

Introduction

Throughout the pages of the Bible we discover the origin of the earth, and all created things. We see the declaration of God's purpose for creating man, and the tree of life which was God's provision for man to live in and with, by receiving Him as eternal life.

Man's rebellion, which was instigated by Satan, cannot be attributed to the fallen nature; for as yet man had not sinned. God gave them the free choice with the warning that in the day they ate, they would surely die. The consequence of this death would impact the entire person: spirit, soul and body—as well as all of creation, as the following Scriptures indicate.

Romans 8:18-25

“For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.

For the earnest expectation of the **creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God.**

For the **creation was subjected to futility**, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself also **will be delivered from the bondage of corruption** into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

For we know that the whole **creation groans and labors with birth pangs together until now.**

Not only that, but we also who have the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the redemption of our body.

For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, **we eagerly wait for it with perseverance.**”

Act 3:21 "Whom heaven must receive until the times of restoration of all things, which God has spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began. In the

age to **come the Lord will restore all things which were corrupted and deadened by sin.**" in the Restoration of all things.

Throughout the record of Scripture we see the cycle of consecration and reality only within a remnant, but indifference and apostasy within the majority. This pattern repeats itself in the realm of both kings and commoners. Two thousand years of Church history also witness to this, that relatively few believers have been willing to pay the price to remain separated from the world and submitted to the Lordship of Christ under the Spirit's direction; in order to have a single heart for Christ and His Kingdom. It is also history that these have always been the focus of persecution.

Even the Apostle Paul made this statement: **Philippians 2:19-21** "But I trust in the Lord Jesus to send Timothy to you shortly, that I also may be encouraged when I know your state. **For I have no one like-minded**, who will sincerely care for your state. **For all seek their own**, not the things which are of Christ Jesus."

For any modern day pastor or Church leader it is easy to identify with the lack of true laborers in any given body of believers. There is often the reference made to the **80-20 rule**- eighty percent of the labor is done by twenty percent of the people.

While many are given places of leadership; all too often it is for some other reason than spiritual reality and a heart for the Kingdom. Things such as nepotism, money, intimidation, their influence in the community, and many other fleshly reasons place them as the **gate keepers** allegedly assisting the pastor. Unfortunately, as we shall hear by reading 2 Kings seven, these ones on whom the King leans are often faithless, becoming blockages who prevent the way for God's starving people to be released to enjoy the riches obtained by Christ through defeating the enemy of the house of the King.

In the following passage of Scripture we will all be measured, revealing each of us as one of two kinds of people- ***the leper or the gate keeper***. So many things which God wants for His Church have been blocked through the centuries, by gate keepers. Sometimes the gate keeper is the pastor, but more often it may be board members or prominent people who, with implacability; due to tradition and carnal focus “**will not**” respond to reason, appeal, or any other motivation. It has not changed today, and consequently so many pastors are discouraged, feel trapped, and also guilty for the state of compromise in which they often find themselves. We need a *strong and deep reformation* in evangelical Christendom!

We must, by His life and the living truth of Scripture minister to the Church, to see the saints strengthened in real Christian living by the inward empowering of Christ as the life giving Spirit. Further we need a serious overhaul as to how the Church functions, and correction of teaching, which is deeply watered down, and in many cases is simply not true. Truth needs clarity and wholeness so the saints are able to hear the clear sound of the trumpet calling them to the kingdom battle. As a consequence of our present and long standing conditions, the majority of saints are under siege, and starving. We must rise up to introduce the required changes as revealed in Scripture, to thus free, nourish, and prepare His Bride.

Does it strike you as odd that people still believe, that in a life lived for self and personal gain, they will hear “well done” and be rewarded in the Kingdom age?! Have you ever considered God’s call to the overcomers in Revelation two and three? “***he who overcomes***” The Scripture is never shallow or superficial. As you read this booklet, please ask our Lord Jesus for revelation, “***that the eyes of our heart would be enlightened.***”

In Hope

of the Resurrection

Lepers, or Gatekeepers

2 Kings 7:1 "Then Elisha said, "Hear the word of the LORD. Thus says the LORD: 'Tomorrow about this time a seah of fine flour shall be sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, at the gate of Samaria.'"

2 So an officer on whose hand the king leaned answered the man of God and said, "Look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could this thing be?" And he said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

3 Now there were four leprous men at the entrance of the gate; and they said to one another, "Why are we sitting here until we die?

4 If we say, 'We will enter the city,' the famine is in the city, and we shall die there. And if we sit here, we die also. Now therefore, come, let us surrender to the army of the Syrians. If they keep us alive, and if they kill us, we shall only die."

5 And they rose at twilight to go to the camp of the Syrians; and when they had come to the outskirts of the Syrian camp, to their surprise no one was there.

6 For the Lord had caused the army of the Syrians to hear the noise of chariots and the noise of horses — the noise of a great army; so they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired against us the kings of the Hittites and the kings of the Egyptians to attack us!"

7 Therefore they arose and fled at twilight, and left the camp intact — their tents, their horses, and their donkeys — and they fled for their lives.

8 And when these lepers came to the outskirts of the camp, they went into one tent and ate and drank, and carried from it silver and gold and clothing, and went and hid them; then they came back and entered another tent, and carried some from there also, and went and hid it.

9 Then they said to one another, "We are not doing right. This day is a day of good news, and we remain silent. If we wait until morning light, some punishment will come upon us. Now therefore, come, let us go and tell the king's household."

10 So they went and called to the gatekeepers of the city, and told them, saying, "We went to the Syrian camp, and surprisingly no one was there, not a human sound — only horses and donkeys tied, and the tents intact."

11 And the gatekeepers called out, and they told it to the king's household inside.

12 So the king arose in the night and said to his servants, "Let me now tell you what the Syrians have done to us. They know that we are hungry; therefore they have gone out of the camp to hide themselves in the field, saying, 'When they come out of the city, we shall catch them alive, and get into the city.'"

13 And one of his servants answered and said, "Please, let several men take five of the remaining horses which are left in the city. Look, they may either become like all the multitude of Israel that are left in it; or indeed, I say, they may become like all the multitude of Israel left from those who are consumed; so let us send them and see."

14 Therefore they took two chariots with horses; and the king sent them in the direction of the Syrian army, saying, "Go and see."

15 And they went after them to the Jordan; and indeed all the road was full of garments and weapons which the Syrians had thrown away in their haste. So the messengers returned and told the king.

16 Then the people went out and plundered the tents of the Syrians. So a seah of fine flour was sold for a shekel, and two seahs of barley for a shekel, according to the word of the LORD.

17 Now the king had appointed the officer on whose hand he leaned to have charge of the gate. But the people trampled him in the gate, and he died, just as the man of God had said, who spoke when the king came down to him.

18 So it happened just as the man of God had spoken to the king, saying, "Two seahs of barley for a shekel, and a seah of fine flour for a shekel, shall be sold tomorrow about this time in the gate of Samaria."

19 Then that officer had answered the man of God, and said, "Now look, if the LORD would make windows in heaven, could such a thing be?" And he had said, "In fact, you shall see it with your eyes, but you shall not eat of it."

20 And so it happened to him, for the people **trampled him in the gate**, and he **died.**"

As I prepare this booklet on the Hope of the Resurrection I am looking to my next birthday as my seventieth. Having now been in Christian ministry over fifty years, both musically as well as in in-depth discipleship, (including more than thirty years as a pastor) I more and more feel as though **I was simply one of the lepers outside the gate.**"

I grew up in the Baptist tradition with all of the theology a good 'pre-trib. dispensational person' could be surrounded by. People would speak in terms of their Bible as, "Do you have your Scofield?" not, "Do you have your Bible?" After high school I found myself attending a good Baptist Bible College where the same theological position was supported.

Many times I felt not only like a leper, but also quite obviously rather dull of brain; due to my inability to make any sense of the whole pre-trib. dispensational theology package, which by the way was developed by John Nelson Darby, and popularized in America by C.I. Scofield, largely through the notes in his "Scofield reference Bible 1909 first edition."

It wasn't until I was the ripe old age of twenty six that I was brought by God's kindness and grace to some brothers in the Lord who, like the lepers in 2 Kings, had discovered the wealth of riches and light with truth. As was found in the

camp of the Syrian army, they began sharing the riches with others in the household of the King.

