

# The Ordinance of Messiah



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## THE ORDINANCE OF MESSIAH

### I. INTRODUCTION

#### The Divine Decree

**Ordinance:** An authoritative order; A prescribed religious rite.

God made a divine decree in the garden of Eden: "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."<sup>1</sup> The redemption plan God ordained was fulfilled when Christ rose from the grave. This not only represents the benevolent nature of God, but the plan of salvation for mankind to be re-united with the heavenly Father. The Ordinance of Messiah required the Son of God: To lay down His divine attributes; To become the God/Man in order to be the perfect Sacrifice; To be the living example of God's nature, perfect Grace and Mercy, and; To establish His Church in the free covenant of the Spirit.<sup>2</sup> The following describes differences between the Commandments of God and the Ordinances, and how these are to apply to the Church today.

### II. THE COMMANDMENTS

#### Being vs. Doing

God's nature is best described by the Law of God and by the example of His Son. The nature of the born-again believer is as that of the Father. To 'act' right may only be in actions without heart-change. There is no salvation in spiritual hypocrisy. As a child of God, you will not desire to: Murder; Steal; Commit adultery and so forth because one's nature is changed to that of God Creator. These attributes of God's nature are now those of the child-of-God, and their lives reflect that of Christ.

**Written by God on Stone**



<sup>1</sup> Gen. 3:15; Eph. 2: 15

<sup>2</sup> 1 John 3:8

“And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.”<sup>3</sup> “And the tables were the work of God, and the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.”

### **The Royal law**

#### **The Righteousness of the Law:**

The ‘law’ describes the righteous nature of God; therefore the ‘law’ is righteous. If one fulfils the royal law according to the scripture then, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.<sup>4</sup> “Where no law is, there is no transgression [*or sin*].”<sup>5</sup> God's Ten Commandment law existed from the beginning, and man broke that law. “Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”<sup>6</sup> Because of sin (*or breaking God's law*), Moses law was given (*or "added"*)<sup>7</sup> till Christ should come and die. There were two separate laws involved.

### **The Law Inside the Ark**

And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark.<sup>8</sup>

### **What is the law of liberty?**

“But the one who looks into the perfect law, the law of liberty, and perseveres, being no hearer who forgets but a doer who acts, he will be blessed in his doing.”<sup>9</sup> It is the ‘law of liberty’ that delivers the believer from the curse and bondage of the law. The ‘law’ is usually comprised of requirements enforced by sanctions, but the ‘law of liberty’ is a declaration of righteousness and salvation by Christ; an offer of peace and pardon by Him. It is similar to the “law of faith”.<sup>10</sup> “Where is boasting then? It is excluded. By what law? of works? Nay: but by the law of faith. But now ye rejoice in your boastings. All such rejoicing is evil. Therefore, to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”<sup>11</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> Ex. 31: 18; 32: 16

<sup>4</sup> JAMES 2:8

<sup>5</sup> Romans 4:15

<sup>6</sup> 1 John 3:4

<sup>7</sup> Galatians 3:16, 19

<sup>8</sup> Ex. 40:20

<sup>9</sup> James 1:25

<sup>10</sup> Romans 3:27

<sup>11</sup> James 4: 16,17

Those who boast even brag about themselves and flatter others in order to get their own way.<sup>12</sup> This is not the 'Spirit of Christ'.

The perfect liberty found in Christ fulfills the "perfect law" of the Old Testament. Christ was the only one who could. Those who come to Him in faith now have freedom from sin's bondage which brings peace and joy in obedience to God. Christ alone can set us free and give us true liberty. "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed".<sup>13</sup> This liberty does not show favoritism toward others which would be a violation of the command to love our neighbor as we love ourselves.<sup>14</sup>

### **The Law Judges All Men**

For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.<sup>15</sup>

### **The Law is Spiritual**

"For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin."<sup>16</sup> "For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous."<sup>17</sup>

### **The Law reveals Sin**

"What shall we say then? is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."<sup>18</sup>

### **The Law Will Stand Forever**

The law represents the nature of God, which is never-changing.  
"And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail."<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> Jude 1: 16

<sup>13</sup> John 8:36

<sup>14</sup> Matthew 22:37-40

<sup>15</sup> James 2: 10-12

<sup>16</sup> Rom. 7: 14

<sup>17</sup> 1 JOHN 5:3

<sup>18</sup> ROM. 7:7

<sup>19</sup> LUKE 16:17

## What Does it Mean to Be 'Free Indeed'?

"Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin."<sup>20</sup> The Law of Moses or Torah of Moses (Hebrew: תּוֹרַת מֹשֶׁה, Torat Moshe, occurs 15 times in the Hebrew Bible, 7 times in the New Testament, and repeatedly in Second Temple period, intertestamental, rabbinical and patristic literature. 'Torah' can refer to the first five books of the Tanakh, to the instructions and commandments found in the 2nd to 5th books of the Hebrew Bible, and also to the entire Tanakh and even all of the Oral Law.

"And the LORD said unto Moses, Write this for a memorial in a book, and rehearse it in the ears of Joshua, that I will utterly blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven"<sup>21</sup> And Moses came and told the people all the words of the LORD, and all the judgments: and all the people answered with one voice, and said, All the words which the LORD hath said will we do."<sup>22</sup> And Moses wrote all the words of the LORD, and rose up early in the morning, and built an altar under the mount, and twelve pillars, according to the twelve tribes of Israel"<sup>23</sup>, "And the LORD said unto Moses, Write thou these words, for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel;"<sup>24</sup> "These are the decrees, the laws and the regulations that the LORD established on Mount Sinai between himself and the Israelites through Moses."

