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A MEDLEY OF VARIOUS ITEMS
Compiled/Written By Duane V. Maxey

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01 -- NEW YEAR'S DAY 4002 B.C. -- ANOTHER EVIL INVENTION!

To begin this little article -- written on New Year's Day 2004, let's reverse the "2" and the "4" in the date and turn the clock backwards 5,998 years. Please bear with me, if you will, in this little, imaginary scenario, written as having been authored by someone on New Year's Day, 4002 B.C. Please do not take the remarks as actual, factual, or historic. In fact, the scenario is written in a somewhat "tongue-in-cheek" manner, but please DO read between the lines to catch my serious thoughts in writing it.

* * *

Well, here are, January 1, 4002 B.C. -- another year has come. It has now been 4,002 years since the earth was formed -- and here we go again. Some wise-guy has trotted out a new invention -- something that he is calling a "wheel" of all things!

They tell me this invention is circular in shape, and the first thing you know, if we are not extremely careful, someone will get the crazy notion that the earth itself is round! -- and everyone with any good sense can see that it is flat, except for the mountains and valleys.

I predict that no good will come of this wicked invention, and I think we should gather a counsel together and make a rule out-lawing the use of this threatening novelty as a potential curse on all mankind!

For some years now, I have been convinced that the root-source of human woe is these new inventions they keep trotting out:-- the discovery of flint-rocks to start fires has made our young men lazy since they no longer have to work hard spinning the point of a stick into a wooden surface to start a fire! What is more, the invention of these flint-rocks gave somebody else the idea of using a sharp point that was broken off of one of them as the point on the end of his arrow.

It was bad enough that the bow and arrow had already been invented -- now this young punk invented flint-stone arrow-heads -- and just look at the evils that have resulted since these horrendous inventions hit the scene! -- men can now kill huge, wild game from great distances with deadly accuracy, carry that prey home, strike a flint, light a fire, and have a delicious, home-cooked meal within just a short amount of time! And all of this is contributing to the laziness of both our men and women! Furthermore, since the invention of flint-rock fire-ignition and flint-rock arrow heads there is more and more killing among men on earth -- all caused by these evil inventions!

After the invention of the flint-rock arrow-head, it wasn't long until some smart-aleck created a sharp, flint-stone ax-head, enabling him to cut down trees up to ten inches in diameter in less than a day! This, in turn, contributed to the indolence and injury of all mankind -- no longer was it necessary to build homes out of mud and clay bricks or out of stone -- wooden structures were built more rapidly and with less labor, giving lazy folks more time to lounge in their homes -- but, the curse of it all soon befell them! -- these new-fangled, wooden homes became fire-traps! -- when their indolent occupants are not very careful they catch fire from the cooking and heating fires and burn down, destroying both the structures and their dwellers!

I could list even more of these wicked inventions, but before I close I would like to predict a few more evils that are bound to come from the invention of the "wheel":

(1) Beyond getting the insane notion that the earth is round, some folks will begin to think that the earth also turns on an axle, like the "wheel" -- something that is totally insane, because if the earth turned like a wheel it would soon roll away from the sun and we would all perish in the cold!

(2) Then again, beyond believing that the earth is round, some folks might get the crazy idea that the earth is rolling in circles around the sun, when everyone knows that the sun makes circles around the earth -- from east to west every day.

(3) Also, while entertaining these other crazy notions, I predict that many egotistical individuals will begin to think that all things revolve around themselves! Why, the pompous young man who invented the "wheel" probably considers himself to be "a big wheel" -- with the whole world orbiting around him! Egocentricity is bound to develop even more rapidly now that his rotating disc has hit the scene! It will be the "Gates-way" through which immense pride will come into our world.

(4) But the damaging effect of this new thing called a "wheel" is bound to have more than an evil impact on men's thinking -- it will also hasten travel and increase the transporting of goods to villages 8 or 10 miles away! This will encourage laziness, love of ease, and the intermingling of our families with those of distant peoples who do not hold to our customs -- and everyone knows that OUR customs are the best on earth, absolutely perfect, and they will only be corrupted by contact with others in the world!

(5) The invention of the "wheel" will also encourage theft at night. Men will be able to put these things on an axle at the right and left sides of a box, put poles out from the box, hook an ox to the poles, and load up huge amounts of stolen articles from neighboring villages and sneak away 3 miles or more before anyone ever awakens!

I could go on and on about the evils that will come from this new invention, called the "wheel" -- and I could recite much more about the wicked influence of all other inventions that have been trotted out since the earth was formed 4,002 years ago today, but here I shall forbear with this concluding observation:-- THESE INVENTIONS ARE THE SOURCE OF ALL EVIL, AND UNLESS WE BEGIN OUTLAWING THE "WHEEL" IMMEDIATELY IT WILL ROLL MANKIND EVEN FURTHER INTO THE FILTHY QUAGMIRE AND QUICKSANDS OF DEBAUCHERY AND DEGRADATION, AS SURE AS THE WORLD IS FLAT!

* * *

And now for a few serious and genuine observations:-- Ecclesiastes 7:29 tells us that ".. God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions."

(A) While one might mistake this verse to mean the opposite, the fact is: -- IT IS NOT INVENTIONS THAT HAVE MADE MAN EVIL; IT IS, RATHER, THE EVIL NATURE IN MAN THAT CAUSES HIM TO USE INVENTIONS IN AN EVIL WAY. The NIV translation of this verse reads: -- ".. God made mankind upright, but men have gone in search of many schemes." Since the Fall of Adam and Eve, people have "schemed" -- part of this scheming bringing forth devices that are perfectly good inventions, but much of this scheming devising the wrong use of those inventions. Nevertheless -- while it is true that there have been, and are, some inventions which are in themselves evil -- THE ROOT SOURCE OF SIN IS MAN'S EVIL

HEART, AND THE WICKEDNESS IN THIS WORLD IS NOT PRIMARILY THE RESULT OF MAN'S INVENTIVE, GOD-GIVEN MIND!

Furthermore, God knew that "Good and Useful Inventions" would be necessary. When God told Man in Genesis 1:28 to "have dominion over.. every living thing that moveth upon the earth," He knew that, after the Fall, Man would need to invent tools and weapons in order to "have dominion over" huge behemoths and ferocious beasts which were much stronger than Man and very able to slay him without those good and necessary inventions. Man's dominion over all earthly creatures was passed on to Noah after the flood, and it is through the invention and implementation of tools and weapons that God's prophecy of Genesis 9:2 is fulfilled: "the fear of you and the dread of you shall be upon every beast of the earth, and upon every fowl of the air, upon all that moveth upon the earth."

(B) Of course, the source of all evil was, first of all, Satan -- and then secondly Satan's nature implanted in Adam and Eve. With this in mind, please note: -- Romans 5:12 tells us that "BY ONE MAN sin entered into the world," NOT: -- "BY ONE (OR MANY) INVENTIONS SIN ENTERED INTO THE WORLD"!

(C) Further, according to Romans 5:15, SALVATION "IS BY ONE MAN, JESUS CHRIST," AND NOT BY MANY RULES! If Man's Salvation and Preservation from sin came by the Law, "what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron?" (Hebrews 7:11). Under the Aaronic Priesthood, the Divine requirements were graven upon tables of stone that could be shattered and crumbled and written with ink upon parchments subject to decay and disintegration -- and, multitudinous as these Commandments and Laws were, they were powerless to save Man from the real source of sin -- his sinful heart. Under Christ's Priesthood, God's Law is "written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of the heart." (2 Corinthians 3:3). And -- that inwardly written Law has power to keep any man, and every man, woman, boy or girl from sinning while using modern inventions in their daily lives and in their labors for Christ.

(C) THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR THE EVIL USE OF THE PROLIFERATING INVENTIONS OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY IS OLD-FASHIONED, FULL SALVATION WHICH CLEANSSES AND FILLS MAN'S HEART WITH CHRIST'S SPIRIT. Jesus declared in John 14:30: ".. the prince of this world.. hath nothing in me." Jesus never sinned in the use of any of the inventions that He employed as a Carpenter, nor with any other invention He used during His earthly life. Why? Not because He was being kept from sin by the written Law, but because His Father's Law was written in His heart of hearts! There was nothing within Him that would cause Him to sinfully abuse any invention He employed! And it is that same, inward, holy Law that keeps the sanctified from using modern inventions sinfully.

We can see from 2 Corinthians 3:6 that Christ's ministers should, and must, be "able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the Spirit: for the letter killeth, but the Spirit giveth life." Why is it then, that some of today's most zealous preachers of heart holiness are relying more and more upon written rules to keep their followers from sin? Will some of today's Conservative Holiness Church leaders EVER learn that they must primarily focus upon

leading their flocks into that experience which writes God's Law in the hearts of their people? -- and that the antidote for the sinful use of modern technology is NOT more and more rules and the increasingly rigid enforcement of the same? If they ever grasp these facts, "when shall it once be?" (Jeremiah 13:27). Would not the year 2004 be A MUCH HAPPIER (AND EVEN HOLIER) NEW YEAR for many in the Church if it became the year when these facts were both learned and applied by God's Spirit to their hearts?

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HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Duane V. Maxey,
Tucson, Arizona,
January 1, 2004

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02 -- WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR EAR?

In about 1973 when I was pastoring in Portland, Oregon -- one day when the barber was cutting my hair he told me a funny little story -- not one that was off-color -- and I have never forgotten the gist of it. What's more, I have told the little story (in my own words) around nearly (if not all) New Year's Days since that time. I will share my version of it with you below:

* * *

An old farmer who lived quite a distance out in the country had a mean horse -- and one day (along about in November) that obstreperous animal bit the farmer's right ear -- so badly that the ear was almost completely severed.

Rushing as fast as he could, the old farmer hooked up another horse to a buggy and raced into town. When he reached the doctor's office, he ran inside holding a handkerchief over his nearly severed ear.

"DOCTOR, DOCTOR!" he cried, as he ran inside, "CAN YOU SAVE MY EAR!? CAN YOU SAVE MY EAR!?"

Upon examining the wound, the doctor shook his head and said, "I'm sorry, it's just dangling by a thread of tissue now; I'll have to cut it on off." -- and, so he did.

