] [of The] [Living} God]. <sup>3</sup>[So] [not] [only {this}], [but] [we also] boast] [about] [The] [Cruel Exercises of Authority], [knowing] [that] [The] [Cruel Exercise of Authority] [brings about] [Perseverance]; <sup>4</sup>[then] [The] [Perseverance], [Approval]; [then] [The] [Approval], [Hope]. <sup>5</sup>[So] [our] [Hope] [does not] embarrass {us}], [because] [The] [Love] [of The] [Living} God] [has been poured out] [in] [our] [Hearts] [via] [a] [holy] [Spirit]—[the One that] [was given] [to us]. <sup>6</sup>[For], [while] [we] were] [still] [sick], [The Anointed One] [still] [died] [on] [Time], [for the sake] [of those who are ungodly]. <sup>7</sup>[For] [someone] [might—[barely]—die] [for the sake] [of One Who Has Been Exonerated]; [for] [maybe] [someone] [might even] dare] [to die] [for the sake] [of the one who is] [good]. <sup>8</sup>[But] [The] [Living} God] [commends] [His] [Own] [Love] [for] [us], [because] [while] [we] were] [still] [Sinners], [The Anointed One] [died] [for] [our] sake. <sup>9</sup>[Therefore], [much] [more] [will we] [who have now] been exonerated] [by] [His] [Blood] be saved] [from] [His] [Anger] [via] [Him]. <sup>10</sup>[For] [if] [we] [who were] [Enemies] were reconciled] [to The] [Living} God] [via] [The] [Death] [of His] [Son], [much] [more] [will we] [who have been reconciled] be saved] [by] [His] [Life]; <sup>11</sup>[so] [not] [only {this}], [but] [also] [while boasting] [about] [The] [Living} God] [via] [our] [Master], [Jesus], [The Anointed One], [via] [Whom] [we have] [now] received] [our] [Reconciliation].  
(Romans 5:1–11) —my interim translation

There are other places where the wrath of the angry, jealous God of Israel is mentioned in the New Testament, but my favorite passage is this one:

<sup>12</sup>[And] [I saw] [when] [He opened] [The] [Seal] [that was] [sixth] [and] [a] [tremendous] [Earthquake] [occurred]; [and] [The] [Sun] [became] [black] [like] [Sackcloth] [made of hair\*], [and] [The] [entire] [Moon] [became] [like] [Blood]; <sup>13</sup>[and] [The] [Stars] [of Heaven] [fell] [to] [The] [Earth], [like] [a Fig Tree] [being shaken] [by] [a] [tremendous]

Wind] [casts] [her] [Unripe Figs\*]. <sup>14</sup>[And] [Heaven] [was separated] [like] [a Scroll] [that is being rolled up], [and] [every] [Mountain] [and] [Island] [were moved] [out] [their] [of] [Places]. <sup>15</sup>[And] [The] [Kings] [of The] [Earth] [and] [The] [Aristocrats] [and] [The] [Commanders of a Thousand] [and] [those who are] [wealthy] [and] [those who are] [mighty] [and] [every] [Slave] [and] [Free Man] [hid] [themselves] [in] [The] [Caves] [and] [in] [The] [Rocks] [of The] [Mountains]. <sup>16</sup>[And] [they tell] [The] [Mountains] [and] [The] [Rocks], “[Fall] [on] [us] [and] [hide] [us] [from] [the] Presence] [of the One Who] [is sitting] [on] [The] [Throne] [and] [from] [The] [Anger] [of The] [Little Lamb]! <sup>17</sup>[Because] [The] [Day] [of their] [Anger]—[The] [Most Important Day]—[has come], [and] [who] [is going to be able] [to stand]?”

(Revelation 6:12–17) —my interim translation

I absolutely love that phrase, “the anger of the Little Lamb.” It is obviously referring to Jesus Christ; yet nobody pays attention to the *significance* of it, or the fact that it is a mockery of the current belief that the resurrected Jesus Christ—that is, God the Son—somehow loves everybody so much that He would never do anyone any harm. All I have to say about that is, “Just keep thinking those happy thoughts,” because that is all they are—happy thoughts. They certainly have no basis in actual fact.

