

Behold  the Lamb
Publications

Salvation!
according to
The Angel Gabriel



by Leroy Surface

Salvation according to Gabriel

“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.” Daniel 9:24

The “Seventh Weeks Prophecy” is perhaps the most important prophetic word ever given to man. God did not entrust it to His prophet through a dream or a vision, but this message was so important, God sent His messenger angel, Gabriel, to deliver it to Daniel. Correctly understood, the prophecy tells us in verse 24 what the Messiah would accomplish, and in verse 27, how He would accomplish it. So powerful is this prophecy that our adversary, the devil, has so twisted it in the minds of ungodly men to make it a prophecy of one called “the anti-christ” and a time period called “the great tribulation.”

In this message, Brother Surface will prove the seventieth week of this prophecy was fulfilled in the ministry of Jesus Christ, and was “cut off” by His death on the cross in the middle of the week. While hanging on the cross at Calvary for three hours Jesus accomplished everything Gabriel had foretold. It was on the cross that Jesus, **1:**

“finished the transgression,”

2: *“made an end of sins,”* **3:**

“made reconciliation for iniquity,” **4:** *“brought in everlasting righteousness,”* **5:**

“sealed up the vision and prophecy,” and **6:** *“was anointed the most holy.”*



Leroy Surface



Keith Surface

The apostle John said, *“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of*

God” I John 5:1. Those who “believe” Jesus is the Christ, also “know” He died on the cross to “make an end of sins.”

“For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. Likewise reckon ye also yourselves to be dead indeed unto sin, but alive unto God through Jesus Christ our Lord.”

Romans 6:10-11

SALVATION!

As foretold by the angel Gabriel

by: Leroy Surface

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

I John 5:1

Introduction

When I look at the church of the twenty-first century, I realize something is terribly wrong. When I hear the doctrines taught in this century, I see what is wrong, and understand that it did not happen only in this twenty-first century. The truth of the gospel of Jesus Christ that makes the believer “free from sin” to “*serve God in holiness and righteousness*” Luke 1:73-75 has been lost for most of the two thousand years since the first century church. We have, in general, lost the meaning of salvation; what salvation is, what it does in the heart of a believer, and what it looks like. During this same time period, the church has also lost the meaning of many words commonly used in the scripture, such as “*justification, sanctification, and glorification,*” just to mention a few. God saved me and filled me with the Holy Ghost in 1958, called me to preach in a vision in 1962, and sent me out of my local church into full time ministry in 1964. When sending me, at the age of 24 years, He gave much the same charge He gave His disciples when sending them out; “*preach the gospel, heal the sick, cast out devils, freely you have received, freely give*” Matthew 10:7-8. He also gave me another charge which none of my elders would believe; He said to me, “*Do not study the doctrines of the church; study only the scriptures.*”

After a lifetime of studying the scriptures of the KJV bible, I am amazed that what I see in the gospel is almost totally different than the “orthodoxy” of the modern church. I know the apostle Paul, and the other eyewitness apostles, did not speak “theological Greek,” because there was no such thing. In fact, seven of the twelve original apostles were common fishermen whom Jesus chose out of Capernaum, a city well known for its spiritual darkness. The high priest and the Sanhedrin saw Peter and John after they healed the lame man at the temple, and perceived they were “*ignorant and unlearned*” Acts 4:13, but they had “*been with Jesus.*” To the apostles, justification meant exactly what it meant to the man on the street, because that is who they preached the gospel to. Only in the modern church can a man be “righteous” while he continues in sin. Such is not the gospel preached by the apostles, nor believed by the early church; nor is it the gospel which is clearly written in the KJV bible which we study.

There were dozens of promises of redemption given during the four thousand years from Adam to Christ. None of these, however, so clearly define what salvation is as the promise of “*The Messiah, the Prince*” which was given to Daniel a little over five hundred years before Jesus was born to Mary. This was a promise of a redeemer to come; a promise so wonderful God did not entrust it to Daniel through a vision or a dream, which was His usual way of speaking to His prophets. Instead, God sent the angel Gabriel directly to Daniel with this message, which Daniel recorded verbatim for us to read and understand. While many highly educated professors of religion are still debating the meaning of Gabriel’s message to Daniel, it is very simple for those who understand what Martha, the sister of Lazarus understood when she said to Jesus, “*I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God which should come into the earth*” John 11:27.

“Whosoever believeth Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

I John 5:1

The Promise of Salvation

Daniel 9:24: *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”*

The Hebrew Calendar has both “weeks of days” and “weeks of years.” We know according to our calendar that seven days make one week, but on the Hebrew Calendar, seven years made one week of years. God ordained the seventh day as a “day of rest” for His people, and in the same way, He ordained the seventh year as a “day of rest” for the earth. No fields were to be plowed, planted, or harvested in the seventh year, which was a “sabbatical” year unto the LORD. When Gabriel said to Daniel, *“Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city,”* we understand that he spoke of four hundred and ninety years according to our calendar. Before those years were finished, there were six things that must be accomplished; *“to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”*

The prophets for all time had warned of judgment to come if the people did not change their ways. When God sent Babylon to destroy Jerusalem, it was not before He had sent many prophets and messengers to warn them and call them back to God;

*“And the **LORD** God of their fathers sent to them by his **messengers**, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place: **But they***

mocked the messengers of God, and despised his words, and misused his prophets, until the wrath of the LORD arose against his people, till there was no remedy. Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand."