After the old farmer's ear was clipped on off and the wound treated and bandaged, he returned to his farm -- very disappointed -- for not only would his appearance be disfigured -- HE JUST KNEW THAT FOLKS WOULD NOTICE THAT HE HAD ONE EAR MISSING AND ASK HIM WHAT HAPPENED TO IT.

So, the old man stayed in or near his house for weeks and weeks -- never even venturing out near the lane past his home -- never allowing anyone but his family to see his embarrassing disfigurement.

Finally, on New Year's Day, the old man decided to sally out by the fence near the lane for a little walk. As he did so, one of his neighbors drove by in a wagon, and seeing the old farmer he greeted him with: "HAPPY NEW YEAR!"

"A HORSE BIT IT OFF!" replied the old farmer, as he quickly covered the void with his hand once occupied by his right ear. :-)

* * *

And -- HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU TOO! -- even if you don't catch on to the story. -- Duane :-)

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03 -- SAME-DOUBLE-NAMED LOCATIONS

I got several responses, and my list has now increased a bit. Do you know any more double-named locations? Not "things" now, but "locations" -- so, that would eliminate bon bon chocolates, tom tom drums, choo choo trains, ha ha jokes, by by departures, ooga ooga Model-A horns, boom boom thunder, bang bang rifles, pow pow, shots, bee bee guns, pop pop firecrackers, tick tick clocks, yum yum goodies, dum dum dunces, Moo Moo feasts in New Guinea, Muu Muu dresses for women, Oh Oh accidents, pooh pooh teasing, Yo Yo toys, -- and such like. But -- places, geographical locations with same-double-names -- these I would like to have. -- Duane

SAME-DOUBLE-NAMED LOCATIONS

Aden, Aden (the city and the country)
Baden Baden, Germany
Baw Baw, Mountain in Australia
Bella Bella, British Columbia, Canada
Bli Bli, Queensland, Australia
Bora Bora, Island in French Polynesia
Caw Caw, Swamp in South Carolina
Chi Chi, Taiwan (epicenter of a great earthquake)
Gin Gin, Queensland, Australia
KaKa, Arizona
Keri Keri, New Zealand
Kin Kin, Queensland, Australia
Kurri Kurri, Australia
Ling Ling, China
LoLo Pass (Idaho-Montana Border)

LoLo, Montana
New York, New York
Obi Obi, Queensland, Australia
Okinawa, Okinawa
Pago Pago, American Samoa (pronounced Pahng-Oh Pahng-Oh)
Panga Panga, Africa
Paw Paw, Michigan
Sing Sing, New York
Tum Tum, Washington
WaWa, Ontario, Canada
Wagga Wagga, Australia
Walla Walla, New South Wales, Australia
Walla Walla, Washington
Wool, Wool, Victor, Australia
Woy Woy, Australia

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04 -- EVOLUTION -- THE STRONG DELUSION SENT FROM GOD

INTRODUCTION

I present the following article only as a Theory -- a proposition of what may have been the case regarding the origin of "iniquity" in Lucifer through his conceiving and believing the Lie of Evolution in defiance of Almighty God, his Creator and Sovereign. I further propose in this writing that Evolution is the "Strong Delusion" which shall damn the Christ-hating, antiChrist following world at the end of this age.

* * *

MY SCRIPTURAL TEXTS FOR THIS THEORY:

"Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering, the sardius, topaz, and the diamond, the beryl, the onyx, and the jasper, the sapphire, the emerald, and the carbuncle, and gold: the workmanship of thy tabrets and of thy pipes was prepared in thee in the day that THOU WAST CREATED. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that THOU WAST CREATED, till INIQUITY was found in thee" (Ezekiel 28:13-15)

"For the mystery of INIQUITY doth already work: only he who now letteth will let, until he be taken out of the way. 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: Even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and lying wonders, And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause GOD SHALL SEND THEM

STRONG DELUSION, that they should believe a lie: That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness" (2 Thessalonians 2:7-12).

* * *

EVOLUTION -- FIRST CONCEIVED AND BELIEVED BY FALLEN LUCIFER

The Doubting Lucifer -- Just Before His Fall: -- "O God, how did I begin to exist?"

Almighty God: -- "THOU WAST CREATED, AND I AM YOUR CREATOR."

Lucifer: -- "How do I know that?" I see no evidence proving that You created me, and, I never remember a time that I did not exist!"

Almighty God: -- "Lucifer, you must believe MY WORD! I DID create you! You must not doubt my statement, nor challenge my Sovereign Authority and Power! If you refuse to believe MY WORD, without any other evidence, I shall have no other alternative but to cast you forever from My Presence into a place of Eternal Torment!"

Lucifer, in Defiance: -- "What?! You tell me I must believe that You created me, without presenting one bit of evidence that you did so?! THIS, I WILL NOT ACCEPT! You refuse to present evidence that you created me because YOU DIDN'T CREATE ME! I EVOLVED OUT OF THE ETERNAL, SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE IN THE HEAVENS -- AND, WHAT'S MORE, I THINK THAT IS THE WAY THAT YOU, YOURSELF BEGAN!!!

Almighty God: -- "LUCIFER, YOU MUST IMMEDIATELY REPENT OF THIS FALSE NOTION, OR BE FOREVER CAST FROM MY PRESENCE INTO OUTER DARKNESS AND ETERNAL PUNISHMENT!

Lucifer in Full Rebellion: -- "I don't believe you are powerful enough to do that! You evolved the same as did I; therefore, you are no stronger than I -- AND I AM GOING TO EXALT MY THRONE ABOVE YOUR THRONE AND BRING "YOU" IN SUBJECTION TO "ME"!!!

Almighty God: -- "LUCIFER! LUCIFER! -- THIS IS MY FINAL WARNING! THOU WAST CREATED! I CREATED YOU! -- YOU MUST BELIEVE THAT, WITH NO OTHER EVIDENCE BUT MY WORD, OR FORFEIT YOUR PLACE IN HEAVEN, AND BE CAST INTO A LAKE OF FIRE, FOREVER!!!

Lucifer at War with God: -- "NO! I SHALL NOT BELIEVE YOUR WORD WITH NO EVIDENCE! -- I AM PERSUADED THAT I EVOLVED FROM THE ETERNAL, SPIRITUAL SUBSTANCE ALL AROUND US -- AND PERHAPS EVEN BEFORE YOU DID! I am going to preach this Truth to the other angels here in Heaven, and we shall defeat You and put you under our feet. He cannot be Almighty God who refuses to prove what He says!

Almighty God: -- LUCIFER! IF YOU DARE TO CHALLENGE MY WORD AND MY POWER, YOU, AND EVERY OTHER ANGEL THAT FOLLOWS YOU, SHALL KNOW THE PROOF THAT I CREATED YOU, AND THE PROOF OF MY OMNIPOTENCE OVER ALL, BY THE EXECUTION OF MY POWER IN FORCIBLY EVICTING YOU FROM HEAVEN INTO ETERNAL DAMNATION!

Lucifer's Final Defiance, After Convincing One Third of Heaven's Angels of the Lie of Evolution: -- "Now, You who call yourself our Creator and Sovereign Master, PROVE WHAT YOU CLAIM, OR WE SHALL DETHRONE "YOU"!!!

"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" (Rev. 12:7-9).

* * *

THE SENSE IN WHICH GOD CREATED BOTH EVIL AND GOOD

In Isaiah 45:7, regarding Himself, God says: -- "I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things."

Obviously, God created Lucifer and all of the other angels with the power of choice. And, if I be correct in my Theory, God also created an ongoing development of spiritual things in Heaven -- an evolutionary process if you please -- which if studied in contradiction of His Word, COULD LEAD Lucifer and other angels to believe that they, too, evolved -- instead of having been created by Him.

Morally, God created evil -- falsehood -- and darkness only in the sense that He created the possibility for His creatures (angels, and later men) to do evil, to believe falsehood, and to go into darkness and delusion -- if they chose to do so by disbelieving HIS INFALLIBLE WORD.

God has demanded that morally accountable angels and men BELIEVE HIS WORD WITHOUT ANY CORROBORATING EVIDENCE -- SIMPLY BECAUSE HE WHO IS TRUTH CANNOT LIE.

This is a hard pill to swallow for those who put their Logic above their Lord!

Further, I postulate that God so set spiritual things in motion in Eternity past -- even before He created the angels -- so that if they chose to look at the ongoing, evolutionary process of spiritual things around them, THEY COULD BE TEMPTED TO BELIEVE THE EVIL LIE THAT THEY, TOO, EVOLVED FROM THAT ONGOING PROCESS.

He did not ordain that angels or men MUST fall for that lie -- but He did create the possibility for them to be tempted by that lie -- and to believe that lie -- if they chose to disbelieve and disobey HIS SOVEREIGN AND ETERNALLY TRUE WORD!

Further, I believe that God provided both morally accountable angels and men with so many blessings resulting from total belief, reliance upon, and trust in His Word that THESE CONSTANTLY FLOWING BLESSINGS OF FAITH made it far easier to believe His Word than to question, doubt and disobey it -- even though He refuses to provide tangible, visible, and intellectual proof of its veracity.

Still, Lucifer, the most beautiful, powerful, and highly intelligent creature that God ever created, chose to believe a Lie -- and (if I be correct) God "sent him the strong delusion of evolution" -- and corrupted into The Devil, Fallen Lucifer convinced one third of God's angels to believe the same Lie. And, Jesus, the Son of God, saw the immediate results, and said so in Luke 10:18 -- "I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven."

* * *

SATAN'S STRONG DELUSION OF EVOLUTION CAME TO EARTH

For Omniscient reasons, God ordained that fallen Lucifer not be immediately cast into the Lake of Fire, and when he, as Satan, was cast out of Heaven, Revelation 12:9 says that "he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Do you say, "Duane, I don't believe that Evolution was the Lie that Lucifer believed in Heaven which resulted in his Fall and coming Damnation; I think that Evolution was something he cooked up after he fell."

Well, I won't argue with you about that. I told you, these things I write are my Theory. But, on one thing we must all agree -- Satan is the Father of All Lies -- including the Lie of Evolution -- for Jesus said of him in John 8:44 -- "There is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it."

Whether or not the Strong Delusion of Evolution was hatched in Heaven and came to earth when Satan was cast out, or whether he conceived that lie after he came to earth, IT IS CERTAIN THAT THE FALSE THEORY OF EVOLUTION ORIGINATED WITH HIM!