**Editor:** *A man who just received the little booklet we distribute, called **The AntiChrist**, wrote to tell us it has many biblical errors. He begins by saying this:*

“For example, the ‘little horn’ of Dan. 7 is NOT the Anti-Christ. He was the Muslim power that arose among the other ‘10 horns’ of the beast. That historical power or ‘little horn’ which ‘arose among the other 10’ was the country of Spain after the Muslim conquest of that country. The 3 ‘horns’ that the Muslims conquered were Egypt, Syria and North Africa. The Muslims persecuted Christians then and still kill them if given the opportunity. He will continue this persecution of Christians and Christianity UNTIL the arrival of the 3-1/2 year future (but very near) tribulation. (This passage is MISUNDERSTOOD by far too many. This is a result of reading into the scripture something it does NOT state. This passage should be clear. The little horn would persecute the saints UNTIL the arrival of the tribulation and not just during the tribulation. Read it and weep for your mistake). At the

beginning of the tribulation, the true Anti-Christ will arise to rule during the tribulation which is the same thing as the ‘time of trouble’ of Dan. 12:1.

You are extremely confused about bible prophecy especially that of Daniel and the Revelation. You need much more research on the bible. For example, there is NO so called ‘rapture.’ That is a lie. There is ONLY the Second Advent of Christ at the end of time. The present Dispensationalist ‘theology’ and their idea that the Jews are God’s Chosen people is the stuff of the mark of the beast of Rev. 13. In fact, the Jews are the worst enemy of Jesus Christ on the planet.”

**He makes a point of telling us he has a Ph.D. and believes in systematic theology. He also told us he has written a book that explains all this in about 250 pages and will be happy to send you a free copy if you will pay the postage. Is he accurate in anything he states here? How would you respond to this gentleman?**

**Elijah:** First of all, the fellow is not disagreeing with you or me; he is disagreeing with the Early Church Father Irenæus, the one who wrote the book on how to identify a heretic. Beyond that, I would only remind you of something I have already shown you:

<sup>4</sup>[Do [not] respond to] [an **Imbecile**]  
[in accordance with his Idiocy]

[So that] [You] [are [not] [also] comparable] [to him].

<sup>5</sup>[Respond to] [an **Imbecile**]

[in accordance with his Idiocy]

[So that [he is] not] [wise] [in his {own} Eyes].

(Proverbs 26:4–5) —my interim translation

Since those are the only possible options, I pick the one that is less detrimental to my own well-being. You can find the reason for my decision in these two verses:

[Meet] [a Bear] [bereaved of cubs] [by a Man],

[But not] [an **Imbecile**] [in his Idiocy].

(Proverbs 17:12) —my interim translation

[You must [not] speak]

[in {the} Hearing of] [an **Imbecile**],

[Because] [he will despise] [the] [Insight]

[in Your Utterances].

(Proverbs 23:9) —my interim translation

**Editor:** *This question recently came to us via Facebook:*

*"I wanted to ask a question, this is a very important question, so let me explain. Let's say a person knew that they were called by God into the ministry for years, recognized signs, had visions confirming it but didn't understand how and when to move on this call from God. That person heard the truth, agreed with the truth, understands that God will open his/her eyes to understand more of the truth but that person is absolutely terrified to go out and do what he/she knows what he/she should be doing because of fear of, 'What if I am wrong about this?'"*

**Elijah:** I am not in a position to give advice to anyone who believes God has called them, just as no one is in a position to advise me on how God expects me to fulfill my calling. That is a matter God expects the person He has called to deal with on his own. I can say this from my own experience: When God calls someone, He also provides all the information that person needs to fulfill his calling. In my case, He has made it perfectly clear to me that I am not to prepare anyone for a "ministry" of any kind. That is because He expects me to put everything that I understand in a form that I can distribute to anyone who wants to know what I teach. From that, it should be obvious that I believe God has not called anyone to take what they learn from me and teach it to others. Anyone who does so has pitted their "calling," against my own. If they do not believe me in regard to my calling, why would they believe anything else that I teach?

With regard to the issue of one person giving advice to another as to how to fulfill their calling, I would only warn a person to be wary. I have always taken advice concerning that from the following passage of Scripture:

<sup>1</sup>[So, guess what!] [A Man] [of God] [came] [from Judah] [to] [Bethel] [by {the} Word] [of His Majesty], [while Jeroboam] [was standing] [at] [The Altar] [to burn incense]. <sup>2</sup>[And he called out] [against] [The Altar] [by {the} Word] [of His Majesty] [and said], "[O Altar!] [O Altar!] [This is what] [His Majesty] [has said]: '[Guess what?]' [A Son] [is going to be engendered] [for {the} House] [of David]; [Josiah] {is} [his Name], [and he will sacrifice] [on You] [as a communal sacrifice] [{the} Priests of] [The High Places] [who burn incense] [on You]. [So {the} Bones of] [Adam] [will be burned up] [on You].'"