As this ministry into my life developed, **I came to the place of having to admit**, that apart from the belief in Christ by faith and not from works-that which I received from the Baptist tradition, I could barely identify one other thing which I had been taught that was entirely true. So little of that previous teaching had the ring, and witness in my spirit, as I was now experiencing. The light of revelation in the Word was as a flowing river bringing Christ as the living water; enlivening, transforming, and enlightening my spirit and revealing truth after truth to my understanding. It was overwhelming, reminiscent of the account of the two men on the road to Emmaus who said, **“Did not our hearts burn within us as He spoke to us on the way.”**

Jesus told the woman at the well, if she would drink the water which He would give, she would never thirst again. For the past, more than forty years, the Lord has been so wonderful and abundant in opening to this leper the riches of light and life to my spirit and to my understanding! This light has completely captured my heart and life for His Kingdom, and the profound purpose which He reveals in His word for the redeemed for all eternity.

Drinking is a striking, and a visually practical means revealed in Scripture by which we as believers receive the life of Christ, for our spiritual health. Observe the Scriptural references as they speak to this vital and all important means of life impartation.

Isaiah 55:1 "Ho! **Everyone who thirsts, Come to the waters**; And you who have no money, Come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk Without money and without price."

John 6:53 "Then Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man **and drink** His blood, you have no life in you."

John 6:55 "For My flesh is food indeed, and My blood is **drink indeed.**"

1Corinthians 12:13 "For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body — whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free — and **have all been made to drink** into one Spirit."

1Corinthians 10:4 "...**and all drank** the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ."

John 7:37 "On the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him **come to Me and drink.**"

John 4:10 "Jesus answered and said to her, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is who says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and **He would have given you living water.**"

Revelation 22:1 "And he showed me a **pure river of water of life**, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb."

Revelation 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him **take the water of life freely.**"

The matter of drinking is a profound metaphor in Scripture by which as we **drink of the Spirit (not just think)** and thus receive the supply of the Life of God into us, His Divine life supply. The Church must be built up by His life just as the rib from Adam was taken to build Eve. All of our religious *paraphernalia* is of no value at all, but rather only that which comes out of Christ as the life giver is good for building the Church.

In 1 Corinthians 3 we see the call to build on the one foundation with gold, silver, and precious stone. Then at the Judgment seat of Christ each of our works will be evaluated to discover by what material we have built. If we have built with the gold, silver, and precious stones; we will receive a reward, however if we have built with wood, hay and stubble, our work will be burned up, and we shall suffer loss. This loss will not be that of our salvation, but of reward and privilege in the millennial kingdom.

A Troubled Heart

My initial reaction when I began to see deep truth in His word was ***anger and frustration***; realizing that nearly everything I was taught or *had taught others* was at least perverted, and in many cases completely inaccurate. Hence, **in sharing these matters I truly do feel like one of the lepers; considering it wrong, to hide the spoil for myself.** However, many ***gate keepers*** over the past decades have worked extremely hard to discourage the hope in these riches for the King's household...and it continues to be so.

With this introduction as backdrop, I wish to share with you regarding the theme of **The Hope of the Resurrection**. In our day, the subject of the resurrection is rarely articulated, as contrasted to the dominant theme of dying and going to heaven. The **hope of the Resurrection was the focus of the Gospel** preached by the apostles, not that of dying to go to heaven.

Revival is not the solution!

Over my lifetime there have been many calls for revival, which were thought to solve the problem of the deadness, worldliness, apathy, carnality and so on in the Church.

However, as we experienced in Canada in the early seventies a revival which held great hope ended, only to see the Church revert to its old ways.

The truth, Jesus said will “set us free!” However most of what was taught as the truth, remained intact with the same denominational, doctrinal, fundamentals unchanged. The spiritual shallowness and inaccurate opening of Scripture continued on along with a bewilderment as to, “What happened?!” Revival is of no lasting value if error remains unchanged in its presentation.

The current teaching which has been in play for most of my adult life revolves around the following summarization. You are a sinner! You need a Savior so that when you die you can go to heaven, and not hell. With few exceptions this remains today as almost a ‘mantra’ of the Christian faith. When you die is not **the goal, but the resurrection from the dead to a glorious REAL BODY for eternity**; not in a mansion somewhere in a heaven which will be burned up, but on the restored and renewed earth; reigning with Christ apart from sin, or anything which defiles.

The riches of Christ are deeply lacking in the majority of our Church experience and in our preaching; leaving God’s people dying of spiritual hunger and under siege of the enemy, due to a lack of truth as to who they are in Christ.

Ephesians 3:8-11 “To me, who am less than the least of all the saints, this grace was given, that I should preach among the Gentiles **the unsearchable riches of Christ**, and to make all see what is the **fellowship of the mystery**, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; **to the intent** that now the manifold wisdom of God might **be made known by the church** to the principalities and

powers in the heavenly places, according to **the eternal purpose** which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord...”

A Cruelty of Blindness

The sad story is that regardless of how many of the King’s household are starving, the gate keepers remain in unbelief as to what the Lord is able to do on their behalf; choosing to remain paralyzed, and thus failing to meet the hunger and hopeless situation in His church. **Matthew 23:13 "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you shut up the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither go in yourselves, nor do you allow those who are entering to go in."**

Rather, these **gate keepers implacably move forward** with resolve to maintain the tradition, form, shallowness; and in many cases simply untrue teaching, regardless of how many starve or remain under siege from the enemy. So many Scriptural items are missed, some of which include the eternal purpose of God, the indwelling Christ as our life, and His speaking as a regular experience of the believer. ***We need to be able to discern the difference between apostasy and starvation!***

The goal of God, the ultimate consummation of God’s work displayed as the New Jerusalem, and His Kingdom on earth can be added to the list. Where I was once the senior pastor, a deacon came to one of the men after a message I preached on the fellowship we can have with the Lord; including hearing His voice and so on. The deacon emphatically declared **“God does not speak today!”**This is quite surprising since the scripture says: John 10:27 **"My sheep hear My voice,** and I know them, and they follow Me.

The Great Need for ‘Humble’ Lepers

2 Kings 5:1 Now Naaman, commander of the army of the king of Syria, was a great and honorable man in the eyes of his master, because by him the LORD had given victory to Syria. He was also a mighty man of valor, but a leper.

2 And the Syrians had gone out on raids and had brought back captive a young girl from the land of Israel. She waited on Naaman's wife.

3 Then she said to her mistress, "If only my master were with the prophet who is in Samaria! For he would heal him of his leprosy."

4 And Naaman went in and told his master, saying, "Thus and thus said the girl who is from the land of Israel."

5 Then the king of Syria said, "Go now, and I will send a letter to the king of Israel." So he departed and took with him ten talents of silver, six thousand shekels of gold, and ten changes of clothing.

6 Then he brought the letter to the king of Israel, which said, Now be advised, when this letter comes to you, that I have sent Naaman my servant to you, that you may heal him of his leprosy.

7 And it happened, when the king of Israel read the letter, that he tore his clothes and said, "Am I God, to kill and make alive, that this man sends a man to me to heal him of his leprosy? Therefore please consider and see how he seeks a quarrel with me."

8 So it was, when Elisha the man of God heard that the king of Israel had torn his clothes, that he sent to the king, saying, "Why have you torn your clothes? Please let him come to me, and he shall know that there is a prophet in Israel."

9 Then Naaman went with his horses and chariot, and he stood at the door of Elisha's house.

10 And Elisha sent a messenger to him, saying, "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored.

11 But Naaman became furious, and went away and said, "Indeed, I said to myself, 'He will surely come to you, and you shall be clean.' Come out to me and stand and call on

the name of the LORD his God, and wave his hand over the place, and heal the leprosy.'

12 "Are not the Abanah and the Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage.

13 And his servants came near and spoke to him, and said, "My father, if the prophet had told you to do something great, would you not have done it? How much more then when he says to you, 'Wash, and be clean'?"

14 So he went down and dipped seven times in the Jordan, according to the saying of the man of God; and his flesh was restored like the flesh of a little child, and he was clean.

15 And he returned to the man of God, he and all his aides, and came and stood before him; and he said, "Indeed, now I know that there is no God in all the earth, except in Israel; now therefore, please take a gift from your servant."

16 But he said, "As the LORD lives, before whom I stand, I will receive nothing." And he urged him to take it, but he refused.

Man's Pride

Mans' pride is so powerful, that we will even seek to direct by whom, and in what circumstances we will agree to be made healthy again! If some great person would come to us and help it would be more palatable. However, much of the mess the Church is currently in is due to pride, self served living, religious spirits of division, and tradition which wins over the command of God most of the time.

When a servant of the man of God comes and does not give us the respect, we think we deserve we are offended, or look down at the means God may use to rescue us from the siege and starvation. Are we risking the great possibility of going away and remaining in our deathly condition?! For

becoming whole, it will require a humbling, perhaps way beyond that which we even would want to consider! Do we want to maintain our pride? Or do we want to end the starving and siege of the King's household?

