

Behold  the Lamb
Publications

The Fullness

*“that you might be filled with all
the fulness of God.”*

Ephesians 3:19

by Leroy Surface

The Fullness

“I say then, Have they (Israel) stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?”

Romans 11:11-12.

From the day Adam disobeyed God and sin entered into the world, very little has happened according to the original plan of God. In his first strike against God, Lucifer, the serpent, succeeded in becoming *“the god of this world,”* to rule the inhabitants of the earth through sin in their heart and nature. In Abraham, God found a man who would believe Him, and chose his descendants to bring salvation to the Gentile nations of the world. God planned at Mt Sinai to put His laws in their hearts, and anoint them with His fullness, if they would *“obey His voice.”* The children of Israel refused to even hear the voice of God at Sinai, and instead of receiving His fullness, they proceeded to stumble and fall when they refused to receive Jesus as their Messiah. In the wonderful wisdom of God, if He could not have their fullness to reach the Gentiles, He would use their fall, and the gospel would be preached to the Gentiles.



Leroy Surface

“...that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in”

Romans 11:25.



Keith Surface

Almost two thousand years later, the shoe is on the other foot. God has purposed through the fullness of the Gentile church to bring salvation to the Jews. Again, He has received only the falling away of the Gentile church. He will, however, have His *“glorious church,”* filled with the fullness of God when both the Gentile church and the Jewish nation *“looks upon Him whom they have pierced”* Zechariah 12:10.

The Fullness

Message by: **Leroy Surface**

“...that ye might be filled with (unto) all the fulness of God.

Ephesians 3:19

Introduction

This message is about the purpose of God as stated in our text, that every believer should be *“filled with all the fullness of God.”* The word *“with”* in this text was translated from the Greek word *“eis,”* which Strong’s Greek Dictionary defines as *“to”* or *“into,”* and denotes motion toward a certain goal. We should understand this verse to say *“...that ye might be filled **unto** all the fullness of God.”* We often say there are no limits with God, but *“all the fullness of God”* is established as the ultimate limit for the children of God. The Apostle Paul spoke of the church as *“his body (the body of Christ), **the fullness of him that filleth all in all**”* Ephesians 1:23. I have never seen such a church in our generation, but I know such a church is what Christ *“...purchased with His own blood”* Acts 20:28. As the one who *“filleth all in all,”* Christ is what His church, which is His body, is full of.

The night before Christ suffered the death of the cross for us, He prayed to His Father with these words; *“I have manifested thy name unto the men which thou gavest me out of the world”* John 17:6. It is in the *“name”* of the Father that we begin to understand what the *“fullness of God”* truly is. The word *“name”* was translated from the Greek word *“onoma,”* which means *“character and authority.”* When Jesus said, *“I am come in my Father’s name...”* John 5:43, those who believed Him understood that He came in the character and authority of His Father, God. Jesus was the Son of God, and everything He did was in the character and authority of His Father. We are told by the Apostle

Paul “...*whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name* (character and authority) *of the Lord Jesus...*” Colossians 3:17.

The Spirit of Christ brings the character of God to the church and believer. Based upon this truth, Paul said, “*If any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of His*” Romans 8:9. He continued in the next verse to say, “*But if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness*” Romans 8:10. A teaching which has become very common today, even in “Spirit filled” churches, is that we receive the Holy Ghost when we first place our faith in Jesus Christ for salvation. This teaching is not true according to the scriptures. Paul said to the Galatians, “...*ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus*” Galatians 3:26. Only nine verses later, he said “*And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father*” Galatians 4:6. The Holy Ghost is not “*the Spirit of God’s Son.*” We receive the Spirit of Christ, the Son of God, when we first believe. He is the character of God, dwelling in us.

The Holy Ghost brings the authority of God to the church and believer. Jesus said, “*ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you*” Acts 1:8. The Holy Ghost is sent to the believer by Jesus from the right hand of His Father in heaven. It is He who baptizes the believer with the Holy Ghost Matthew 3:11. This “baptism” cannot be received “by faith.” It cannot be initiated by man. It is not a work that was “finished at Calvary.” To baptize the people with the Holy Ghost is the sovereign ministry of Jesus Christ at the right hand of His Father. Jesus promised His disciples, “*If I depart (ascend to my Father), I will send Him (the Holy Ghost Comforter) unto you*” John 16:7.

“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 8:11

The Holy Ghost (the Spirit of the Father; Matthew 10:20) is to our body what the Spirit of Christ is to our spirit. As the Spirit of Christ

brings life to everyone who receives Him, so the Holy Ghost brings life to our mortal body. The body of a believer is not “*dead in sin;*” but it is “*dead*” to doing the works of God. The baptism with the Holy Ghost is the answer to that “*deadness of the body.*” The Apostle Paul told us our “*body*” is “*the temple of the Holy Ghost*” 1 Corinthians 6:19. He makes our members to be “*instruments of righteousness unto God*” Romans 6:13. He is ready to work through the believer at least one of the nine “*manifestations (gifts) of the Spirit.*” No one can teach a “*believer*” how to “*speak in tongues,*” how to “*prophecy,*” or how to operate any of the gifts of the Spirit, because, “*...all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as He will*” 1 Corinthians 12:11.

I will present in this message that the “*church*” will never reach the world and change the culture of the nations until she comes into the “*fullness*” of what God has prepared for her. A weak and sinful church will be trodden under foot of man, but a church in the character and authority of God will shake the foundations of the world and reap a great harvest of souls. I present it will happen before the return of Jesus Christ to earth, but it will also happen during the greatest time of trouble the world has ever seen. We will search the scriptures, going back thousands of years to discover why God chooses an individual or raises up a nation.