<sup>3</sup>[And [on [That] Day] he gave] [a Harbinger], [saying], "[This] {is} [The Harbinger] [that] [His Majesty] [has spoken], '[Guess what!] [The Altar] [will be torn apart] [and [The Grease] [that] {is} [on it] will be poured out].'" <sup>4</sup>[And it happened], [when [The King] heard] [{the} Word] [that] [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God] [called out] [against] [The Altar] [in Bethel], [that [Jeroboam] stretched out] [his Hand] [away from] [The Altar], [saying], "[Take hold of him]!" [Then [his Hand], [which] [he had stretched out] [against him], was dried up], [and he was [not] able] [to bring it back] [to himself]; <sup>5</sup>[and The Altar] [was torn apart] [and [The Grease] was poured out] [of] [The Altar] [in accordance with {the} Harbinger] [that] [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God] [gave] [by {the} Word] [of His Majesty]. <sup>6</sup>[Then [The King] responded] [and said] [to] [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God], "[Please] [make an appeal to] [{the} Face of] [His Majesty], [Your God], [and pray] [on my behalf] [so that [my Hand] may be restored] [to me].'" [So [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God] made an appeal to] [{the} Face] [of His Majesty], [and {the} Hand] [of The King] was restored] [to him] [so that it was] [like {it was} at first]. <sup>7</sup>[Then [The King] spoke] [to] [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God], "[Come] [with me] [to The House] [and be sustained], [and I will give] [You] [a Gift].'" <sup>8</sup>[But [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God] said] [to] [The King]: "[If] [You gave] [me] [Half of] [Your House], [I would [not] go] [with You], [and I would [not] eat] [Bread], [and I would [not] drink] [Water] [in [This] Place]. <sup>9</sup>[Because] [He gave] [me] a commandment] [like this] [by {the} Word] [of His Majesty], [saying], '[You will [not] eat] [Bread], [and You will [not] drink] [Water], [and You will [not] return] [in {the} Way] [that] [You came].'" <sup>10</sup>[So he went] [in [another] Way] [and did [not] return] [in {the} Way] [in] [which] [he came] [to] [Bethel]. <sup>11</sup>[But [one] [old] Prophet] [was staying] [in Bethel], [and [his Son] came] [and recounted] [for him] [everything] [That Had Been Done]—[what] [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God] [had done] [That Day] [in Bethel]—[The Words] [that] [he had spoken] [to] [The King]. [They also recounted them] [to their Father]. <sup>12</sup>[So [their Father] spoke] [to them], "[Where is] [this] [Way] {that} [he went]?" [And [his Sons] had seen] [The Way] [that] [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God] [who] [had come] [from Judah] [had gone]. <sup>13</sup>[So he said] [to] [his Sons], "[Cinch up] [The Jackass] [for me]!" [And they cinched up] [The Jackass] [for him], [and he rode] [on him] <sup>14</sup>[and went] [after] [{the} Man] [of The {Living} God]. [And he found him] [sitting] [under] [The Terebinth] [and said] [to him], "[Are You] [{the}



Man] [of The {Living} God] [who] [came] [from Judah]?" [And he said], "[I am]." <sup>15</sup>[So he said] [to him], "[Go] [with me] [to The House] [and eat] [Bread]." <sup>16</sup>[And he said]: "[I am [not] able] [to go back] [with You] [or to come] [with You], [so I will [not] eat] [Bread] [and not] [drink] [Water] [with You] [in [This] Place]. <sup>17</sup>[Because] [He spoke] [to me] [by {the} Word] [of His Majesty], '[You will [not] eat] [Bread] [and You will [not] drink] [Water] [there]; [You will [not] return] [in {the} Way] [in] [which] [You went].'" <sup>18</sup>[So he said] [to him], "[I am] [also] [a Prophet] [like You], [and a Messenger] [spoke] [to me] [by {the} Word] [of His Majesty], [saying], '[Bring him back] [with You] [to] [Your House] [so that he may eat] [Bread] [and drink] [Water].'" [He lied] [to him]! <sup>19</sup>[So he went back] [with him] [and ate] [Bread] [in his House] [and drank] [Water].

