

Behold  the Lamb
Publications

Now is come salvation!

Now is come strength!

Now is come the Kingdom of God!

Now is come the power of His Christ!

Salvation Accomplished

by Leroy Surface

Opposing Points of View

On one hand we have the epistles of the Apostles Paul, John, and Peter. We have the prophecies of the prophets who foretold the coming of Christ hundreds and, even thousands of years before He came into the world, each of them telling some part of the purpose of His coming. We even have the word spoken by the angel Gabriel defining what the Messiah the Prince would accomplish at his coming. These all speak with resounding clarity telling us that Christ came to destroy the devil and his works, make an end of sin in the believer, and birth a people filled with everlasting righteousness.

On the other hand we have a religious philosophy that has been developed over the last nineteen-hundred years. It tells us of a salvation that changes nothing, a righteousness that only God can see, and “saints” who are sinners just like the unbelievers of this world. It seems most of our modern religious leaders choose to stand with the purveyors of philosophy rather than with the apostles and prophets as recorded in the scriptures.

Who among them will agree with Paul, who says, *“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. Which

religious leader will stand up and say, “...a child of God is not a sinner, because Christ has made us free?”

Who will agree with John, who says, “And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known



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him”? I John 3:5-6.

What spiritual teacher will say of those who *“abide in Christ,”* that they *“do not sin,”* or of those who continue in sin, *“they have not seen Him, and they do not know him”*? This is what the Apostle John said. We seek to say only the same, nothing more, nothing less.

Salvation Accomplished!

As explained by a voice in heaven

*“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, **Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ:** for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death. .”* Revelation 12:7-11

I have previously written a book titled *“Salvation according to The Angel Gabriel.”* It was the angel Gabriel who brought to the prophet Daniel the wonderful news of salvation to come. He told of one called *“The Messiah, the Prince”* who would *“make an end of sins, make reconciliation for iniquity, and bring in everlasting righteousness”* Daniel 9:24-25. In the passage above, John heard *“a loud voice speaking in heaven,”* which announced the fulfilment of everything Gabriel promised, and what it means to the believer.

Those things Gabriel spoke to Daniel were over five hundred years in Daniel’s future, and would be accomplished when Jesus died on the cross as the Lamb of God to *“take away the sin of the*

world” John 1:29, thus “*making an end of sins*” Daniel 9:24. The voice in heaven which John heard did not speak of things in the future; instead, he spoke of “now,” in the present time. “*Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ*” Revelation 12:10. This could only speak of the day Jesus Christ shed His precious blood on the cross, and the moment He “*gave up the ghost and died*” John 19:30.

A thousand years before Jesus was born to Mary, David wrote the 22nd Psalm, which gives a near perfect description of the sufferings of Jesus on the cross. The Prophet Isaiah wrote of the sufferings of Christ seven hundred years before the birth of Jesus. It was known from the beginning why this precious child was born. The Apostle Paul wrote, “*Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me*” Hebrews 10:5. That tiny baby, which was “*wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger*” was born into this world to die on a cross as a sin offering to God. That was the “purpose” for which He was born

When Jesus was about thirty years old, He made the journey from Nazareth down to the place in the wilderness of Judaea where His second cousin, John the Baptist, was preaching repentance and baptizing in water those who repented. John knew he was sent to be the forerunner of another who would come. He said, “*I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire*” Matthew 3:11.

“*And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.*” Matthew 3:16-17

“*The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the*

*world. This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. **And I knew him not:** but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water.*” John 1:29-31

It seems obvious that John knew Jesus; they were cousins, but John did not know his cousin Jesus was also *The Christ*, whom all of Israel were expecting to come that very year. Luke wrote of that “expectancy;”

“And as the people were in expectation, and all men mused in their hearts of John, whether he were the Christ, or not;”

Luke 3:15

John the Baptist was very popular among the people. The scripture says, “*And there went out unto him all the land of Judaea, and they of Jerusalem, and were all baptized of him in the river of Jordan, confessing their sins*” Mark 1:5. He baptized hundreds of people, perhaps thousands, all the while he was looking for a certain sign from God.

*“And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. **And I knew him not:** but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*” John 1:29-34

The next day, John the Baptist introduced Jesus, saying “*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29. Jesus entered into His three and a half year ministry, “*...going about doing good, healing all that were oppressed of the devil*” Acts 10:38. Every day of those three plus years, the specter of what lay ahead was with Him continually. As the time drew near, Jesus began to be troubled about the sufferings He would endure, and the death He would die.

An “hour” of temptation

One of the biggest tests a minister of the gospel may face is popularity. Jesus warned us, saying *“Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets”* Luke 6:26. Only recently Jesus had raised Lazarus from the dead. Previously, after Jesus fed the five thousand with five loaves and two fishes, the multitude had tried to take Him by force and make Him their king John 6:15. Now, with Lazarus risen from the dead, His popularity increased beyond measure. It was said by those Pharisees who hated Him, *“Behold, the world is gone after him”* John 12:19. His fame had spread beyond Israel into the nations of the world. The next verse tells of some Greeks who sought to see Jesus.