A Great Mystery

The Apostle Paul revealed several mysteries that had been hidden from the understanding of the children of Israel for many centuries. To the Colossians, he wrote of a mystery “*...which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints*” Colossians 1:26. Jesus sent Paul to preach this mystery among the Gentiles, “*...which is Christ in you (the Gentiles), the hope of glory*” Colossians 1:27. For fifteen hundred years, the Jews had been blinded by the Law of Moses to believe God would not receive a Gentile. In his epistle to the Ephesians,

however, Paul spoke very clearly to this issue. He revealed what he called *“The mystery of Christ...which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel**”* Ephesians 3:4-6. The Jews had been blinded by the Law of Moses to that which was common knowledge to Abraham when God said to him, *“...in thy seed shall all the nations (Gentiles) of the earth be blessed”* Genesis 22:18. Due to the blindness of Israel, however, these things came to the Apostle Paul as a great revelation; one which caused him to be persecuted from city to city by the Jews throughout his ministry.

God’s Promise to Abraham

*“Now the LORD had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and **from thy father's house**, unto a land that I will shew thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**”* Genesis 12:1-3

The last and great promise to Abraham in these verses, which was conditioned upon whether he would obey God, was *“In thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.”* There were only three families in that day, those of Shem, Ham, and Japheth, the three sons of Noah who were still alive when God spoke to Abraham. Out of these three came every nation and race of people on the earth today. Of course, there were many families under these three sons of Noah, all of which were included in the blessing. The next verse says *“Abram was seventy and five years old when he departed out of Haran”* Genesis 12:4. According to Jewish tradition Abraham was about fifty five years old when God first spoke to him to leave his father’s house. Stephen, in his testimony

before the Sanhedrin court, clarified the record of Abraham when he said the following:

*“The God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, **before he dwelt in Charran**, And said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall shew thee. **Then came he out of the land of the Chaldaeans, and dwelt in Charran**: and from thence, when his father was dead, he removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell.”* Acts 7:2-4

If Abraham had strictly obeyed when God first spoke to him, he would have taken his wife Sarah and everything they possessed, and moved to the land of Canaan. Instead, the scripture says, *“And Terah took Abram his son, and Lot the son of Haran his son's son, and Sarai his daughter in law, his son Abram's wife; and they went forth with them from Ur of the Chaldees, to go into the land of Canaan; **and they came unto Haran, and dwelt there**”* Genesis 11:31. Two verses later, the scripture points out the discrepancy between what God said and what Abraham actually did with these words, *“**Now the LORD had said** unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and **from thy father's house ...**”* Genesis 12:1.

*“And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, **and all their substance that they had gathered, and the souls that they had gotten in Haran**; and they went forth to go into the land of Canaan; and into the land of Canaan they came.”*

Genesis 12:5

Abraham was 75 years old when he left Haran to obey God. He had, however, lived in disobedience in Haran for enough years to become very rich in both substance and souls. Some believe these “souls” were converts, and some believe they were servants, we do not know for certain. At age 85, Abraham took Hagar as a wife, who gave him his firstborn son Ishmael. For the next 13 years Abraham believed Ishmael was the son which God had promised to him. During those years, however, there is no

evidence given in the scriptures of fellowship between Abraham and God. Abraham was 99 years old when God again revealed Himself as though for the first time: *“I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And I will make my covenant between me and thee...”* Genesis 17:1-2. This was the day God rejected Abraham’s thirteen year old son Ishmael. After much grieving over Ishmael, this was the day Abraham first believed God to receive the son of promise through Sarah, who was 90 years of age. If the timeline given by Jewish tradition is correct, God had dealt with Abraham for over 40 years to bring him to this place of complete faith in God, and only now could God give him Isaac, the son of promise.

“God will provide”

When Isaac was a strong young man, probably in his mid or late teens, God gave Abraham the greatest test of his lifetime.

“Take now thy son, thine only son Isaac, whom thou lovest, and get thee into the land of Moriah; and offer him there for a burnt offering upon one of the mountains which I will tell thee of.” Genesis 22:2

The next morning Abraham took his son Isaac, two of his servants and a donkey to carry the wood, and began the three day journey to Moriah. At the foot of Mt Moriah, Abraham laid the wood on the back of Isaac, and the two of them continued to the place of sacrifice. *“...and Abraham built an altar there, and laid the wood in order, and bound Isaac his son, and laid him on the altar upon the wood”* Genesis 22:9. All that remained to do was to slay his son and kindle the fire to offer Isaac as the burnt offering to God.

“And Abraham stretched forth his hand, and took the knife to slay his son. And the angel of the LORD called unto him out of heaven, and said, Abraham, Abraham: and he said, Here am I. And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God,

*seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me. And Abraham lifted up his eyes, and looked, and behold behind him a ram caught in a thicket by his horns: and Abraham went and took the ram, and offered him up for a burnt offering in the stead of his son. **And Abraham called the name of that place Jehovahjireh: as it is said to this day, In the mount of the LORD it shall be seen.***” Genesis 22:10-14

Jehovahjireh is not a name of God; it is instead the name Abraham gave to the place where he offered Isaac. The meaning of the word is “*The Lord will provide.*” Earlier that same day, while walking the path to the place of sacrifice, there was this exchange between Isaac and his father.

*“And Abraham took the wood of the burnt offering, and laid it upon Isaac his son; and he took the fire in his hand, and a knife; and they went both of them together. And Isaac spake unto Abraham his father, and said, My father: and he said, Here am I, my son. And he said, Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the lamb for a burnt offering? And Abraham said, My son, **God will provide himself a lamb** for a burnt offering.”*

Genesis 22:6-8

These words from Abraham were prophetic. In fact, this entire event was prophetic of the day God would provide Himself a lamb. John the Baptist, upon seeing the Holy Ghost come to remain upon Jesus, said to the people, “*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. He understood the promise of “*Jehovahjirah,*” and introduced the Lamb of God over three years before Christ was offered on the cross to take away our sin. If Abraham would not withhold his beloved son from God, but would freely offer him as a sacrifice to God, God would not withhold His beloved Son, but would freely offer Him for us. As Isaac carried the wood to mount Moriah, Jesus would carry the cross to mount Calvary. As Isaac was a son who was willing to be the sacrifice for his father, Jesus would be willing to be the eternal sacrifice to take away our sin. Abraham placed an

inscription on the altar of sacrifice with the word “*Jehovahjireh*,” which was understood to say “*The Lord will provide.*” Over four hundred years later Moses wrote “*as it is said to this day, In the mount of the Lord it shall be seen.*” This event was repeated almost 2000 years later when God “*so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life*” John 3:16.