<sup>20</sup>[Then it happened], [while [they] were sitting] [at] [The Table], [that] [the] Word] [of His Majesty] [came] [to] [The Prophet] [who] [had brought him back]; <sup>21</sup>[and he called out] [to] [the] Man] [of The {Living} God] [who] [had come] [from Judah], [saying], "[This is what] [His Majesty] [has said], '[Simply because] [You rebelled against] [the] Mouth of] [His Majesty] [and did [not] observe] [The Commandment] [that] [His Majesty], [Your God], [commanded You], <sup>22</sup>[and You returned] [and ate] [Bread] [and drank] [Water] [in {the} Place] [that] [He spoke] [to You], '[You must [not] eat] [Bread] [and You must [not] drink] [Water],'" [Your Corpse] [will [not] go in] [to] [the] Tomb] [of Your Fathers].'" <sup>23</sup>[So it happened], [after] [he ate] [Bread] [and after] [he drank], [that he cinched up] [The Jackass] [for him]—[for {the} Prophet] [whom] [he had brought back]—<sup>24</sup>[and he went]. [But [a Lioness] found him] [on {the} Way], [and she put him to death], [and [his Corpse] was] [thrown] [onto {the} Way], [and The Jackass] [was standing] [next to it]. [The Lioness] [was standing] [next to] [The Corpse] also! <sup>25</sup>[And guess what!] [Men] [were passing by] [and saw] [The Corpse] [thrown] [onto {the} Way] [and] [The Lioness] [standing] [next to] [The Corpse]; [and they came in] [and spoke] [in {the} City] [in] [which] [The old] Prophet] [was staying].

<sup>26</sup>[So [The Prophet] [who] [had brought him back] [from] [The Way] heard {what had happened}], [and he said], "[That] {is} [the] Man] [of God] [who] [rebelled against] [the] Mouth] [of His Majesty], [so [His Majesty] gave him] [to {the} Lioness] [and she broke him] [and put him to death] [in accordance with {the} Word] [of His Majesty] [that] [he spoke] [to him].'" <sup>27</sup>[Then he spoke] [to] [his Sons], [saying], "[Cinch up] [The Jackass]

[for me]." [So they cinched {him} up]. <sup>28</sup>[Then he went] [and found] [his Corpse] [thrown] [onto {the} Way] [and {the} Jackass] [and The Lioness] [standing] [next to] [The Corpse]; [The Lioness] [had [not] eaten] [The Corpse] [and had [not] broken] [The Jackass]. <sup>29</sup>[So [The Prophet] picked up] [the] Corpse of] [the] Man] [of The {Living} God] [and rested it] [on] [The Jackass], [and brought it back]; [and [The old] Prophet] came in] [to] [the] City] [to lament] [and bury it]. <sup>30</sup>[Then he rested] [his Corpse] [in his Tomb], [and they lamented] [over him], "[Woe!] [My Brother]!" <sup>31</sup>[Then it happened], [after] [he buried] [him], [that he said] [to] [his Sons]: "[When I die] [and you bury] [me] [in {the} Tomb] [in] [which] [the] Man] [of The {Living} God] [was buried], [rest] [my Bones] [next to] [his Bones]. <sup>32</sup>[Because] [The Thing] [that] [he called out] [by {the} Word] [of His Majesty] [against] [The Altar] [that] {is} [in Bethel] [and against] [all] [the] Houses of] [The High Places] [that] {are} [in {the} Cities of] [Samaria] [will [definitely] happen]."

<sup>33</sup>[After] [This] [Word], [Jeroboam] [did [not] turn back] [from his [bad] Way], [but he went back] [and made] [Priests of] [High Places]; [to the last one of] [The People] [who desired], [he filled] [his Hand], [and let {them} be] [Priests of] [High Places]. <sup>34</sup>[So [by [This] Thing] it became] [a Sin] [to the] House] [of Jeroboam], [by both holding back the truth] [and by wiping {it} out] [off] [the] Surface of] [The Ground].

(1 Kings 13:1–34) —my interim translation

The moral of that story should be fairly easy to understand: *If you have a legitimate calling from the Lord, you had best not take advice from anyone as to how to fulfill it. The Lord Himself will make it clear to you what He wants you to do—if you have a legitimate calling. The same thing applies to anyone who has been born again. If you have been born again and are honestly trying to follow the Lord, you don't need anyone to tell you what God expects you to do. You already know—if you have been born again. If you don't, you either aren't listening, or you have never been born again.*

I have been aware of the significance of 1 Kings 13 for more than forty years, and for just about as long as that I have been aware of the fact that the Lord expects me to reject any and all advice regarding my calling. But it took quite a bit of training (twenty years?) and a whole lot of failing when tested before the reality of that passage finally sunk in. What folks say really is true, experience is the best teacher, but I never want to

go through the torment I went through to learn what I needed to know about that. It wasn't fun. So now you know why I do my best not to give or take advice.