At this juncture I would like to address the matters surrounding the death of the believer, and the hope of the Resurrection. Here we will seek to provide a concise Biblical exploration regarding the believer's location and environment upon death, while awaiting the Resurrection from the dead.

The purpose for this is not to quibble regarding doctrine but to recognise the awesome responsibility those of us have who teach the Bible, and the consequence to the saints; and in this case to see the clear teaching on this very crucial matter.

The Current Place of the Dead Believer

We will surely answer for our teaching at the Bema on that day, as well as for leaving God's people sequestered in the place of starvation and no hope--or an incomplete presentation of that which is to be their hope. Again, this does not apply to all, but to the majority of the content preached along with our Church practice today.

The present thinking and teaching on the place of the dead believers, whether realized or not, was formed in the early 1900's through the teaching of John Nelson Darby, a key founder of the Plymouth Brethren movement, and the study notes of C.I. Scofield, a preacher, lawyer, and controversial person who in 1909 began to distribute the Scofield Reference Bible. The Scofield reference Bible includes the

teaching on the pre-tribulation rapture as well as the Darby dispensational interpretation of the Bible.

In His notes on Luke 16 he explained his view as to the place of the dead believer awaiting the resurrection, and then introduced a new idea regarding the alleged location of the believers after Christ's ascension.

The hidden leaven

Mr. Scofield states that before the ascension of Christ all believers were in the pleasant part of Hades in the lower parts of the earth. This statement then provides the point from which we will evaluate his theory to see if scripture supports his teaching. Is there 'proof,' or is it a twisted supposition arrived at by laying aside the clear speaking of Scripture? His point being that the saints were taken to heaven with Christ at His ascension. Is it possible to prove that this theory is false? And consequently we have been misdirected on this vital matter.

With the exception of our salvation, the subject of details after death is as basic a theme as can be discussed. Therefore we must be sure we are presenting the truth to people. Only the truth will set us free. **Here we will undoubtedly meet the blinding wall of religious tradition:** which historically overpowers plain clear statements from Scripture.

The key points of Mr. Scofield's notes concerning the dead believers are as follows:

- ✓ Before the ascension of Christ the soul and spirit of all dead believers went to paradise, the pleasant part of Hades; including Christ and the thief on the cross.

- ✓ He states in his theory that at the ascension of Christ paradise was emptied and became relocated in the third heavens.
- ✓ Consequently, now when a believer dies, they go directly into the presence of God in the heavenly paradise.

This is a brief explanation of his theory. We will seek to dislodge this and replace it with the clear truth of Scripture.

Throughout Church history, instigated by Satan, carnal and prideful leaders have continually misdirected or perverted God's Word which was written to set us free. This same perversion has defrauded solid hope and sound understanding to loved ones in times of sorrow; as well as distorted the truth to those hearing the claims of the gospel.

We all should have a holy fear of misrepresenting the Scripture and the Lord, to believers as well as to the lost. This is the burden of this booklet; to seek to present the truth.

Key points we will address.

- 1.The current location of the sleeping, or dead believer according to scripture.
2. The limitations of this intermediate state.
3. The blessed hope tied directly to the Resurrection.

For this discovery to take place we need to let scripture clearly speak, and to submit to its truth, rather than someone's unbiblical footnote.

Some Hindrances to Receiving truth and light!

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you

from being priest for Me; Because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”

Jeremiah 23:2 “Therefore thus says the LORD God of Israel against the shepherds who feed My people: “You have scattered My flock, driven them away, and not attended to them. Behold, I will attend to you for the evil of your doings,” says the LORD.”

James 3:1 “My brethren, let not many of you become teachers, knowing that we shall receive a stricter judgment.”

Jeremiah 1:8 “Do not be afraid of their faces, For I am with you to deliver you,” says the LORD.”

Mark 7:9 “He said to them, “All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep your tradition.”

Much truth of scripture is not spoken today; due to the fear of the faces of the audience. Those who teach must be willing to stand against this in order to fulfill God’s desire, and for us to serve the purpose of God in our generation. We must resist the temptation to place “A little incense on the altar of compromise!

2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

2 Peter 3:16 as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things, in which are some things hard to understand, which untaught and unstable people twist to their own destruction, as they do also the rest of the Scriptures.

According to Plain Scripture!

We know that at the time of death the spirit and soul of the person who has died departs the body, with the body then

traditionally placed in the earth, awaiting the resurrection from the dead.

According to historical Church teaching before 1909; it was generally understood that Scripture placed the spirit and soul of the dead believer in the paradise section of Hades, awaiting the resurrection from the dead. ***This understanding was distorted with the notes from Scofield's reference Bible, as we shall clearly see.***

Luke 23:43 "And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Luke 16:25, 26 "But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is **comforted** and you are **tormented**. 'And besides all this, between us and you there is a **great gulf fixed**, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.'"

Two Indisputable Facts of Scripture

1. No one has ascended into heaven

John 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven. "

John 1:18 "No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him."

John 6:46 "Not that anyone has seen the Father, except He who is from God; He has seen the Father.

Proverbs 30:4 Who has ascended into heaven, or descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has bound the waters in a garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name, and what is His Son's name, If you know?

Luke 16:23 "And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

Acts 2:31 "...he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Please notice: In John 3:13, Jesus clearly and plainly says; ‘no one has ascended’ so to this point we can establish a timeline. As of this point, according to Jesus who cannot lie, no one had ascended into heaven other than Him.

Ac 2:34 "For David **did not ascend** into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand.

2. David did not ascend into heaven

Acts 2:34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: ‘The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand...”

Acts 2:27 For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.”

John 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in Heaven.

On the day of Pentecost, Peter was seeking to demonstrate that the Scripture which he quoted from Psalm 16 did not refer to David, but was a prophecy of Christ, meaning that Christ's soul would not be left in Hades, (and also that His soul **did go** to Hades) and secondly, that His flesh would not see corruption. Peter pointed out to the people that David's tomb was still with them today; clearly revealing that David did see corruption.

1Corinthians 15:55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

Christ's resurrection removed the sting of death for the believer, but the unbeliever will experience eternal punishment, away from the presence of the Lord, in the torment side of Hades, and then in the lake of fire for eternity. Hades will lose its hold over the believes when

Our inaccurate teaching on this subject has been fostered largely due to a greater error: that being the fact that Christianity for the most part has missed God's eternal purpose, and the reality of His kingdom; with the establishing of His eternal Kingdom on earth, rather than the presented; mansions in Heaven.

resurrected from the dead at Christ's coming.

Hades therefore is clearly and currently the place of all the dead awaiting the resurrection unto life, or the resurrection unto

condemnation. Hades is divided into two sections; one section is a place of comfort and the other a place of torment; with a barrier which cannot be crossed.

We must see that not until the resurrection of the dead actually takes place are death and Hades completely defeated, and laid aside, by the fulfillment of the Word of

God concerning the believer' resurrection from the dead. If we are not resurrected and do not receive the glorious body like unto Christ's body, the Word of God has not come to pass. **1Corinthians 15:54** "**So when this corruptible has put on in corruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass** the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Dwelling as a disembodied spirit and soul, in the comfort section of Hades does not complete the eternal purpose of God, does not reveal the sons of God, does not produce the Bride, and is not the blessed hope of the saints; but rather the resurrection from the dead with a new glorified body for all eternity completes the truth of God, displays the victory, and finally triumphs over Hades and death, the last enemy!

Two Indisputable Witnesses

Two clear statements connected together: "*No one has ascended into heaven,*" and, "*David did not ascend into heaven*" demonstrate that Hades was not emptied at the ascension of Christ. Irrespective of whoever taught in the earlier centuries that the soul would go to heaven, it is simply not true, based on Jesus' clear word, and Peter's clear Word from Scripture.

Please notice: Peter stood up on the day of Pentecost which was ten full days after the ascension of Christ, at which point David should have been *transferred* together with the dead saints ten days earlier, according to the timing of Scofield

where he stated that, “Christ emptied paradise in His ascension, and took the believers to the heavenly paradise.”

Instead, Peter, full of the Holy Spirit declares! “**That David has not ascended into heaven.**” There is no interpretation required for this, just the clear, plain statements. So therefore the believers are still in the comfort section of Hades awaiting the resurrection from the dead (which by the way was the dominant thought before Scofield came with his notes in 1909.)

There are only two possibilities remaining- one is that Mr Scofield was wrong, or two; David was not a believer. You must decide! Remember David shows up in the believers’ hall of fame in Hebrews 11.