The Covenant with Abraham

*“By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; **And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.**”*

Genesis 22:16-18

When God “swears by Himself,” He becomes the collateral for His promise. Such a promise cannot fail, because God must give Himself if necessary to fulfil the promise. This is exactly what happened in the incarnation when Christ, the eternal Word, became flesh to redeem His people. God had promised Abraham many years before, if he would obey the voice of God, “*in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed*” Genesis 12:3. On this day, many years later, God promised “*in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice*” Genesis 22:18. We know, according to the Apostle Paul, this promise was fulfilled in Christ Galatians 3:16. When God gave the promise, however, the words “*thy seed*” referred to the descendants of Abraham which would come through Isaac. In fact, God gave the same promise to Isaac in his generation;

*“And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and **in thy seed***

shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because that Abraham obeyed my voice ...” Genesis 26:4-5

The Covenant with the children of Israel

Exactly 430 years after God’s covenant promise to Abraham was given, the descendants of Abraham were gathered at the foot of Mount Sinai to hear the voice of God. If they would, as Abraham had years before, “*obey the voice of God,*” they would forever be God’s “*kingdom of priest*” who would bring the knowledge of the true God to every nation, for that was the promise to Abraham; “*In thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*”

“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.” Exodus 19:5-6

Three days later, God came down on Mount Sinai to speak to His people in an audible voice. What transpired that day, however, altered human history for evil, and not for good. God’s purpose for this people was that they should be a blessing to every nation and family on earth. God had from the beginning purposed that every race and nation should know and serve him, and this “*seed of Abraham*” was chosen to bring this about. It would be necessary for them to be “*filled with all the fullness of God*” Ephesians 3:19 before they could do anything at all to effect the nations of the world for God, however. This “*fullness*” is what God had purposed to do at Mount Sinai, and what this message is about.

Abraham had obeyed the voice of God when he offered Isaac, and it was on the basis of his obedience that God gave the covenant of promise. The covenant promise to Abraham’s descendants as they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai was based upon “*If ye will obey my voice.*” When God began to speak from the mountain, however, the people drew back and cried to Moses, “*Speak thou*

with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die” Exodus 20:19. Out of their own mouth came the basis for the Law of Moses. The congregation refused to hear the voice of God who was come to bless them beyond imagination as His kingdom of priests, but they promised to obey Moses in what he would speak to them. They refused the covenant of blessings from God, and received instead a law of curses from Moses. God disowned this people when they disowned Him. Less than two months later they built a golden calf to worship, saying *“These be thy gods, O Israel, which brought thee up out of the land of Egypt”* Exodus 32:4. When God saw this, He said to Moses, *“Thy people, which thou broughtest out of the land of Egypt, have corrupted themselves”* Exodus 32:7.

The Stumble and Fall

*“I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather **through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.** Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fullness?”*

Romans 11:11-12

The history of the children of Israel from the time they refused the voice of God at Sinai was one of stumbling and falling. There were periods of victory and prosperity, as under the leadership of Joshua and the godly judges that followed, and several godly kings, such as David, Hezekiah, Josiah, and Jehoshaphat. They both prospered and stumbled under the reign of Solomon, who not only built the temple of God, but also built temples to the gods of all his heathen wives. King Manasseh filled the land with Idols, and King Ahab brought the prophets of Baal into the land to please his wife Jezebel. The kingdom was divided between the ten northern tribes of Israel and the two southern tribes of Judah under King Rehoboam, the son of Solomon. The northern kingdom of Israel fell to Assyria in 722 B.C. due to their continuing idolatry. The southern kingdom of Juda continued for

a season, but also backslid into such idolatry that Jerusalem was destroyed in 587 B.C. and the people taken captive to Babylon. Israel was never again a free nation, but was first under the dominion of Babylon, followed by the Medes and Persians, the Greek empire, and finally the Romans, who were in control during the life and ministry of Jesus Christ. Their final fall, however, came when they rejected Jesus as their Messiah, and condemned Him to death at the hands of the romans. Even after God raised Jesus from the dead, which proved He was the Son of God, Romans 1:3-4 the religious leaders of Israel refused to believe. They persecuted the church and beat the apostles with whips for preaching Jesus Christ to the Jews. After several years of such persecution by the Jews, and the readiness of the Gentiles to believe, the apostles followed the lead of the Apostle Paul, and took the gospel of Christ to the Gentiles. This was the fulfillment of the words of Paul in our text, “...*through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.*”

We have seen in the scriptures that God has from the beginning promised salvation to the Gentiles through the seed of Abraham. When the children of Israel refused to hear or obey the voice of God at Mount Sinai, their punishment was the Law of Moses, which was a wall of partition between the Jews and the Gentiles Ephesians 2:14. In their blindness, which was brought about by the Law, they could not see that salvation was for the Gentiles also. Before his death, Moses taught a song to the children of Israel. This song, which is recorded in the thirty second chapter of Deuteronomy, foretold in detail the future of the children of Israel; their idolatry, their backslidings, their captivity, their centuries of tribulation under the feet of Gentiles, Luke 21:24 and, at last, their returning again to favor with God Deuteronomy 32:43. When the Apostle Paul said salvation came to the Gentiles to provoke the Jews to jealousy, he was referring to a phrase in the song of Moses:

*“They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God; they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and **I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people; I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation.**”* Deuteronomy 32:21

God had promised the children of Israel at Sinai, “*obey my voice and keep my covenant,*” and they would be His “*peculiar treasure above all people,*” His “*kingdom of priests*” and His “*holy nation.*” During the next 1500 years before the appearing of Jesus their Messiah, Israel never attained to this promise. Peter, however, wrote the following to the Gentile believers in the first century:

*“Unto you (the believing Gentiles) therefore which believe He (Jesus) is precious: but unto them (the disbelieving Jews) which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, and a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed (in the song of Moses). But ye (the Gentile believers) are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people;** that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: **Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy**”* I Peter 2:7-10.