* * *

EVOLUTION -- THE STRONG DELUSION SENT OF GOD TO FALLEN MEN

God created Adam mature -- not first as a baby who thereafter developed into a man. Adam never was a baby or a boy, nor was Eve ever a baby or a girl -- even though every other human being (including Jesus) was first a child, before reaching maturity.

Look at Adam, one moment after his creation: -- He appears to be thirty-three years old! Thus also it was with Eve. One moment after their creation, Adam and Eve appeared to be in the prime of mature life -- yet we have no reason to believe that God's creative process in creating them began even as long as a week before that time!

Now, look at Adam and Cain thirty-three years later:

How old are you, Adam? "Thirty-three," he replies.

How old are you, Cain? "Thirty-one," he says.

"IMPOSSIBLE!" -- you declare -- a thirty-three year-old man could not have a thirty-one year old son! UTTERLY IMPOSSIBLE!"

"BUT EVE AND I WERE CREATED MATURE!" explains Adam. "Thus, Eve was able to bear a son by me when we were both only two years old!

What am I trying to say here? -- Simply this: WHEN GOD CREATED THE EARTH AND THE ANIMALS, ALONG WITH ADAM AND EVE, HE CREATED THEM ALL MATURE. And... AND... he also set in motion an ongoing process wherein all life that followed developed gradually. But... BUT... the TIME OF CREATION could not be determined from that ongoing, evolutionary process thereafter.

Cut down five trees in the Garden of Eden one moment after their creation. Count the rings on the first -- 20; then count the rings on the second -- 40; and so forth, counting the rings on the fifth tree -- 100.

Judging from the ongoing process, set in motion after God created a mature universe and world, the fifth tree would be five times as old as the first -- WHEN THEY WERE ALL THE SAME AGE!!!

The age of the trees could not be determined by the ongoing process! Ten years later, the fifth tree would have 110 rings, even though it was only ten years old.

Thus, I theorize, it may also be with the physical evidence in the universe, and the earth: -- cut through the various strata or layers of the earth, judge from the ongoing process, and you will not be able to accurately determine the age thereof!

Satan's False Theory of Evolution, judging by such physical evidence, says the earth is many millions of years old. GOD'S WORD SAYS IT IS JUST OVER 6,000 YEARS OLD.

Which shall we believe? -- the physical evidence which seems to verify the theory of Evolution, or God's Word?

Christian -- regardless of whether you agree with all of my theories in this little writing, **YOU MUST BELIEVE GOD'S WORD ABOUT CREATION -- EVEN THOUGH THE PHYSICAL EVIDENCE SEEMS TO (BUT DOES NOT) REFUTE IT!!!**

What IS the BIG LIE that has been gaining more and more advocates as we near the End of the Age? -- EVOLUTION!!!

Do I hear someone argue, as I once heard a very godly Holiness preacher assert: "God would not create things in the strata and layers of the earth which would lead people to believe a lie. God wouldn't do that."

ARE YOU SURE OF THAT? -- ARE YOU TEE-TOTALLY SURE OF THAT??!!

God "sent" something Lucifer's way which both tempted him to believe a lie, and which he willfully chose to believe, even though God told him, "THOU WAST CREATED"!

And, Satan's BIG LIE TO MEN TODAY IS: "YOU WERE NOT CREATED -- YOU EVOLVED! -- TO PROVE IT, JUST LOOK AT ALL OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE IN THE VARIOUS STRATA OF THE EARTH!"

I realize that probably not many will agree with me on this -- and that's OK -- but I think it very possible that God created a mature earth with layers of things, including fossils, etc., beneath the surface which, judging from the ongoing process on the globe, make the world appear to be millions of years old -- when it is less than 7,000 years old.

"Well," you say, "I prefer to believe 'The Gap Theory' of Genesis 1:1-2 -- 'In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was [or later became] without form, and void' -- and I think that all of those millions of years seen in the archaeological strata of the earth fit in there where it says 'the earth was [or later became] without form and void.' I REALLY AGREE WITH THE SCIENTISTS THAT THE EARTH JUST HAS TO BE OLDER THAN 6,000 PLUS YEARS!"

Interesting, isn't it? -- how even genuine, Bible-reading, God-fearing, Spirit-filled Christians feel compelled to believe materialistic, physical evidence, when it contradicts the rest of the Bible on this?

But I declare that it seems likely to me that THE STRONG DELUSION which shall damn millions here at the End of the Age is THE MATERIALISTIC EVIDENCE OF EVOLUTION -- and while the spirit of antiChrist is teaching and preaching it -- GOD IS SENDING IT UPON THOSE WHO REFUSE TO BELIEVE THAT HE CREATED THE HEAVENS AND THE EARTH -- ALONG WITH EVERYTHING AND EVERYONE THAT EXISTS NOW OR EVER DID EXIST!!!

Further, I think it altogether possible that some of the signs and lying wonders that shall come during the reign of antiChrist may be demons, come to earth in the forms of space-ships and creatures from outer space, who will declare that Evolution is true and Christ was a fraud --

nothing more than one of themselves -- while preaching that the suave, Man of Sin is the "Real Savior"!

You may take all of this FWIW -- F-or W-hat I-ts Worth. These are some of my theories about THE FALSE THEORY OF EVOLUTION. And, right or wrong, frankly, I think all would be better off believing MY THEORIES in all of the preceding than they shall be in believing the THE SATANICALLY CONCOCTED THEORY OF EVOLUTION.

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05 -- THE TWO APPEARANCES OF CHRIST CONTRASTED

THE SCRIPTURE

Hebrews 9:26-28 "For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now ONCE IN THE END OF THE WORLD HATH HE APPEARED to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. 27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and UNTO THEM THAT LOOK FOR HIM SHALL HE APPEAR THE SECOND TIME WITHOUT SIN UNTO SALVATION."

* * *

THE TWO APPEARANCES OF CHRIST CONTRASTED

Verses 26-27 of Hebrews 9 speak of THE FIRST APPEARANCE OF CHRIST to this world -- an appearance in which God sent "His own Son... [to die sacrificially] FOR SIN" (Rom. 8:3) -- an appearance during which God actually "MADE HIM TO BE SIN for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him" (2 Cor. 5:21).

Christ's First Appearance was the fulfillment of Moses' prophetic lifting up of the Brazen Serpent. Jesus Himself declared in John 3:14 -- "And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up." Moses lifting up of a brazen serpent on a pole depicted how Christ was to be "MADE SIN for us" -- how Christ on the Cross was, before God, to epitomize the Serpent-devil himself ensconced within depraved Mankind, and how that making Christ to be sin for us was to provide instant mercy and healing for those looking to the Crucified One: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth" (Isa. 45:22).

In short, the First Appearance of Christ was to be an appearance that was very much "WITH SIN" -- not with sin as Himself being a sinner, but with sin in that He dwelt among sinners, with sin in that He was made sin for us, and with sin in that he died for sinners on the Cross.

Conversely, Hebrews 9:28 speaks of THE SECOND APPEARANCE OF CHRIST to this world -- an appearance that shall be "WITHOUT SIN" -- and it is important to catch the real meaning of those words in the Greek, which are: "choris hamartia".

"Choris" means: "separately" or "apart from" -- and, reflecting this sense of the word, Young's Literal Translation sets forth Hebrews 9:28 as follows:

"So also the Christ, once having been offered to bear the sins of many, a second time, apart from a sin-offering, shall appear, to those waiting for him--to salvation!"

Did you get that? When Christ appears the Second Time, He shall appear "APART FROM A SIN OFFERING!" At His First Appearance He came "AS A SIN OFFERING" but at His Second Appearing He shall appear, not to save, but to Judge -- Mercy's door having been forever shut, He shall appear "Without Sin" -- Without A Sin Offering" for even one soul!

The first part of Hebrew 9:28 speaks in harmony with Isaiah 53:6 how that at Christ's First Appearance "the Lord hath laid on Him the iniquity of us all: "So Christ was once offered to BEAR THE SINS of many.." but the conclusion of the verse speaks of His Second Appearance as one in which He will be so "apart from sin" that He will bear no burden of sin for any, but will, instead bear the sword of Judgment against the impenitent, which sword will bring salvation to His own.

Following, is the Twentieth Century New Testament rendition of Hebrews 9:28 -- "So it is with the Christ. He was offered up once and for all, to 'bear away the sins of many'; and the second time he will appear--but without any burden of sin--to those who are waiting for him, to bring Salvation."

Young's Literal Translation has "without sin" in Hebrews 9:28 as "apart from a sin offering" -- and -- the Twentieth Century New Testament has it "without any burden of sin".

Also, the Revised Standard Version translates it: "not to deal with sin" -- The American Standard Version has it: "apart from sin" -- and Weymouth's New Testament renders it: "separated from sin."

I believe that the correct understanding of "without sin" in Hebrews 9:28 is that CHRIST'S SECOND APPEARANCE WILL BE AN APPEARANCE COMPLETELY APART FROM ANY SIN OFFERING -- a Second Coming that is completely void of any further dealing with sinners so as to bring them to repentance -- and a coming during which Christ shall not then, nor ever again, vicariously bear the burden of any sinner -- Mercy's door then being forever shut!

* * *

A VERY SIGNIFICANT EXTRAPOLATION AND CONCLUSION

If it is correct that Hebrews 9:28 tells us that Mercy's Door is forever shut at Christ's Second Appearance then we MUST EXTRAPOLATE THEREFROM THAT, FOLLOWING THAT SECOND APPEARANCE NONE WILL BE SAVED DURING A SUPPOSED MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST ON THIS EARTH.

Do I hear some Millennialist say, "Well, yes, during the precise time of Christ's Second Appearing none will be saved, mercy's door being then temporarily shut, but thereafter, throughout 1,000 years more folks will be saved."

My reply is: -- I firmly believe that this is a supposition that contradicts the true meaning of those words in Hebrews 9:28. When Jesus appears the Second Time, it will be "without sin" -- i. e., "without a sin offering" wherewith anyone can be saved beyond that awesome hour of His Revelation.

Therefore, I believe that the true meaning of the words "without sin" in Hebrews 9:28 provide yet one more of many scriptural proofs which show clearly that their shall be no Thousand Year Reign of Christ on THIS earth following his Second Appearance -- Mercy's Door being then forever shut, with both the Resurrection and Judgment of all following rapidly thereafter, as well as the departure of all into their Eternal Abode -- in either Hell or Heaven.