II Chronicles 36:15-17

Gabriel's message to Daniel was not just another warning of judgment to come if the people did not "*make an end of sins*" and "*bring in everlasting righteousness.*" None of the warnings of judgment in the past had brought the intended result. Even the city of Nineveh, which was spared when they repented at the preaching of Jonah, was destroyed a hundred and fifty years later. There was no true repentance and turning to God. Only when God's wrath was upon the children of Israel did they serve Him, even though their hearts were "*far from Him*" Isaiah 29:13. God had destroyed their city and their temple, and the children were serving seventy years captivity in Babylon when God sent Gabriel to Daniel. It was obvious the people could not change their heart or their ways, so God determined to send a savior to do these things for them. Gabriel came to Daniel with the promise of one called "*The Messiah, the Prince,*" who would bring this wonderful salvation from sin. The people could not stop sinning, but this great "*The Messiah the Prince*" would come as "*the lamb of God,*" a sacrifice to "*take away the sin of the world*" John 1:29.

Daniel 9:25: "*Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem unto the Messiah the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times.*"

Gabriel told the exact year “*The Messiah, the Prince*” would make His appearance. There would be exactly sixty nine weeks of years (483 years) from the commandment to restore and build Jerusalem until the appearance of the Messiah. This decree was given by King Artaxerxes of the Medes and Persians in 457 B.C. This was the year King Artaxerxes gave his decree restoring the right to self-government to the citizens of Jerusalem. With this decree the promise of God to Isaiah was fulfilled, which said, “*I will restore thy judges as at the first, and thy counsellors as at the beginning...*” Isaiah 1:26. The rabbis of Israel understood this promise and began to count the years until “*The Messiah, the Prince*” would come. This explains the excitement that was in Judea and Jerusalem in the same year Jesus was baptized by John the Baptist, and the Holy Ghost came upon Him to remain.

“And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not; John answered, saying unto them all, I indeed baptize you with water; but one mightier than I cometh, the latchet of whose shoes I am not worthy to unloose: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with fire.” Luke 3:15

Those who believed John the Baptist would also receive Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah, “*the Christ, the Son of the living God*” Matthew 16:16. The Apostle John said in his first epistle, “*Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God*” I John 5:1. He also said, “*Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin*” I John 3:9, “*Whosoever abideth in Him sinneth not*” I John 3:5, and “*We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not*” I John 5:18. Messiah the Prince died on the cross as “*the Lamb of God*” John 1:29 to “*make an end of sins*” Daniel 9:24-25.

“And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not...”

I John 3:5-6

The words “*He was manifested*” speak of the “*incarnation,*” when “*the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us*” John 1:14. The “*Word*” is the eternal “*Spirit of Christ,*” who received a human body in the womb of the Virgin Mary. Those who believed God before the incarnation of Christ were accounted righteous by God, but they could not be “*free*” John 8:28, and “*free indeed*” John 8:32 from sin to serve God. There were those who could subdue the actions of sin, but could never conquer its presence in them. The “*better thing*” Hebrews 11:39-40 which God has provided for us is what the apostle Paul called “*the glorious liberty of the children of God*” Romans 8:21. That “*glorious liberty*” is “*freedom from sin.*” It is the very essence of salvation to everyone who believes the gospel of Christ Romans 1:16. Paul said to the believers at Rome, “*...ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. **Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness***” Romans 6:17-18. Again, in confirmation he said, “***But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life***” Romans 6:22.

What Christ “Accomplished”

*“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”* John 19:28-30

As Jesus Christ died on the cross, there were two parallel events taking place. One was what the eye could see, and the other could not be not seen by man. The sufferings of Christ had been prophesied for over a period of two thousand years by numerous prophets and seers. According to the apostle John, the Holy Ghost

watched over the sufferings of Christ to see that all was fulfilled. In the mind of those who see only with the natural eye, Jesus suffered to “*take our penalty;*” to “*take our punishment;*” or to “*pay our debt to God.*” You will notice in the above text that Jesus said “*It is finished*” after he thirsted and they gave him vinegar to drink. With this, His “*sufferings*” were finished, and He could “*give up the ghost*” and die. Notice, however, that “*all things were now accomplished*” before he said “*I thirst,*” and was given the vinegar and gall to drink. The things which were “*accomplished*” are those things the natural eye could not see, and the natural man cannot receive I Corinthians 2:14.

The first prophecy of a redeemer was of “*the seed of the woman*” who would “*bruise the head of the serpent.*” Jesus of Nazareth was born of a woman, but not of a man. He was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary, and thus He was “*the seed of the woman*” who would “*bruise the head of the serpent.*” Before Jesus breathed His final breath and died on the cross, the scripture says He knew that “*all things were now accomplished.*” He knew the head of the serpent was “*bruised*” and the devil was “*destroyed*” Hebrews 2:14 for everyone who would believe and trust in Jesus, that He is “*the Christ.*” The apostle Paul confirmed the destruction of the devil in his epistle to the Hebrews; “*Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; **that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil***” Hebrews 2:14. The scripture clearly reveals that the serpent, who deceived Eve in the Garden of Eden, became “*the god of this world*” II Corinthians 4:4. For six thousand years he has ruled over fallen man, and controlled them by the “*sin nature*” that is in them. What we call the “*sin nature*” is actually the “*nature*” of the serpent who deceived Eve and caused Adam to transgress. The scripture says, “*Wherefore, as by one man (Adam) sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death*

passed upon all men, for that all have sinned” Romans 5:12. The “sin nature” is common to every person born into this world. When Christ nailed sin to His cross, Satan’s power over man was destroyed for everyone who believes the truth and trusts in Jesus Christ.

The next verse in Hebrews is equally important for the believer to understand; *“And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”* Hebrews 2:15. Equally important as destroying the nature of sin and the devil for our salvation, is the disannulling Hebrews 7:18 and abolishing Ephesians 2:15 of the Law of Moses. The apostle Paul tells us *“the strength of sin is the Law”* I Corinthians 15:56.