"All things are lawful for me,"  
"but I will not be enslaved by anything."<sup>25</sup>

## The Carnal Commandment

"For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning priesthood. And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another priest, who is made, not after the law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life."<sup>26</sup> For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."<sup>27</sup> "The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple."<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>20</sup> Rom. 3: 20

<sup>21</sup> Exodus 17:14

<sup>22</sup> Exodus 24: 3,4

<sup>23</sup> Exodus 34:27

<sup>24</sup> Leviticus 26:46

<sup>25</sup> 1 Corinthians 6:12

<sup>26</sup> HEB. 7:14-16

<sup>27</sup> HEB. 7:19

<sup>28</sup> PSALMS 19:7

The life of Jesus is the best example for understanding God's nature and how a Christian is to become. The benevolent nature of God is evident in the gospel message. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit."<sup>29</sup> "And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us."<sup>30</sup> "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith."<sup>34</sup>

### What Does the Bible Say About Shunning?

I appeal to you, brothers, to watch out for those who...<sup>31</sup>;  
But now I am writing to you not to associate with anyone...<sup>32</sup>;  
Brothers, if anyone is caught in any transgression...<sup>33</sup>;  
It is actually reported that there is sexual immorality...<sup>34</sup>;



### Did Jesus Ever Shun Anyone?

In Matthew 10: 31, Jesus is not talking about disfellowshipping<sup>35</sup> but talking with the twelve about Himself.

### Shunning is an Extra-biblical Tradition of Man

The church is commissioned with the ministry of reconciliation and redemption. "And if he refuses to hear them, tell it to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector."<sup>36</sup> Church discipline always has a redemptive goal<sup>37</sup> so that the disciplined one might be restored to Christ's and the church's fellowship.

### When Will God Shun?

"Many will say to me on that day, [*the day of judgment*], 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"<sup>38</sup>

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<sup>29</sup> Rom. 5: 5

<sup>30</sup> Gal. 5:22

<sup>31</sup> Romans 16:17

<sup>32</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:11

<sup>33</sup> Galatians 6:1

<sup>34</sup> 1 Corinthians 5:1-13

<sup>35</sup> Mathew 10:31-40

<sup>36</sup> Matthew 18:17

<sup>37</sup> Romans 16:17

<sup>38</sup> Matthew 7:22-23

## God is Love<sup>39</sup>

The primary description of God is: “God is Love”<sup>40</sup>

“Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love.”<sup>40</sup>

God is wrathful in His righteous judgement and vengeance is His;

“He will re-pay.”<sup>41</sup> The Christian’s warning and rebuke to the lost is always given in love and with an attitude of empathy.



The love of God is selfless: an outflowing concern for the good of others. When He showed His glory to Moses, God revealed Himself as “the compassionate and gracious God, slow to anger, abounding in love and faithfulness, maintaining love to thousands, and forgiving wickedness, rebellion and sin”<sup>42</sup> Love is the foundation of the character and law of God. It is the basis of everything that God has revealed to mankind in the Holy Scriptures.<sup>43</sup>

Paul called love the greatest Christian attribute<sup>44</sup>;

It is the first aspect of the fruit of God’s Spirit<sup>45</sup>;

Love is the bond of perfection, binding everything together in perfect unity<sup>46</sup>;

It is the fulfilling of God’s divine law<sup>47</sup>;

This amazing quality of godly love even encompasses love for one’s enemies.<sup>48</sup>

Upon repentance, one begins to exhibit this kind of love through the Holy Spirit. In exercising this kind of love, we express the image of God (*reflecting His character*), even though we are still human. Paul encourages us to “let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus;”<sup>49</sup> Jesus, perfectly personified God’s love to the point of giving His own life for us.

<sup>39</sup> 1 John 4:8; 1 John 4:16

<sup>40</sup> 1 Jn. 4: 7,8

<sup>41</sup> Rom. 12: 19

<sup>42</sup> Exodus 34:6-7

<sup>43</sup> Matthew 22:35-40

<sup>44</sup> 1 Corinthians 13:13

<sup>45</sup> Galatians 5:22

<sup>46</sup> Colossians 3:14

<sup>47</sup> Romans 13:10

<sup>48</sup> Matthew 5:44-45; Luke 6:35

<sup>49</sup> Philippians 2:5



“God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”<sup>50</sup>

God not only wants to grant us the priceless gift of eternal life, but He wants to share all things with us in His divine family.<sup>51</sup> God loves us enough to give us free-will. If we do not accept His salvation then we will hear the dreadful words:

**“I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.”<sup>52</sup>**

### **Is God Loving and Just by letting someone go to hell?**

By His own decree, Jesus knocked at the hearts' door of every person who died lost. As Judas, they had kissed the very Door of heaven, but refused to enter in.

As long as there is breath, there is freedom of choice.

“Choose you this day whom you will serve.”<sup>53</sup>

“You must be born-again.”<sup>54</sup>

Let God save you!

Let today be the first day of your eternal life.



There'll be no sin to enter in;  
So throw it down and turn around;  
And walk away to stay; be saved today.

Trust God, accept His covenant, pursue His promises and be washed as white as snow “in the soul-cleansing blood of the Lamb.”