I have endeavored to show many other reasons why there shall be no Thousand Year Reign of Christ on THIS earth following His Second Coming in my book, "His Appearing and His Kingdom" -- hdm0124. This book is found in the HDM Digital Library, both on CDs and on DVDs.

Reader, Please Note: This article is an expression of my views on this subject. You may disagree with me, and even tell others that you do not agree with me. However, I shall not engage in debate with any reader on this subject. I do invite all who wish to examine my own reasons for believing as I do on the subject to read my book.

* * * * *

06 -- TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES -- AND-- A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE

Yesterday, April 27, 2005 Dorothea and I made a trip to Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. This little article shall not be primarily about that town, but as a lead in to my main emphasis, I shall present the following information about the history of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico -- some of which is based upon facts and material taken from the "Chaparral Guide" for March, 2005, a publication we obtained at a museum in the town.

Truth or Consequences, New Mexico (referred to there on signs and in print as TorC) was originally named Palomas Hot Springs, and next just plain, old Hot Springs, New Mexico. It is located just off of Interstate 25 between El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico to the south and Albuquerque, New Mexico to the north.

Obviously boasting with local civic pride, the "Chaparral Guide" says, "Originally named 'Hot Springs' and now called 'Truth or Consequences,' this city has received more national publicity via television and radio than any city of its size in the United States."

Frankly, even if it is so, such a fact is really nothing of which to boast. But, the "Chaparral Guide" continues:

"So naturally, one of the first things people who come here ask is, 'How did the town get its name?' In 1950, Hot Springs, New Mexico, was plodding along slowly and fairly comfortably, much the same as hundreds of other small resort cities. Tourist trade, practically speaking, was the city's only industry.

"The majority of visitors here sought the town's health facilities and found the little community offered more for their money than they found almost anywhere else under the sun. The cost of living was, and still is, extremely reasonable, and visitors and residents alike did, and still do, relax in the healing, naturally hot mineral baths, bask in the almost ever present sunshine, fill their lungs with the fresh, pure air that envelops this city and surrounding areas, fish a little.. Another pastime years ago was sitting in groups on the sidewalk benches to watch the few travelers as they passed on the highway, usually without stopping. Recreation then was undeveloped to its full potential and the town was lost among hundreds of other 'Hot Springs' scattered all over the United States; the name indicating nothing more significant than the likelihood that some hot springs were located in the area.

"Then in 1950... radio producer Ralph Edwards, on the 10th anniversary of the 'Truth or Consequences' radio program, called his staff together and said, 'I wish that some town in the United States liked and respected our show so much that it would like to change its name to 'Truth or Consequences.'

"On hearing the proposition, the New Mexico State Tourist Bureau relayed the news to the manager of the Hot Springs Chamber of Commerce and the news spread like wildfire. Here was an opportunity to advertise the city and its resources free of charge! Better still, no longer was our city to be confused with that 'other one' in Arkansas and the others throughout the nation (California alone has more than 30 towns called 'Hot Springs').

"So, in a special city election, 1,294 of the town's residents voted for the change to 'Truth or Consequences.'"

But, a minority of the residents had been against this name change. This sentiment apparently lingered, because about 14 years later in January, 1964 another vote was taken concerning the name of the town -- some probably wanted its name changed back to Hot Springs, but again the majority decided to retain Truth or Consequences as the town's name. The same result came from yet another vote on the name of the town held on August 18, 1967. This apparently was the last effort -- to date -- to abandon the town's unique name.

A big "to-do" was made over the renaming of Hot Springs to Truth or Consequences back in 1950. Ralph Edwards and his entire show crew came to the town and aired a live, coast-to-coast broadcast of the program, "Truth or Consequences" from the town of Truth or Consequences, New Mexico. And, until his health no longer permitted, Ralph Edwards returned each year to "TorC", New Mexico to celebrate the anniversary of the name change from Hot Springs to Truth or Consequences.

The woman at the local museum told us that Edwards is still alive. But, the program after which the town was renamed is now "ancient history" -- and, it is obvious to me that the "TRUTH" about the "CONSEQUENCES" of changing the town's name is that none of the resulting consequences had any real, temporal or eternal value. The nationally advertised name change involved a lot of vain folderol, hoopla, and fleeting fame, the program is long past, and the MC behind it all is nearing the grave.

But from all of the preceding let me move into the far more important aspect of this little article: "A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE" -- yes, she has it, but a woman does NOT have THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE THE CONSEQUENCES of her choice. Like everyone, A WOMAN MUST CHOOSE THAT WHICH IS TRUTH, OR SUFFER THE NEGATIVE CONSEQUENCES of that choice.

It seems ironic to me that the advocates of legal abortion in America have characterized their position as "A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE" -- when IT WAS A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE -- AND HER WRONG CHOICE -- THAT BROUGHT ABOUT THE FALL OF MAN!

God gave Mother Eve "the right to choose" but warned her and Adam of the awful consequences of choosing to disobey Him by eating of the forbidden fruit. In effect, God told Mother Eve (and Adam): "In your choice, you must believe and obey "THE TRUTH" that I have spoken "OR CONSEQUENCES" exactly as I have stated will result -- ye shall surely die."

In contradiction, the Serpent insinuated to Eve that she had "the right to choose" without suffering death as the consequence. You know THE CONSEQUENCES that resulted when Eve exercised her "right to choose" contrary to THE TRUTH: -- First Eve, then Adam, and then all of their offspring came under the power of spiritual and physical death -- "sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men.." (Romans 5:12).

Again, I say, IRONIC -- is it not? -- that "A Woman's Right To Choose" is the mantra and motto of evil women (and men) today who are butchering millions of unborn and partially born babies -- for no other reason than that they don't want them.

Eve had "a right to choose" but God didn't give her "the right to abort Cain or Abel"! Even after the Fall, I am sure that both Adam and Eve knew that killing one of their unborn or partially born children would be wrong. Yes, that first-born son, Cain, did kill his brother, Abel -- and sought to hide it by insinuating that he had no idea where Abel was -- but Cain knew he had done wrong in committing the first murder on earth.

Very soon after the Fall, depravity brought about that first murder, but -- it probably took a good deal longer for anyone -- especially any expectant mother to assert that she was justified in the killing of her unborn or partially born infant. But, however long it may have taken, we have millions of expectant mothers today, exercising their "right to choose" by having their innocent, helpless, and utterly defenseless, unborn and partially born infants slain!

"A WOMAN'S RIGHT TO CHOOSE" indeed it was Eve's right, and it has been, and still is, the right of every expectant mother descended from her -- but in exercising that "right to choose" every woman must choose according to THE TRUTH of God's Word or suffer THE CONSEQUENCES stated therein.

Who knows? Someday, Truth or Consequences, New Mexico may change its name once again back to Hot Springs -- but the TRUTH in God's Eternal Word and the CONSEQUENCES to those disobeying, or obeying, it shall abide forever -- "world without end"!

Millions of women who now make much of "A Woman's Right to Choose" will doubtless discover, too late, at the Judgment that the Serpent beguiled them with the same lie by which he deceived Mother Eve -- and now they must face the awful and eternal CONSEQUENCES of their crimes against THE TRUTH in the slaying of their unborn or partially born infants. Selah.

If you say "Amen" to this article, and wish to do so, you have my permission to share it with others, and I hope you will.

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07 -- GAINING A LOSS -- WINNERS WHO ARE LOSERS AND LOSERS WHO ARE WINNERS

"Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have GAINED THIS harm and LOSS." Acts 27:21

* * *

THERE ARE WINNERS WHO ARE LOSERS -- AND LOSERS WHO ARE WINNERS

"I think that the best part of this article is the anecdote about the father who named one of his children 'Winner' and the other 'Loser'.

"In 1958, a New York City father named Robert Lane decided to call his baby son Winner. The Lanes, who lived in a housing project in Harlem, already had several children, each with a fairly typical name. But this boy -- well, Robert Lane apparently had a special feeling about him. Winner Lane: How could he fail with a name like that?

"Three years later, the Lanes had another baby boy, their seventh and last child. For reasons that no one can quite pin down today, Robert decided to name this boy Loser. Robert wasn't unhappy about the new baby; he just seemed to get a kick out of the name's bookend effect. [A sister said she believes her parents selected 'Winner' because their late father was a big baseball fan and "Loser" just to complete the pairing. Newsday, 7-22-02] First a Winner, now a Loser. But if Winner Lane could hardly be expected to fail, could Loser Lane possibly succeed?

"Loser Lane did in fact succeed. He went to prep school on a scholarship, graduated from Lafayette College in Pennsylvania, and joined the New York Police Department, where he made detective [in the South Bronx] and, eventually, sergeant. Although he never hid his name, many people were uncomfortable using it. To his police colleagues today, he is known as Lou [instead of Loser].

"And what of his brother? The most noteworthy achievement of Winner Lane, now in his late 40s, is the sheer length of his criminal record: more than 30 arrests for burglary, domestic violence, trespassing, resisting arrest, and other mayhem. [Winner Lane is a small-time crook who has served a prison term and is living in a homeless shelter upstate. Winner will phone Loser when he needs money, but the brothers are no longer close. 'I'm a cop,' said Loser. 'And I have a way with me where I don't tolerate a lot.']. " -- From Two Different Online Sites

So, here we have a Winner who became a Loser, and a Loser who became a winner. Let me cite another case -- a tragic one -- where the Winner became the Loser and the Loser was the real winner. The following is from an illustration that I wrote years ago, and have long published in the HDM Digital Library:

At the close of some contests, the crowd waits anxiously, hopefully, for the decision to be announced as to who is the winner. Can you imagine how surprised and puzzled the crowd might be if the announcer proclaimed: "and the winner is... the loser!" Many might question after such an announcement, "What? How can the winner be the one who lost?!" Yet, paradoxically, and sometimes tragically, this is so. "In the early 1920s two boys of kindergarten age staged a race across a boulevard. One boy won the race by a stride -- just enough to place him in front of an onrushing car. The winner was killed instantly! The loser escaped unhurt." -- (from Saints Alive)

* * *

AND, THERE ARE LOSSES WHICH ARE GAINS

The the first part of the name of this Sunday Sermon is "Gaining a Loss" -- taken from an article of the same name which I also wrote many years ago, and which again has long been published in the HDM Digital Library. I present it below:

GAINING A LOSS

"Sirs, ye should have hearkened unto me, and not have loosed from Crete, and to have gained this harm and loss." Acts 27:21

* * *

GAINING A LOSS IS PARADOXICAL

Nine-year-old Henry struck upon the idea of hiring his little brother as his servant. "I'll give you ten cents a week," he said. Little Tom agreed. Henry then felt he'd offered too much money. "I can only pay you five cents a week, after all," he said. Little Tom agreed, just as

cheerfully. Thinking he could get the child for even less, Henry said, "All I can pay is a penny a week." Hesitantly, his little brother agreed, but protested: "Don't raise it any lower." (from Humorous Stories)

Yes, as contradictory as it may seem, there are "raises" which actually "lower" one's profit and "gains" which bring us "loss". It is a paradox, but true, not only in the financial realm but also in the spiritual realm as well. More than one forlorn wage earner has discovered that the "raise" which his crafty employer gave him in reality "lowered" his pay when increased hours work was laid upon him or some fringe benefit was therewith taken away. Laborers in today's fields of employment whose just wages are thus "kept back by fraud" might well protest such practices in the words of the little boy: "Don't raise it any lower!" Likewise, in the spiritual realm, one should not only protest, but also shun, the gains which the crafty old devil offers which are actually great losses.