The six things the angel Gabriel told the prophet Daniel the Messiah the Prince would accomplish are, in the words of the scripture, *“...to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.”* These are things which Christ accomplished through His sufferings and death on the cross. The people could see when His sufferings were *finished*, but they could not see what He had *“accomplished”* II Corinthians 4:18. In this study we will see the things Christ accomplished on the cross; things which the observers could not see in the day Christ died.

1. To finish the transgression:

“The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.”

I Corinthians 15:56

The word *“enmity”* is used four times in the gospel epistles of the New Testament. The scripture says *“the carnal mind is enmity against God”* Romans 8:7. Another verse says *“the friendship of the world is enmity with God”* James 4:4. The Greek word which was translated as *“enmity”* is defined as *“hostility; a reason for*

opposition.” When found in the people, it makes them an enemy to God, even though most would deny it. The remaining two scriptures ^{Ephesians 2:15-16} use the word “*enmity*” to define the Law of Moses.

“Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.” ^{Ephesians 2:15-16}

The Law of Moses was an enemy to both God and man because, as Paul said to the Corinthians, “*the strength of sin is the law*” ¹ ^{Corinthians 15:56}. The children of Israel did not understand this. They believed the Law of Moses was a great blessing to them. They believed it set them apart as God’s special people. They did not know it was given as their punishment when they refused to hear the voice of God at Sinai. They cried to Moses, “*Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die*” ^{Exodus 20:19}. God had given them ten simple commandments with no death sentence attached, but Moses gave them six hundred and thirteen commandments which he enforced with a death sentence.

“He that despised Moses’ law died without mercy under two or three witnesses.” ^{Hebrews 10:28}

The Law of Moses was “*against*” man. In the last day of his life with the people, Moses said to the priests, “*Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee*” ^{Deuteronomy 31:26}. The apostle Paul testifies of the end of Moses Law, which was a “*witness against us*” to the Colossians;

*“And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses; **Blotting out the handwriting of***

ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.” Colossians 2:13-14

The apostle Paul viewed the Law of Moses as a “prison,” saying, “*Before faith came, we were **kept under the law, shut up** unto the faith which should afterwards be revealed*” Galatians 3:23. It was a “*middle wall of partition*” Ephesians 2:14 built between the Jews and the rest of the world, not to keep the world out, but to keep the Jews in. When Christ came, however, the “*wall*” was no longer necessary. The prophecy was fulfilled which says, “*...thou shalt call thy walls Salvation, and thy gates Praise*” Isaiah 60:18.

The church of the Galatians had been moved away from Christ to trust in Moses and the Law. False teachers had come in saying, “*Except ye be circumcised after the manner of Moses, ye cannot be saved*” Acts 15:1. Many were deceived and accepted circumcision and the Law before Paul heard of the deception and addressed the issue. Beginning in the third chapter of Galatians, the apostle Paul established several things about the Law of Moses which we should understand. For example: “*For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse...*” Galatians 3:10, “*But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident...*” Galatians 3:11, and “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree*” Galatians 3:13. With these things in mind, the apostle asks a relevant question, “*Wherefore then serveth the law?*” He continues to answer his own question; “*It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made*” Galatians 3:19. Previously, in verse 16, Paul had established that Jesus Christ is “*the seed,*” which would come.

The Law of Moses was “*added*” when the children of Israel refused to hear and obey the voice of God. They cried to Moses, “*Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die*” Exodus 20:19. Based upon these words, God told

Moses to give them a law, which they would hear and obey at the penalty of death. The Apostle Paul confirmed this when he said, *“He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses”* Hebrews 10:28. The record is given of a man who was stoned to death for gathering sticks on the Sabbath Day Numbers 15:32-36. Such was the manner of the Law of Moses; it was so grievous, it must be abolished when Christ died for us. So brazen was the Law that it also cursed the sinless Son of God, for it was written in the Law, *“...cursed is everyone that hangeth on a tree.”* The Law condemned Christ to be crucified, and the same Law then cursed Him for being crucified. Jesus could not simply *“destroy the Law;”* He had to *“fulfill the Law.”* On the cross, He suffered and bled to fulfill the sacrifice of every lamb that was ever offered for sin. His blood was the only blood that could wash the people from their sin, thus He is *“The Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. When sin is “taken away,” there is no more reason for the Law. Christ *“finished the transgression”* and for those who believe *“Jesus is the Christ”* I John 5:1, He abolished that cursed law. This fulfilled the promise given by the angel Gabriel, that the Messiah (Christ) would *“finish the transgression.”* The Law of Moses was abolished Ephesians 2:15 at the same moment Sin was *“taken away,”* and *“nailed to His cross”* I Peter 2:24.

“Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.” John 1:29

2. To make an end of sins:

Properly understood, this phrase is best translated to say *“to make an end of sinning.”* To this end, God had given His Ten Commandment Law, but the people sinned when they refused to hear God’s voice at Sinai Exodus 20:19. The Law of Moses was added with the penalty of death for the transgressors, and *“sin*

abounded” Romans 5:20. God sent His prophets to Israel, “*rising early and sending*” Jeremiah 25:4, but they would not cease from sin. Christ, the creator, came into this world as the man, Christ Jesus, to do what nothing else in the history of the world had succeeded to do; to “*make an end of sins* (sinning).” Christ, the creator, The Messiah the Prince, the mighty conqueror, came into this world as “*the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. The words “*the sin of the world*” speaks of the “*sin nature*” which entered into the world when Adam disobeyed God. Every descendant of Adam, estimated to be over fifteen billion at present, was born into this world with a nature to sin. The Apostle Paul explains this very well to the Romans; “*Wherefore, as by one man* (Adam) *sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon* (into) *all men, for that* (with the result that) *all have sinned*” Romans 5:12. Six verses later Paul reveals the answer for the sin problem;