### **The Righteousness of Faith:<sup>55</sup>**

For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness. The righteousness of God provides a plan of restoration. The first covenant may be summarized in the law as preparation for the advent of Christ. “The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness.” “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”<sup>56</sup>

<sup>50</sup> John 3:16

<sup>51</sup> Hebrews 2:6-8; Romans 8:16-17

<sup>52</sup> Matt. 7: 23

<sup>53</sup> Joshua 24: 15

<sup>54</sup> John 3: 7

<sup>55</sup> Romans 10: 1-10

<sup>56</sup> Psalm 111: 7

The atonement of Christ fulfilled the prophecies of the 1<sup>st</sup> Covenant. Now we can by faith, behold the Lamb of God, experiencing His Salvation through genuine conversion. We become “new creatures” in Christ.<sup>57</sup> Religion and works are meaningless if the heart is not converted. The rich young ruler replied: “Teacher, all these I have kept from my youth.” And Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him: you lack one thing: go, sell all that you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”<sup>58</sup> What did the young ruler lack? Perhaps it was the freedom to let go of the things in his life. Everything that he owned really owned him. If we keep God’s laws and commandments then we live by them because this is who we are.<sup>59</sup>

### **The Despair of Self**

The young man “went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions” The hold that those possessions had on him was what kept him from possessing the greatest possession of all. He had discovered the answer to: “What shall I do that I may inherit eternal life?” There was nothing he could do.



No matter what one might attempt to do to try to earn eternal life, it is always just outside our reach. There is still ‘one thing lacking’:

### **We Need a Savior!**

Jesus went on from there to Jerusalem—and accomplished that one great thing that made it all possible. He paid the debt for our sins on the cross; so that eternal life can be ours as a gift of God’s grace through faith.

## **III. THE ORDINANCES**

The ordinances of Christ are referred to as the tables of the covenant.<sup>60</sup> They were placed outside of the ark of the covenant on the side of the ark. Here it was kept for greater security and reverence.]

<sup>57</sup> 2 Cor. 5: 17

<sup>58</sup> Mark 10:17-31

<sup>59</sup> Leviticus 18:5

<sup>60</sup> Heb. 9:4



“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.”<sup>61</sup> “A ‘witness against thee’ when they fall into idolatry or any other sin, a transgression of any of the laws therein contained. This book, which had been lost or misplaced, was found in the house of the Lord in the days of

Josiah. It was read publicly by the king himself, for a witness against the people. King Josiah is greatly distressed upon hearing the words of the long-lost “book of the torah” and following a consultation with the prophetess Huldah, calls a national assembly at which he and the people commit themselves to fulfilling all the terms of the covenant written in that book.<sup>62</sup>

God had made the decree of salvation for man before the advent of Christ. These ordinances were contrary; against us, for they described the total depravity of man. They foretold how Christ would remove this curse of sin, “nailing it to His tree.”<sup>63</sup> Yahweh’s law was never blotted out, expunged, or erased.<sup>64</sup> The problem was always with man, never with the law. The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, “making wise the simple.”<sup>65</sup> The law is our “school master”, teaching us right from wrong.<sup>66</sup> “Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by the law is the knowledge of sin.”

How are these ordinances, ‘the law of Moses’, described as compared with the ‘law of God’ (*the 10 commandments*)? Moses’ law was the temporary, ceremonial law of the Old Testament. It regulated the priesthood, sacrifices, rituals, meat and drink offerings, etc., all of which foreshadowed the cross. This law was added till Christ, the reality of the shadow, came.<sup>67</sup> The ritual and ceremony of Moses’ law pointed forward to Christ’s once and for all sacrifice.

<sup>61</sup> Deut. 31: 26

<sup>62</sup> 2 Kings 22:11; 23: 3

<sup>63</sup> Col. 2: 14

<sup>64</sup> Rev. 12:17; 14:12; 22:14

<sup>65</sup> Ps. 19: 7

<sup>66</sup> ROM. 7:7; 3:20

<sup>67</sup> Galatians 3:16, 19

### What part of the scripture is no longer to be observed?

“All scripture [*is*] given by inspiration of God, and [*is*] profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.”<sup>68</sup> Prophecies and the law were fulfilled by Christ, so the sacrificial observances were no longer needed. When Jesus died, this law came to an end, but the Ten Commandments (*God’s law*) shall “stand fast for ever and ever.”<sup>69</sup> Daniel 9:10 is talking about God’s law and verse 11 is talking about Moses’ law: “Neither have we obeyed the voice of the LORD our God, to walk in his laws, which he set before us by his servants the prophets.” “Yea, all Israel have transgressed thy law, even by departing, that they might not obey thy voice; therefore the curse is poured upon us, and the oath that is written in the law of Moses the servant of God, because we have sinned against him.”<sup>70</sup>

A Comparison of the ‘Law of Moses’ and the ‘Ten Commandments’:

Moses Law	Ten Commandments
<p><b>Called "Law contained in ordinances"</b></p> <p>EPH. 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the <u>law of commandments contained in ordinances</u>; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.</p>	<p><b>Called "the Royal law"</b></p> <p>JAMES 2:8 If ye fulfil the <u>royal law</u> according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well:</p>
<p><b>Written by Moses in a book</b></p> <p>2 CHRON. 35:12 And they removed the burnt offerings, that they might give according to the divisions of the families of the people, to offer unto the LORD, as it is <u>written in the book of Moses</u>. And so did they with the oxen.</p>	<p><b>Written by God on stone</b></p> <p>EXO. 31:18 And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, two tables of testimony, <u>tables of stone, written with the finger of God.</u></p>