“And there were certain Greeks among them that came up to worship at the feast: The same came therefore to Philip, which was of Bethsaida of Galilee, and desired him, saying, Sir, we would see Jesus. Philip cometh and telleth Andrew: and again Andrew and Philip tell Jesus. And Jesus answered them, saying, The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified.” John 12:20-23

Notice the response of Jesus to the news of the Greeks who were seeking Him: *“The hour is come, that the Son of man should be glorified”* John 12:23. Only Jesus understood what He meant by *“glorified.”* The multitudes were ready to exalt Him to the throne to be their king; thus would they *“glorify”* Him. Jesus could have chosen the glory of man. He could have submitted to be crowned as their king. If He were successful, He would have lived a long life, and died a natural death, but we would have been lost.

When Peter took up the sword to fight against the soldiers in Gethsemane, Jesus said to him, *“Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than*

twelve legions of angels? But how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?” Matthew 26:53-54

“But all this was done, that the scriptures of the prophets might be fulfilled. Then all the disciples forsook him, and fled.”

Matthew 26:56

Jesus’ disciples had walked with Him for three years. They had seen His miracles and heard His teaching, yet they did not know; they did not understand. They claimed, at the last supper, to believe God had sent Jesus into the world, but Jesus answered them, *“Do you now believe? Behold, the hour cometh, yea, is now come, that ye shall be scattered, every man to his own, and shall leave me alone”* John 16:31-32. Less than 24 hours later, *“all the disciples forsook him, and fled.”* They would have gladly fought to the death for Him with a sword, but to passively stand by to be arrested and tried with Jesus was too much. They did not yet understand the saying of Jesus to Pilate; *“My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight...”* John 18:36.

The multitudes that followed Jesus were fickle. In the early days of His ministry to them, *“...many believed in his name, when they saw the miracles which he did”* John 2:23. Three years later, and less than a week before His death by crucifixion, the scripture says, *“But though he had done so many miracles before them, yet they believed not on him”* John 12:37. There were others, who were among the five thousand whom Jesus fed with five loaves and two fishes, and sought to make Him their king. To them, Jesus said, *“Verily, verily, I say unto you, Ye seek me, not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the loaves, and were filled”* John 6:26. The multitude would gladly have Him for their king, because He fed them, He healed their sicknesses, and delivered their oppressed, but to believe He was their Messiah, they would not. Many among the multitude that partook of the loaves and fishes were among the multitude who stood outside of

Pilates judgment hall and cried “*crucify him, let him be crucified*”

Matthew 27:22-23.

His Last Week

The twelfth chapter of John is a record of the last week of Jesus before His death on the cross. His popularity with the common people was at an all-time high. They would gladly have made Jesus their king. Only four days before His death, Jesus made His “triumphal entry” into the city, with the people going before Him to lay palm leaves in His path, and shouting “*Hosanna: Blessed is the King of Israel that cometh in the name of the Lord*” John 12:13. Jesus Himself did not discourage this. He had “found” a young donkey to ride, fulfilling an ancient prophecy which said, “*Fear not, daughter of Sion: behold, thy King cometh, sitting on an ass's colt*” Zechariah 9:9. As the people continually shouted His praises, the Pharisees demanded that Jesus should quieten them, to which Jesus said, “*If these should hold their peace, the stones would immediately cry out*” Luke 19:40. Yet, Jesus found Himself increasingly troubled as His time drew near. Within the week before His crucifixion, Jesus was heard to say;

“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.”

John 12:27

Exactly what was “the hour” that so troubled Jesus? And what was the “cause” He spoke of? Jesus explained in the next verse.

*“Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour. Father, glorify thy name. Then came there a voice from heaven, saying, I have both glorified it, and will glorify it again. The people therefore, that stood by, and heard it, said that it thundered: others said, An angel spake to him. Jesus answered and said, This voice came not because of me, but for your sakes. **NOW is the judgment of this world: NOW shall***

the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me. This he said, signifying what death he should die.” John 12:27-33

In the days that followed, the world would be judged, and the prince of the world (Satan) would be cast out, so why was Jesus so troubled? He understood, by the words of the Old Testament prophets, exactly what He must suffer for these things to be accomplished. His words, *“If I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me”* speak of the manner of His death, yet so much more. When the day came for Jesus to be taken, He told His disciples to bring a sword with them into Gethsemane.

“...and he that hath no sword, let him sell his garment, and buy one. For I say unto you, that this that is written must yet be accomplished in me, And he was reckoned among the transgressors...” Luke 22:36-37.

Gethsemane

When Jesus left the upper room after the “Last Supper,” He walked with His disciples to a garden called Gethsemane to pray. Gethsemane is believed to have been an olive orchard, because the name Gethsemane means “Olive press,” a place where the oil was pressed out of the olives. When Jesus entered the garden with Peter, James, and John, He became very sorrowful and heavy in spirit. He said to them *“My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even unto death”* Matthew 26:38. He went a little further into the garden alone and prayed, *“O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless **not as I will, but as thou wilt**”* Matthew 26:39. It should be noticed that Jesus’ prayer indicated there was a difference between His will and the will of His Father; *“...not as I will, but as thou wilt.”* Just as the name Gethsemane speaks of an “olive press,” Jesus was under such stress and pressure it would take three hours of such to meld His “will” into His Father’s will. He prayed for three hours, until *“his sweat was as*

it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground” Luke 22:44. The apostle Paul wrote of this event, saying of Jesus,

“Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared; Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;”

Hebrews 5:7-9.