According to Peter, the Gentile believers in the first century received the promise which God had offered to the children of Israel at Sinai **if** they would “*obey His voice.*” The “*jealousy*” which will cause the Jews to seek after Jesus will come when they see the precious promises of God to the children of Israel fulfilled among the Gentile believers. Such a church does not exist today. Instead, the church has become weak and sinful because it has rejected the truth of Christ, and traded the gospel of Christ for a “gospel” which is nothing more than philosophy.

The Fullness

“Now if the fall of them be the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness?” Romans 11:12

God’s will for the children of Israel was their “*fullness*,” but what He got was their “*fall*.” He would have used their fullness to evangelize the Gentiles, but now He would use their “*fall*” to do the same. The Apostle Paul questions, if the fall and diminishing of the Jews brought the blessing of Abraham to the Gentiles, how much better it would have been if the Jews had obeyed the voice of God at Sinai and received their “*fullness*.” God did not predestinate the fall of the Jews, but He would use their fall to send the gospel to the Gentiles. This so amazed the Apostle Paul that he closed the 11th chapter of Romans with this beautiful saying:

“O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out! For who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? Or who hath first given to him, and it shall be recompensed unto him again? For of him, and through him, and to him, are all things: to whom be glory for ever. Amen.” Romans 11:33-36

The First Day of Pentecost

Most Christians know what happened on the Day of Pentecost, which was fifty days after the Passover. One hundred and twenty disciples of Jesus were “*filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them utterance*” Acts 2:4. The “*mystery of Pentecost*,” however, is what God had purposed to do on the “*first Day of Pentecost*” for the children of Israel, if they had obeyed the voice of God. The meaning of the word “*Pentecost*” is simply “*fiftieth day*.” The first Day of Pentecost was fifty days after the Passover lamb was slain by the children

of Israel in Egypt. The blood of that Passover lamb protected them from the death angel when he passed through the land that night, and delivered them from the bondage of Egypt the next morning. Fifty days later the children of Israel were camped at the foot of Mount Sinai when God came down to speak to them in an audible voice. We know from the record of the scriptures in the twentieth chapter of Exodus that they refused to hear the voice of God and chose to obey Moses instead of God. We know from the record in the nineteenth chapter that God had promised they would be His *“peculiar treasure above all people,”* His *“Kingdom of Priests,”* and His *“Holy nation”* if they would simply *“obey His voice and keep His covenant”* Exodus 19:5-6. The covenant God spoke of was not the Law of Moses, because the Apostle Paul said *“...it was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made”* Galatians 3:19. The covenant they would keep if they had *“obeyed His voice”* was the covenant of blessing Genesis 22:16-18 which God had given to Abraham and his seed over four hundred years before Galatians 3:17.

While we know what happened on that first Day of Pentecost at Mount Sinai, do we comprehend what would have happened if the children of Israel had gladly received God and rejoiced to hear His voice? The thundering voice they heard speaking from the mountain would have become a *“still small voice”* speaking in their hearts. His words would be written in their hearts, and God would have poured His Spirit upon them as He did the hundred and twenty some 1500 years later. The fire of God that rested upon Mount Sinai would have sat upon each of them as it did on the hundred and twenty Acts 2:3 on the Day of Pentecost. They would have been *“filled with all the fullness of God”* Ephesians 3:19. They would have begun speaking the language of every nation on earth, *“as the Spirit of God gave them utterance”* Acts 2:4. They would have walked into Canaan less than a year later as God’s *“Kingdom of Priests”* and His *“Holy Nation.”* The fear of God would have driven their enemies out of the land, while at the same

time the glory of God upon His people would have caused even their enemies to know God was “*in them of a truth*” I Corinthians 14:24-25. Those of “*all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues*” Revelations 7:9 would see and desire to possess the same life and Spirit that would have been with the children of Israel. The prophet Zechariah prophesied of what should have been at Sinai, but what will yet come to pass for the Jew at the last day:

*“Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that **ten men** shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, **We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.**”* Zechariah 8:23

Certainly in this verse we understand Paul’s question of what could have been if they had obeyed the voice of God at Sinai; “*If the fall of them be the riches of the world...**how much more their fulness?**”* Romans 11:11-12

Why they could not obey God

“O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever!” Deuteronomy 5:29

The children of Israel were afflicted with a heart problem. They were the same as the vast multitudes in the world today; they cannot serve the living and true God because of the condition of their heart. This condition continued to plague the children of Israel throughout the centuries until Christ died on the cross to “*take away their sin*” John 1:29, and give them a “*new heart.*” A thousand years later, when the city of Jerusalem and the Temple were destroyed because of the idolatry in the land, the prophet Ezekiel spoke the Word from God to them, saying, “***A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and***

cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them” Ezekiel 36:26-27. This was a promise that even God could not keep until Christ came, and died on the cross, to “*make an end of sins”* Daniel 9:24-27. Not even God could change the heart of the people without the cleansing blood of His beloved Son.

In the Revelation, John heard the elders in heaven sing a “*new song*” in praise of our redeemer; “*...for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation; And hast made us unto our God kings and priests (a kingdom of priests): and we shall reign on the earth”* Revelation 5:9-10. The promise to the children of Israel at Mount Sinai was to be “*a kingdom of priests,*” but note that it required the sprinkling of the precious blood of Christ, our Passover Lamb. The problem at Sinai was not Sinai, but rather it was the blood of the Passover lamb which was shed in Egypt. Paul well defined the problem to the Hebrews; “*For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”* Hebrews 10:4. The Passover lamb which was offered in Egypt was only a type and foreshadow of our Passover Lamb which was to come. Sin reigned in the hearts of the children of Israel as they stood at the foot of Mount Sinai to hear the voice of God. Their hearts were as an adamant stone Zechariah 7:12, as hard as a diamond, which cannot be carved or engraved. God’s words, which were intended to be written in the hearts of the people, had to be written on tables of stone, which we call “*The Ten Commandments.*” The children of Israel could not obey God because the blood of their Passover lamb, which was sufficient to deliver them from Egypt, could not take sin out of their heart and nature.