<sup>68</sup> 2 Timothy 3:16

<sup>69</sup> Psalm 111:7,8

<sup>70</sup> Galatians 3:16, 19

	EXO. 32:16 And the tables were the work of God, and <b><u>the writing was the writing of God, graven upon the tables.</u></b>
<b>Placed in the side of the ark</b> DEUT. 31:26 Take this book of the law, and put it in the <b><u>side of the ark</u></b> of the covenant of the LORD your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.	<b>Placed inside the ark</b> EXO. 40:20 And he took and <b><u>put the testimony into the ark</u></b> , and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark:
<b>Ended at the cross</b> EPH. 2:15 Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the <b><u>law of commandments contained in ordinances</u></b> ; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace.	<b>Will stand forever</b> LUKE 16:17 <b><u>And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.</u></b>
<b>Added because of sin</b> GAL. 3:19 Wherefore then serveth the law? It was <b><u>added because of transgressions</u></b> , till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator.	<b>Points out sin</b> ROM. 7:7 What shall we say then? is the law sin? God forbid. Nay, <b><u>I had not known sin, but by the law</u></b> : for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet. ROM. 3:20 Therefore by the deeds of the law there shall no flesh be justified in his sight: for by <b><u>the law is the knowledge of sin.</u></b>
<b>Contrary to us, against us</b> COL. 2:14 <b><u>Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us</u></b> , and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross.	<b>Not grievous</b> 1 JOHN 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his <b><u>commandments are not grievous.</u></b>

<p><b>Judges no man</b></p> <p>COL. 2:14-16 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; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. <b><u>Let no man therefore judge you</u></b> in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the (<i>ceremonial</i>) sabbath days:</p>	<p><b>Judges all men</b></p> <p>JAM. 2:10-12 For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that <b><u>shall be judged by the law of liberty.</u></b></p>
<p><b>Carnal</b></p> <p>HEB. 7:16 Who is made, not after the <b><u>law of a carnal commandment</u></b>, but after the power of an endless life.</p>	<p><b>Spiritual</b></p> <p>ROM. 7:14 For we know that the <b><u>law is spiritual</u></b>: but I am carnal, sold under sin.</p>
<p><b>Made nothing perfect</b></p> <p>HEB. 7:19 For the law <b><u>made nothing perfect</u></b>, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God.</p>	<p><b>Perfect</b></p> <p>PSALMS 19:7 <b><u>The law of the LORD is perfect</u></b>, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple.</p>

Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made.<sup>71</sup> “God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders, and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost, according to his own will”<sup>72</sup>

### What were reactions to the ordinances?

Jehoahaz and Jehoiakim rebel against God and “do that which is evil in the sight of God”. “Woe unto him that buildeth his house by unrighteousness, and his chambers by wrong; that useth his neighbor's service without wages, and giveth him not for his work.”

<sup>71</sup> Gal. 3: 16

<sup>72</sup> Heb. 2: 4



Manassah promoted sodomy and worship of Molech in Judah. These were obvious sins of Gods' people against the ordinances of Moses. Their ungodliness and rebellion led to the Babylonian captivity.<sup>73</sup> When Josiah finds the ordinances in the temple, he was greatly convicted and realized the great transgressions of the nation.



### **Josiah Cleans House!<sup>74</sup>**

2 Kings 23

King Josiah burned all the vessels that were made for Baal. He killed the idolatrous priests and broke down all of the houses of the sodomites. "Moreover the workers with familiar spirits, and the wizards, and the images, and the idols, and all the abominations that were spied in the land of Judah and in Jerusalem, did Josiah put away, that he might perform the words of the law which were written in the book that Hilkiah the priest found in the house of the LORD." "Notwithstanding the LORD turned not from the fierceness of his great wrath, wherewith his anger was kindled against Judah, because of all the provocations that Manasseh had provoked him withal. And the LORD said, I will remove Judah also out of my sight, as I have removed Israel, and will cast off this city Jerusalem which I have chosen, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there." Judah was taken into captivity in 598 B.C.

The ordinance of Messiah may be hidden in our sanctuaries through neglect, tradition and the commandments of men. May we, as Josiah, realize our transgressions and repent before God.

### **What is the Shadow and the Seed?**

The Promised Seed is the source of blessing in God's perfect plan.<sup>75</sup> Christ's shadow fell across every page of the old covenant.

<sup>73</sup> 2 Kings 24; 1-4; 22: 3-13

<sup>74</sup> 2 Kings 23: 4-27

<sup>75</sup> John 12: 24,25

Moses' law regulated the priesthood, sacrifices, rituals, meat and drink offerings, etc., all of which foreshadowed the cross. When Messiah came to earth as the 'son of man', there were no more shadows of sacrificial ritual for He provided the fulfilment and reality of what the ceremonies represented. His sacrifice was made once and for all and was completed in full;<sup>76</sup> πληρώω (pléroó): to make full, to complete. This law was added "till the seed should come," and that seed was Christ.<sup>77</sup> When He died, this ceremonial law came to an end, but God's law stands fast for ever and ever throughout eternity. The truth of God's law never changes.

### **The promised "Seed" in Genesis:<sup>78</sup>**

The "seed" specified in the Old Testament: The seed of the woman (*Eve*);<sup>79</sup> The seed of Abraham;<sup>80</sup> The seed of Isaac;<sup>81</sup> The seed of Jacob;<sup>82</sup> The seed of Judah;<sup>83</sup> Seed of David;<sup>84</sup> Seed of a virgin;<sup>85</sup> and the Seed is divine.<sup>86</sup>



### **The "Seed" in the New Testament:**

The Seed in the New Covenant is: The "seed" of Christ,<sup>87</sup> which are Abraham's seed and those in Christ<sup>88</sup> by faith;<sup>89</sup> The Gentiles in this "Seed" include: Tamar;<sup>90</sup> Rahab;<sup>91</sup> and Ruth.<sup>92</sup>

### **After the Resurrection**

After the resurrection the Atonement Offering was made; fulfilling the ordinance of Messiah. His mission is completed.<sup>93</sup> Christ would not be "crucified again."<sup>94</sup> The foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith towards God was finished.<sup>95</sup> The Jews continued the sacrificial observances and ceremonies, even tho they were no longer significant nor required. These animal sacrifices were still being made until the temple was destroyed in 70 A.D.