During the second hour, His prayer became *“O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done”* Matthew 26:42.

Consider the words of Paul for a moment; *“Though he were a Son, yet **learned he obedience** by the things which he suffered;”* Jesus had never been disobedient to His Father. He said to a crowd of unbelieving Jews, *“And he that sent me is with me: the Father hath not left me alone; **for I do always those things that please him**”* John 8:29. It is only in Gethsemane that any difference is found between Jesus and His Father, and it is found only in the words of His initial prayer, *“...nevertheless not as **I will**, but as thou wilt.”*

*“Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: 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 2:5-8

Christ was the creator of heaven and earth, of whom it was said *“even the winds and the sea obey Him”* Mark 4:41. John wrote of Christ in the first verses of his gospel; *“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. Just 11 verses later, John wrote, *“And the Word (Christ, the creator) 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. This was He who *“learned obedience by the things which He suffered.”* Everything He suffered on the cross was the result of His “obedience.” We suffer because of disobedience, but He suffered because He was obedient to His Father. We come up to obedience through the things we suffer, but Christ, the creator, came down to obedience; *“...obedient unto death, even the death of the cross”* Philippians 2:8.

The Apostle Paul wrote of the birth of Jesus in his epistle to the Hebrews; *“Wherefore when he (Christ, the creator) cometh into the world, **he saith**, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me:”* Hebrews 10:5. He continued to say, *“Lo, I come to do thy will O God”* Hebrews 10:7, 9. It was the will of God that Christ would die as a sacrificial lamb to *“take away the sin of the world”* John 1:29. Paul explained this when he said, *“By the which will we are sanctified (made holy) through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all”* Hebrews 10:10.

When Jesus came into the world, He was the baby *“wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger”* Luke 2:7. The baby Jesus said nothing; He was just as every new born child, in need of love, nourishment, and protection from His mother. The secret of this newborn child, however, was revealed to some shepherds in the field with their flocks. The *“Angel of the Lord,”* (Gabriel) appeared to them, saying, *“....unto you is born this day in the city of David **a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.** And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger”* Luke 2:11-12.

It was the eternal Spirit of Christ, the creator of heaven and earth, who said *“Lo, I come to do thy will, O God”* Hebrews 10:7 when Jesus

was but a tiny baby in a manger. Thirty three years later, this same Jesus, after much “*strong crying and tears*” Hebrews 5:7, said to His Father “***Thy will be done.***” Only now could the soldiers come and take Him.

When the soldiers came to arrest Jesus in Gethsemane, Peter took his sword and cut off the right ear of the high priest’s servant, a man named Malcus. Jesus told Peter to put up his sword, and proceeded to heal the servant’s ear, yet He was tried before the high priest as the leader of a violent criminal gang, who claimed to be the Messiah of Israel.

*“Then said Jesus unto him, Put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword. Thinkest thou that I cannot now pray to my Father, and he shall presently give me more than twelve legions of angels? But **how then shall the scriptures be fulfilled, that thus it must be?**”*

Matthew 26:52-54

The Father gave Jesus a choice when He wept and prayed in Gethsemane. He did not have to die on the cross. He could have stopped the process at any time by calling for the angels. He knew, by the Old Testament prophets, what He must suffer for the redemption of those who would believe and trust in Him. It was the alternative that caused Him to choose the cross; that which would take place if He refused the cross. That “alternative” was also spoken of in the prophets.

*“Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, **lest I come and smite the earth with a curse.**”*

Malachi 4:5-6

The angel Gabriel foretold the ministry of John the Baptist to his father Zacharias; “...*he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias (Elijah), to turn the hearts of the fathers to the*

children, and the disobedient to the wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord” Luke 1:17. According to Jesus, John the Baptist was Elijah the prophet, and he failed in his mission, which was to “...turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers” Malachi 4:6. Jesus said, “*That Elias (Elijah) is come already, and they knew him not, but have done unto him whatsoever they listed*” Matthew 17:12. According to the last words of the prophet Malachi, the last words of the Old Testament, John the Baptist must not fail, “*lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*” Malachi 4:6.

John the Baptist was the forerunner of Jesus Christ. John’s ministry was not to curse the earth, but to introduce the greatest blessing the earth would ever receive. He was sent by God to baptize with water, waiting for a sign from heaven to identify the one who was to come. John said, “*And I knew him not: but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God*” John 1:33-34. It was the eternal Spirit of Christ, the creator, who said, “*lest I come and smite the earth with a curse*” Malachi 4:6.

The Curse

Two verses before Malachi’s warning of a curse, God said, “*Remember ye the Law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments*” Malachi 4:4. Contrary to the belief of the Jews in the days of Jesus on earth, the Law of Moses was a curse. The book of Deuteronomy, which contains the Law of Moses, is properly defined as “the second Law.”

“These are the words of the covenant, which the LORD commanded Moses to make with the children of Israel in the

land of Moab, beside the covenant which He made with them in Horeb.”

Deuteronomy 29:1

The “first Law” was the Ten Commandment covenant which God gave when He spoke from Mt Sinai in the twentieth chapter Exodus. The covenant promise was given three days before when God told Moses to tell the congregation, “*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.