“Therefore as by the offence of one judgment came upon all men to condemnation; even so by the righteousness of one the free gift came upon all men unto justification of life. For as by one man's (Adam's) *disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one* (Jesus Christ) *shall many be made righteous.*” Romans 5:18-19

According to the righteous determination of God, if sin entered into the world through “*one man*,” with the result that every person would be condemned as a sinner, there had to be a “*second man*” to “*take away*” the sin which entered through the first man. This “*second man*” could not be a “*sinner*” with a “*sin nature*,” but he must be a man “*born of a woman*” Genesis 3:15. He could not be, as Adam was, “*of the earth, earthy*,” so He must be “*the Lord from heaven*” I Corinthians 15:47. No one but the creator could redeem His people from the fallen creation, and make of them a “*new creation*.” The “*Messiah the Prince*” of Daniel's prophecy is

“the Christ, the Son of the living God” Matthew 16:16. He came into this *“present evil world”* to make *“an end of sins”* and thus *“deliver us from this present evil world”* Galatians 1:4. This could only be accomplished through the death of Jesus Christ on the cross at Calvary.

“Whosoever believeth that Jesus is the Christ is born of God.”

John 5:1

3: To make reconciliation for iniquity:

The word *“reconciliation”* in this phrase was translated from the Hebrew word *“kâphar,”* which is properly defined in *“Strong’s Hebrew Dictionary”* as follows:

“to cover (specifically with bitumen); figuratively to expiate or condone, to placate or cancel:”

The word *“kaphar”* was used several different ways in the Old Testament. For example, when God said to Noah, *“Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch,”* He was saying *“cover the ark within and without with bitumen.”* Obviously, this was used only once, concerning Noah’s ark. In the Law of Moses, the word *“kaphar”* was translated dozens of times as *“to make an atonement.”* As used in the Old Testament, the *“atonement”* was a *“covering,”* not for sins, but for the people. An atonement was made by the high priest and the Levitical priesthood as they continually offered sacrifices of bullocks, goats, and lambs. Millions of lambs were offered during the sixteen hundred years the people were under the Law of Moses, whose blood was shed to make a covering for the people. It should be reiterated, the Old Covenant *“atonement”* did not cover sin, but it covered the people who sinned and protected them from the wrath of God. The New Covenant says, *“...being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him”* Romans 5:9. The precious

blood of Christ was not shed to “cover” the people, but to “justify the people.” The “believer” in Jesus is “washed” Revelation 1:5 in the blood of Christ, “sanctified” Hebrews 13:12 through the blood of Christ, and “justified by His blood” Romans 5:9. Jesus Christ died as “the Lamb of God” to “take away the sin of the world” John 1:29.

“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.” Hebrews 10:4

Once every year, the high priest went behind the veil into the holiest place to sprinkle the blood of a goat and a bullock on the mercy seat of the Ark of the Covenant. This was done every year on the “Day of Atonement” for almost sixteen hundred years, because “...it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins” Jesus Christ is our “great high priest,” and He did this “once” when He entered into heaven itself with His own blood to obtain eternal redemption for us Hebrews 9:12.

*“For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens; Who needeth not daily, as those high priests, to offer up sacrifice, first for his own sins, and then for the people's: for this he did **once**, when he offered up himself.”* Hebrews 7:26-27

“Once” is a key word to understanding the atonement Christ made for us at Calvary.

*“And every priest standeth daily ministering and offering oftentimes the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins: But this man, after he had offered **one sacrifice for sins forever**, sat down on the right hand of God...”* Hebrews 10:11-13

Over a million lambs were offered in “the daily sacrifice;” two lambs every day under the Law of Moses. Many millions more were offered on the Sabbaths, the new moons, the feast days, and especially the Passover feasts. Not one among these untold millions of lambs was found which could “take away sins.”

Christ came into the world as the “*Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. He was the “one sacrifice” to end all sacrifices Hebrews 10:1-2.

The Atonement

*“For if, when we were enemies, we were **reconciled to God** by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life. And not only so, but we also joy in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, **by whom we have now received the atonement.**”* Romans 5:10-11

This is the only verse in the New Testament that speaks of “*the atonement.*” This is the only original English word in the bible, and it was coined by William Tyndale in 1525 while writing the Tyndale translation of the bible. In order to give understanding of what it means to be “reconciled to God,” Tyndale combined the words “at” and ancient word “onement,” to give us the word “atonement.” He substituted his new word for the word “reconciliation,” seeking to illustrate how being “reconciled to God” causes the one reconciled to be “at one with God.” In time, his new word was actually used in such a way to bring confusion to the issue rather than clarification. The King James translators borrowed the new word and used it dozens of times in the Old Testament scriptures to translate the Hebrew word “*kaphar,*” which speaks of “*a covering.*” From this Old Testament usage, the church soon decided the New Testament “*atonement*” was also a “covering for sins.”

The Exchange

The Greek word “*katallagē,*” which Tyndale translated as “*atonement,*” actually means “*exchange,*” and should have been translated as “*reconciliation.*” When Adam disobeyed God, an “exchange” took place between himself and the serpent (Lucifer) in the Garden of Eden. God had given Adam dominion over the

entire earth and all that was in it. When He disobeyed God to obey the serpent, the “exchange” took place. He surrendered his dominion over God’s creation to the serpent and received the nature of the serpent, which we call the sin nature, in exchange. At that point, the serpent became “*the god of this world*” II Corinthians 4:4. Remember the temptation in the wilderness where the devil tested Jesus after forty days of fasting.