<sup>76</sup> Heb. 6: 6

<sup>77</sup> Galatians 3:16, 19

<sup>78</sup> Genesis 3:15; 4:1-8; 6:1-13; 12:1-3; 13:15-16; 14:17-24; 15:1-6; 16:1-6; 17:1-22; 18:1-15; 22:1-18; 24:1-9; 25:19-26; 26:1-11; 27:1-46; 28:3-4,13-15; 29:31-35; 38:1-30; 39:1-23; 48:1-22; 49:8-10

<sup>79</sup> Genesis 3:15; 4:25

<sup>80</sup> Genesis 12:2-3; 13:15-16; 15:1-17:1-21; 18:9-15; 21:8-12

<sup>81</sup> Gen. 21:12; 25:9-36; 26:1-4, 23-24

<sup>82</sup> Gen. 25:23; 27:27-29; 28:3-4,12-15

<sup>83</sup> Genesis 49:8-10

<sup>84</sup> 2 Samuel 7:12-16

<sup>85</sup> Isaiah 7:14

<sup>86</sup> Isaiah 9:6-7; Micah 5:2

<sup>87</sup> Galatians 3:13-16

<sup>88</sup> Luke 2: 28-32

<sup>89</sup> Romans 2:28-29; 4:1-25

<sup>90</sup> Gen. 38:29-30; Ruth 4:18-22; Mat. 1:3

<sup>91</sup> Joshua 2; Mat. 1:5; Heb. 11:31

<sup>92</sup> Ruth 4:13-17; Matthew 1:5

<sup>93</sup> Jn. 19: 30

<sup>94</sup> Heb. 6: 6

<sup>95</sup> Jn. 19: 30



Just as Cain's sacrifice was not acceptable because it was the work of his own hands, one cannot be justified by their own deeds. "There is none righteous, no, not one".<sup>96</sup> Jews and Gentiles alike cannot be justified by works. Justification is only by the free grace of God, through faith in the righteousness and perfect work of Christ. Keeping the law without repentance and faith will not qualify one to enter the kingdom.<sup>97</sup> No one can be delivered from sin through the law. So, blotting out the handwriting of ordinances or "memorandum of debt" was the debt owed on account of sin.

### The Good Shepherd

The Good Shepherd loves His sheep and He protects them.<sup>98</sup> He does away with the accusations and the ordinances that were indictments<sup>99</sup> against us.<sup>100</sup> The ancients commonly used wax



tablets in writing, and the flat end of the pointed stylus drawn over the writing smeared it out (expunged) and so cancelled it.<sup>101</sup> When a man paid off his debt, it was nailed to the post of his door, providing public evidence that he was freed of his former obligation. Christ carried the debt of our sin to the cross, nailing it there, showing publicly its cancellation in his death.



"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."<sup>102</sup>

### The Believer Receives

"And to the one who does not work but believes in him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is counted as righteousness."<sup>103</sup> "When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful."<sup>104</sup>

<sup>96</sup> Rom. 3: 10

<sup>97</sup> Matt. 21: 27-31

<sup>98</sup> John 10: 27-29

<sup>99</sup> Col. 2: 14-16

<sup>100</sup> Eph. 2:14-16; Rom. 3:9-26; 7:7-14; 2

Cor. 5:19; Gal. 3:10-22; 1 Cor. 15:56;

Acts 13:38,39

<sup>101</sup> Acts 3:19; Ps. 51:9; Is. 43:25

<sup>102</sup> Eph. 2: 15

<sup>103</sup> Rom. 4: 5

<sup>104</sup> Col. 3: 14,15

Moses writes about the righteousness that is based on the law, that the person who does the commandments shall live by them.<sup>105</sup> "Having confidence to enter into the holy place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which He hath consecrated to us, through the veil, that is to say His flesh."<sup>106</sup> "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."<sup>107</sup> Now the believer may approach God to receive grace and help.<sup>108</sup> Christ is our Peace, the Author and substance of our being at peace with God. Through the person, sacrifice, and redemption of Christ, the atoned child of God draws near to God as Father, receiving the comfort and instruction of His Holy Spirit.

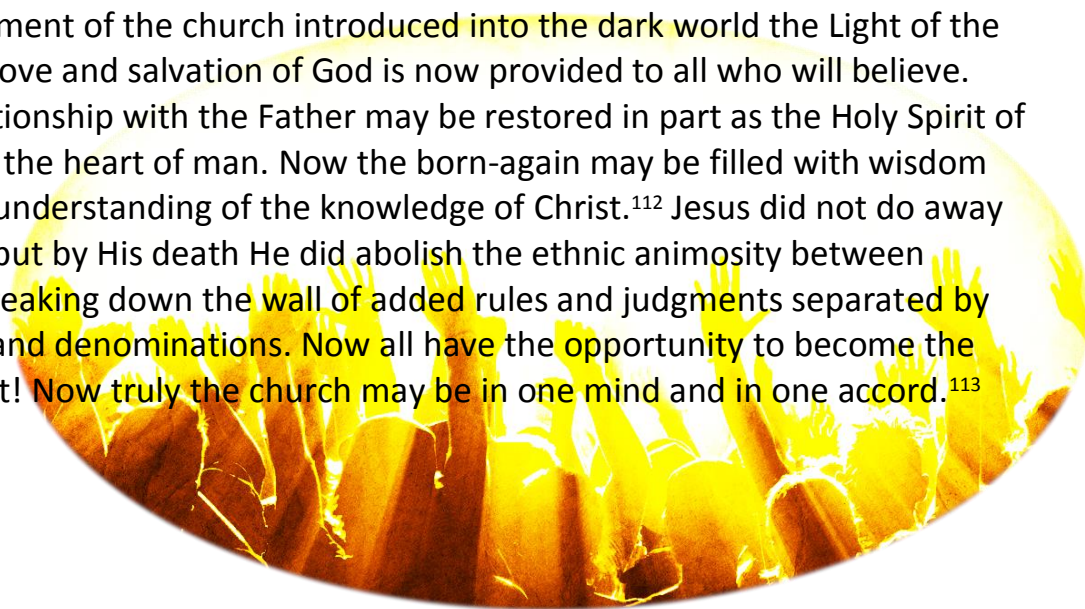
### **Is Deliverance from Sin a Consummated Process?**<sup>109</sup>