For nearly as long as I have been walking with the Lord, there is one text that I have relied on for assurance that I would eventually accomplish what God called me to do. It is this one:

<sup>1</sup>[David's] [Insight]:  
 [Those Who Attain the Resurrection of] [those whose [Transgression] has been carried away] {Are} [those whose [Sin] has been covered].  
<sup>2</sup>[Those Who Attain the Resurrection of] [Adam]: [To Him] [His Majesty] [will [not] reckon] [a Reprehensible Act],  
 [And there is no] [Slack] [in His Spirit].  
<sup>3</sup>[When] [I said nothing] [my Bones] [wore out], [While I roared] [all] [Day Long].  
<sup>4</sup>[When] [by day] [and by night] [Your Hand] [was heavy] [on me], [My Butter Cake] [was turned] [during {the} Dry Spells\* of] [Summer]. [Selah].  
<sup>5</sup>[I made [my Sin] known to You], [And I did [not] conceal] [my Reprehensible Act]; [I said], "[I will acknowledge] [my Transgression] [to His Majesty]";  
 [And You] [carried away] [{the} Reprehensible Act] [of my Sin]. [Selah].  
<sup>6</sup>[Because of] [this], [every] [Virtuous Person] [Will pray] [to You] [at {the} Time] [{for} finding {You}],  
 [Any {time} but] [at {the} Surge] [of many] [Waters]; [They will [not] reach] [him].  
<sup>7</sup>[You] {will be} [a Hiding Place] [for me]; [You will guard me] [from {the} Adversary]; [You will surround me with] [{the} Joyful Shouts of] [one who escapes]. [Selah].  
<sup>8</sup>"[I will give You insight] [and teach You] [In {the} Way] [that] [You should walk]. [I will show the plan] [{with} My Eye] [upon You];  
<sup>9</sup>[You must [not] be] [like a Horse], [like a Mule]. [Without] [providing understanding] [by a Bit] [and Bridle]— [His Ornaments] [for reining in\*]— [He would [never] come close] [to You]."  
<sup>10</sup>[{The} Pains] [of One Who Is Guilty] {are} [many], [But [Loving-kindness] [will surround] the one who trusts] [in His Majesty].

<sup>11</sup>[You Who Are Not Guilty] [rejoice] [in His Majesty] [and be happy];  
 [And [all] [who are upright of] [Heart] shout joyfully].  
 (Psalm 32:1–11) —my interim translation

As far as I am concerned, the key verses in that psalm are these:

<sup>8</sup>"[I will give You insight] [and teach You] [In {the} Way] [that] [You should walk]. [I will show the plan] [{with} My Eye] [upon You];  
<sup>9</sup>[You must [not] be] [like a Horse], [like a Mule]. [Without] [providing understanding] [by a Bit] [and Bridle]— [His Ornaments] [for reining in\*]— [He would [never] come close] [to You]."  
 (Psalm 32:8–9) —my interim translation

The point of those two verses is, God prefers that all His Children "walk in *The Way*" just because they know He is watching. He has no desire to be constantly jerking the reins to stop an irrational animal from wandering off into the weeds. Since becoming aware of what those two verses said, I have done my best to do what I sincerely believed the Lord would have me do without relying on feelings, hunches, or—worse yet—seeking some kind of sign from Him. If you want to get God really riled up, just try that one:

<sup>1</sup>[And] [after [The] [Pharisees] [and] [Sadducees] [who were testing {Him}] approached], [they asked] [Him] [to show] [them] [a Sign] [from] [Heaven]. <sup>2</sup>[But] [in response] [He] [told] [them]: "[When it is] [Late in the Day], [you say], '[Fair Weather\*], [for] [Heaven] [is fiery red]!' <sup>3</sup>[And] [early in the morning], '[Bad Weather] [Today], [for] [Heaven], [which is gloomy], [is fiery red].'  
 [On the one hand], [you know how] [to make a determination based on] [The] [Face] [of Heaven]; [but on the other] [you are [not] able to] {based on} [The] [Signs] [of The] [Times]. <sup>4</sup>[A [nasty] [and] [adulterous] Generation] [diligently seeks] [a Sign]; [and] [a Sign] [will [not] be given] [to her], [except] [The] [Sign] [of Jonah]."  
 [And] [after leaving [them] behind], [He went away].  
 (Matthew 16:1–4) —my interim translation

One last word: It would be a mistake on your part to assume I have never ignorantly wandered off into the weeds. Speaking *parabolically*, I can honestly tell

you I am more familiar with weeds than cultivated plants. But there is one thing I have assiduously tried not to be in my dealings with the Lord. That one thing is stubborn as a mule. So far, every time I have wandered off, I have somehow always made my “way” back to “*The Way*.” If it were otherwise, I would not be doing what I am doing today, fully confident that the Scriptures tell a coherent story in terms of Hebrew idioms and *parabolic imagery*, and with a clarity that is absolutely astounding.