At this point it is meaningless to discuss the passages Mr. Scofield used to justify his false teaching; they being Ephesians 4:8 and 2 Corinthians 12:4. If you are honest: you cannot make the two places be one, nor can you justify the use of the word ‘up’ to prove anything for **the word ‘up’ and ‘away’ are the same Greek word.** Finally Paul says he comes to **visions, not a vision.** Regardless of how you twist it to serve the purpose; we have these two clear statements directly from Scripture.

Now we have a choice; we can either believe Jesus or Scofield. Sadly, most will continue to believe Scofield. In Mark 7:9 Jesus said to them, "All too well you reject the commandment of God, that you may keep **your tradition.**

To Repent, is to change our mind!

We must come back to the truth of the Word of God to see that the **‘Resurrection’** is the unique factor as the blessed hope of the believer, the power of the Gospel, and the defeat

of death and Hades. This is tied to Christ's Resurrection as the first fruit, and also the hope for the dead believers, as well as for those who are alive and remain; who will be changed in the twinkling of an eye, not at physical death but at the Second coming of Christ, at the end of days!

Matthew 22:28 "Therefore in the resurrection whose wife shall she be of the seven? for they all had her."

Matthew 22:30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven."

Mark 12:23 "In the resurrection therefore, when they shall rise, whose wife shall she be of them? for the seven had her to wife."

Luke 14:14 "And you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you; for you shall be repaid at the resurrection of the just."

Luke 20:35 "But those who are counted worthy to attain that age, and the resurrection from the dead, neither marry nor are given in marriage..."

Luke 20:36 "nor can they die anymore, for they are equal to the angels and are sons of God, being sons of the resurrection."

John 5:29 "...and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation."

John 11:25 "Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live."

Acts 2:31 "...he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption."

Acts 4:2 “...being greatly disturbed that they taught the people and preached in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.”

Acts 4:33 “And with great power the apostles gave witness to the resurrection of the Lord Jesus. And great grace was upon them all.”

Acts 17:18 “Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babblor want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection.”

Acts 17:32 “And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, some mocked, while others said, "We will hear you again on this matter."

Acts 23:6 “But when Paul perceived that one part were Sadducees and the other Pharisees, he cried out in the council, "Men and brethren, I am a Pharisee, the son of a Pharisee; concerning the hope and resurrection of the dead I am being judged!"

Acts 24:15 "I have hope in God, which they themselves also accept, that there will be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust.”

Acts 24:21 "unless it is for this one statement which I cried out, standing among them, ‘Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am being judged by you this day.’”

Romans 1:4 “...and declared to be the Son of God with power according to the Spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead.”

Romans 6:5 “For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection...”

1Corinthians 15:12 “Now if Christ is preached that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?”

1CorinthiansV 15:21 “For since by man came death, by Man also came the resurrection of the dead.”

1Corinthians 15:42 “So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in in corruption.”

Philippians 3:11 “... if, by any means, I may attain to the resurrection from the dead.”

2Timothy 2:18 “...who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.”

Hebrews 11:35 “Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.”

1Peter 1:3 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord *Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.*”

1Peter 3:21 “There is also an antitype which now saves us — baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

Revelation 20:5 “But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection.”

Revelation 20:6 “Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no

power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ and shall reign with Him a thousand years.”

Acts 2:31 "...he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.”

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

Acts 4:10 “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand here before you whole.”

Acts 13:34 “And as concerning that he raised him up from the dead, now no more to return to corruption, he said on this wise, I will give you the sure mercies of David.”

Acts 17:31 “Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead.”

Rom6:4 “Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.”

Romans 6:9 “Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.”

Romans 7:4 “Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, even to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.”

Romans 8:11 “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the

dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”

Romans 10:9 “That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.”

Galatians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle, (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ, and God the Father, who raised him from the dead;)”

Ephesians 1:20 “Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places.”

Colossians 2:12 “Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.”

1Thessalonians 1:10 “And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come.”

2Timothy 2:8 “Remember that Jesus Christ of the seed of David was raised from the dead according to my gospel.”

1Peter 1:21 “Who by him do believe in God, which raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”

John 11:24 “Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.”

The goal is to be clothed!

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

1 Corinthians 15:50-57

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all

I shall see Him, see Him as
He is, thus shall we always
be with the Lord, but then
face to face, that in my
flesh I shall see God,

sleep, but we shall all be
changed —

in a moment, in the
twinkling of an eye, at
the last trumpet. For the
trumpet will sound, and
the **dead will be raised
incorruptible**, and we
shall be changed. For

this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Job 19:25 For I know that my
Redeemer lives, And He shall stand
at last on the earth;

26 And after my skin is destroyed,
this I know, That in my flesh I shall
see God,

27 Whom I shall see for myself, And
my eyes shall behold, and not
another.

"O Death,
where is your
sting? **O Hades,
where is your
victory?"**

The sting of
death is sin, and
the strength of
sin is the law.

But thanks be
to God, who
gives us the
victory through

our Lord Jesus Christ.

Revelation 1:18 "I am He who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

Revelation 20:13, 14 "The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his

works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”

Hades still figures in the future of the believer, as the believer was not taken out at Christ’s ascension; both death and Hades must be defeated for the victory over them to be complete. This will be completely accomplished through the resurrection from the dead. The blessed hope of the believer is not death in a place of comfort, but rather is found in the resurrection from the dead with a glorious body, to rule with Christ in His Kingdom as a co-King!

Limitations of the Intermediate State!

Question: Is there a distinction revealed in scripture between *being present with the Lord*, and *seeing Him face to face*? Consider the Scriptural instruction, which reveals that it is at the resurrection of the believer at the end of the age at Christ’s return, and not the time of the believers’ death; that we see Him face to face, and that we will ever be with the Lord.

If CI Scofield’s note is thought to be true, how then are we to interpret and make sense of the following verses which speak of **seeing Him** at the resurrection?

Please come and reason!

Please consider the points identified: “**we shall be like Him for we shall see Him**,” a reference to the resurrection! “**Thus we shall always be with the Lord**”- referring to the resurrection. “**But then face to face**”-referring to the resurrection. “**That in my flesh I shall see God**” again referring to the time of resurrection. These statements

declare the believer will see the Lord, be with Him and see Him ‘face to face’ at the resurrection.

{	Dan. 12:13 "But you, go your way till the end; for you shall rest, and will arise to your inheritance at the end of the days."	}	The current teaching does not address these many passages, but rather has the disembodied spirit and soul of the believer allegedly having all of
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these experiences upon death, which are clearly linked in Scripture to the resurrection from the dead at the Lord's second coming, and not to upon death.

We must consider the facts of Scripture logically, in order to evaluate the illogical thinking and statements which come from the several proof texts. For the proper understanding we cannot ignore or fail to hear the Scripture clearly regarding these decisive passages. (That being, our seeing the Lord face to face, and being with the Lord at the resurrection.).

If in fact we have already experienced all of this for many years in heaven between our death and the resurrection of the dead at Christ's coming, the resurrection has been reduced to simply having the dead body come alive. **Can you see there is a serious ‘disconnect’ which needs to be addressed.** We have *subtly* but greatly been influenced by the Gnostic Philosophy and other Pagan thinking, including that of Plato; a part of the major influence of people such as Augustine of Hippo.

Why would SCRIPTURE say we will see Him if we have already seen Him for many years IN HEAVEN! Once again tradition is more powerful than truth. This should not be this difficult to see; however because of the insertion of

much corrupting leaven as seen in Matt 13 by the woman; error has clouded the obvious distinction between our experience after death, from that of our experience at the resurrection from the dead. This was and is the hope of the believer preached by the apostles, and for which they were held in contempt. This in practical terms seems to have been all but lost to the Church. In its place is the presentation of going to heaven when you die with hardly any mention of the resurrection. In Jewish thought there was no teaching regarding going to heaven; but rather the coming of the Kingdom on earth. Here we have missed the truth as well.

Please note the following Scriptures which clearly are the wonderful items being singularly tied to the Resurrection from the dead, and not to the experiences upon death.

Isaiah 26:19 Your dead shall live; Together with my dead body they shall arise. Awake and sing, you who dwell in dust; For your dew is like the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.

Daniel 12:2 “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, Some to everlasting life, Some to shame and everlasting contempt.”

John 14:1-3

"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me.

In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."

1John 3:2 “Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that

when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.”

Hebrews 11:35 “Women received their dead raised to life again. And others were tortured, not accepting deliverance, that they might obtain a better resurrection.”

1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 “For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise** first.

Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds **to meet the Lord in the air**. And thus **we shall always be with the Lord**.

Therefore comfort one another with these words.