Moses commanded that the Passover feast should be held every year as a memorial forever. This means that before Christ came there had been about 1500 Passovers in which many hundreds of thousands of lambs were sacrificed, but not one was found whose blood could cleanse the heart of man. As with all religious ordinances and ceremonies, these were very precious to those

who believed and trusted in them. King Josiah offered 30,000 lambs in one day at the greatest Passover feast ever, but all was in vain for the redemption of man. Each of these Passovers was followed fifty days later by a “*feast of Pentecost*,” in which the people would gather and rejoice in memory of the day they received the Law of Moses, not understanding that Christ would die to redeem them from that same Law Galatians 4:4-5. Only the precious and holy blood of Christ could cleanse their heart and make them obedient to God.

Obedient Children

“Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ:” I Peter 1:1-2

Peter understood the full work of sanctification by the blood of Jesus Christ to be “*sanctification of the spirit* (of man) ***unto obedience***.” Some believe this verse proves the Holy Ghost is our sanctifier, which certainly is not true. The blood of Jesus Christ is the only sanctifier of the people Hebrews 13:12, and only those who are cleansed by the blood of Jesus can receive the Holy Ghost. Perhaps Paul clarifies this issue somewhat in his epistle to the Thessalonians:

*“And the very God of peace sanctify you **wholly**; and I pray God your **whole spirit and soul and body** be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.”* I Thessalonians 5:23

Peter speaks of those whom Christ has sanctified as “*obedient children*” I Peter 1:14, who do not “fashion themselves,” but they are “*holy*” because their Father is holy I Peter 1:16-19. These are those whom God can pour His Spirit into. When Peter gave his defense before the high priest and the court which was preparing to kill the apostles of Jesus, he said, “*We are his witnesses of these*

things; and so is also the Holy Ghost, whom God hath given to them that obey him” Acts 5:32. The Apostle Paul, when writing to the Hebrews, said of Jesus “*And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him”* Hebrews 5:9. From cover to cover the Word of God keeps a connection between faith and obedience. Adam disobeyed God and made many to be sinners Romans 5:19. Jesus Christ obeyed God and made many to be righteous Romans 5:19. Abraham obeyed God and received the covenant of blessing from God. His seed disobeyed God at Mount Sinai and lost the covenant of blessing while receiving a law of cursing from Moses. This connection cannot be broken, because obedience flows from the righteous like a stream of clear water. The obedience of the children of God is not supported by human effort. It is rather the life of God flowing out through His children. Those who struggle to obey God are not obedient children; they are merely religious. The obedient children are at rest and peace. They do not fashion themselves as the religious are taught to do. They have no need to “imitate Christ” because they bear His image and likeness. Oh how wonderful it is to be an obedient child with a heavenly Father who loves His children with everlasting love.

If the children of Israel at Mount Sinai could have been obedient (they did not have a heart to obey; Deuteronomy 5:29), God would have filled them with all His fullness. They had arrived at Sinai as the seed of Abraham, which was destined to be a blessing to all the nations (Gentiles) of the world. They would have become God’s “*Kingdom of Priests*” and His “*Holy nation.*” They would also have been His “*peculiar treasure...above all people*” Exodus 19:5, but all that ended when they refused to hear and obey the voice of God Exodus 20:19. Sadly, they spent the next fifteen hundred years believing they were everything God had promised they could be, and hating the nations God had chosen them to bless. In the Song of Moses, the first mention of the children of Israel is “*They have corrupted themselves, their spot is not the spot of his children:*

they are a perverse and crooked generation” Deuteronomy 32:5. In their blindness, which came upon them through the Law of Moses II Corinthians 3:15, they did not understand the Law was their punishment, to keep them shut in and separated from the nations they were to bless, until Christ would come. The Apostle Paul wrote to the Galatians, “...*before faith came* (the faith of Christ), *we were kept under the law, shut up unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed”* Galatians 3:23. “*Kept under and shut up”* is prison language. Moses’ Law was their punishment for refusing to hear God at Sinai. “*Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions* (to discipline them), *till the seed should come to whom the promise was made”* Galatians 3:19.

Blindness in Part...

“For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved...”

Romans 11:25-26

The fullness of the Gentiles speaks of the same “*fullness*” the children of Israel would have received at Mount Sinai if they had listened and obeyed the voice of God. That same “*fullness*” was poured out upon the hundred and twenty on the Day of Pentecost, and that generation went on to “*turn the world upside down”* Acts 17:6 with the gospel of Christ in their generation. The generations of the church that came after were so inundated with false teachers II Peter 2:1, false prophets I John 4:1, and false apostles II Corinthians 11:13, that the truth of the gospel was soon lost. Less than forty years after Christ was crucified, Jude found it necessary to exhort the people to “*earnestly contend for the faith that was once delivered to the saints”* Jude 1:3. He said “*ungodly men*” had “*crept in unawares*” and were “*turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness”* Jude 1:4. Within three centuries the church entered into twelve hundred years called “the dark ages,” during which the church itself was controlled by an antichrist figure, and

became the persecutor of the Jews, as well as the executioner of all those Christians who refused to submit to the Pope. Hatred of the Jews was present even in the reformation. Martin Luther, who launched the reformation with his revelation of “*the just shall live by faith,*” later wrote a book titled “*The Jews and their lies,*” in which he actually seemed to endorse the annihilation of the Jews. Four hundred years later, Luther’s book was promoted by Hitler at his anti-Semitic rallies, which led to the holocaust in WWII.