**Editor:** *A reader wrote:*

*“I received the Free Offer booklet ‘The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ’ in the mail. After reading it I have to admit I do have a few hesitations with the thrust of the booklet. Probably the biggest issue I have is the author’s use of the NASB. I’ve read this version and found many problems with it so I don’t accept the NASB as a true and reliable translation.”*

**He then lists the problems he has with this translation:**

1. A blatant lie in Mark 1:2.
2. A contradiction between 1 Samuel 17 and 2 Samuel 21:19. (Two separate men killing Goliath)
3. Arian doctrine found in John 1:18.
4. Degrading the greatest verse on the deity of Christ in 1 Timothy 3:16.
5. Degrading the doctrine of the Godhead (Trinity) in 1 John 5:7.

**He ends by saying:**

*“Since the Lord Jesus Christ is called the Word of God seven times in the Scriptures and the Lord Jesus is pure and holy today, I would think there should be a pure and holy Bible today. I’m referring to a pure and holy Bible that I can get in my hands.”*

**Would you please respond to this person’s “issues” regarding the NASB? Also, would you explain why you use this version of the Bible in your books and newsletters?**

**Elijah:** It amazes me that this person could read *The Old Testament Gospel of Jesus Christ* and never once see the Truth in the message it contains. All he sees is a

completely ancillary issue he can use to reject what the booklet says. If he is actually sincere in his desire for “a pure and holy Bible that I can get in my hands,” he will stop defending the text of the King James Version; go back to school to learn Greek, Hebrew, and Aramaic; spend the time it takes to master textual criticism; and put the original text together for himself. Lacking that, he will never have what he says he wants, no matter what scholars do to determine the wording of the original text.

A much better “Way” for him and his ilk to approach the text of the Scriptures would be to realize that Jesus Christ is the *Living Word of God* rather than the written word. That is, Christ is the Truth that the written text contains—the *meaning and significance* of the text, not the words with which the text was written. Paul explains that in a couple of places, but Pharisees, being what Pharisees are, can’t “see” what he *means* by what he says. Take a look at this passage:

<sup>1</sup>[Are we beginning] [to commend] [ourselves] [again]? [Or] [do we [not] need] [Letters] [of Commendation\*] [to] [you] [or] [from] [you], [as] [some] {do}? <sup>2</sup>[You] [are] [our] [Letter], [{a letter} that has been inscribed] [in] [our] [Hearts], [{a letter} that is known] [and] [read] [by] [all] [Men], <sup>3</sup>[because] [you are] [becoming well-known] [{as} a Letter] [{from} The Anointed One] [that was served] [by] [us], [{a letter} that has been inscribed]: (1) [not] [{with} Black Ink], [but] [{with} a [living] God’s] [Spirit]; (2) [not] {inscribed} [on] [Tablets] [made of stone], [but] [on] [Tablets] [of Hearts] [made of flesh]. <sup>4</sup>[But] [we have] [a Firm Belief] [like this] [with regard to] [The] [{Living} God] [via] [The] [Anointed One], <sup>5</sup>[not] [because] [we are] [worthy of consideration] [of] [ourselves], [to reckon] [anything] [as] [from] [ourselves], [but] [our] [Consideration\*] {is} [from] [The] [{Living} God], <sup>6</sup>[Who] [also] [made] [us] worthy of consideration as] [Servants] [of a [new] Testament]—[not] [of Something That Has Been Written], [but] [of a Spirit]. [For] [The] [Thing That Has Been Written] [kills], [but] [The] [Spirit] [gives life].

(2 Corinthians 3:1–6) —my interim translation

Paul’s point is, the text of the Old Testament is nothing but a dead letter if one does not understand it. The Apostles were “writing” the *meaning and significance* of that written word on the hearts (minds) of Believers by explaining what the biblical text actually



means. They got their understanding of those things from Jesus Christ when He revealed it to them as a Living Word. So much for the pulchritudinous pulpit parrots who can quote Scripture like it's going out of style but have not a clue as to what it actually means.