1Corinthians 15:50 -55 “Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption.

51 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed —

52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

53For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

54 So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

55 "O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

1 Corinthians 13:12 “For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.”

Jesus said no one has ascended into heaven, and Peter says David has not ascended into heaven! How should we explain these statements?

John 3:13 "No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven."

Acts 2:27-34

27 "For You will not leave my soul in Hades, Nor will You allow Your Holy One to see corruption.

28 You have made known to me the ways of life; You will make me full of joy in Your presence.'

29 "Men and brethren, let me speak freely to you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his tomb is with us to this day.

30 "Therefore, being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him that of the fruit of his body, according to the flesh, He would raise up the Christ to sit on his throne,

31 "he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

32 "This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses.

33 "Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear.

34 "For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: 'The LORD said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand..."'

2 Corinthians 4:14 "...knowing that He who raised up the Lord Jesus will also raise us up with Jesus and will present us with you."

John 5:28,29

, to the resurrection of condemnation.” 28 "Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice.

29 "and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil

Commonly used Verses of Comfort!

The following are some verses commonly used to present the thought of directly being with the Lord when we die as a believer. A question here would be: In any of these verses does it say that we will see the Lord face to face in death?

(Each word in the following can be checked with Strong's concordance.)

2Corinthians 5:6 So <3767> <2532> we are always <3842> confident <2292> (5723), knowing <1492> (5761) that <3754> while we are at home <1736> (5723) in <1722> the body <4983> we are absent <1553> (5719) from <575> the Lord <2962>.

2Corinthians 5:8 We are confident <2292> (5719), yes <1161> <2532>, well pleased <2106> (5719) rather <3123> to be absent <1553> (5658) from <1537> the body <4983> and <2532> to be present <1736> (5658) with <4314> the Lord <2962>.

2Corinthians 5:9 Therefore <1352> we make it our aim <5389> (5736), whether <2532> <1535> present <1736> (5723) or <1535> absent <1553> (5723), to be <1511> (5750) well pleasing <2101> to Him <846>.

Philippians 1:23 For <1063> I am hard pressed <4912> (5743) between <1537> the two <1417>, having <2192> (5723) a desire <1939> to <1519> depart <360> (5658) and <2532> be <1511> (5750) with <4862> Christ <5547>, which is far <4183> <3123> better <2908>.

Awaiting the Judgment Seat of Christ!

In Luke chapter 16, Hades is described as having two compartments: one side of Hades being the place of comfort, and the other the place of torment. (By the way, this subject in Luke 16 is not a parable, due to the naming of specific persons, conversations, and specific descriptions of the surroundings etc.)

We see the sleeping (dead believer) is in a condition of comfort, conscious, and in a place of tender care, and in a more particular realization of Christ's presence; but not having the experiences which are stated and connected to the reality of the bodily resurrection from the dead.

Please notice; the statements of “seeing Him, being with Him” are all connected to the time of resurrection and not to the believer’s experience after death!

We need to see that our state of being with the Lord in the intermediate period is one of greater degree of the Lord's presence rather than one of location. Paul said it will be far better; however this is not the description of final glory and victory in resurrection. It is far better in the sense that we will no longer have the body of flesh with its physical weakness, the body of death with its struggle against sin, or the spiritual battle against Satan.

I Corinthians 3:12,13 “Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.”

We must see that many believers are looking forward to dying, wrongly thinking this is the final journey. I have heard it said many times; they have gone on to their reward (*not true*). They are free from struggle and grief, **also not completely true**, for at the judgment seat following the resurrection we believers will be judged for our works after salvation.

1Corinthians 3:11 "For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ."

14 If anyone's work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward.

15 If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

16 Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you?

17 If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."

The Wicked Servant

Matthew 22:13 "Then the king said to the servants, 'Bind him hand and foot, take him away, and cast him into outer darkness; there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

These were all the King's servants, all called to give an account. At the Great

white throne there will be no believers, no one there will have their name found in the Book of Life. The dead at this judgment will be the dead unbelievers who will not be raised

1Cor. 3:12,13 Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become

clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

at the first resurrection. (*See Charles Stanley's book entitled (Eternal Security) for more on the subject of outer darkness*)

We need to be sober and realise, that the Judgment Seat of Christ will be a very exposing time, however this judgment has nothing to do with our salvation, but rather an evaluation of our works after salvation for reward or loss of reward in the Kingdom age.

2Corinthians 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."

John 10:12 "But **a hireling**, he who is not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and **leaves the sheep and flees**; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them."

Where are the statesmen defenders of the whole council of God in our day? Our forefathers were willing to be burned at the stake for the truth, and it seems we are unwilling to bear a little shame or unpopularity for His name and His truth. We are to develop the whole counsel of God, but in many cases, we are fighting to hold on to the basic teaching of justification by faith, rather than coming to the full knowledge of the truth.

What should be our speaking on these very sobering matters? Can we give an answer for the reason of the true hope? Do we think we will hear well done when we have not given the Lord's people the truth, perhaps because we were worried about our face, our position, or our pay cheque? This represents the condition of the hireling.

Will we lay aside the command of the Lord in order to keep our own tradition, or in this case the tradition from people such as Darby and CI Scofield, but not the Scripture? **Please consider.** Are we speaking the truth, or religious fiction and thus error?

Mark 7:9 “He said to them, “All too well you **reject** the commandment of God, that you may **keep** your tradition.”

The following excerpt was taken from a message preached by Charles Spurgeon on Feb 17, 1856, pointing out that the reality of the resurrection from the dead as the key point of the hope, and not the death of the believer.

The Resurrection of the dead

A Sermon

Delivered on Sabbath Morning, **February 17,**
1856, by the

Rev. C. H. Spurgeon

At New Park Street Chapel, Southwark.

"There shall be a resurrection of the dead, both the of the just and unjust."—Acts 24:15.

Reflecting the other day upon **the sad state of the churches** at the present moment, I was led to look back to apostolic times, and to consider wherein the preaching of the present day differed from the preaching of the apostles. I remarked the vast difference in their style from the set and formal oratory of the present age.

I remarked that the apostles did not take a text when they preached, nor did they confine themselves to one subject, much less to any place of worship, but they stood up in any

place and declared from the fullness of their heart what they knew of Jesus Christ. But the main difference I observed was in the *subjects* of their preaching. Surprised I was when I discovered that the very staple of the preaching of the apostles was the resurrection of the dead.

I found myself to have been preaching the doctrine of the grace of God, to have been upholding free election, to have been leading the people of God as well as I was enabled into the deep things of his word; but I was surprised to find that I had not been copying the apostolic fashion half as nearly as I might have done. The apostles when they preached always testified concerning the resurrection of Jesus, and the consequent resurrection of the dead.

It appears that the Alpha and the Omega of their gospel was the testimony that Jesus Christ died and rose again from the dead according to the Scriptures. When they chose another apostle in the room of Judas, who had become apostate, Acts I.22, they said, "One must be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection;" so that the very office of an apostle was to be a witness of the resurrection. And well did they fulfil their office.

When Peter stood up before the multitude, he declared unto them that "David spoke of the resurrection of Christ." When Peter and John were taken before the council, the great cause of their arrest was that the rulers were grieved: because they taught the people and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead." Acts iv. 2. When they were set free, after having been examined, it is said, "With great power gave the apostles witness of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus: and great grace was upon them all." Acts iv. 33. It was this which stirred the curiosity of the Athenians when Paul preached among them, "They said, he seemeth to be a

setter forth of strange gods, because he preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection of the dead."

And this moved the laughter of the Areopagites, for when he spoke of the resurrection of the dead, "Some mocked, and others said, we will hear thee again of this matter." Truly did Paul say, when he stood before the council of the Pharisees and Sadducees, "Concerning the resurrection of the dead I am called in question."

And equally truly did he constantly assert, "IF Christ be not risen from the dead, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is vain, and ye are yet in your sins." The resurrection of Jesus and the resurrection of the righteous is a doctrine which we believe, but which we too seldom preach or care to read about.

Though I have inquired of several booksellers for a book specially upon the subject of the resurrection, I have not yet been able to purchase one of any sort whatever; and when I turned to Dr. Owen's works, which are a most invaluable storehouse of divine knowledge, containing much that is valuable on almost every subject; I could find, even there, scarcely more than the slightest mention of the resurrection.

It has been set down as a well known truth, and therefore has never been discussed. Heresies have not risen up respecting it; it would almost have been a mercy if there had been, for whenever a truth is contested by heretics, the orthodox fight strongly for it, and the pulpit resounds with it every day.