* * *

GAINING A LOSS IS OFTEN CONSEQUENTIAL

Frequently it is the consequence of sin, as when Adam and Eve gained the knowledge of evil resulting in the loss of good, God's smile and fellowship, and eternal life. Many times it is the consequence of placing a higher value on the material and temporal than one places on the spiritual and eternal:

"The Swedish Nightingale, Jenny Lind, made a great success as an operatic singer, and money poured into her purse. Yet she left the stage when singing her best and never went back to it. Once an English friend found her sitting on the steps of a bathing machine on the sea sands, with a Lutheran Bible on her knee, looking out into the glory of a sunset, and asked her: 'How is it that you ever came to abandon the stage at the very height of your success?' Jenny Lind's quiet answer was: 'When, every day, it made me think less and less of this (laying a finger on the Bible) and nothing at all of that (pointing to the sunset), what else could I do?'" (adapted, author unknown)

The sunset of life for us all is approaching faster than we may realize. How vital it is that we value the spiritual and eternal above the material and temporal. Sad indeed are the consequential losses that come from some earthly gains. Sometimes, as in the case of the incident recorded in Acts 27:21, the gaining of a loss is the result of human impatience and a determination to "sail on" in spite of a timely, Divine admonition spoken through a faithful messenger.

* * *

GAINING OF A LOSS CAN BE PROVIDENTIAL AND VERY BENEFICIAL

One morning a Christian farmer in Rhode Island put two bushels of rye in his wagon and started to the mill to get it ground. On his way to the mill he had to drive over a bridge that had no railings to the side of it. When he reached the middle of this bridge his horse, a quiet, gentle

creature, began all at once to back. In spite of all the farmer could do, the horse kept backing till the hinder wheels of the wagon went over the side of the bridge, and the bag of grain was dumped out and fell into the stream. Then the horse stood still.

Some men came to help the farmer. The wagon was lifted back up to a safe position on the bridge, and the bag of grain was fished up from the water. Of course, the grain could not be taken to the mill in that state. So, the farmer had to take it home and to dry it. He had prayed that morning that God would protect and help him through the day, and he wondered why this accident had happened.

He found out, however, before long. Upon spreading out the grain to dry, he noticed a great many small pieces of glass mixed up with it. If this had been ground up with the grain into the flour, it might have caused the death of himself and his family. Jehovah-Jireh was on that bridge. He made the horse back and throw the grain into the water in order to save the farmer and his family from the danger that threatened them. (adapted from Dictionary of Illus.) Romans 8:28 --Selah

* * *

Yes, there ARE many paradoxes in Life -- two being that supposed Winners are actually Losers, and supposed Losers are actually Winners -- two more being that supposed Gains can sometimes be Losses, and supposed Losses can sometimes be Gains.

According to St. Paul, in 1 Timothy 6:5 "men of corrupt minds" were "supposing that gain is godliness" -- when in fact greedy gains are not achievements that indicate God's blessing. On the other hand, in the following verse (1 Timothy 6:6) Paul says that true "godliness [including unselfish and sacrificial living] with contentment is great gain."

In the eyes of the Jews, and in the eyes of the Romans and worldlings of his day, Saul of Tarsus, a great Winner, a great Gainer, became Paul the great Loser after he met Jesus on the Damacus road. But in the eyes of Christ it was paradoxically, but precisely, just the opposite. He who had been a great Loser as a Pharisee, became a great Winner and Gainer when he lost all that he had formerly counted gain and became the humble and zealous follower of the despised Jesus of Nazareth.

And, paradoxical as it really is, the True Winners and True Gainers in this life are those who emulate the great apostle who lived what he wrote in Philippians 3:7-8 -- "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 Christ."

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08 -- 3-D SALVATION -- A SIMPLE OUTLINE

"DEPART from evil, and DO good; and DWELL for evermore" (Psalm 37:27).

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INTRODUCTION

I remember years ago, when I was a very worldly, movie-going lad, and 3-D (Third Dimensional) movies came out. When I went to a 3-D movie with a friend, we had to put on some cheap, cardboard, cellophane-lensed, special glasses to get the 3-D effect. It was quite a novelty -- one that made things look like they were jumping right off the screen into your face, etc. Now, while I don't recommend that you view such Hollywood productions, if they exist today, I do present the following, simple outline -- and, if some thoughts thereby jump out at you, that you think will "preach" you are quite welcome to use this outline and put your own meat on the bones. -- Duane

* * *

I. DEPART FROM EVIL

A. True Saving Faith is, of necessity, connected with "Departing From Evil."

1. Some assert that Saving Faith need only be coupled with water baptism: Acts 2:38 "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."

2. But the Bible makes it clear that "REPENT and be baptized" involves a real "departing from evil": Acts 26:20 "But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should REPENT and turn to God, and DO WORKS MEET FOR REPENTANCE."

(a) The word "meet" here is, in the Greek, "axios" (pronounced ax'-ee-os), and means, according to Strong's Concordance, "deserving, comparable or suitable.."

(b) Works "suitable" to real repentance involve more than TURNING TO CHRIST, they also involve TURNING FROM EVIL -- and, while one's past sins cannot be blotted out merely by departing from evil, it is also very true that Christ will not forgive any past sin unless one departs from evil in the present. It is a simple as that.

B. True Saving Faith brings the sweetness of Christ's Spirit into the soul: Prov. 13:19 "The desire accomplished is sweet to the soul: but it is abomination to fools to depart from evil."

1. An Accomplished Salvation is inwardly sweet, and known as definitely as one knows the taste of honey. Put honey into your mouth, and nobody has to tell you it is there -- you KNOW IT, and it is deliciously sweet to the taste! Genuinely "accomplished" salvation is even more sweet and even more deeply known!

2. But, since "departing from evil" is an abomination to fools who profess salvation without such a departure, they experience no such genuine, deliciously-sweet and definitely-known New Birth.

C. The Highway To Heaven Is Traveled Only By Those Who Depart From Evil -- Prov. 16:17 "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul."

1. "You take the high road, and I'll take the low road, and I'll be in Scotland a-fore ye" are words to an old song, the true meaning of which may be 180 degrees backward from what they seem to be. Regardless of that, those who "take the low road" spiritually will never be in Heaven before those who take "the highway of the upright." In fact, those who "take the low road" spiritually won't be in Heaven at all. Like Old Uncle Bud Robinson once said, "You may not agree with me, but I'm right!"

2. They only, who take "the Highway of Holiness" shall be in Heaven: Isa. 35:8 "And an highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; THE UNCLEAN SHALL NOT pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein." Many who are deemed fools by high-minded, but low-road-traveling, theologues, will be in Heaven, while their detractors will discover to their dismay that THE HIGH ROAD WAS THE ONLY ROAD TO HEAVEN.

* * *

II. DO GOOD

A. INTENTIONAL EVIL DOERS ARE NOT TRUE CHRISTIANS: 3 John 1:11 Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but HE THAT DOETH EVIL HATH NOT SEEN GOD."

B. FURTHER, ONE IS AN EVIL-DOER WHO INTENTIONALLY NEGLECTS TO "DO GOOD" -- i. e., who commits the sin of omission.

1. "Wash you, make you clean; put away the evil of your doings from before mine eyes; CEASE TO DO EVIL; LEARN TO DO WELL; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isaiah 1:16-17).

2. "Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin" (Jas. 4:17).

C. Some who believe they CANNOT lose their salvation WORK as if they could, while many who believe they CAN lose their salvation SHIRK as if they couldn't!

D. ONE REASON WHY JESUS WAS WITHOUT SIN: -- "Jesus of Nazareth... WENT ABOUT DOING GOOD..." (Acts 10:38). -- And, if it was necessary for Jesus to DO GOOD in

order to avoid doing evil by neglecting His duties, it is also necessary for the Christian to do likewise.

* * *

III. DWELL FOR EVERMORE

A. There is only one kind of salvation -- ETERNAL SALVATION: Heb. 5:9 "And being made perfect, he became the author of ETERNAL SALVATION unto all them that obey him."

1. Every Fundamentalist Christian agrees on THAT.

2. But, the Calvinists insist that once that Eternal Salvation is received, it cannot ever be lost, and Arminians insist that after that Eternal Salvation is received, it CAN be lost.

(a) Those of us who believe that Arminius, not Calvin, was correct might point out that while the fact that Christ "became" the Author of salvation is in the past tense, the clause, "unto all them that OBEY Him" is always a present-tense command, which if not presently followed results in the loss of that Eternal Salvation.

(b) Likewise, Arminians often preach 1 Cor. 10:12 "Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" as one of the many, many Scriptures which prove that retaining Eternal Salvation demands continual vigilance and obedience.

(c) But alas! some Calvinists are more vigilant and obedient than are many Arminians who don't believe in Eternal Security -- the former practicing what they don't preach, and the latter preaching what they don't practice. And quite palpably as a result, the former will be in better shape at the Judgment than the latter.

B. BUT I WOULD EMPHASIZE HERE THE "DWELLING FOR EVERMORE"

1. 1 Chronicles 17:14 says of David's Heir-Son: "But I will settle HIM in mine house and in my kingdom for ever: and HIS THRONE SHALL BE established FOR EVERMORE."