*“And the devil (Lucifer), taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: **for that is delivered** (surrendered) **unto me**; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine.”* Luke 4:5-7

In the wilderness temptation, Lucifer, known as “*the devil*” attempts another “exchange” when he said to Jesus, “*Worship me, and I will give you all the kingdoms of the world and the power and glory of them*” Luke 4:5-7. We should keep in mind that Lucifer was one of three archangels of God, along with Michael and Gabriel. One third of all the angels of God were under his charge. God had set him to be “*the anointed cherub that covereth*” Ezekiel 28:14. He was perfect in wisdom and beauty Ezekiel 28:2, and in all his ways “*from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee*” Ezekiel 28:15. His “*iniquity*” was the desire in his heart to exalt himself above the stars of God, Adam and Eve, who were created above the angels in the image and likeness of God, just a little lower than God Himself. He said, “*I will be like the most high*” Isaiah 14:14. He succeeded to bring Adam and Eve down, and became “*the god of this world*” II Corinthians 4:4. Now, he was challenging Christ, his creator, to “*fall down and worship me*” Matthew 4:9. Whether Jesus at this point fully understood who He was, and what He was come into the world to do we have no way of knowing, Jesus was not born with

“foreknowledge” of who He was. Certainly, Mary had told Him the circumstances concerning His virgin birth, but He had only days before heard confirmation from His Father, speaking out of heaven, *“Thou art my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”* Mark 1:11. Lucifer was seeking to take this away from Jesus, just as he had from Adam.

Lucifer offered to give Jesus *“all the kingdoms of the world, and the power and glory thereof,”* if Jesus would worship him. He had succeeded in receiving these from the first man, Adam. Jesus Christ was the *“second man,”* which means He was the *“first man”* of a *“new creation.”* The Apostle Paul said *“The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven”* I Corinthians 15:47. Adam was formed of the dust of the earth Genesis 2:7, *“...of the earth, earthy.”* Jesus was *“the Word made flesh”* John 1:14. He was not made of the dust of the earth. He was the Lord from heaven. His body was incorruptible Acts 13:34-37, and His blood was holy, and sufficient to wash away the sins of the world Revelation 1:5. If Jesus Christ, the creator and savior of humanity had worshipped Lucifer, from that moment Lucifer would have succeeded in his ambition to take the place of God Isaiah 14:12-14.

Jesus answered Lucifer, not as *“the Lord from heaven,”* but as any godly man would; *“Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve”* Luke 4:8. Christ was not sent to *“serve the devil,”* but to *“destroy the devil”* Hebrews 2:14.

Mutual Exchange

The ultimate “exchange” is found in John 3:16; *“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”* God *“gave His Son”* to *“reconcile the world.”* This is what is called the “mutual exchange.”

*“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. And all things are of God, who hath **reconciled** us to himself by Jesus Christ, and hath given to us the ministry of **reconciliation**; To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling** the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of **reconciliation**. Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye **reconciled to God.**”* II Corinthians 5:17-20

Each of these words, which I have placed in bold type, or words of reconciliation which speak of “exchange.” The words “reconciled” and “reconciling” are properly defined as “to change mutually,” while the word “reconciliation” speaks of the actual “exchange” which took place on the cross when “God...gave His only begotten Son...” John 3:16. The next verse, and last verse in this chapter, explains the actual “exchange” that took place when Christ died for us on the cross.

*“For he (God) **hath made him** (Christ) **to be sin for us** (on the cross), **who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.**”* II Corinthians 5:21

4: To bring in everlasting righteousness:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more

death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

Revelation 21:1-5

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth” Genesis

1:1. In the six days of creation, He made earth to be a paradise before He created man in the sixth day. The first man, Adam, was created in the image and likeness of God, and given authority over everything God had created. In the midst of paradise, and having dominion over all things, Adam was tested and failed. Sin entered into the world through Adam’s disobedience, and the entire creation of God, both the heavens and the earth were cursed because of sin. The serpent (the devil) became the “*god of this world*” II Corinthians 4:4, and apart from a very few who “*believed God*” and “*obeyed His voice,*” the earth was filled with violence through those who hated God and served the devil through his nature which was in them. There were those who believed God, such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Sarah, Isaac, and Jacob; only seven who are named in the first one third of earth’s history since Adam. The inhabitants of the earth were so evil, with every imagination of their heart only evil continually, that in the year 1656 from Adam, God destroyed man whom He had created, sparing only Noah, his wife, and three sons and their wives. This was a new beginning, which proved to be as wicked as the world before the flood. Three hundred and fifty years after the flood, a child named Abram was born to an idol maker named Terah. Raised in an idolatrous home, God began to reveal Himself to Abram, probably when he was about fifty years of age. If he would leave his father’s house and the land of idolatry to go to a place God would show him, Abram would be blessed, and he would become a blessing to the entire world. Abram was seventy-five years old when he finally obeyed God and left the house of

idolatry, yet, in Abram, God would have a third “new beginning.” When Abram was ninety-nine years of age, God gave him the promise of a child through his barren wife, Sarah, and changed his name to “*Abraham*,” which means “*father of many nations*.” He also became the “*father of all who believe*.”

A New Creation

Certainly the “*new creation*” was in the heart of God from the moment sin entered into the world through the disobedience of the first man, Adam. The entire creation of heaven and earth was cursed by the entrance of sin, and must “pass away” Luke 21:33. The prophet Isaiah may have been the first to hear of the new creation when God said to him, “*For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice forever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy*” Isaiah 65:17-18.