Where is the Jealousy

“I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy.” Romans 11:11

The Apostle Paul is again referring to the Song of Moses where God said “*They have moved me to jealousy with that which is not God (the golden calf); they have provoked me to anger with their vanities: and I will move them to jealousy with those which are not a people (the Gentiles); I will provoke them to anger with a foolish nation*” Deuteronomy 32:21. Since the close of the first century A.D. there has not been a “*church*” which could provoke the Jews to Jealousy. In fact, for most of the two thousand years since Christ died, there has been animosity between the Gentile church and the Jews. The Jews have been “*provoked to anger,*” first by the Roman Catholic, and then by the protestant churches. The horrors of the holocaust brought a great shock to most of the world, resulting in the establishment of the nation of Israel for the Jews in 1948. Since that time, Israel has been continually provoked by the fundamental Islamic nations, and at this present time (2021), antisemitism is on the increase both in America and Europe. According to the scriptures, all the nations of the world will gather against Jerusalem Zechariah 14:2, but where is the “*church*” that can “*provoke them to jealousy?*” The Apostle Paul understood it was the salvation of the Gentiles which was

destined to provoke jealousy in the Jews. If that is the case, where is the jealousy?

According to Apostle Peter, the Gentile believers of the first century were such a church, even though they suffered great persecution from the unbelieving Jews. Peter wrote to them these words of confirmation in His first epistle.

*“But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past **were not a people, but are now the people of God...**”* I Peter 2:10

God had promised the children of Israel at Sinai, if they would “obey His voice,” they would be His “*peculiar treasure,*” His “*kingdom of priests,*” and His “*holy nation.*” Israel never attained to that status because of their unbelief, but the Gentiles did. The Apostle Paul addresses that very situation in his epistle to the Romans.

“What shall we say then? That the Gentiles, which followed not after righteousness, have attained to righteousness, even the righteousness which is of faith. But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.” Romans 9:30-31

A weak and sinful church such as we see in this present time will never move the Jews to jealousy. Nothing less than the fullness of everything God promised to the children of Israel, when it is seen in the Gentiles, will provoke the Jews to jealousy. They will remember the covenant with Abraham and the promise at Sinai. They will recognize in the Gentile believers those precious things they would have received if they had obeyed God’s voice.

Blindness in Part

*“...**blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.**”* Romans 11:25

The children of Israel have been blinded by the Law of Moses since the day they refused the voice of God at Sinai. Paul wrote to the Corinthians, *“But their minds were blinded: for until this day remaineth the same vail untaken away in the reading of the old testament; which vail is done away in Christ. But even unto this day, when Moses is read, the vail is upon their heart. Nevertheless when it shall turn to the Lord, the vail shall be taken away”* II Corinthians 3:14-16. Paul said the vail remains *“even unto this day.”* Those Jews and Gentiles, whosoever they may be, who trust in the Law of Moses for righteousness are blinded to the truth of Jesus Christ. According to the Apostle Paul, the only thing that will lift the vail is for them to *“turn to the Lord”* II Corinthians 3:15-16. Paul also said, however, that they will be blind *“...until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.”* They cannot believe *“Jesus is the Christ”* because they cannot see Christ in the modern church, which has become darkness, and not light. Jesus warned the people in His Sermon on the Mount, *“If therefore the light that is in thee be darkness, how great is that darkness!”* Matthew 6:23. Millions of “believers” in our generation believe *“We are all sinners; we sin every day,”* and they teach the people that sin is *“the normal Christian condition.”* I tell you, they are in darkness, because darkness is in them. They are salt that has lost its savor; it is *“good for nothing, but to be cast out, and to be trodden under foot of men”* Matthew 5:13. The unbelieving world will never be drawn to Jesus until the *“light of truth”* is restored to the churches.

The Fullness of the Gentiles

“...blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in.”

In this we find a paradox. Israel will be blind until *“the fullness of the Gentiles”* comes in. Paul wrote to the Thessalonians that Christ will not return except there is a *“falling away first.”* The words *“falling away”* were translated from the Greek word

“apostasia,” which means *“defection from truth.”* Before the end of the first century A.D., the church began its *“falling away”* into spiritual darkness that lasted for twelve centuries before the reformation of the sixteenth century. The first day of the twentieth century, January 1, 1901, is the date commonly credited as the beginning of the last day outpouring of the Holy Ghost. The Pentecostal revival that followed lasted about sixty years before the last day *“falling away”* began. The modern church is not increasing in spirituality and progressively reaching its fullness. The Charismatic revival of the 1970s, the prosperity revival of the 1980s, the laughing revival of the 1990s; none of these were the great outpouring of the Spirit they were claimed to be. For the past two generations since the late 1960s the church has been in decline. What hope is there for the salvation of the Jews when the church is falling away?

The Mystery of the Green Olive Tree

*“The LORD called thy name, A green olive tree, fair, and of goodly fruit: with the noise of a great tumult **he hath kindled fire upon it, and the branches of it are broken.**”* Jeremiah 11:16

There is an unbreakable connection between the true church and the nation of Israel, as represented by the *“green olive tree.”* When the prophet Jeremiah first introduced the olive tree, however, it was a symbol of national Israel. We do not know exactly when God “planted” the olive tree, but very likely it was when God said to Abraham, *“...and in thy seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed”* Genesis 22:18. It was a beautiful green olive tree with good fruit when God planted it, but in the prophet Jeremiah’s day, in His judgment against Israel’s sins, God had burnt it with fire and broken its branches. This indicated God’s judgment against the northern kingdom of Israel when Assyria led them captive and scattered them among the nations, as well as God’s judgment against Judah and Jerusalem when the armies of Babylon destroyed the city and the Temple, and burnt them

with fire. The Apostle Paul said these were the natural branches which were *“broken off...because of unbelief”* Romans 11:20. The purpose of the analogy of the olive tree as given by Paul was to show that God’s Israel, represented by the green olive tree, is made up of both Jews and Gentiles who have been made one in Christ, where there is *“neither Jew nor Greek (Gentiles)”* Galatians 3:28, for they are all made one in Christ. National Israel of the Old Testament were the natural branches, which were *“broken off”* through unbelief. When Christ died, He died as the Lamb of God to *“take away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. When the gospel went to the Gentiles, those who believed were *“cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and grafted contrary to nature into the good olive tree”* Romans 11:24. Paul warned those Gentiles who were *“grafted in”* not to boast against the natural branches which were broken off. He said, *“...if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee”* Romans 11:21.