Resurrection with Christ

"We shall also be in the likeness of His resurrection", and "alive to God through Christ."<sup>110</sup> "For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God."<sup>111</sup>

### **How does the church today consider the ordinances?**

The establishment of the church introduced into the dark world the Light of the Gospel. The Love and salvation of God is now provided to all who will believe. Now the relationship with the Father may be restored in part as the Holy Spirit of Christ lives in the heart of man. Now the born-again may be filled with wisdom and spiritual understanding of the knowledge of Christ.<sup>112</sup> Jesus did not do away with the law but by His death He did abolish the ethnic animosity between peoples by breaking down the wall of added rules and judgments separated by Jew, Gentile and denominations. Now all have the opportunity to become the Bride of Christ! Now truly the church may be in one mind and in one accord.<sup>113</sup>



<sup>105</sup> Romans 10: 1-21

<sup>106</sup> Heb. 10: 19

<sup>107</sup> Eph. 2: 15

<sup>108</sup> Heb. 4: 15,16

<sup>109</sup> Col. 2: 11-14

<sup>110</sup> Romans 6: 5

<sup>111</sup> Heb. 7: 19

<sup>112</sup> Col. 1: 9,10

<sup>113</sup> Phil. 2: 2; Rom. 15: 6; Acts 1: 14; Ps. 106: 34-43

## What is the mission of the Church?

The commission of the church is to serve in the strength of God and that “in all things God may be glorified through Jesus Christ, whose is the glory and dominion for ever and ever.”<sup>114</sup> The value of work consists in the object it attains. God's work, down into the details of daily life, can only be done in God's strength, by the power of the Spirit. The more one depends on God alone for strength, the more will God be glorified. The more we seek to make God's purpose our purpose, the more we will be led to yield to His working and His strength and love.<sup>115</sup> “I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit and that your fruit should abide, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name, he may give it to you.”<sup>116</sup>

## IV. THE PAGAN BLEND

From the beginning God has instructed His people to avoid pagan influences of false gods and ungodly practices. The following illustrates a few of the major pagan gods and their modern equivalent.

1<sup>st</sup> Century gods and their 21<sup>st</sup> Century Counterparts:

1 <sup>st</sup> Century god	Today's Counterpart
<p>Succothneno<sup>117</sup></p> <p>They “prostituted themselves; burnt their children in fire to Adrammelech and Anammelech, the gods of Sepharvaim; Served their own gods, after the manner of the nations whom they carried away from thence.”</p>	<p>Christians commit spiritual adultery by worshiping idols: images such as statues of saints; Sexual perversions; Homosexuality; Disregard for the sanctity of marriage; Placement of men in positions of honor'; receiving glory which belongs only to God; Worship of angels and the mystic realm.<sup>118</sup></p>

<sup>114</sup> Rom. 11: 36

<sup>115</sup> John 15: 16

<sup>116</sup> John 15: 7-9

<sup>117</sup> 2 Kings 17: 30

<sup>118</sup> Col. 2: 18

Nergall and Pan <sup>119</sup>	
Greek and Mesopotamian gods of fertility, pestilence, plague and the underworld, centered at Caesarea Philippi. Jesus called it “the gates of Hades”. <sup>120</sup>	Sexual immorality and ungodliness; Easter pagan tradition with fertility symbols such as eggs and rabbits.
Moloch and Baal <sup>121</sup> The Canaanite gods associated with child sacrifice.	Demon possession through drugs such as Meth, Alcohol and abuse of prescription drugs, to which many have abandoned and sacrificed children and family. In Matt 16: 21, Jesus teaches about a radically different death and resurrection from the myth that enshrouded the Baal narratives: <b>His own!</b>

False religion is man focused, not God focused, and rooted in the desires of the flesh. One must die to self in order to live as God requires.<sup>122</sup> “And they loved not their lives unto the death.” This attitude reflects our Father’s benevolent nature and image. One must put aside selfish ambition and put God and others first; be “born again” and become a new people, changed by God from the inside out. False religion attempts to impress others of ones’ ‘holiness’ and ‘closeness’ to God. Man’s carnal life is on a never-ending cycle of chaos. One must turn to the One True God who is the ever-present help in times of trouble; the Giver of life itself. All other roads lead to eternal death.

In God’s decree, mankind is given notice of the tribulation to come in these last days. The body of Christ hopes and trusts in the peace and refuge of the Father. “This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away.”<sup>123</sup>

<sup>119</sup> Judges 3: 3; 1 Kings 12: 25-33

<sup>120</sup> Matt. 16: 18

<sup>121</sup> 2 Kings 23: 10

<sup>122</sup> Rev. 12: 11

<sup>123</sup> 2 Tim. 3: 1-5

## Worship of images, creatures and demons

Many in the world today worship:

**Images**, not unlike those of old. Dan. 3: “That at what time ye hear the sound of the cornet... fall down and worship the golden image that Nebuchadnezzar the king hath set up: Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, answered and said to the king...we will not serve thy gods, nor worship the golden image which thou hast set up.” The ‘golden image’ of today may: be money and the acquisition thereof; The placement of man on a pedestal, receiving glory and honor that belongs only to God.