On the third day, when God began to speak with a loud voice the ten commandments of the covenant they must keep, the people stopped their ears and fled from the sound of God’s voice speaking from the mountain. They said to Moses, “*Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die*” Exodus 20:19. It is out of this saying that God told Moses to give them a Law.

The Law of Moses contains six hundred and thirteen commandments and ordinances, which are reinforced by fourteen verses of blessings Deuteronomy 28:1-14 on those who obey it perfectly, followed by fifty four verses of curses Deuteronomy 28:15-68 upon those who break even one of its commandments or ordinances. The Apostle Paul said, “*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.

Redeemed from the Curse

“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

When Jesus wept “*with strong crying and tears*” in Gethsemane, pleading for “*this cup*” to be taken from Him, the “*cup*” was much more than the sufferings inflicted upon Him on the cross. The crown of thorns that was placed on His head and beaten into

His brow, the beating that plowed deep furrows into His back, or the nails they drove through His hands and feet; these were His “*cup of sufferings*” which Jesus pleaded to be taken from Him. Included in that “cup,” however was the “curse” of The Law of Moses, which said “*Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.*” Jesus not only suffered the curse of the Law, but in order to redeem us from the curse, He was “***made a curse for us***” Galatians 3:13. When Jesus was nailed to the cross, He was made to be a curse, to redeem us from the curse. When He died, the Law of Moses was abolished for everyone who believes and trusts in Jesus Christ. When He arose from the dead, there was no more “curse of the law” for the believer.

Mutual Exchange

The Apostle Paul said, “...*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.

There are two phrases in this verse I want to examine. The first is “*God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto Himself...*” This speaks of Christ’s death on the cross. The word “*reconciling*” is translated from a Greek word which means “*to change mutually.*” This explains John 3:16; “*For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son...;*” A world that hated God; a world that killed His prophets; a world that rejected and murdered His Son: God “gave” His sinless Son in “*mutual exchange*” for that Godless world, “...*that whosoever believeth in Him would not perish, but have everlasting life.*”

The second phrase I want to examine is “*not imputing their trespasses unto them.*” It is more correctly translated “***lest imputing their trespasses unto them.***” If God had imputed the sins of the world “*unto them,*” He would have destroyed the entire world and all that is in it. Instead, He laid the sins of the world upon His sinless Son, Jesus, and, as Paul said, “...*He (God) hath*

made him (Jesus) to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him” II Corinthians 5:21. This verse sums up the “*mutual exchange*” which God made at Calvary for our salvation. Jesus was both “*made to be sin*” and “*made to be a curse*” for us.

Redeemed from Sin

“...He (God) hath made Him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him”

II Corinthians 5:21

In the same manner that Christ was “*made a curse for us*” to redeem us from the curse, He also was “*made to be sin for us*” to redeem us from sin. Jesus was the only person in the history of the world who was born without a sin nature, thus He “*knew no sin,*” but God “*made Him to be sin for us.*” The Apostle John said, “*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him*” I John 3:5-6. Less than a week before His passion, Jesus said, “*Now is my soul troubled; and what shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour*” John 12:27. His “*cause*” was to “*take away our sin*” John 1:29 and to “*destroy the devil*” Hebrews 14:2. The Apostle John confirmed this great truth over sixty years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, but John the Baptist had this revelation from the beginning. He said, “*Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world*” John 1:29.

The Sin of the World

“Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned.”

Romans 5:12

When Adam disobeyed God and obeyed the Serpent instead, he opened the door for sin to enter into the world. Every descendant of Adam was born with sin in their heart and nature, and the Serpent (the devil) became *“the god of this world”* II Corinthians 4:4. As the god of this world, the devil rules over the people and controls them through the sin that is in their heart and nature. Sin is nothing less than the nature of the serpent, who became known as Satan, Lucifer, the devil, the dragon, that old serpent, and other derogatory titles. The Apostle John made it clear in his first epistle who are the children of God;

“He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil. Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God. In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil...” I John 8-10

The words *“committeth”* and *“commit”* were both translated from the Greek word *“poieo,”* which means *“to make or do”* and refers to a single act. John was the only surviving eye-witness apostle when he wrote his epistle. His purpose was to set forth for all time what is the truth and what is the lie. He used phrases like *“hereby we know”* six times, and *“by this we know”* one time. These were to show the believer how to discern between the light and darkness, the truth and the lie, and between spiritual life and spiritual death.

Notice the words in the eighth verse, *“For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.”* This statement, sandwiched between *“committeth sin”* and *“doth not commit sin,”* reveals that *“sin”* is the work of the devil which Christ came to destroy. Consider the entire creation of God which was so contaminated and cursed by sin that God

determined to destroy the original creation and bring in a new creation.