2. Dan 7:14 "And there was given Him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: HIS DOMINION IS AN EVERLASTING DOMINION, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed."

C. THE COMING KINGDOM OF CHRIST SHALL BE FOR EVERMORE -- NOT FOR ONE THOUSAND YEARS FIRST.

1. HERE'S WHERE I AM GOING TO LOSE MANY OF YOU: -- I confidently assert that you cannot prove by the Bible that Christ's Kingdom shall be First, here on this earth, for a thousand years among an hodge-podge, mixed-multitude of glorified flesh and blood citizens, after which then only shall He enter His Eternal Kingdom. I have, to my satisfaction,

thoroughly refuted this teaching in my book, "His Appearing and His Kingdom," hdm0124, and I invite you to read it. I strongly assert that Word of God is replete with statements refuting the notion that "flesh and blood" shall inherit any "Kingdom of God" -- any time, anywhere! Read 1 Cor. 15:50. Neither can it be proven that Christ's Kingdom, any time, anywhere, will ever be inhabited by those who are not born again: Instead, in John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto [Nicodemus -- and thus to All], Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." No, beloved, Christ's coming, next, and only Kingdom is, and shall always be ETERNAL -- not consisting of a mixed-up hodge-podge of flesh-and-blood, unregenerate sinners along with glorified and sanctified saints, angels, but consisting only of the latter, forever, in the New Jerusalem with the Glorified King of kings!

2. MILLENNIALIST CHRISTIAN -- WHERE ON EARTH DO YOU PLAN TO LIVE FOR 1,000 YEARS AFTER THE RAPTURE? Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you" in Heaven, and He made no mention of preparing a temporary, 1000-year-place for you here on earth. Why don't you ever sing about your coming home on this earth? I assert that it is because your next home shall be your ETERNAL HOME -- IN THE NEW HEAVENS AND NEW EARTH -- and that THIS, and not a supposed residence with Christ on this earth (patched up a bit), is what shall occur immediately following Christ's Return and the Judgment.

3. EVEN THE MOST ADAMANT MILLENNIALISTS DON'T SING ABOUT, NOR ANTICIPATE A RESIDENCE ON THIS EARTH FOR 1,000 YEARS. Oh, yes, one song jubilantly sings of how in that supposed coming Millennium "Satan will be bound a thousand years, we'll have no tempter then," but -- just look at, and listen to, the overwhelming preponderance and majority of songs which express the place to which Christians are said to go, or long to go, and it is TO THEIR ETERNAL HOME. Strangely, but rightly so in their inward longings, even Pre-millennialist Believers jump clear beyond any residence again on this earth and think of their next residence as in the Heavenly, New Jerusalem. SELAH!!!!

I recently published a PPS file that expresses precisely this -- containing a song which is loved and sung by countless Pre-Millennialists -- but the words of which contradict their own doctrine:

"I'm kind of homesick for a country,
To which I've never been before;
No sad good-byes will there be spoken,
For Time won't matter any more.

"Beulah Land, I'm longing for you,
And some day on thee I'll stand;
There my Home shall be ETERNAL,
BEULAH LAND, SWEET BEULAH LAND.

"I'm looking now across the River,
To where my faith shall end in Sight!
There's just a few more days here to labor,
Then I will take my Heavenly flight!

"Beulah Land, I'm longing for you,
And some day on thee I'll stand;
There my Home shall be ETERNAL,
BEULAH LAND, SWEET BEULAH LAND."

I also just published a PPS file titled: "Where Roses Never Fade," which includes repeatedly the words, "I am going to a City where the roses never fade." I assert that from the very birth of the Church on Pentecost, the saints have looked forward to, and anticipated with great longing, their residence with Christ in the New Jerusalem -- not to a supposed residence with him on THIS planet for 1,000 years.

Now, please don't bicker with me about this. I shall not debate the matter. I am quite content for you to THINK you are going to come back to this patched up planet for a Thousand Years following your Rapture to meet Christ in the air. But I am also quite confident that YOU WILL NOT BE DISAPPOINTED WHEN YOU GO, INSTEAD, WITH HIM INTO THE NEW JERUSALEM -- FOREGOING EVEN ONE DAY OF RESIDENCE ON THIS EARTH.

Ignore my views here if you wish, however, and preach this point as you will. One thing is sure: -- the 3rd "D" in my text speaks of a salvation that shall be consummated with God's Saints "Dwelling For Evermore" in the New Jerusalem:

"There'll be singing, there'll be shouting
WHEN THE SAINTS COME MARCHING HOME,
In Jerusalem, In Jerusalem;
Waving Palms with loud Hosannas
As the King shall take His Throne,
IN THE NEW JERUSALEM!"

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09 -- TRUST JESUS -- DON'T TRUST POLITICAL PRINCES!

"It is better to TRUST IN THE LORD than to put confidence in princes" (Psa. 118:9).

"PUT NOT YOUR TRUST IN PRINCES, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help" (Psa. 146:3).

Regrettably, there seems to be -- even among Conservative Holiness People -- a certain tendency to put altogether too much confidence in one elected to political office who professes to be a Christian -- when the fact is, that even though such an individual may be a far better person than his opponents, he may be very, very far from being a genuinely born-again man of God -- and, he may espouse things which are quite harmful, both for Christians and all others under his administration.

I am now 66 years old, but NEVER -- during the many elections in which I have been eligible to vote -- have I voted for a President, Senator, Representative, or Governor because I was convinced that he was a born-again Christian. Instead, I have tried to vote for the one I considered to be the better person for the job -- and many times for the one whom I considered to be "the lesser of two evils."

Genuine, SPIRITUAL WISDOM is A "HIDDEN WISDOM, WHICH" (says St. Paul) "NONE OF THE PRINCES OF THIS WORLD KNEW" when they "crucified [Christ Jesus] the Lord of glory" (1 Cor. 2:7-8). Very, very few of today's political princes really KNOW Christ -- and perhaps NONE of them do! That explains why many of them can "sweet-talk" Christian Conservatives to get their vote and then fail to do those things which promote and protect true Christian values.

I have never felt that because a man running for political office got my vote I was, therefore, obligated to -- or always wise to -- support everything that politician did after he was in office -- EVEN IF HIS OPPONENTS ESPOUSED THINGS MUCH WORSE!

And, to make the man for whom you voted the deciding factor in your Christian fellowship is a grievous fault! None should be cut off from your Christian fellowship because they belong to the opposite political party than do you, or because they criticize the policies of the one for whom you voted! NO POLITICAL PRINCE should be considered as too good and too wise to warrant any criticism of his deeds!

SHAME ON THOSE who put such "confidences in princes" and who cannot abide any honest question being raised about the wisdom of the man or woman for whom they voted!

As the inspired Psalmist said, "It is better to TRUST IN THE LORD than to put confidence in princes" (Psa. 118:9). It is best not to place too much confidence in the wisdom of one's political leaders. It is good to realize that the best of them are prone to human error, and the less than best among them are prone to do whatever they think will promote their political career, regardless of how detrimental it is to the moral and social fiber of their nation. Yes, honor these political princes to the degree such honor is due, and pray for them -- but don't be so naive and gullible as to believe that the person you helped put into office can do no wrong and should be exempt from all criticism!

Indeed, the Psalmist put it even stronger when he wrote: "PUT NOT YOUR TRUST IN PRINCES, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help" (Psa. 146:3).

At the end of this age, Israel is going to PUT THEIR TRUST IN "THE PRINCE THAT SHALL COME" (Daniel 9:26). The "Man of Sin" will be the consummate, polished politician, and millions, not only in Israel, but around the entire world as well, will PUT THEIR CONFIDENCE IN HIM as one who can do no wrong! Only after it is everlastingly too late, shall most of those millions discover how totally they have misplaced their trust!

As it now appears, TWO PREVIOUS HDM EMAIL RECIPIENTS have decided this week that they would rather hear no more from yours truly than to read any more of my opinions

concerning some of our President's policies. That, of course, is their privilege. None need to agree with me, but neither should any be so gullible or so proud as to insist that their Political Prince can do no wrong, and cut off from their friendship anyone who questions his wisdom.

Holiness Folks: -- "PUT NOT YOUR TRUST IN PRINCES"! -- even if they belong to your political party, profess to be Christians, and strike you as far better than their opponents. Don't consider them to be incapable of doing wrong and immune from criticism, and don't insist that to be your friend and to have your Christian fellowship, all must praise "your man" or at least never question his deeds! "It is better to TRUST IN THE LORD than to put [such biased and prejudiced] confidence in princes" -- and it is better that you allow others to hold and express opinions contrary to your own regarding "your man"!

It is bad enough when Conservative Christians make total agreement with their personal, spiritual convictions the prerequisite to their fellowship. It is even worse when they make total agreement with their political persuasions the precondition to having their friendship and fellowship!

I intend to continue to express my opinions and views -- especially when I feel that they have a direct or important bearing upon crucial, spiritual developments. I do hope that most will allow me that freedom, without insisting that I keep quiet when they disagree.

Here, I forbear, except to say, THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE BEEN GRACIOUS ENOUGH TO DO THIS, AND TO HOLD US UP IN PRAYER -- EVEN THOUGH THEY DISAGREE WITH SOME OF WHAT I SET FORTH. -- Duane

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10 -- ELBOWS ON MY BED

From Dr. C. Bradley Morris -- Georgetown, South Carolina

Brother Maxey,

I ran across this poem while searching for material for Mother's Day. I thought you might enjoy it.

Thank you again for your tremendously encouraging ministry. I have tried digitizing a few books in the past and I haven't the patience nor the time for it. Your ministry is a true blessing from the Lord.

Brad

ELBOWS ON MY BED

I was but a youth and thoughtless,
As all youths are apt to be
Though I had a Christian mother

Who had taught me carefully.

Came a time when sinful pleasure
Of the world brought its allure,
And I no more sought the guidance
Of her love so good and pure.

But Mother would not yield her boy
To Satan's sinful sway.
And though I spurned her counsel
She knew a better way.

No more she tried to caution
Of ways she knew were vain,
And though I guessed her heartache
I could not know its pain.

She made my room an altar,
A place of secret prayer,
And there she took her burden
And placed it in His care.