**Editor:** *A man who has read all six of the Free Offer booklets available from VOE, as well as The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist and Not All Israel Is Israel, sent us a note saying:*

*"Before I ask my question I just want to say that what you are teaching is basically the same understanding I have received from my study of the scriptures. Everything I have read that you have published so far is totally accurate. I have been a believer for almost 36 years now and have been studying the scriptures diligently during this entire time. I just wanted to preface my question with that so that you do not construe my question as being adversarial, it is not. I am honestly and sincerely seeking clarification on a couple of points. My question comes from 'The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist' and is a two-part question.*

*On Page 56, Footnote 81, you say 'How will he convince Christian pretenders he is God? By pretending to be Jesus Christ, the Messiah of the Jews.' Then, on page 80, Irenaeus says, 'And Jeremiah does not merely point out his sudden coming, but he even indicates the tribe from which he shall come, where he says, "We shall hear the voice of his swift horses from Dan." And then he concludes "This, too, is the reason that this tribe is not reckoned in the Apocalypse along with those who are saved.'*

*(1) If he [the Antichrist] is from the tribe of Dan, how would the Jews ever accept him as the Messiah? The Messiah must be born in Bethlehem and be descended from the tribe of Judah and the line of David. (2) If the Antichrist is claiming to be Jesus Christ, how can the number of his name equal 666? Thank you in advance for any help you can give me in understanding this and God bless you and your ministry at Voice of Elijah."*

**Elijah:** One simple answer covers both questions: People are not always who they say they are, or have the name they claim to have, especially if said "people" turn out to be the pathological liar that Jesus describes in this passage:

*42[Jesus] [told] [them]: "[If] [The] [Living} God] [were] [your] [Father], [it might be that] [you would love] [Me], [for] [I] [came out] [from] [The] [Living} God], [and] [I came]; [for] [I have [not even] come] [for] [Myself], [but] [That Individual] [sent] [Me]. 43[Why] [do you [not] know] [What [I] Said]? [Because] [you are [not] able] [to hear] [The] [Word] [that] [I have]! 44[You] [are] [part] [of your] [Father], [The] [False Accuser], [and] [you want] [to act in accordance with] [The] [Desires] [of your] [Father]! [That Individual] [was] [a Killer] [from] [The Beginning]; [and] [he does [not] stand] [in] [The] [Truth], [because] [Truth] [is] [not] [in] [him]! [Whenever] [he speaks] [The] [Lie], [he is speaking] [on the basis] [of his] [own {thoughts}], [because] [he is] [a Liar] [and] [The] [Father] [of himself]! 45[But] [because] [I] [am telling {you}] [The] [Truth], [you do [not] believe] [Me]."*

*(John 8:42-45) —my interim translation*

Should anyone need further clarification, I simply say this: Satan can claim to be descended from whatever tribe he needs to, and he can claim whatever name he wants to. Others will be taken in by him, but those who know the Truth need not be, because Irenæus knew the Truth.

**Editor:** *We have a question from a woman who is in the process of reading Not All Israel Is Israel. She wrote telling us:*

*"I have received and read all of the free booklets you offer and I have started reading Not All Israel Is Israel. So far I am in complete agreement with, and have understood, everything I have read in all of these publications except for one thing and I have read and re-read and prayed over this and I need a little more explanation from Mr. Harper. I have a question that I would like for you to pass on to Mr. Harper and hopefully I can get an answer on it. My question is this: If I'm understanding correctly, you say that Jesus Christ is the 'Adam' being spoken of in Genesis 1:20-23. You explain that it was Jesus that was made in God's image and He 'was given authority over the fish of the sea and the birds of the sky and over the cattle and over all the earth. ...' So far, so good. I can see all that and it makes perfect sense. But please tell me who God was speaking of when he said, 'And God created man in His own image,' (I get that this is Jesus) but it's the rest I don't understand. '... in the image of God He*

created him; male and female He created them. And God blessed them; and God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it. ..." Was he speaking of future believers who would be a part of the Body of Christ? Or has He once again switched back to the first Adam and Eve at this point? '... In His own image, in the image of God He created him;' (was this Jesus and the rest was Adam and Eve or future believers or???) '... male and female He created them.' What does the 'male and female' mean and what did He mean by 'Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and subdue it ...'? Of whom is he speaking? Please help me to understand this. I feel that I'm missing some crucial point here that needs to be completely understood before I can continue."