The New Creation

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”

II Corinthians 5:17

In the original creation, the first thing God created was the heavens and the earth. The last thing He created was a man in the image and likeness of God. The man, Adam, disobeyed God, and thus obeyed the voice of God’s adversary, the serpent. This resulted in the entrance of sin, which was a blight and curse on the entire creation. In the New Creation, God reversed the order. He sent a “*man*” in the image and likeness of God to bring in a New Creation. That man is Jesus of Nazareth, who was born of a virgin, the Son of God. He was also “*the Christ*,” whom the angel Gabriel had told Daniel would come into the world “*...to make and end of sin, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, etc.*” The Apostle John said, “*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin. Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him*” I John 3:5-6. Jesus honored John the Baptist, saying “*Verily I say unto you, Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist: notwithstanding he that is least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than he*” Matthew 11:11. From Adam to Christ there was no person, man or woman, who was greater than John the Baptist. Notice the qualifying statement, however; “*among them that are born of women.*” The “*least in the kingdom of God*” are greater than John, however, because they are “*born of God.*” This is “the New Creation,” where “*all are new*” and “*all are of God,*” that is, they are “born of God.”

“Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.”

I John 3:9

Who is Christ?

The Apostle John wrote, *“Whosoever believeth Jesus is the Christ is born of God”* I John 5:1. This is a mystery. Christ is the creator of heaven and earth. He was *“the Word,”* of which John wrote *“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 anything made that was made”* John 1:1-3. This is Christ. Verse fourteen says, *“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. This is Jesus, who was born to the Virgin Mary, both the son of man and the Son of God.

Many erroneously teach that Jesus was just a natural man, who through faith, and much fasting and prayer did what any natural man can do through faith and much fasting and prayer. In truth, however, Jesus could not do anything as a natural man, because He was not a natural man. He was the Son of God in everything He did, whether natural or supernatural. When He sat down to eat, He was the Son of God. The same is true of everyone who is truly *“born of God.”* They are also the sons of God. The Apostle John began the third chapter of his first epistle saying in the second verse, *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God...”* I John 3:2.

Others believe Jesus is God. This is also an error if they believe He is the Father. Jesus was conceived by the Holy Ghost in the womb of the Virgin Mary. He had no human Father, but was born of a virgin and was the Son of God. I said the words *“Jesus is the Christ”* is a mystery. Christ is eternal, but Jesus was born to Mary. The scripture says, *“But when the fulness of the time was*

come, **God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons**" Galatians 4:4-5. Speaking of "*the Christ*," the Apostle Paul said, "*Wherefore when he cometh into the world, he saith, Sacrifice and offering thou wouldest not, but a body hast thou prepared me*" Hebrews 10:5. Jesus was "born" into the world, but Christ "came" into the world. Jesus was the "body" which was prepared for Christ. For over five hundred years, the Jews had expected one called "*The Messiah, the Prince*" to come into the world. John the Baptist was His forerunner, but when John was in prison and about to lose his life, he sent messengers to Jesus to inquire, "*Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?*" Matthew 11:3. Jesus' answer to John was, "*Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them*" Matthew 11:4-5. The prophet Isaiah had foretold these things in his prophecy of the redeemer;

"Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you. Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert." Isaiah 35:4-6

Jesus was doing everything the prophet Isaiah had foretold, proving beyond any doubt that He was the Messiah who was to come. God had sent the angel Gabriel to the prophet Daniel to tell of one called "*The Messiah, the Prince*," who would come into the world "*to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity,*" and "*to bring in everlasting righteousness*" Daniel 9:24-25.

Gabriel gave a mathematical formula which served to show the exact year the Messiah would come. For hundreds of years, the

Jewish Rabbis taught the people of the coming Messiah, and told the exact year He would come.

The Jewish authority sent a delegation of priests and Levites to John the Baptist to enquire who he was. The scripture says of John, *“He confessed, and denied not; but confessed, **I am not the Christ**”* John 1:20. He continued to say, however, *“I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Make straight the way of the Lord, as said the prophet Esaias”* John 1:23.

*“The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.** This is he of whom I said, After me cometh a man which is preferred before me: for he was before me. **And I knew him not:** but that he should be made manifest to Israel, therefore am I come baptizing with water. And John bare record, saying, I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and it abode upon him. **And I knew him not:** but he that sent me to baptize with water, the same said unto me, Upon whom thou shalt see the Spirit descending, and remaining on him, the same is he which baptizeth with the Holy Ghost. **And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.**”* John 1:29-34

Knowing Jesus

John knew Jesus was his second cousin. John must have heard of the amazing events surrounding the birth of Jesus, because when Jesus asked John to baptize Him, John first response was, *“I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me?”* Matthew 3:14. When John said, *“I knew Him not,”* his meaning was so much deeper than can be immediately understood. Millions of people go to church every Sunday to worship God. They learn about Jesus and sing His praises, but they do not “know Him.” Two of the greatest men in the scriptures, one in the Old Testament and one in the New Testament, were driven by a desire to “know Him.”

While Moses was on the mountain with God to receive the Ten Commandments written in stone, the congregation worshiped a golden calf as *“the god who brought us up out of Egypt”* Exodus 32:4. Thousands of people died that day from the wrath of both God and Moses against them. Afterward, Moses took the tabernacle and pitched it outside the camp, afar off from the camp.

“And it came to pass, that every one which sought the LORD went out unto the tabernacle of the congregation, which was without the camp.” Exodus 33:7

Moses and a young man named Joshua were the only ones who went to the tabernacle to worship God. It was there that Moses cried to God, *“Show me thy way, **that I may know thee.**”* Fifteen hundred years later, Jesus would say, *“I am the way...”* John 14:6.