I am persuaded, however, that there is much power in this doctrine; and if I preach it this morning you will see that God will own the apostolic preaching, and there will be conversions. I intend putting it to the test now, to see

whether there be not something which we cannot perceive at present in the resurrection of the dead, which is capable of moving the hearts of men and bringing them into subjection to the gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

There are very few Christians who believe the resurrection of the dead. You may be surprised to hear that, but I should not wonder if I discovered that you yourself have doubts on the subject. By the resurrection of the dead is meant something quite different from the immortality of the soul: that, every Christian believes, and therein is only on a level with the heathen, who believes it too. The light of nature is sufficient to tell us that the soul is immortal, so that the infidel who doubts it is a worse fool even than a heathen, for he, before Revelation was given, had discovered it—there are some faint glimmerings in men of reason which teach that the soul is something so wonderful that it must endure forever.

But the resurrection of the dead is quite another doctrine, dealing not with the soul, but with the body. The doctrine is that this actual body in which I now exist is to live with my soul; that not only is the "vital spark of heavenly flame" to burn in heaven, but the very censer in which the incense of my life doth smoke is holy unto the Lord and is to be preserved for ever.

The spirit, everyone confesses, is eternal; but how many there are who deny that the bodies of men will actually start up from their graves at the great day? Many of you believe you will have a body in heaven, but you think it will be an airy fantastic body, instead of believing that it will be a body like to this—flesh and blood (although not the same kind of

flesh, for all flesh is not the same flesh), a solid, substantial body, even such as we have here.

And there are yet fewer who believe that the wicked will have bodies in hell; for it is gaining ground everywhere that there are to be no positive torments for the damned, in hell to affect their bodies, but that it is to be metaphorical fire, metaphorical brimstone, metaphorical chains, metaphorical torture.

But if ye were Christians as ye profess to be, ye would believe that every mortal man who ever existed shall not only live by the immortality of his soul, but his *body* shall live again, that the very flesh in which he now walks the earth is as eternal as the soul and shall exist for ever.

That is the peculiar doctrine of Christianity. The heathens never guessed or imagined such a thing; and consequently when Paul spoke of the resurrection of the dead, "Some mocked," which proves that they understood him to speak of the resurrection of the body, **for they would not have mocked had he only spoken of the immortality of the soul, that having been already proclaimed by Plato and Socrates, and received with reverence.** We are now about to preach that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust. We shall consider first *the resurrection of the just*;

The first proof I will offer of this, is, that it has been the *constant and unvarying faith of the saints from the earliest periods of time*. Abraham believed the resurrection of the dead, for it is said in the Epistle to the Hebrews, chapter 11 verse 19, that he "accounted that God was able to raise up Isaac even from the dead; from whence also he received him in a figure." I have no doubt that Joseph believed in the resurrection, for he gave commandment

concerning his bones; and surely, he would not have been so careful of his body if he had not believed that it should be raised from the dead.

The Patriarch Job was a firm believer in it, for he said in that oft repeated text, Job. xix. 25, 26: "For I know that my Redeemer liveth; and that he shall stand at the latter-day upon the earth: and though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God." *End of excerpt.*

The Fabled Funeral

For the most profound exposure to the confusion that presides over general thinking; one simply needs to attend several funerals. There you can be witness to the most outstanding fiction one could imagine. As a Pastor I have attended as well as served in a number of funerals. In listening to the words by people and the expressions of grieving families; it is clear that most people do not have an accurate understanding from Scripture as to the reality of the current location or experience of their departed loved ones.

It must be the responsibility of the people who teach Scripture to rightly divide the word of truth. Having been in Christian ministry now over fifty years, I have personally felt the fear of speaking the truth on many occasions so I understand the struggle.

Let us return to boldly declare the hope of the Resurrection and all of the glories which are attached to it. We need to eliminate the syncretistic presentation of Scripture mixed with Gnosticism, the philosophy of Plato, and other pagan influences. We need to speak the truth of Scripture which the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth will be able to witness to.

John 16:13 "However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ***Be bold my fellow believers!***

The Essence of the Bible

I have included for your consideration, a brief overview of that which the Lord has opened to me over the past more than forty years. There are relatively few verses connected with these points, which has been done purposely to give you the opportunity to search the Scriptures, to see light as the Holy Spirit teaches you.

Each particle of information in Scripture falls meaningless, without the reality of the Incarnation of Christ Who came to be the perfect Godman as our worthy sacrifice to redeem us back to God. Thus we will begin the **‘Essence of the Bible’** by showing the truth of this major event of History as revealed in His Word, the pivotal factor that makes every other truth relevant and available for every believer to appropriate.

‘He that has an ear let him hear’!

In the following points you will encounter some explanations which may be unfamiliar to you. Please don't instantly dismiss them, as they represent areas in which there is much lack of light and confusion in the Church as a whole. **I share them with you simply as a leper who was blessed to discover them through the great help of other lepers.**

1. The Incarnation of Christ is one of the single most important events in the history of mankind. God provided a divine, single, miraculous and redemptive intervention. **John 1:1-4** “ In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was made that was made. In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.” **Isaiah 4:2** “In that day the Branch of the LORD shall be beautiful and glorious; And the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and appealing for those of Israel who have escaped.” **Isaiah 7:14** “Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call His name Immanuel.”

This provision resulted in the actuality of God becoming a man with a physical body. **1 John 4:2-3** “ By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has **come in the flesh** is of God, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ **has come in the flesh** is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.”

2. Through the virgin birth of Christ, Divinity was mingled with humanity as seen in John chapter one. The Word became flesh and ‘Tabernacled’ (dwelt) among us. **Hebrews 2:1** “Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Jesus Christ is God’s provision, and in His resurrection became the prototype as the first born from the dead. Through the resurrection fallen man is reconciled to God, having been redeemed from spiritual bondage. Further, the repentant man is restored back to his

original purpose for being created on this earth. This return to God's purpose will consummate in the eternal kingdom of God, as God "tabernacles" with men on the new earth.

3. The eternal purpose of God was to make man in His image and likeness (**His Seed kind**) and for him to have dominion, or rule, over the earth, the air and the sea and everything in it. Christ is the perfect Godman and as such His sacrifice was fully acceptable and sufficient to meet God's righteousness, holiness and justice in reconciling repentant man back to Himself. **Colossians 1:18** "And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the **firstborn** from the dead, that in all things He may have the preeminence."

Romans 8:29 "For whom He foreknew, He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the **firstborn** among **many** brethren." **John 12:24** "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain." **1 Corinthians 10:17** "For we being many are **one bread**, and one body: for we are all partakers of that **one bread**." **John 6:51** "**I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.**"

4. This sinless Godman, born of a virgin and coming as the Lamb of God, became sin for us, that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him. Through His shed blood, all who repent of their sin and believe in their heart that God has raised Christ from the dead and call on the Lord are born again and receive the divine Seed of His life. This is the very life of Christ. The divine nature as the implanted word

indwells and enlivens and regenerates our spirit. It makes us His sons and His many brothers.

5. On the cross when Christ's side was pierced blood and water flowed out. The blood was to deal with our sin and the water was to bring Him as life to us for the building of His Church. The Church is the body of Christ and His Bride. His indwelling life in the body completes the goal of His economy.

Colossians 1:25 "Of which I became a minister according to the **stewardship** (Greek: 3622 oikonomia oy-kon-om-ee'-ah: **Household Arrangement**) from God, which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God. This provision was first pictured in Scripture when God put Adam to sleep and took a rib from his side and built a woman for him. Both the "first Adam" and the "last Adam" (Christ) had their side opened to produce a bride.

6. Christ said to the disciples, "I go to prepare a place for you", so that we could be where He is. The cross was the place where Christ went to prepare that place. This place was for the redeemed to be brought into the Father and in the Son as a mutual abode. Furthermore, on the cross all of the old creation, including Satan, the fallen angels, the demons, and all of fallen mankind in Adam's fallen nature were **terminated** (put to death) thus ending the fallen old creation. The **new creation** in Christ was **germinated** through the resurrection life of Christ, having risen from the dead by the power of the Holy Spirit. Now Satan's power and authority, including man's fallen flesh and its claim on the redeemed, is over. **It is finished! Colossians 2:13-17** says, " And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcision of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses,

having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross. Having disarmed principalities and powers, He made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them in it. So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths, which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.”

7. After Christ’s resurrection He ascended to the Father and returned on the evening of the same day (*not two thousand years later*). There in a closed room He appeared and breathing on them said “Receive the Holy Spirit.” **At this point, the Divine Seed as the life of God was breathed into the disciples.** Following this, on the day of Pentecost the **Holy Spirit was poured out**, as was promised, to empower the believers to be witnesses.