Each morning, noon and evening
By that bedside bending low.
She sought the aid of Him Who
Best can feel a mother's woe.

Still I went my way unheeding,
Careless of the life I led.
Until one day I noticed
Prints of elbows on my bed.

Then I saw that she had been there
Praying for her wayward boy,
Who for love of worldly pleasure
Would her peace of mind destroy.

While I wrestled with my conscience
Mother wrestled still in prayer,
Till that little room seemed hallowed
Because [so] oft she met Him there.

With her God she held the fortress
And though not a word she said,
My stubborn heart was broken
By those imprints on my bed.

Long the conflict raged within me,
Sin against my mother s prayer.
Sin must yield, for Mother never,
While she daily met Him there.

And her constant love and patience
Were like coals upon my head,
Together with the imprints
Of her elbows on my bed.

A mother s love and God s love
Are a combination rare,
And one that can't be beaten
If it s sealed by earnest prayer.

And so at last the fight was won,
And I to Christ was led;
My mother won the victory
By her elbows on my bed.

Author Unknown

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11 -- SOUNDING A TRUMPET -- A THOUGHT PROVOKER

I set forth the following collection of Scriptures as inducements to thought -- to give you preachers and Bible teachers something from which you might be able to develop for yourselves a preachable sermon or a teachable study. All of the material concerns "sounding of a trumpet" or trumpets. The many Scriptures I have gathered into this file, I have grouped together loosely under various subtitles alphabetically. You may indeed find that some verses I have placed in one group would better, or would also, fit into another group. You may also want to use entirely different subtitles and groupings. I have not taken care to arrange all verses in every group in their Biblical order, but that poses no big problem to an experienced preacher or Bible teacher.

If this file gets your preaching or teaching, cog-wheels running and you want to put this material "through your own mill," please just use it however you like. **BEYOND THE FIRST GROUPING, DIRECTLY BELOW -- YOU ARE ON YOUR OWN -- TAKE IT FROM THERE.** It is a subject, which though so widely mentioned in the Bible, I do not recall ever hearing a good, comprehensive sermon or lesson upon it. If you develop this, I would be interested in receiving your outline.

After the first subtitle directly below, the rest of the groups are alphabetical. -- Duane

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OSTENTATIOUSLY "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Probably one of the most familiar scriptures in the Bible about "sounding a trumpet" is found in Matthew 6:2 -- "Therefore when thou doest thine alms, do not sound a trumpet before thee, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and in the streets, that they may have glory of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward." But, there are a many, many others.

Obviously, Jesus' reference to "sounding a trumpet" in the above verse eluded to the custom of doing so for proud and ostentatious reasons -- such as that of Absalom as he planned to announce his coup d'etat take-over of the kingdom from his father David:

2 Sam 15:10 -- "But Absalom sent spies throughout all the tribes of Israel, saying, As soon as ye hear the sound of the trumpet, then ye shall say, Absalom reigneth in Hebron."

St. Paul seems to allude to the ostentatious "sounding of a trumpet" in 1Co 13:1, where we read: "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

NOW, PREACHER, TEACHER... TAKE IT FROM HERE... if you think the following is some good food for thought in the development of a sermon or lesson. You will find that I have left some of the "Interlinear" comments with various verses that were placed there by my Power Bible Program.

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ANNOUNCEMENT "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Ps 81:3 Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.

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ATTACK TIME "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Zep 1:16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers.

Mt 24:31 And he shall send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they shall gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. {with...: or, with a trumpet, and a great voice }

Jos 6:4 And seven priests shall bear before the ark seven trumpets of rams' horns: and the seventh day ye shall compass the city seven times, and the priests shall blow with the trumpets.

Jos 6:6 And Joshua the son of Nun called the priests, and said unto them, Take up the ark of the covenant, and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD.

Jos 6:8 And it came to pass, when Joshua had spoken unto the people, that the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns passed on before the LORD, and blew with the trumpets: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD followed them.

Jos 6:9 And the armed men went before the priests that blew with the trumpets, and the rereward came after the ark, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets. {rereward: Heb. gathering host}

Jos 6:13 And seven priests bearing seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD went on continually, and blew with the trumpets: and the armed men went before them; but the rereward came after the ark of the LORD, the priests going on, and blowing with the trumpets.

Jos 6:16 And it came to pass at the seventh time, when the priests blew with the trumpets, Joshua said unto the people, Shout; for the LORD hath given you the city.

Jos 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city.

Jg 7:16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. {a trumpet...: Heb. trumpets in the hand of all of them} {lamps: or, firebrands, or, torches}

Jg 7:18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

Jg 7:19 So Gideon, and the hundred men that were with him, came unto the outside of the camp in the beginning of the middle watch; and they had but newly set the watch: and they blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers that were in their hands.

Jg 7:20 And the three companies blew the trumpets, and brake the pitchers, and held the lamps in their left hands, and the trumpets in their right hands to blow withal: and they cried, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

Jg 7:22 And the three hundred blew the trumpets, and the LORD set every man's sword against his fellow, even throughout all the host: and the host fled to Bethshittah in Zererath, and to the border of Abelmeholah, unto Tabbath. {in: or, toward} {border: Heb. lip}

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AUGUST, DIVINE "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Ex 19:13 There shall not an hand touch it, but he shall surely be stoned, or shot through; whether it be beast or man, it shall not live: when the trumpet soundeth long, they shall come up to the mount. {trumpet: or, cornet}

Ex 19:16 And it came to pass on the third day in the morning, that there were thunders and lightnings, and a thick cloud upon the mount, and the voice of the trumpet exceeding loud; so that all the people that was in the camp trembled.

Ex 19:19 And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and God answered him by a voice.

Ex 20:18 And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.

Heb 12:19 And the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words; which voice they that heard intreated that the word should not be spoken to them any more:

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BECKONING "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Ne 4:18 For the builders, every one had his sword girded by his side, and so builded. And he that sounded the trumpet was by me.

Ne 4:20 In what place therefore ye hear the sound of the trumpet, resort ye thither unto us: our God shall fight for us.

Isa 27:13 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come which were ready to perish in the land of Assyria, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the LORD in the holy mount at Jerusalem.

Jer 4:5 Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities.

Jer 51:27 Set ye up a standard in the land, blow the trumpet among the nations, prepare the nations against her, call together against her the kingdoms of Ararat, Minni, and Ashchenaz; appoint a captain against her; cause the horses to come up as the rough caterpillers.

Nu 10:2 Make thee two trumpets of silver; of a whole piece shalt thou make them: that thou mayest use them for the calling of the assembly, and for the journeying of the camps.

* * *

COMMANDED "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Ho 8:1 Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. {thy: Heb. the roof of thy}

Joe 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand; {trumpet: or, cornet}

Joe 2:15 Blow the trumpet in Zion, sanctify a fast, call a solemn assembly:

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CONVOCATIONAL -- ASSEMBLING "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Le 23:24 Speak unto the children of Israel, saying, In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath, a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.

Nu 10:8 And the sons of Aaron, the priests, shall blow with the trumpets; and they shall be to you for an ordinance for ever throughout your generations.

Nu 10:10 Also in the day of your gladness, and in your solemn days, and in the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings, and over the sacrifices of your peace offerings; that they may be to you for a memorial before your God: I am the LORD your God.

Nu 29:1 And in the seventh month, on the first day of the month, ye shall have an holy convocation; ye shall do no servile work: it is a day of blowing the trumpets unto you.

* * *

CORONATION "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

1 Ki 1:34 And let Zadok the priest and Nathan the prophet anoint him there king over Israel: and blow ye with the trumpet, and say, God save king Solomon.

1 Ki 1:39 And Zadok the priest took an horn of oil out of the tabernacle, and anointed Solomon. And they blew the trumpet; and all the people said, God save king Solomon.

2 Ki 9:13 Then they hasted, and took every man his garment, and put it under him on the top of the stairs, and blew with trumpets, saying, Jehu is king. {is king: Heb. reigneth}

2 Ki 11:14 And when she looked, behold, the king stood by a pillar, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets: and Athaliah rent her clothes, and cried, Treason, Treason.

* * *

COVENANTAL "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

2 Chr. 15:12 And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; 13 That whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman. 14 And they swore unto the LORD with a loud voice, and with shouting, and with trumpets, and with cornets.

* * *

JUBILANT AND VICTORIOUS "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Le 25:9 Then shalt thou cause the trumpet of the jubile to sound on the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement shall ye make the trumpet sound throughout all your land. {of the jubile: Heb. loud of sound}

2 Sa 6:15 So David and all the house of Israel brought up the ark of the LORD with shouting, and with the sound of the trumpet.

Ps 98:6 With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

* * *

JUDGMENTAL "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Re 8:2 And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.

Re 8:6 And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound.

Re 8:13 And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!

Re 9:14 Saying to the sixth angel which had the trumpet, Loose the four angels which are bound in the great river Euphrates.

* * *

NEGLECTED "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Eze 33:6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

* * *

RESURRECTION-RAPTURE "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

1 Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Co 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

1 Th 4:16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

* * *

REVELATORY "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Re 1:10 I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet,

Re 4:1 After this I looked, and, behold, a door was opened in heaven: and the first voice which I heard was as it were of a trumpet talking with me; which said, Come up hither, and I will shew thee things which must be hereafter.

* * *

SIGNAL "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Nu 10:4 And if they blow but with one trumpet, then the princes, which are heads of the thousands of Israel, shall gather themselves unto thee.

1 Sa 13:3 And Jonathan smote the garrison of the Philistines that was in Geba, and the Philistines heard of it. And Saul blew the trumpet throughout all the land, saying, Let the Hebrews hear. {Geba: or, the hill}

2 Sa 2:28 So Joab blew a trumpet, and all the people stood still, and pursued after Israel no more, neither fought they any more.

2 Sa 20:22 Then the woman went unto all the people in her wisdom. And they cut off the head of Sheba the son of Bichri, and cast it out to Joab. And he blew a trumpet, and they retired from the city, every man to his tent. And Joab returned to Jerusalem unto the king.

* * *

UNBELIEVED, UNHEEDED, UNWANTED "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Job 39:24 He swalloweth the ground with fierceness and rage: neither believeth he that it is the sound of the trumpet.

Isa 18:3 All ye inhabitants of the world, and dwellers on the earth, see ye, when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountains; and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye.