The Apostle Paul related all the advantages he had as a Jew in the Jewish religion; he was, *“Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee; concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless”* Philippians 3:5-6.

When Saul of Tarsus met Jesus on the road to Damascus Acts 9:3-6, in a moment of time he *“suffered the loss”* of every “advantage” he had under the Law of Moses. He said it this way to the Philippian church;

“But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win (gain) Christ...”

Philippians 3:7-8

The Greek word which was translated “loss” in this text actually means *“detriment.”* Everything he had trusted in under the Law had been detrimental to him. It destroyed him until the day he

cried out *“O wretched man that I am, who shall deliver me from the body of this death”* Romans 7:24. Now he was ready for Jesus, the same Jesus he had hated and sought to destroy. Now, everything he had trusted in had become *“but dung, that I may win Christ.”*

The Greek word which was translated “win” in this verse means *“to gain.”* Saul had to suffer the loss of everything he had counted to be gain to him before he could *“gain Christ.”* In fact, he *“suffered the loss of **all things**.”* Jesus told the rich young ruler to *“...go and sell that thou hast, and give to the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come and follow me”* Matthew 19:21. Not everyone who comes to Jesus is required to *“sell all, give to the poor,”* but this man was guilty breaking the Tenth Commandment; he was a very “covetous” man. On the other hand, everyone who comes to Jesus must lay all that he possesses on the altar, thus *“suffer the loss of all things.”* His “possessions” are no longer his, but the Lord’s. Every child of God becomes a “steward” over his earthly goods which he has given to the Lord, thus his riches are laid up in heaven Matthew 19:21.

Saul’s greatest desire, from the moment Jesus spoke to him out of heaven, from the moment he knew that Jesus is the Christ, was *“to gain Christ.”* Those who gain Christ become heirs of everything. They are *“heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ”* Romans 8:17.

The Apostle was not satisfied, however, to simply *“gain Christ.”* He must *“...be found in Him”* Philippians 3:9; *“**That I may know Him**”* verse 10. The word “know” in this verse speaks of an “absolute knowledge.” In order to *“know Christ”* in this manner, he must “experience Christ” as he continues to say; *“That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; if by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead”* Philippians 3:10-11.

Just as death always comes before resurrection, “*the fellowship of His sufferings*” must come before “*the power of His resurrection.*” The word “*fellowship*” speaks of “partnership” and “participation.” The “fellowship of His sufferings” is explained by Paul in the sixth chapter of Romans;

“Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. For he that is dead is freed from sin.” Romans 6:6-7

Why Christ Died

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

Jesus was the “*first man*” of the New Creation of God. The Apostle Paul compared Him to the first man, Adam, calling Him “*the second man*” I Corinthians 15:47 and “*the last Adam*” I Corinthians 15:45. The first man was formed from the dust of the earth, and created in the image and likeness of God. The “second man is “*the Lord from heaven.*” He is “*the brightness of his (God’s) glory, and the express image of his person*” Hebrews 1:3. Jesus had no sin. He never committed a sin because there was no sin in Him. The Apostle John said, “*And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin*” I John 3:5. John, who wrote this about sixty five years after the death and resurrection of Jesus, said in the next verse “***Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him***” I John 3:6. These words were written in John’s old age, and had been proven during his entire lifetime. This answers the question of “why Christ died.” He died to “*take away the sin of the world.*”

Jesus was the “*corn of wheat,*” the original “*seed*” of a new creation. He was the only man since Adam’s transgression that was born without sin in his nature; He had no sin. As long as He

lived, He “abode alone,” but if He died at the hands of those who hated Him, He would “rise again” the third day, and everyone who believed He was the Christ and trusted in Him would be “born again” in His image and likeness. They would be exactly like the “incorruptible seed” ^{1 Peter 1:23} which they were born of.

All things accomplished on the Cross

*“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}

Every prophecy of redemption was fulfilled by Jesus in His death on the cross. This was the death He must die in order to fulfill all things. The first promise of redemption was given by God in the same day sin entered through Adam’s disobedience. God said to the serpent *“I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it (the seed of the woman) shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel”* ^{Genesis 3:15}. This was the first prophecy to be fulfilled when Jesus died on the cross. It was there that the serpent, who was called the devil, would be destroyed. Paul wrote 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}.

When Jesus said *“It is finished”* just before dying on the cross, His words were not a cry of distress from a dying man, but rather a cry of great victory. The bible translators often concealed great scriptural truths through their efforts not to be redundant in their words. Notice, *“Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished,”* there remained only one thing: He must *“give up*

the ghost and die.” The Greek word which was translated “*accomplished*” in verse 28 is the same Greek word which was translated “*finished*” in verse 30. “*Knowing that all things were now accomplished,*” He cried with a loud voice “*It is accomplished*” and breathed His last breath, and died. At that exact moment both heaven and earth were shaken. On earth, there was a great earthquake. The scripture says “*...the earth did quake, and the rocks rent; and the graves were opened...*” Matthew 27:51-52.

In heaven, the shaking was even greater than on earth. At the exact moment Jesus “*gave up the ghost and died,*” a great voice was heard in heaven, saying, “*Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night*” Revelation 12:10

War in Heaven

“And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, ‘Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.’ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb...”