**Creatures**: Rom. 1: 25 “Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator.” ‘Creatures’ include: Uncontrolled sexual lust;<sup>124</sup> Nature worship such as pantheism, shamanism, and Sarnaism.

**Demons**: Deut. 32: 17 “They sacrificed unto devils, not to God; to gods whom they knew not, to new gods that came newly up, whom your fathers feared not.” Demon worship today is seen in the occult, wicca, sorcery, and cults. Ungodly practices are often disguised by religion and man-made righteousness.

## Who and What is the Anti-Christ?



The Anti-Christ is one who works against the teachings of Christ. They are under the direct control of the Devil, who will lead the abomination in the end times.

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<sup>124</sup> Gal. 5: 17-19

Rev. 13: 4 “And they worshipped the dragon which gave power unto the beast: and they worshipped the beast, saying, Who is like unto the beast? who is able to make war with him?” 2 Thes. 2: “Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God. 8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming: 12 That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.”

### **What nation looks like a Christian nation but speaks like the Devil?**

Ans.: The United States. Rev. 13: 11 “And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon. 12 And he exerciseth all the power of the first beast before him, and causeth the earth and them which dwell therein to worship the first beast, whose deadly wound was healed.”

### **What is meant by: the commandments of men?**

The ‘Pagan blend’ of worldly belief with God’s truth has produced a “form of religion that has denied the power”<sup>125</sup> of God. “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”<sup>126</sup> The pagan influence mixes the Word of God with worldly philosophy and esoteric wisdom along with spiritualism and mystic religions such as:

**Secular humanism:** Humanism, with regard in particular to the belief that humanity is capable of morality and self-fulfillment without belief in God;

**Hedonism:** The pursuit of pleasure; sensual self-indulgence;

**Religious Dogma:** The belief in something that is true, regardless of proof; A principle or set of principles laid down by an authority as incontrovertibly true.

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<sup>125</sup> 2 Tim. 3: 5

<sup>126</sup> Col. 2: 8-10

“Cherry Picking” is a term that describes the logical fallacy that occurs when someone focuses only on evidence that supports their stance, while ignoring evidence that contradicts it.

**What would it be like to establish a belief in God that was void of all worldly tradition and doctrine of men?**

In the Septuagint, dogma means man-made rules or edicts. In Esther 3:9 Haman urges King Ahasuerus to destroy those who were not obeying the king’s laws. In Daniel 2:13, 15 King Nebuchadnezzar commands the destruction of all the wise men of Babylon by his own decree.

The word dogma is used in the Scripture to exemplify a man-made law. It is not used for God’s laws. A proper understanding of the ordinances, that were blotted out gives a clear picture that we are to obey God’s laws even now. Only the sacrificial laws having to do with physical circumcision and Temple worship have been set aside since the Messiah is now our sacrifice. He is the sacrificial Lamb toward which all the ceremonial sacrifices pointed.

“Wherefore if you be dead with Messiah from the rudiments of the world, why, as though living in the world, are you subject to ordinances?” It is only the ceremonial laws that were added because of the breaking of Yahweh’s covenant law. The ritual, ceremonial law was put into motion because of transgressions,<sup>127</sup> and was to impress on men the gravity of their sin.

What exactly were the “handwriting of ordinances that were against us, that was contrary to us” in Colossians 2? These were rules and regulations that were central to the old worship. The Colossian assembly was a mixture of pagan, heathen culture who were trying to blend back into their worship and continue that old system. Their heathenism taught that punishment of the flesh helped the soul reach a higher spiritual plane. These pagan beliefs include:

**Asceticism:** Severe self-discipline and avoidance of all forms of indulgence, typically for religious reasons. Colosse and Laodicea were dominated by Greek civilization and philosophy which included mysticism and asceticism.

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<sup>127</sup> Galatians 3:19

The Colossians had been significantly influenced by pagan philosophies that taught that perfection could be achieved through self-denial and abstinence from pleasure. As a result, Colossae tended to be an ascetic community which adhered to a religion of severity, and its citizens thought anyone who was religious should behave as they did. Paul writes to the people in the church<sup>128</sup>: “If you died with Christ from the basic principles of the world, why, as though living in the world, do you subject yourselves to regulations which all concern things which perish with the using—according to the commandments and doctrines of men?” These things indeed have an appearance of wisdom in self-imposed religion, false humility, and neglect of the body, but are of no value against the indulgence of the flesh. Some had begun thinking that this self-imposed asceticism could somehow contribute to their salvation and had begun turning away from trusting in Christ. They had more faith in their unchristian works than the works of Christ.<sup>118</sup>

### **If man is holding it up, it will fall!**

Paul reminds the Colossians that they are complete in Jesus Christ; they have no need for the pagan philosophies. “For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily; and you are complete in Him, who is the head of all principality and power”.<sup>96</sup> Therefore, let no one judge you [*call you into question or condemn you*] in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or [*ceremonial*] sabbaths.<sup>124</sup> The yearly ceremonial sabbaths that the Jews observed were a shadow of future events;

**Gnosticism:** The philosophy of Gnosticism taught that everything physical was evil and that people could attain a higher spiritual understanding through effort. It was characterized by strict legalism, a “taste not, touch not” attitude, neglect of the body, worship of angels, and a false humility.<sup>129</sup>



[When the devil] lies, “he speaks out of his own character, for he is a liar and the father of lies;” The best way to recognize the misrepresentations of God and the heresy of false doctrine is to know and live the scriptures with open mind and heart. “Do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, for many false prophets have gone out into the world.”<sup>130</sup> The righteous focus will always be on Christ.