In these scriptures, God speaks of a “*new heavens*,” a “*new earth*,” and a “*new Jerusalem*.” These things speak of a “*new creation*,” but this time God began with a “*new man*.” Seven hundred years after the prophet Isaiah, a baby was born to a young virgin girl in a sheep stable in the city of Bethlehem. The baby was “*wrapped in swaddling clothes*,” and laid in a manger. Angels announced His birth, saying, “*...for unto you is born this day in the city of David, a savior, which is Christ the Lord*” Luke 2:11. He was born to a virgin because God was His Father. He was “*the only begotten Son of God*” John 3:16, but He was “*the firstborn among many brethren*” Romans 8:29. This child was both the “*second man*” I Corinthians 15:47 and the “*last Adam*” I Corinthians 15:45. As such He was the “*first man*” of the “*new creation*,” who called Himself “*the beginning of the creation of God*” Revelation 3:14.

The “*first man*” of the original creation was created “*in the image and likeness of God*” to dwell forever in a paradise on earth. Being tested, the first man failed. The “*first man*” of the new creation was born in poverty to a virgin girl married to a carpenter. He was born into a world destroyed by sin and Satan, who was “*the god of this world*” II Corinthians 4:4. Jesus was the Son of God, and in Him was “*no sin*” I John 3:5.

The first man, Adam, was tested for a moment while living in a paradise, and failed. Jesus Christ, the first man of the new creation was tested by the devil while He fasted for forty days in the wilderness, and He overcame, not by supernatural power, but by His knowledge of the truth, saying “*it is written*” Matthew 4:4, 7, 10.

The angels had announced His birth as “*a savior, which is Christ the Lord*” Luke 2:11. John the Baptist introduced Him after His baptism, saying “*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. This was the one Gabriel had announced to the Prophet Daniel, who would “*make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity,*” and “*bring in everlasting righteousness*” Daniel 9:24. He died on the cross as “*the Lamb of God,*” the only sacrifice that could “*take away sin.*” The Prophet Isaiah had prophesied, “*Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him* (He was God’s sacrifice Lamb); *he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin* (His sacrificial death on the cross), ***he shall see his seed*** Psalms 22:30-31, *he shall prolong his days* (His resurrection from the dead), *and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand* (His reign at His Father’s right hand).”

Jesus Christ died without a “*seed,*” but in His resurrection, there is a “*generation*” Psalms 22:30, a “*new creation.*” The first creation failed in paradise, but this “*new creation*” will “*overcome*” and “*shine as lights...in the midst of a crooked and perverted generation*” Philippians 2:15. The last words Jesus spoke to His disciples the night before suffering the cross were, “*These things*

I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world” John 16:33. Jesus had overcome the world before going to the cross. He gave Himself to die on the cross, not to “take our penalty,” or to “take our punishment;” instead, He died as “*the Lamb of God,*” the only sacrifice which could “*take away sin*” Hebrews 10:4. Those who are “*born again*” through faith in Jesus Christ are “*overcomers*” by nature. The Apostle John spoke to new born Christians when he said, “*Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world*” I John 4:4.

The “*new heavens*” and the “*new earth*” is prepared for those who overcome in this “*present evil world*” Galatians 1:4. The Apostle Peter, when writing about the end of this present universe, said “*Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness*” II Peter 3:13. This is the “*everlasting righteousness*” which Christ brought in through His death on the cross.

5: to seal up the vision and prophecy

*“After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst. Now there was set a vessel full of vinegar: and they filled a sponge with vinegar, and put it upon hyssop, and put it to his mouth. When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, **It is finished:** and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.”* John 19:28-30

Before Jesus breathed His last breath on the cross, He had fulfilled every vision and prophecy of redemption that was given in the scriptures even from the beginning of time. The first promise of redemption and reconciliation was given by God in the same day sin and death entered through the disobedience of

Adam. He said to the serpent, *“Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”* Genesis 3:14-15.

If Jesus of Nazareth was *“the Messiah, the Prince”* who was promised to come into the world, He must fulfil this promise of God to *“bruise the head of the serpent.”* In fact, He must fulfill every promise of redemption, because Gabriel said He would *“seal up the vision and prophecy,”* which could only be accomplished by fulfilling them. The promise of *“the seed of the woman”* who would *“bruise the head of the serpent”* while the serpent would *“bruise His heel,”* is perfectly fulfilled by the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. We should remember, the *“serpent”* of the book of Genesis is the same as *“Lucifer”* Isaiah 14:12 in Isaiah’s prophecy, and *“the great dragon...that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan”* Revelation 12:9 in John’s visions of *“The Revelation.”*

The sufferings of Jesus on the cross are well documented, both in prophecy and in the day they were fulfilled. Jewish law prevented over 40 stripes being laid on the back of man, but Jesus was beaten under Roman law which had no such limits. The prophecy said, *“His visage (face and eyes) was so marred more than any man, and his form (body) more than the sons of men”* Isaiah 52:14. The soldiers beat him with metal embedded whips until his body was beyond recognition. An obscure prophecy says, *“The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows”* Psalms 129:3. They plucked His beard, and a *“crown of thorns”* was beaten down into his brow. *“I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting”* Isaiah 50:6. Hundreds of criminals had suffered

death by Roman crucifixion, but none so cruel as that of Jesus. His face and body were “*marred more than any man.*” Never since the beginning of the world had any man suffered so much at the hands of man. For what possible cause was this done to Jesus, the Son of God? The scripture continues, “... *so shall He sprinkle many nations*” Isaiah 52:14-15.