Revelation 12:7-11

The war in heaven had continued for four thousand years from the time Adam disobeyed God and sin entered into the world. The “*dragon,*” as he is called here was none other than Lucifer, whose fall from heaven was prophesied by the prophet Isaiah; “*How art*

thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning” Isaiah 14:12. This is the only place in the scripture he is called by his name, which means *“the shining one.”* Lucifer was one of three archangels along with Gabriel, the messenger angel, and Michael, the war angel. The prophet Ezekiel tells us he was *“the anointed Cherub that covereth”* Ezekiel 28:14.

“Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee.” Ezekiel 28:15

His *“iniquity”* was that he wanted to be *“like the most high God”* Isaiah 14:14. This is what he tempted Eve with, that she and her husband Adam could be *“as gods”* Genesis 3:5. Lucifer, known as *“the serpent”* in the paradise of Eden, succeeded in becoming *“the god of this world”* II Corinthians 4:4 with the entrance of sin. This began the *“war in heaven,”* which continued between Michael and Lucifer for the next four thousand years. Each of them being an archangel, with a third part of the angels of heaven under their charge, neither of them could prevail until God sent Christ into the world as Jesus of Nazareth to destroy both sin and Satan. The *“cost”* would be the sufferings and death of Jesus, the Son of God, on the cross at Calvary. Our text tells of the resulting shake up in heaven. Lucifer, stripped of his glorious name, now known variously as the *“serpent,”* the *“dragon,”* the *“devil,”* and *“Satan,”* was cast down, out of heaven, and his angels were cast out with him. The scripture says, *And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb... ”* Revelation 12:11.

Now!

“Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb... ”

Revelation 12:10-11.

“Now” is an adverb that speaks specifically of the present time or moment, or the immediate future. In the last week of Jesus’ life of earth, He said “**Now** is my soul troubled...” John 12:27. He was troubled concerning the death He must die. He continued to say, “*What shall I say? Father, save me from this hour: but for this cause came I unto this hour.*”

“Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me.” John 12:31-32

When Jesus said “now,” He spoke of His death on the cross. It was the moment He “*gave up the ghost and died*” that a loud voice was heard in heaven, saying “**Now** is come salvation...” Revelation 12:10. Lucifer, called “*the great dragon, that old serpent, the Devil, and Satan,*” was cast out of heaven to the earth. The scripture says, “*And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb*” Revelation 12:11. Heaven was cleansed by the blood of Jesus Christ, who was the “*Lamb of God.*” The scripture says, “*Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time*” Revelation 12:12. Earth became Satan’s domain. The Apostle Paul said Satan, is “*the god of this world*” II Corinthians 4:4. Only one thing can cleanse “the inhabitants (inhabitants) of the earth;” the same “*blood of the Lamb*” which cleansed heaven.

“But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.”

I John 1:7

This cleansing is salvation to all who receive it.

*“If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to **cleanse us** from all unrighteousness.”* I John 1:9

Now is come...! Let's consider the four things the voice in Heaven declared had come:

1. Now is come Salvation...

What is salvation? Before Jesus was born to Mary, the angel Gabriel told Joseph *"Thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins"* Matthew 1:21. John the Baptist introduced Jesus, saying *"Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world"* John 1:29. Sin entered into the heart and nature of every person through the disobedience of Adam. Christ died to *"take away"* that sin. When any person, man or woman, believes the truth of the gospel, sin is taken out of their heart and nature, and they are *"made free from sin"* Romans 6:18, 22. That is salvation. Jesus said to some Jews before His death on the cross, *"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free"* John 8:31-32. *"Being made free from sin"* Romans 6:22 is salvation.

2. Now is come ...strength

The word *"strength"* was translated from the Greek word *"dunamis,"* which speaks of the supernatural power of the Holy Ghost. Jesus' last words to His disciples before ascending to heaven were, *"ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you..."* Acts 1:8. The record of the event Jesus spoke of is given in the second chapter of Acts;

"And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance."

Acts 2:1-4

Speaking with “*other tongues*” is the first supernatural evidence that a believer has been “*filled with the Holy Ghost*.” It should be noticed, they spoke with other tongues “*as the Spirit gave them utterance*.” I personally received the Holy Ghost sixty seven years ago on March 9, 1958, and in all those years I have never been able to speak in tongues at my will, but only when the Holy Ghost comes upon me. Those who claim to have a “prayer language” which they can speak at any time do not have the Holy Ghost, which is evidenced by the lack of the supernatural power Jesus promised. Peter was one of the twelve disciples and one of the hundred and twenty who received the Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost. Less than two months before, he had denied three times in one night that he had ever known Jesus. Less than fifty days before, he and the other disciples hid behind locked and barred doors for fear of the Jews, but “*after the Holy Ghost came upon him*,” he preached by the anointing of the Spirit a message that indicted thousands of Jews for the murder of Jesus Christ. Three thousand Jews were convicted, repented, and added to the church in that one day. A few days later, he raised up the lame beggar at the gate of the Temple, and five thousand were saved in a day. Peter’s fame went out to the extent the people brought their sick and afflicted and laid them in the streets of Jerusalem for the shadow of Peter to cross over them, and the scripture says “*they were healed every one*” Acts 5:15-16.