<sup>128</sup> Colossians 2:20-23

<sup>129</sup> Colossians 2:18-23

<sup>130</sup> 1 John 4:1



The Gnostics and ascetics were measuring the Messiah through their understanding as men do today, rather than having Christ be the measure of all human knowledge. When we are immersed into Christ, we are to be a new creature and our lives are to be ordered and governed by His teachings, not human traditions. These worldly, ascetic practices are to perish with the using “after the commandments and doctrines of men.” Such practices pass for wisdom, with their self-imposed devotions, their self-humiliation, and ascetic discipline, but they are of no value.<sup>131</sup>

**Rabbinical interpretation:** The content of the instructions and its interpretations was passed down orally, excerpted and codified in Rabbinical Judaism, and in the Talmud were numbered as the 613 commandments.

### **The Shadow is gone!**

"The Substance Is of Christ" We have in Christ the substance of all the shadows of the ceremonial law. All the defects of it are made up in the gospel of Christ, by his complete sacrifice for sin, and by the revelation of the will of God. To be complete, is to be furnished with all things necessary for salvation. Christ's resurrection is the quickening of our souls. The law of ordinances, which was a heavy yoke of burden to the Jews and a partition-wall to the Gentiles, the Lord Jesus took out of the way. When the substance came, the shadows fled.

### **My yoke is easy and My burden is light<sup>132</sup>**

A pagan god will demand that we make the sacrifice, then the gods will be appeased and you will be blessed and prosperous. Christ tells us that “I have made the Sacrifice”. Now you can be a ‘living’ sacrifice; atoned, redeemed and living in the freedom and liberty My grace affords. How many virgins must be thrown into the volcano before the gods of this world are appeased? There is only One perfect Sacrifice for the forgiveness of sin. Nothing can be added to His imputed righteousness and holiness. Anything we attempt to add is defiled and worthless. “By faith Abel offered unto God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he had witness borne to him that he was righteous, God bearing witness in respect of his gifts: and through it he being dead yet speaketh”.<sup>133</sup>

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<sup>131</sup> John 8:44

<sup>132</sup> Matt. 11: 30

<sup>133</sup> Heb. 11: 4

Cain worshipped according to “sight” — according to what his own senses and wisdom dictated would be an honorable gift unto the Lord.

### **‘Bad’ Bread**

“Ye offer polluted bread upon mine altar; and ye say, Wherein have we polluted thee? In that ye say, The table of the LORD is contemptible. And if ye offer the blind for sacrifice, is it not evil? and if ye offer the lame and sick, is it not evil?”<sup>134</sup> The “bread” is not the shewbread, which was not offered on the altar, but the flesh of the offered victims.<sup>135</sup> This was “polluted” because it was not offered according to the ceremonial Law. They did not acknowledge the truth that “when the sacraments are violated, “he himself, whose sacraments they are, is violated”.<sup>136</sup> They despised the altar by thinking that anything was good enough for an offering. As a “living sacrifice”<sup>137</sup>, we must sanctify ourselves before God, positioning our spirits beneath the cleansing blood of Christ.

### **Strange Fire**

“And Nadab and Abihu, the sons of Aaron, took either of them his censer, and put fire therein, and put incense thereon, and offered strange fire before the LORD, which he commanded them not. And there went out fire from the LORD, and devoured them, and they died before the LORD.”<sup>138</sup> The censer was any vessel or pan that would hold embers or tinder. God would send his own fire to consume the sacrifice as a sign of his presence. They are not found fault with for the incense, but for the fire that they used. They offered strange fire not taken from the altar of burnt offering.<sup>139</sup> Nadab and Abihu’s fire was profane. It was their own unholy fire and not Gods’!



In the wilderness, the Hebrews had continued making sacrificial offerings to God while they were still worshiping false gods. For this spiritual adultery God said: “I hate, I despise your feast days. Though ye offer me burnt offerings and your meat offerings, I will not accept them. Take thou away from me the noise of thy songs. But let judgment run down as waters, and righteousness as a mighty stream.

<sup>134</sup> Mal. 1: 7

<sup>135</sup> Leviticus 3:11,16; 21:6; 22:25

<sup>136</sup> Ezekiel 13:19; 20:9; 39:7

<sup>137</sup> Rom. 12: 1

<sup>138</sup> Lev. 10: 1,2

<sup>139</sup> Lev. 16:12

Ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, which ye made to yourselves. Therefore will I cause you to go into captivity beyond Damascus, saith the LORD, whose name is The God of hosts.”<sup>140</sup>

**“I” trouble...**

I’ll do it my way!

“For thou [Satan] hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High.”<sup>141</sup> The carnal man is totally ‘self-centered’ and glory seeking. All fleshly focus is upon self-preservation, self-improvement, and self-exaltation. Seeking “first the kingdom” is an alien concept to the self-righteous. Christ exemplifies self-giving when He “became flesh and dwelt among men.” Man was created to be a creature of benevolence with love for all others. “For God so loved the world that He gave.” The Christian’s model for life is: forgiveness; restoration; peace; reconciliation; and mercy; Being authentically ‘Christ-like’. The result of the new spiritual nature seeks the truth, rightly dividing the scripture and living it because of who we genuinely are. “let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: For our God is a consuming fire.”<sup>142</sup>

## V. CONCLUSION

### He Restores and Pours

The ordinance of Messiah continues to fulfil the redemptive plan of God for mankind. Christ’s Bride may rest in the security of His love and presence as He “restores” the years and “pours out His Spirit upon all flesh.”<sup>143</sup> “Whosoever shall call on the name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance.”<sup>135</sup>

<sup>140</sup> Exodus 25:38; 37:23; 38:3 Amos 5: 21-27

<sup>141</sup> Is. 14: 13,14  
<sup>142</sup> Heb. 12: 29

<sup>143</sup> Joel 2: 28, 32

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