The blood of goats and bullocks was ceremonially sprinkled on the mercy seat every year on the Day of Atonement. The blood of millions of lambs had been shed for the “sprinkling” of the people and the nation. Two lambs were offered every day, and thousands of lambs, goats, and bullocks were offered at every feast of Passover, but never was blood sprinkled that could “take away sin, *“For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins”* Hebrews 10:4. It was the blood of Christ, which poured from the wounds in His face, hands, feet, and His entire body, “*marred more than any man’s,*” that brought salvation to every nation and kindred of people. “...*so shall He sprinkle many nations.*” The apostle John dedicated his “Revelation of Jesus Christ” with these words, “*Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood, And hath made us kings and priests (a kingdom of priests) unto God and his Father*” Revelation 1:5-6.

6: to anoint the most Holy

To anoint the most Holy is the sixth of six things Christ would accomplish on the cross. It is easy to err in thinking this was accomplished at John’s baptism when the Holy Ghost came upon Him to anoint Him for His ministry on earth. Peter spoke of this great anointing to Cornelius, saying, “...*God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Ghost and with power: who went about doing good, and healing all that were oppressed of the devil; for God was with him*” Acts 10:38. It is difficult to see His sufferings and

death as an “*anointing*,” but so it was. In his epistle to the Philippians, Paul wrote in some detail about His incarnation, His sufferings and death, and His resurrection and glorification.

*“Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him **the form of a servant**, and was made in **the likeness of men**: And being found in fashion as a man, **he humbled himself**, and became **obedient unto death, even the death of the cross**.”* Philippians 2:6-8

These three verses speak in brief form of His “*humiliation*,” which is spoken of in Acts 8:33; “*In his humiliation his judgment was taken away*.” If He were just a man, His humiliation would have been sufferings and death on the cross. Christ was not just a man, however; He was “*the Lord from heaven*.” He had been “*in the form of God*,” and was “*equal with God*.” His “*humiliation*” was the years “*the Lord from heaven*” spent as the “*meek and lowly*” carpenter from Nazareth. The apostle John spoke of His pre-existence, saying, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made*” John 1:1-3.

“And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14

In His incarnation He took “*the form of a servant*.” He came to do the will of His Father, which meant He would become “*obedient to death, even the death of the cross*” Philippians 2:8. In his crucifixion, He suffered as few men in the history of the world has suffered. The Spirit of Christ spoke through Isaiah, “*I gave my back to the smiters, and my cheeks to them that plucked off the hair: I hid not my face from shame and spitting*.” When Jesus was arrested and brought before the high priest and Sanhedrin Court,

they found Him guilty of blasphemy and after they condemned Him to death, the scripture says, *“Then did they spit in his face, and buffeted him; and others smote him with the palms of their hands...”* Matthew 26:67. Pilate tried to release Jesus, but to satisfy the rioting multitudes who cried aloud for His death by crucifixion, Pilate relented and delivered Him into the hands of Roman soldiers to be scourged. They beat Him, not with thirty-nine stripes as under Jewish law, but as another prophet wrote in the Psalms, *“The plowers plowed upon my back: they made long their furrows”* Psalms 129:3. This must be an accurate description of the beating Jesus bore for us. Remember, His face, eyes, back, and body were *“marred more than any mans”* Isaiah 52:14. The prophet Isaiah writing seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus, said, *“Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted”* Isaiah 53:4. Isaiah wrote as though he were an eyewitness of both His ministry and His sufferings. Matthew describes the earliest days of Jesus’ ministry; *“They brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with his word, and healed all that were sick: **That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses****”* Matthew 8:16-17. He healed *“all that were oppressed of the devil”* Acts 10:38, thus He fulfilled the words of Isaiah; *“Surely He hath born our griefs and carried our sorrows...”*

“...yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted.” The contradiction of this is incredible. The same ones whom He so blessed in His ministry were among those who demanded His death by crucifixion. They chose to release Barabbas, a murderer rather than Jesus. Why? And how could this be?

The multitudes in Israel believed Jesus was a great prophet; a “healer,” and a “miracle worker.” They would have gladly made

Him their king. In fact, on the same day He fed the five thousand with the five loaves and two fishes, they tried to “*take Him by force and make Him a king*” John 6:15. So many in Israel turned to follow Jesus after the resurrection of Lazarus to the extent the chief priests and the high priest secretly began to plot His death. They arrested Jesus at Gethsemane and brought Him before the high priest and the Sanhedrin court. The question was, “*...whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God?*” Jesus confessed under oath, “*Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven*” Matthew 26:64. Instantly He was found guilty of blasphemy, and sentenced to death. The multitudes who had been so blessed by Him now turned against Him. They had loved Him, but now they hated Him. He healed all their diseases and delivered them from every manner of evil spirits. They would have Him as their prophet, or as their king, but never as their “*Messiah.*”

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name: That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” Philippians 2:9-11

This is when and where Jesus Christ was anointed “*the most Holy.*” God has highly exalted Him. All power in heaven and in earth is given to Him Matthew 28:18. He sits at the right hand of the Father in the throne of heaven. He will soon return to earth to reign as “**KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS**” Revelation 19:16.

When God “Swore by Himself”

By Leroy Surface

“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 “*swore by Himself*,” He made Himself the collateral of the promise; if God did not keep His promise of blessings upon Abraham’s “*seed*,” which would come through Isaac and Jacob, He must deliver Himself up into the hands of those He could not bless. This He did when Christ died on the cross. We know, according to the Apostle Paul, that Abraham’s “*seed*” was Christ Galatians 3:16. From the beginning, however, this was not so. God “*swore by Himself*” to bless Abraham’s descendants which would come through Isaac and Jacob, the children of Israel. He would do this “*because thou (Abraham) hast obeyed my voice.*” Exactly four hundred and thirty years later, God brought Abraham’s descendants, the children of Israel (Jacob), out of Egypt to Mount Sinai in Arabia, which was called “*the mount of God.*” It was there that God would bestow Abraham’s blessing on Abraham’s seed. This was to be the most wonderful event ever for any people. Their Father Abraham had obeyed the voice of God and was blessed; now God said to the seed of Abraham...