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

Romans 11:22

The nation of Israel had suffered under the dominion of foreign nations for six centuries, beginning with the seventy years captivity in Babylon which was prophesied by Jeremiah. This was the *“severity of God,”* which began because of their idol worship, and continued because of their unbelief. When Christ came into the world, the scripture says, *“He came unto His own (the Jews), and His own received Him not”* John 1:11. Only days before dying on the cross, Jesus wept over Jerusalem, saying, *“Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, **Ye shall not see me, until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord**”* Luke 13:35.

These words were spoken to the city and to the nation. Concerning the individual Jew, the scripture says, *“But as many as received him, to them gave He power to become the sons of*

God, even to them that believe on his name” John 1:12. Christ died on the cross and arose from the dead on the third day. On the Day of Pentecost, God poured out of His Spirit and baptized 120 believing Jews with the Holy Ghost. On the same day, over three thousand Jews believed and were added to the church. These were “*natural branches,*” grafted into their own olive tree Romans 11:24.

During the first generation after Pentecost, many thousands of both Jews and Gentiles were grafted into the olive tree, which is “*the Israel of God*” Galatians 6:16. The tree was beautiful once again in that day, and it was what God had purposed when He said to Abraham, “*in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.*” Paul revealed what had been a great mystery to the Jews, “*...that the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ by the gospel*” Ephesians 3:6. When the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost began to wane in Jerusalem, however, many of the Jews began to return to Moses and the Law. Paul wrote the epistle to the Hebrews, seeking to stop the erosion. Within a generation the olive tree, which continues to be “*the Israel of God,*” was made up almost entirely of Gentile believers, whom Paul warned, “*If God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee*” Romans 11:21. With the second generation of the church, false teachers and false prophets arose and perverted the gospel of Christ into that which is not the gospel Galatians 1:6-7. Those “believers” who were deceived by the “perverted Gospel” were also broken off by God. The Apostle Paul said to them, “*Christ is made of no effect unto you...*” Galatians 5:4. Jude spoke of ungodly men who had “*crept in unawares...turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness...*” Jude 1:4. Those “branches” which accepted the lascivious gospel were also “*broken off*” from the olive tree. Very few were being grafted in by the end of the first century church, and within three hundred years, the church had apostatized to the extent that the spirit of antichrist gained supremacy and placed an antichrist figure as the earthly head of

the church. Consider how barren God's "green olive tree" must have been during those twelve centuries of dark ages till the reformation of the sixteenth century came in.

The Spirit of Grace and Supplications

"In that day shall the LORD defend the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and he that is feeble among them at that day shall be as David; and the house of David shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them." Zechariah 12:8

The words "in that day" in this verse bring us to the last days of the last generation before the return of Jesus Christ to earth. This phrase, "in that day," is used eight times in chapters 12 & 13 of Zechariah, giving a panoramic view of the last generation, in which we are now living. Zechariah 12:1-8 seems to describe the circumstance in Israel from 1948 when Israel was restored as a nation until this present time. This eighth verse describes future events which will bring the last outpouring of the Spirit and the return of Christ to earth.

The "House of David" speaks of the Gentiles which began to be gathered into the church by the apostles Peter and Paul. James, the brother of our Lord and the head of the church at Jerusalem confirmed this at the Jerusalem council which convened to discuss the salvation of Gentiles Acts 15:14-17. Notice the words of James at the conclusion of that council:

*"And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men and brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this **I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up: That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the***

Gentiles, upon whom my name is called, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.” Acts 15:13-17

Zechariah prophesied *“In that day...the house of David (the Gentile church) shall be as God, as the angel of the LORD before them (the inhabitants of Jerusalem).”* This speaks of *“the fullness of God”* upon the Gentile church, which was promised to them; *“...that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God”* Ephesians 3:19. Certainly this does not describe the church in this present day, but the prophet said these things would be *“in that day.”* This gives understanding to the scripture which says, *“...blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in”* Romans 11:25.

Zechariah’s prophecy continues to tell the events that will bring about the “fullness of the Gentiles” and the salvation of the Jews.

“And I will pour upon the house of David (the Gentile believers), and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the Jews), the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced...” Zechariah 12:10

There are two things in this verse which must happen before the restoration of the church. One is an act of God, and the other is an act on the part of the Gentile church. God said, *“I will pour upon (them) the spirit of grace and supplications,”* and *“They shall look upon (move toward) me whom they pierced.”* In the day that shall come, the first move must be on the part of the Gentile church. Jesus had said to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, *“You shall see me no more until you shall say blessed in He that cometh in the name of the Lord.”* In order to fulfill these words of Jesus, the Jews must believe upon Him before He returns.

The Gentile church in our Generation has moved away from *“Christ-crucified,”* which is the wisdom and power of God to salvation I Corinthians 1:23-24, and many have received *“another gospel”* and *“another spirit”* II Corinthians 11:4. These have *“fallen*

away (apostatized)” from the truth. There is only one remedy for such a church; they must “*look upon Him whom they pierced.*”

The modern church is just as guilty of the crucifixion of Christ as the Jew. How is this possible? The Apostle Paul gave the answer to in his epistle to the Hebrews:

“For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away (apostatize), to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.” Hebrews 6:4-6

This warning to the Jews who were moving away from Christ in the first century church, must apply the twenty first century church, which is also “moving away.” The Jews were returning to trust in Moses, and the modern church is “*falling away*” from the truth to trust in other things. Very few ministries today give “*Jesus Christ, and Him crucified*” as the only answer God has for fallen humanity. Perhaps most are just as guilty as the Jews of the crucifixion of Jesus.

Much of the church has become filled with false prophets, who are prophesying things most Christians would like to believe. These are those the apostle warned against when he said, “*...all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived*” II Thessalonians 3:12-13. Jesus warned of these which would arise in the last day. He said, “*For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect*” Matthew 24:24. These are in the church of this generation.