8. On the day of Pentecost Peter proclaimed that Christ and not David was the one referred to in Psalm 16. Note that Peter stated that “David did not ascend into the heavens” *ten days after* the ascension of Christ. Peter’s statement pointed again to the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ had defeated death and that Paradise was not emptied into the third Heaven at Christ’s ascension.

9. People that have died are in Hades awaiting the resurrection from the dead. Specifically, the believer is in the pleasant portion called Paradise (“Abraham’s bosom”) where Christ went immediately after His death and the unbeliever is in a place of torment awaiting the resurrection and final Judgment. Death is not the final stage but the intermediate stage awaiting the resurrection. The believer and the unbeliever will be resurrected one thousand years apart.

10. There will be a time of tribulation on this earth such as the world has never seen and will never see again. This time will last three and one half years. At the end of this time the Kingdoms of this world will become the Kingdoms of our Lord and His Christ. In this Kingdom He shall reign forever and ever. Those believers who heeded Christ's call to overcome, but have died throughout the centuries, will be caught up to the throne as the "man-child" (**Revelation 12**) to assist the angel Michael in permanently casting Satan to the earth. This **man-child** refers to those believers that have overcome Satan "*by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony*" and by the fact that they have "*not loved their lives to the death.*"

Rev 12:5,6 "She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron. And her Child was caught up to God and His throne. Then the woman fled into the wilderness, where she has a place prepared by God, that they should feed her there one thousand two hundred and sixty days." The woman here is the believers who will pass through the tribulation of 1260 days. The Lord takes her to a place in the wilderness to be nourished for those days. The other group of overcomers, known as the "first fruits" are seen standing on Mount Zion. These are **kept from the hour of trial** as the Lord promised. These believers are secretly taken and are seen as standing on Mount Zion in heaven. (**Matthew 24:40**). These two overcomer groups represent two crucial aspects of what should be the "normal Christian life"---that of dedicated soldiers and pure lovers. We must remember that the Book of Revelation begins in verse one with the declaration that this book is a book of signs. The word 'signify,' is rendered as signs and it goes on to say that these signs are of things which ***shall shortly come to pass***. Not a repeat of the past!

The pre-trib rapture theory forces the woman in Rev 12 to be Israel, which cannot be soundly supported. Secondly the book of Revelation was written around 95 AD. Jesus Christ ascended from the Mount of Olives some sixty five years prior to the book of Revelation being written. Think of it; in a book which states itself to be a book of signs which shall shortly come to pass; we must therefore eliminate Christ as being the Man-child. Further, Christ was not born, and then immediately caught up to Heaven, neither does He become a group speaking '*they overcame him*' when caught up to the third Heaven.

11. At the end of the age the Lord will descend from Heaven to the air (atmosphere) and the dead in Christ will rise. Those who are "**alive and remain**" will be caught up to the air and to the Bema. There the believers' works, subsequent to salvation, will be tested and will become the basis of reward or loss of reward. Approved works will be rewarded and disapproved works will be exposed, with the suffering of loss, but not that of the gift of salvation. This reward will consist of privilege and authority in the Millennial Kingdom. Those who have their work disapproved will suffer loss in the Millennial Kingdom age.

12. The Lord will then come down to the earth, from the air, to set up His throne to judge the nations. Those of the nations determined by Christ to be "sheep" will enter the millennial time as restored but not regenerated people. These sheep were **chosen from** the foundation of the world whereas the saints were **chosen before** the foundation of the world.

13. These "sheep" are restored under the provision of "the restoration of all things" (**Acts 3:21; Matthew 19:28**) by responding to the "everlasting gospel" which called them to

“Fear God and give glory to Him.” Some characteristics of these sheep during the Millennial Kingdom are that they can still die and be judged for sin (**Isaiah 65:17-25; Revelation 20:7-10**). They can rebel, age, procreate and be deceived by the devil and be subsequently devoured. Note that these possibilities cannot represent those of a born again believer after Christ’s return!

14. Satan will be bound for one thousand years and peace will reign on the earth. All things will be restored. Christ will sit on His throne and rule on the earth from the rebuilt temple in Jerusalem. At the end of the one thousand years Satan will be loosed for a time and will go out to deceive the nations. Many will rebel and be dealt with by God’s fire coming out of Heaven. Satan then will be cast into the Lake of Fire for ever.

15. We can immediately have forgiveness, cleansing from our sin and deliverance from the “old Adam” if we repent and believe in Christ. But there is also much more! The Seed, being planted in us through the Holy Spirit causes the growth and development of the incorruptible Divine nature within us as we feed on His word and respond to His speaking. This should be the daily, subjective (experiential) portion of every born again believer!

16. The Divine Seed, by its life operation, is producing the **one new man** by the Seed Kind, thus culminating in His image and likeness. The maturing of the Seed will issue in the consummation of God’s Eternal Purpose. **Galatians 3:16** says, “Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, “And to seeds,” as of many, but as of one, “And to your **Seed**,” who is **Christ**.”

17. The eternal purpose will be the completion and fulfilment of the will and heart of God as established in

eternity past. It will be seen in the ages to come. The organism of the triune God as the New Jerusalem will be revealed. The New Jerusalem, composed of all of the redeemed, transformed and glorified saints throughout all the ages, matured as the *Divine Seed Kind*, and will have become a corporate “holy of holies.” This will be the dwelling place of God with men. We will at last be “*flesh of His flesh and bone of His bone!*” **Ephesians 3:21** says, “To him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, **world without end**. Amen.”

18. This corporate Bride is composed of all God’s redeemed. It will be the one new man, the one bread, the temple and the habitation of God. **The bride will reign in and with Him for all eternity** as the tabernacle of God with men. The sheep will be composed of the restored, but not regenerated Nations who will receive the healing of the leaves of the tree of life to sustain them. The Kings of the earth will bring their glory into the city.

19. All of the dead who rejected Christ will be raised from the dead to stand before God at the Great White Throne Judgment. The Book of Life will be opened and other books will be opened. Those who do not have their name written in the Book of Life will be cast into the Lake of Fire where Satan and the false prophet are as well as all fallen angels and demons.

20. There will be the Judgment on the old heaven and the old earth and the Lord will make all things new. The New Jerusalem will come down out of Heaven. The new earth will be the home of the Tabernacle of God with men for all eternity. All evil, death, sorrow, mourning and crying will be gone forever.

21. There will be perfect new heavens and a perfect new earth in His Eternal Kingdom wherein all of the redeemed will reign with Him forever. He and we will reign over the

Angels and the restored sheep (the nations in His Kingdom of righteousness and peace) where there will be no evil, sorrow, crying or death forever.

22. This then is the eternal condition and the accomplishment of God's Eternal Purpose. The Spirit and the Bride say "Come! Whoever thirsts come and drink of the water of Life freely." Amen! **1 Corinthians 15:24** says, "Then comes the end, when He delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power." **Revelation 19:16** "And He has on His robe and on His thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS." **Psalms 46:4** "There is a river whose streams shall make glad the city of God, The holy place of the tabernacle of the Highest."

Revelation 5:10 "And have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth." God's goal from the beginning was to make man in His image and likeness, and to have them exercise dominion over all the earth. He has not changed but we have grossly distorted His plan by our blindness and unbelief.

Never His Plan!

It was never God's plan to take His redeemed to heaven as a final destination, but rather to have His Kingdom come to earth Matt 6:10,, Heb 2:5 For **He has not put the world to come**, of which we speak, in subjection to angels.⁶ But one testified in a certain place, saying: "**What is man** that You are mindful of him, Or the son of man that You take care of him?⁷ You have made him a little lower than the angels; You have crowned him with glory and honor, And **set him over the works of Your hands.**"

The mentioned goal is in complete reversal to that which is preached so predominantly today of the Heavenly destiny theory. I plead with us all to investigate this great error in the teaching of the church. We must see this idea

came through the pagan influences of their teaching concerning a heavenly destiny but is clearly not a part of orthodox Biblical teaching.

This booklet is not the place to develop the matter, however you owe it to yourself and those you influence to discover the truth on this major error of the churches current teaching. His Eternal Purpose was to place His life into redeemed man to become His temple, His habitation in Spirit, His bride, His building, and His field to grow His living, corporate New Jerusalem and His tabernacle on the earth; both in the restored and renewed.

It is not a cube of Gold which has ‘mansions or chalets,’ rather the four dimensional figure is one of the **signs** in Revelation which speak of something so profound, something nearly all of Christianity has ‘dumbed’ down to simply a ‘cube of Gold’ as the consummation of God’s work throughout the ages.