“...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

Notice “the blessing” is upon those who both “believe” and “obey” the voice of God. “*By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed*” Hebrews 11:8. “*By faith Noah, being warned of God of things not seen as yet, moved with fear, prepared an ark to the saving of his house*” Hebrews 11:7. All the heroes of faith were those who not only “believed God,” but they also “obeyed God.”

God promised the children of Israel, who were “the seed of Abraham,” if they would obey His voice as their Father Abraham had obeyed, they would be His “*peculiar treasure above all people.*” The words “*peculiar treasure*” were translated from a Hebrew word which means “*wealth,*” and is properly translated as “*jewel.*” The largest diamond in the world is the “*Cullinan Diamond,*” which estimated value is between four hundred million to two billion dollars. This is not a treasure to be hidden in a closet, but to be put on display under armed guard. God’s “*peculiar treasure*” is His special and only people. They are His “*jewel,*” which He both displays, and protects. This is what God promised His chosen people would be if they would “*obey His voice,*” as Abraham had obeyed.

Three days later, God came down on Mount Sinai and began speaking to His chosen people in an audible voice. He gave them ten simple commandments, which if they received them, would be written in their hearts. The mountain was on fire; lightning flashed and thunder roared, and the sound of a trumpet was in the mountain as God spoke. The people drew back. Even Moses said “*...so terrible was the sight, I exceedingly fear and quake*” Hebrews 12:21. The people 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 these words came the Law of Moses. God had given them ten simple commandments; Moses gave them six hundred and

thirteen commandments, which were filled with curses, and would be enforced by the fear of death.

Consider that all this happened on the first “Day of Pentecost,” which is the “fiftieth day” after the Passover. Had they listened submissively to God as He spoke from the mountain, He would have “poured out His Spirit” upon them and they would have become God’s “special treasure,” His “jewel” among the nations of the world. They would be His “Kingdom of priests” and His “Holy Nation.” The children of Israel, the descendants of Abraham, never attained unto these three precious promises. Yet, God had “sworn by Himself” to Abraham to bless Abraham’s seed. It was seen at Sinai that these descendants of Abraham could not be blessed, therefore they could not be the “seed of promise.” God, who had “sworn by Himself” to bless them, could not bless; He could only punish, which He did through the Law of Moses. The entrance of the Law was a guarantee that God, who had “sworn by Himself” to bless, must now “give Himself” into the hands of those He could not bless. As for the “Law of Moses,” 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 Apostle Paul leaves no doubt as to who that “seed” is;

*“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to **thy seed, which is Christ.**”* Galatians 3:16

When God gave Himself

*“To wit, that God was in Christ, **reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.**”* II Corinthians 5:19

I have heard much preaching in my lifetime about how God forsook His Son on the cross. Where was God during this horrible time? Was He in heaven, turning His face away because He could

not look upon sin, as so many teach? The scripture is very clear; **“God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself.”** He had promised His only begotten Son, Jesus, **“I the LORD have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the Gentiles”** Isaiah 42:6. As it happened, God was “in Christ” on the cross, and **“gave Himself”** in Christ to **“take away the sin of the world.”**

The covenant which caused God to “give Himself” on the cross was a covenant He made with Abraham on the same day Abraham offered his son Isaac as a sacrifice to God on the altar at Moriah. God spared Abraham’s son, and gave a “ram caught in a thicket” to be offered in his place. Certainly, the apostle had this in mind when he wrote in his epistle to the Romans, **“He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?”** Romans 8:32. Notice the words “with him” in this verse. The Greek word which was translated “with” denotes “union, and is properly understood to say **“in union with him.”** The promise is to those who are **“in Christ”** and **“one”** with Him. They are **“heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ”** Romans 8:17. Peter said God has given us **“all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue”** II Peter 1:3. He has **“blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ”** Ephesians 1:3.

Abraham’s Blessing

There is an old song which says, **“Abraham’s blessings are mine; I’m blessed in the city, I’m blessed in the field; Abraham’s blessings are mine.”** The song totally missed the point of Abraham’s blessing. The promise of being **“blessed in the city and blessed in the field”** Deuteronomy 28:3 is found in the Law of Moses, and is the promise to those who kept all 613

commandments and ordinances perfectly Deuteronomy 28:1. This chapter contains fourteen verses of blessings to those who kept the Law of Moses perfectly, and fifty-four verses of curses upon those who did not. The Apostle Paul spoke of this saying, *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse: for it is written, Cursed is every one that continueth not in all things which are written in the book of the law to do them”* Galatians 3:10. Instead of a blessing, the Law of Moses was given as a curse upon those who refused the blessing when God spoke to them at Sinai.

The blessing of Abraham upon his seed was the promise God gave three days before He spoke the Ten Commandments at Sinai. *“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.

The children of Israel never attained to this promise, but those Gentiles who believed the gospel of Christ did attain the promise Romans 9:30-31. Peter spoke of the Gentile church when he wrote the following;

“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: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy.” I Peter 2:9-10

Oh, how blessed are all those who have believed the record God gave of His Son I John 5:10. God has given to them the wonderful blessings of Abraham, which are found only in Jesus Christ, our Lord. It is for these God has prepared *the “New Heavens and the New Earth”* to live forever and ever with our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

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