**Elijah:** Your reader has surmised the Truth; everything stated in Genesis 1 applies to Jesus Christ and all the "male and female" Believers who will be created in the image and likeness of God before the sixth "day" of Creation draws to a close here at the End of the Age. I implied those things in the booklet *In the Image and Likeness of God*, but I did not state them overtly. Whether or not she decides to believe what she has surmised is up to her. Some will; most won't. I simply encourage everyone who has questions to go back and reread what I wrote in that little booklet. If they have a sincere desire to know the Truth, it will come to them—eventually.

**Editor:** We have a note from a woman who is in the process of reading the newsletters and still has a hard time believing what a dark place the Church sits in. She said:

"I was frustrated from the time I became a believer because I had so many questions and only got generic answers from the church. I felt like I was the only person who was truly changed and the people in the church were the same as those outside. I knew my conversion was real because the burning within me changed my whole life, it was as though the sky was rolled back and even the color blue became different. I searched high and low for the treasure I found in **The Voice of Elijah**. I did every Bible study I came across. I read the Bible from cover to cover at least five times; I studied the messianics, the Jews, the Biblical Holidays, and the Temple; yet still had no clue. I searched so hard for so long before I found you. I just cannot even begin to tell you all at **The Voice of Elijah** how much finally hearing the truth means to me."

*She also mentioned that she is trying to set it up on our website to give a monthly contribution to VOE and asks, "Is there a place on your site that I can do that?" For others who would like to know this, will you instruct her as to how she can accomplish this?*

**Elijah:** That's a bit above my pay grade, meaning I am only vaguely aware that they do that all the time. So I would call Voice of Elijah, Inc. directly. Their phone number is on the back cover of every issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter. They definitely know how to do what she wants to do.

**Editor:** A person wrote in asking several questions about what you believe:

"I know many, many people that hope for pre-trib also know that if that is not the way things will go down, they would have to wait to see if it's in the middle or the end and overcome as the bible says. Do you think all of a sudden we stop believing or understanding the rest of scripture, to forget all we know about the Anti-Christ when he comes on the scene? Why do you believe you are the one God has sent as 'THE Elijah to all that want the Truth' that would be important for us to know? I can tell you this, if pre-trib is misunderstood then I will look for post-trib, and then, if not, I figure I will know the day and hour for the return via the confirmation of the date of a 7-year covenant. Either way I will be looking for our Lord to come in the air and defeating the Anti-Christ with his word. So unless we pre-tribers see Jesus and the saints in the clouds, most of us will not believe he is the Christ."

**Elijah:** This fellow seems to have everything fairly well figured out to his satisfaction, so I see no reason to disturb his "sleep." I'm not sure where he got the quote "THE Elijah to all who want to know the Truth." I've certainly never said anything even close to resembling that statement. Unlike him, I'm not so smug as to say I know I can wait and see what God is planning to do; I only know what God called me to do, and I'm doing it as best I know how. But I also know this:

[When] [they are saying], "[Peace] [and] [Certainty]!" [Devastation] [is [then] going to confront] [them] [all of a sudden].

(1 Thessalonians 5:3a) —my interim translation ■

Continued from front cover

is clearly shown, that whatever among bodily natures is called seeing and being seen, is termed, between the Father and the Son, a knowing and being known, by means of the power of knowledge, not by the frailness of the sense of sight. Because, then, neither seeing nor being seen can be properly applied to an incorporeal and invisible nature, neither is the Father, in the Gospel, said to be seen by the Son, nor the Son by the Father, but the one is said to be known by the other.

9. Here, if any one lay before us the passage where it is said, "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God," from that very passage, in my opinion, will our position derive additional strength; for what else is seeing God in heart, but, according to our exposition as above, understanding and knowing Him with the mind? For the names of the organs of sense are frequently applied to the soul, so that it may be said to see with the eyes of the heart, i.e., to perform an intellectual act by means of the power of intelligence.

So also it is said to hear with the ears when it perceives the deeper meaning of a statement. So also we say that it makes use of teeth, when it chews and eats the bread of life which cometh down from heaven. In like manner, also, it is said to employ the services of other members, which are transferred from their bodily appellations, and applied to the powers of the soul, according to the words of Solomon, "You will find a divine sense." For he knew that there were within us two kinds of senses: the one mortal, corruptible, human; the other immortal and intellectual, which he now termed divine. By this divine sense, therefore, not of the eyes, but of a pure heart, which is the mind, God may be seen by those who are worthy.

Origen, "De Principiis," Book i, Chap. i, in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1885), Vol. 4, p. 245.

The Voice of Elijah  
P.O. Box 2257  
Rockwall, TX 75087-2257  
(972) 635-2021

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