The first prophetic words I heard from the Lord came to me on June 21, 1965 in the second year of my ministry. I was at a friend’s wedding in a Roman Catholic Church. While we were

waiting for the ceremony to begin, I was looking at the images of the saints and the Stations of the Cross portrayed on the walls. I noticed the last “station of the cross” depicted the crucifixion and burial of Jesus. I looked for the picture that would show the resurrection, but there was none. As a young Pentecostal preacher I was indignant at what I considered the ignorance and blindness of this church. I felt like standing up and crying aloud, “*Don't you know He is risen? Don't you know He is alive?*” Suddenly I felt the presence of God's Spirit and heard words that shocked me beyond belief. “*In the last days a harlot will arise out of Pentecost that will be more vile in her affections than the roman Catholic church of the dark ages.*” I was startled. I had been taught that the Catholic Church was the harlot church. Now I was hearing of a worse harlot that would arise out of Pentecost. How could this possibly be? This could never happen to “my” church, or to “my” people. We were the people of God!

Four years later, in July 1969 I received a vision from the Lord of a false spirit coming to the churches, pretending to be the Holy Ghost, and many of the churches would receive this false spirit. Within two years I witnessed for the first time in my life that preachers were teaching people “how to” speak in tongues. This indicated the entrance of another spirit, which has increased and virtually taken over the Pentecostal movement. I know that while more people are “speaking in tongues” than at any time in history, I am convinced that very few in the world today have received the Holy Ghost as on the Day of Pentecost. Most of these are old saints who are gradually dying off, and what will come is already here. They are the “*evil men and seducers*” which shall “*wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived*” II Thessalonians 3:13. They are doing great signs and wonders to deceive through the power of unclean spirits which have deceived them. They are like those Isaiah spoke of; “*Hear the word of the LORD, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you*

out for my name's sake, said, Let the LORD be glorified: but he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed” Isaiah 66:5.

Though the number of the children of Israel be as the sand of the sea, a remnant shall be saved.” Romans 9:27

According to the prophet Zechariah, two thirds in the land of Israel will be slain, but one third will be saved. During this same time period, which Jesus called “*great tribulation,*” one third of all living worldwide will be slain because of their “*idolatry, murders, sorceries, fornications, and thefts*” Revelation 9:20-21. It will be but a remnant in the church that will “*look upon Him whom they pierced,*” but those who do will be overwhelmed with the “*spirit of grace and supplications*” which God will pour upon them. Almost simultaneously the remnant in Jerusalem will also “*look toward Jesus.*” They have prayed for over two thousand years for their messiah to come; now, in the face of certain genocide, they will understand their Messiah did come, and they crucified Him. They will “*look upon Him whom they pierced,*” and they also will be overwhelmed with “the spirit of grace and supplications.”

“...and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem...” Zechariah 12:10-11

That which is called “*mourning*” in this verse is what the Apostle Paul called “*repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ*” Acts 20:21. This will spread across Israel until every household is in mourning for Him whom they pierced. The scripture says, “*And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart*” Zechariah 12:12. The Gentile church will also mourn when they “*look upon Him whom they pierced.*” When godly sorrow for sin returns to the churches, God will pour out of His Spirit in a mighty baptism

with the Holy Ghost. The “*fullness of the Gentiles*” will come in and the veil of blindness will be lifted from people of Israel.

“In that day there shall be a fountain opened to the house of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness.” Zechariah 13:1

The “*fountain for sin*” was opened at Calvary when Christ shed His blood for us. The Jews have been blinded to that fountain from the beginning, but many in the church have also become blinded by the darkness in their hearts. We sing the beautiful song, “What can wash away my sin?” and many among us believe the only answer is “nothing!” The fountain for sin is open only when there is repentance and faith. Notice it is “*opened to the house of David (the Gentiles) and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem (the Jews).*” When sin is washed away, God will pour out of His Spirit and bring the greatest harvest of souls, right in the midst of the greatest time of trouble the world has ever seen.

“And it shall come to pass in that day, saith the LORD of hosts, that I will cut off the names of the idols out of the land, and they shall no more be remembered: and also I will cause the prophets and the unclean spirit to pass out of the land.”

Zechariah 13:2

Jesus gave only two signs to identify what He called “*great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be*” Matthew 24:21. The first was the death toll worldwide to the extent Jesus said, “*except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved...*” Matthew 24:22. The second sign was, “*there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect*” Matthew 24:24. The false prophets with their signs and wonders are in the church today. The greatest slaughter of humanity is at hand, and we will soon find ourselves in the days of great tribulation as Jesus defined it. In that day, Christianity without “*Christ-crucified*” will utterly fail. The false prophets and false Christs will flourish

in their deception, with ever increasing masses of people following them. The apostle Paul described this time just before the return of Christ when the spirit of anti-Christ would be in his full manifestation. *“Even him, whose coming is after **the working of Satan** with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness **in them that perish**; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness”* ⁱⁱ

Thessalonians 2:9-12.

When Saul of Tarsus’ religion under the Law failed him, it destroyed him, and dragged him down to utter despair. He who had been *“blameless”* in all the righteousness of the Law, was awakened to sin in his heart, and knew he was lost and perishing. In the depths of despair, he cried aloud, *“Oh wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death”* ^{Romans 7:24}. That was just before he met Jesus. Those “Christians” who profess they are all sinners, and sin every day, must awaken to the fact that they are also lost, and perishing. Many of these will be among those who will *“look upon Him whom they pierced,”* and will *“mourn for Him as one mourneth for his only son”* ^{Zechariah 12:10}. The church will not progressively receive its fullness; instead, the fullness will come when God pours out His Spirit upon those who look once again upon Christ-crucified, whom they have crucified afresh. As for the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the Jews...

*“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. And I will bring the third part through the fire, and will refine them as silver is refined, and will try them as gold is tried: **they shall call on my name, and I will hear them: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.**”*

Zechariah 13:8-9

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