3. Now is come ...the kingdom of our God

The Greek word which was translated “*kingdom*,” speaks of the “*rule*” or the “*realm*” as of a great king. Jesus taught His disciples to pray “...***the kingdom come***, *thy will be done*...” Luke 11:2. He began His earthly ministry by preaching, “*The time is fulfilled, and **the kingdom of God is at hand**: repent ye, and believe the gospel*” Mark 1:15. He told His disciples, “*Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen **the kingdom of God come***

with power” Mark 9:1. It is very obvious Jesus was speaking to them about the Day of Pentecost, when “*the kingdom of God came with great power*” in those who received the Holy Ghost. God began to reign through His people by the Holy Ghost which was given unto them. Beginning with the Day of Pentecost, the prophecies of the hundred and tenth Psalm began to be fulfilled;

“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power...”

Psalms 110:1-3

Jesus cleansed the temple two times. The first time, near the beginning of His earthly ministry, He drove them out with a whip, saying “*Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise*” John 2:16. Three years later, He drove them out again, this time saying, “*It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves*” Matthew 21:13.

“And the blind and the lame came to him in the temple; and he healed them.” Matthew 21:14

In the fifth chapter of Acts, Jesus “*sent the rod of His strength*” through Peter to cleanse His Father’s house, the church, from all pretense with the deaths of Ananias and his wife Sapphira. They were both found guilty of lying to the Holy Ghost. It was not Peter who slew them, but Jesus, of whom David also said, “*He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies*” Psalms 110:6.

When the temple was cleansed, “*the blind and the lame came to Him in the temple; and He healed them.*” The same thing happened when the Christian church was cleansed from pretense.

“And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. And by the hands of the apostles were many signs and wonders wrought among the people.” Acts 5:11-12

“Insomuch that they brought forth the sick into the streets, and laid them on beds and couches, that at the least the shadow of Peter passing by might overshadow some of them. There came also a multitude out of the cities round about unto Jerusalem, bringing sick folks, and them which were vexed with unclean spirits: and they were healed every one” Acts 5:15-16.

From the same day Ananias and Sapphira died for their pretense, the church became such that no one wanted to join it.

“And of the rest durst no man join himself to them: but the people magnified them. And believers were the more added to the Lord, multitudes both of men and women.” Acts 5:13-14

There are numerous churches across America with over ten thousand members, because everyone wanted to “join them.” One church in Houston Texas has 45,000 in weekly attendance. When I was saved in 1958, the largest full gospel church in Houston had 300 in attendance. In those days we were called “Holy Rollers,” and no one wanted to join us, but people were saved, healed and delivered by the power of God. Sadly, in this twenty-first century, we have developed the “user-friendly” church, which has something for everyone, and the “world” has come into the church and the church has become a “worldly church.”

4. Now is come ...the power of His Christ

*“The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool. The LORD shall send the rod of thy strength out of Zion: rule thou in the midst of thine enemies. **Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power,** in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou hast the dew of thy youth. The LORD hath sworn, and will not repent, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of*

Melchizedek. The Lord at thy right hand shall strike through kings in the day of his wrath. He shall judge among the heathen, he shall fill the places with the dead bodies; he shall wound the heads over many countries. He shall drink of the brook in the way: therefore shall he lift up the head."

Psalms 110:1-7

The day of Christ's power began when he arose from the dead and sat at the right hand of God. From that hour he began to rule in the midst of his enemies through Zion, which is the church. The following passage reveals the mystery of how Christ rules through his people upon earth.

*"For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: **so also is Christ**"* I Corinthians 12:12.

Obviously this does not speak of Jesus Christ, but of the church which is made up of the children of God, full of the Holy Ghost with every member functioning in the gifts they have received; that "church" is "Christ." The scriptures in the third chapter of Galatians are more direct in explaining this truth.

*"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

The word "seed" as used in this verse is a plural word, but refers to one variety. The word "seeds" is also a plural word which refers to many varieties, for example, corn, tomato, okra etc. Jesus spoke of Himself as a "corn of wheat."

"Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." John 12:24

Exactly as every grain of wheat on a stalk is identical to the single grain of wheat that fell to the ground and died, so also is Christ. Those who are "born of God" are "conformed to the image" of the Son of God in order that Jesus might be the "firstborn among

many brethren” Romans 8:29. As Jesus is “*the Christ, the Son of God*,” and the original “*seed*” of the new creation, even so those who are “born of God,” the sons and daughters of God, are also “Christ.”

*“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: **for ye are all one** (one seed) in Christ Jesus. And **if ye be Christ’s** (Christ), **then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.**”*

Galatians 3:26-29

The translators, not comprehending the power of the gospel, mistakenly translated “Christ” with an apostrophe, which would say “...*if you belong to Christ.*” A more correct translation would say to the children of God, “...*if you are Christ, then you are Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.*” This is “*the privilege of His Christ.*”

*“The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: **And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ...**”*

Romans 8:16-17

The voice John heard in Heaven was declaring a great and full salvation. It is accomplished. It is not in the future. It is now! Paul told us the gospel of Christ is the power of God unto salvation to everyone who believes it. Do you believe Jesus? Do you believe John? Do you believe the voice from Heaven? You must, if you want to receive the things Christ has accomplished for you NOW!

Four Ways to Receive

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