This level of spiritual blindness and shallow light is a great contributor to the present spiritually starving church. She is also under siege due to this blindness and is kept hostage by spiritually bankrupt lives of so many of those who teach and control their way of thinking.

We need a ‘**Deeper and further Reformation**’ within the so-called evangelical world to move beyond the matter of Justification by faith, to the deeper and higher truths which will release the body to function and cause her to stand up as a mighty army to fight the spiritual battle for the Kingdom of God.

Move on to Perfection!

Heb 6:1 Therefore, leaving the discussion of the elementary principles of Christ, **let us go on** to perfection, **not laying again** the foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God,

Heb 5:12 For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you again the first principles of the oracles of God; and you have come to need milk and not solid food.² of the doctrine of baptisms, of laying on of hands, of resurrection of the dead, and of eternal judgment.

Question! Are we willing? Or will we stay where we are due to fear of job loss, comfort, apathy, unbelief etc? It is a profound statement made in 2 Kings 7 regarding the gate keeper, who eventually was *trampled* when the announcement was finally heard by the people that there were riches available to feast on.

Urgent! In the time of Martin Luther; the Roman Catholic Church was teaching its version of Scripture, only by the Priest in a language the common people could not read, or in many cases understand, and by this they controlled the thinking of the masses.

Are we willing to become the leper, or will we remain the gate keeper?

Today Evangelicalism needs a deep humbling in order to come to the full light of the truth of the whole counsel of God; by rightly dividing the word of truth, and secondly by applying this truth to our daily lives, and to implementing the reality these truths in our daily church life practice. This must happen in order to free God's people from the massive amount of fiction taught as truth, and to guide the nearly dying saints to the rich pastures of life and light, and to genuinely worship in Spirit and truth for the Father is seeking such.

For us to do this kind of leading, **we** must know where the riches are, and be willing to risk our own comfort and security in order to lead them out of starvation to His life supply, and Kingdom vision; which will draw them to lay down the toys of the world and rise up to build

with one heart. Our top longing should be to please the Lord and to be able to hear from Him on that day; **‘Well done’ good and faithful servant.**” Many will need to leave gate keeping and become lepers!

Do not be deceived!

If we corrupt His truth and starve His people; we can be assured we will not hear the ‘refrain’ of well done but will witness our wood hay and stubble of prideful **self-fulfilling** manipulation of the truth, and of God’s people; go up in smoke. We will be in danger of potentially be placed into outer darkness where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. And no; that is not Hell; please read Charles Stanley in the book recommended earlier in this booklet.

‘Self’ Prophecy

In Jeremiah chapter twenty nine we find a classic sample of prophesying that which the Lord has not said; rather, these were prophecies spoken in defiance of what God had clearly spoken by the mouth of Jeremiah, concerning the captivity and its duration.

Today there are many speaking with a *‘thus says the Lord’* flavor which clearly and often resemble the speaking which is revealed in this chapter. Speaking that which is clearly not *‘one’* with the word of God, but is represented, and presented, as being the *‘oracles’* of God.

Why is it that we as God’s people insist on embracing so many things which the Lord has not said? Rather we as God’s people embrace, and fight for *‘lies’* spoken as *‘thus says the Lord’* utterances?

As we consider the contrasts in this chapter, and in this booklet; please reflect on how many things the Lord has

said in concrete terms, and yet the so-called ‘prophets’ speak completely differently; with the result that God’s people believe the lie, and thus rebel against God’s speaking; as did the people concerning Jeremiah’s prophecies Given by inspiration.

We may not choose to add ‘*thus says the Lord,*’ to our speaking, however when we prophecy things which are contrary to the clear statements of the word of God, statements which in many cases are said to ‘*please or impress the people;*’ we can end up like those who falsely prophesied, as seen in Jeremiah chapter twenty nine.

A surer word of prophecy

11 Pe 1:19 And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which **you do well to heed** as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

20 knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, 21 for prophecy **never** came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were **moved** by the Holy Spirit.

11 Pe 2:1. But there were also false prophets among the people, even as there will be false teachers among you, who **will secretly** bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Lord who bought them, and bring on themselves swift destruction.

Jer 29:1 Now these are the words of the letter that Jeremiah the prophet sent from Jerusalem to the remainder of the elders who were carried away captive — to the priests, the prophets, and all the people whom

Nebuchadnezzar had carried away captive from Jerusalem to Babylon.

2 (This happened after Jeconiah the king, the queen mother, the eunuchs, the princes of Judah and Jerusalem, the craftsmen, and the smiths had departed from Jerusalem.)

3 The letter was sent by the hand of Elasah the son of Shaphan, and Gemariah the son of Hilkiah, whom Zedekiah king of Judah sent to Babylon, to Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, saying,

4 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

5 Build houses and dwell in them; plant gardens and eat their fruit.

6 Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters — that you may be increased there, and not diminished.

7 And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace.

8 For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed.

9 For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD.

10 For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you and cause you to return to this place.

11 For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.

12 Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you.

13 And you will seek Me and find Me, when you search for Me with all your heart.

14 I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

15 Because you have said, "The LORD has raised up prophets for us in Babylon" —

16 therefore thus says the LORD concerning the king who sits on the throne of David, concerning all the people who dwell in this city, and concerning your brethren who have not gone out with you into captivity —

17 thus says the LORD of hosts: Behold, I will send on them the sword, the famine, and the pestilence, and will make them like rotten figs that cannot be eaten, they are so bad.

18 And I will pursue them with the sword, with famine, and with pestilence; and I will deliver them to trouble among all the kingdoms of the earth — to be a curse, an

astonishment, a hissing, and a reproach among all the nations where I have driven them,

19 because they have not heeded My words, says the LORD, which I sent to them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; neither would you heed, says the LORD.

20 Therefore hear the word of the LORD, all you of the captivity, whom I have sent from Jerusalem to Babylon.

21 Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, concerning Ahab the son of Kolaiah, and Zedekiah the son of Maaseiah, who prophesy a lie to you in My name: Behold, I will deliver them into the hand of Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon, and he shall slay them before your eyes.

22 And because of them a curse shall be taken up by all the captivity of Judah who are in Babylon, saying, "The LORD make you like Zedekiah and Ahab, whom the king of Babylon roasted in the fire";

23 because they have done disgraceful things in Israel, have committed adultery with their neighbors' wives, and have spoken lying words in My name, which I have not commanded them. Indeed I know, and am a witness, says the LORD.

24 You shall also speak to Shemaiah the Nehelamite, saying,

25 Thus speaks the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, saying: You have sent letters in your name to all the people who are at Jerusalem, to Zephaniah the son of Maaseiah the priest, and to all the priests, saying,

26 "The LORD has made you priest instead of Jehoiada the priest, so that there should be officers in the house of the LORD over every man who is demented and considers himself a prophet, that you should put him in prison and in the stocks.

27 Now therefore, why have you not reproved Jeremiah of Anathoth who makes himself a prophet to you?

28 For he has sent to us in Babylon, saying, 'This captivity is long; build houses and dwell in them, and plant gardens and eat their fruit.'

29 Now Zephaniah the priest read this letter in the hearing of Jeremiah the prophet.

30 Then the word of the LORD came to Jeremiah, saying:

31 Send to all those in captivity, saying, Thus says the LORD concerning Shemaiah the Nehelamite: Because Shemaiah has prophesied to you, and I have not sent him, and he has caused you to trust in a lie —

32 therefore thus says the LORD: Behold, I will punish Shemaiah the Nehelamite and his family: he shall not have anyone to dwell among this people, nor shall he see the good that I will do for My people, says the LORD, because he has taught rebellion against the LORD.

Psalms 101:6 My eyes shall be on the faithful of the land, That they may dwell with me; He who walks in a perfect way, He shall serve me.

7 He who works deceit shall not dwell within my house; He who tells lies shall not continue in my presence.

We need to tell the truth to the saints and lay aside all commandments of men and the popular fiction taught as truth; that His body may be strengthened and built up to accomplish His eternal purpose.

Deut 29:1 These are the words of the covenant which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the land of Moab, besides the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.

2 Now Moses called all Israel and said to them: "You have seen all that the LORD did before your eyes in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land —

3 "the great trials which your eyes have seen, the signs, and those great wonders.

4 "Yet the LORD has not given you a heart to perceive and eyes to see and ears to hear, to this very day.

Has He given us these eyes and ears, or have we simply participated in His outward provision but remained unable to hear and see to this very day?

Please open to the Lord for His purpose and His Kingdom. Amen!

If you desire to fellowship regarding these matters

please contact me at: menbuilders6@gmail.com

Your Brother Dave-