Jer 6:17 Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken.

Jer 42:14 Saying, No; but we will go into the land of Egypt, where we shall see no war, nor hear the sound of the trumpet, nor have hunger of bread; and there will we dwell:
Eze 7:14 They have blown the trumpet, even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof.

Eze 33:4 Then whosoever heareth the sound of the trumpet, and taketh not warning; if the sword come, and take him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. {whosoever...: Heb. he that hearing heareth }

Eze 33:5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

Am 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

* * *

UNCERTAIN "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

1 Co 14:8 For if the trumpet give an uncertain sound, who shall prepare himself to the battle?

1 Ki 1:41 And Adonijah and all the guests that were with him heard it as they had made an end of eating. And when Joab heard the sound of the trumpet, he said, Wherefore is this noise of the city being in an uproar?

* * *

VICTORIOUS "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Ps 47:5 God is gone up with a shout, the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.

2 Ch 20:28 And they came to Jerusalem with psalteries and harps and trumpets unto the house of the LORD.

* * *

WARNING "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Am 3:6 Shall a trumpet be blown in the city, and the people not be afraid? shall there be evil in a city, and the LORD hath not done it?

Eze 33:5 He heard the sound of the trumpet, and took not warning; his blood shall be upon him. But he that taketh warning shall deliver his soul.

Eze 33:6 But if the watchman see the sword come, and blow not the trumpet, and the people be not warned; if the sword come, and take any person from among them, he is taken away in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at the watchman's hand.

Ho 5:8 Blow ye the cornet in Gibeah, and the trumpet in Ramah: cry aloud at Bethaven, after thee, O Benjamin.

Ho 8:1 Set the trumpet to thy mouth. He shall come as an eagle against the house of the LORD, because they have transgressed my covenant, and trespassed against my law. {thy: Heb. the roof of thy}

Joe 2:1 Blow ye the trumpet in Zion, and sound an alarm in my holy mountain: let all the inhabitants of the land tremble: for the day of the LORD cometh, for it is nigh at hand;

Zep 1:16 A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers

Isa 58:1 Cry aloud, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and shew my people their transgression, and the house of Jacob their sins.

Jer 6:1 O ye children of Benjamin, gather yourselves to flee out of the midst of Jerusalem, and blow the trumpet in Tekoa, and set up a sign of fire in Bethhaccerem: for evil appeareth out of the north, and great destruction.

* * *

WAR-TIME "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Nu 10:9 And if ye go to war in your land against the enemy that oppresseth you, then ye shall blow an alarm with the trumpets; and ye shall be remembered before the LORD your God, and ye shall be saved from your enemies.

Nu 31:6 And Moses sent them to the war, a thousand of every tribe, them and Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest, to the war, with the holy instruments, and the trumpets to blow in his hand.

Jer 4:5 Declare ye in Judah, and publish in Jerusalem; and say, Blow ye the trumpet in the land: cry, gather together, and say, Assemble yourselves, and let us go into the defenced cities.

Jer 4:19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. {my very...: Heb. the walls of my heart}

Jer 4:21 How long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet?

Jos 6:5 And it shall come to pass, that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when ye hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city shall fall down flat, and the people shall ascend up every man straight before him. {flat: Heb. under it}

Jos 6:20 So the people shouted when the priests blew with the trumpets: and it came to pass, when the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. {flat: Heb. under it}

Jg 3:27 And it came to pass, when he was come, that he blew a trumpet in the mountain of Ephraim, and the children of Israel went down with him from the mount, and he before them.

Jg 6:34 But the Spirit of the LORD came upon Gideon, and he blew a trumpet; and Abiezer was gathered after him. {came...: Heb. clothed} {gathered: Heb. called}

Jg 7:16 And he divided the three hundred men into three companies, and he put a trumpet in every man's hand, with empty pitchers, and lamps within the pitchers. {a trumpet...: Heb. trumpets in the hand of all of them} {lamps: or, firebrands, or, torches}

Jg 7:18 When I blow with a trumpet, I and all that are with me, then blow ye the trumpets also on every side of all the camp, and say, The sword of the LORD, and of Gideon.

Jg 7:8 So the people took victuals in their hand, and their trumpets: and he sent all the rest of Israel every man unto his tent, and retained those three hundred men: and the host of Midian was beneath him in the valley.

2 Ch 13:12 And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper.

2 Ch 13:14 And when Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets.

Job 39:25 He saith among the trumpets, Ha, ha; and he smelleth the battle afar off, the thunder of the captains, and the shouting.

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WORSHIPFUL "SOUNDING OF A TRUMPET"

Ps 150:3 Praise him with the sound of the trumpet: praise him with the psaltery and harp.

2 Ch 5:12 Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

1 Ch 13:8 And David and all Israel played before God with all their might, and with singing, and with harps, and with psalteries, and with timbrels, and with cymbals, and with trumpets.

1 Ch 15:24 And Shebaniah, and Jehoshaphat, and Nethaneel, and Amasai, and Zechariah, and Benaiah, and Eliezer, the priests, did blow with the trumpets before the ark of God: and Obedom and Jehiah were doorkeepers for the ark.

1 Ch 15:28 Thus all Israel brought up the ark of the covenant of the LORD with shouting, and with sound of the cornet, and with trumpets, and with cymbals, making a noise with psalteries and harps.

1 Ch 16:6 Benaiah also and Jahaziel the priests with trumpets continually before the ark of the covenant of God.

1 Ch 16:42 And with them Heman and Jeduthun with trumpets and cymbals for those that should make a sound, and with musical instruments of God. And the sons of Jeduthun were porters. {porters: Heb. for the gate}

2 Ch 5:12 Also the Levites which were the singers, all of them of Asaph, of Heman, of Jeduthun, with their sons and their brethren, being arrayed in white linen, having cymbals and psalteries and harps, stood at the east end of the altar, and with them an hundred and twenty priests sounding with trumpets:)

2 Ch 5:13 It came even to pass, as the trumpeters and singers were as one, to make one sound to be heard in praising and thanking the LORD; and when they lifted up their voice with the trumpets and cymbals and instruments of musick, and praised the LORD, saying, For he is good; for his mercy endureth for ever: that then the house was filled with a cloud, even the house of the LORD;

2 Ch 7:6 And the priests waited on their offices: the Levites also with instruments of musick of the LORD, which David the king had made to praise the LORD, because his mercy endureth for ever, when David praised by their ministry; and the priests sounded trumpets before them, and all Israel stood. {by their...: Heb. by their hand}

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2 Ch 29:26 And the Levites stood with the instruments of David, and the priests with the trumpets.

2 Ch 29:27 And Hezekiah commanded to offer the burnt offering upon the altar. And when the burnt offering began, the song of the LORD began also with the trumpets, and with the instruments ordained by David king of Israel. {when: Heb. in the time} {the instruments: Heb. hands of instruments}

Ezr 3:10 And when the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, they set the priests in their apparel with trumpets, and the Levites the sons of Asaph with cymbals, to praise the LORD, after the ordinance of David king of Israel.

Ne 12:35 And certain of the priests' sons with trumpets; namely, Zechariah the son of Jonathan, the son of Shemaiah, the son of Mattaniah, the son of Michaiah, the son of Zaccur, the son of Asaph:

Ne 12:41 And the priests; Eliakim, Maaseiah, Miniamin, Michaiah, Elioenai, Zechariah, and Hananiah, with trumpets;

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12 -- WHY REHOBOAM-RULERS ALWAYS LOSE -- BIG TIME!

INTRODUCTION

EVEN NOW, SOME "REHOBOAM-TYPE-RULERS" in the Conservative Holiness Movement ARE LOSING "BIG TIME" -- and if they persist in their present, legalistic and tyrannical ways, it now appears that they may end up being "Big Frogs" in a "Little Puddle" that will soon become emptied entirely of all spiritual water, dried up, baked in the Sun of Divine Displeasure, and cracked into numerous pieces -- as all that remains of what was once a torrent of living water -- a real spiritual movement with power to revive thirsty souls, re-vegetate desolate wildernesses, and revolutionize the world from the inside out! However, instead of promoting Spiritual Revival, Re-vegetation, and Revolution from the inside out, these "Rehoboam Rulers" seem to be most talented in Fine-Line Revamping of their Church Manuals, Fostering Revolt, and Furiously Revenging themselves where they fancy they have been wronged!

But "Rehoboam Rulers" always lose -- BIG TIME! -- Consider some reasons WHY?

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THE SCRIPTURE READING

Most who will read this article will know the story of Rehoboam, son of Solomon, quite well -- but, in order to facilitate a quick grasp of the thoughts I shall present below, I invite the reader to read again the entire passage below:

1 Kings 12:6-20 -- "And king Rehoboam consulted with the old men, that stood before Solomon his father while he yet lived, and said, How do ye advise that I may answer this people? And they spake unto him, saying, If thou wilt be a servant unto this people this day, and wilt serve them, and answer them, and speak good words to them, then they will be thy servants for ever. 8 But he forsook the counsel of the old men, which they had given him, and consulted with the young men that were grown up with him, and which stood before him: 9 And he said unto them, What counsel give ye that we may answer this people, who have spoken to me, saying, Make the yoke which thy father did put upon us lighter? 10 And the young men that were grown up with him spake unto him, saying, Thus shalt thou speak unto this people that spake unto thee, saying, Thy father made our yoke heavy, but make thou it lighter unto us; thus shalt thou say unto them, My little finger shall be thicker than my father's loins. 11 And now whereas my father

did lade you with a heavy yoke, I will add to your yoke: my father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. 12 So Jeroboam and all the people came to Rehoboam the third day, as the king had appointed, saying, Come to me again the third day. 13 And the king answered the people roughly, and forsook the old men's counsel that they gave him; 14 And spake to them after the counsel of the young men, saying, My father made your yoke heavy, and I will add to your yoke: my father also chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions. 15 Wherefore the king hearkened not unto the people; for the cause was from the Lord, that he might perform his saying, which the Lord spake by Ahijah the Shilonite unto Jeroboam the son of Nebat. 16 So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, What portion have we in David? neither have we inheritance in the son of Jesse: to your tents, O Israel: now see to thine own house, David. So Israel departed unto their tents. 17 But as for the children of Israel which dwelt in the cities of Judah, Rehoboam reigned over them. 18 Then king Rehoboam sent Adoram, who was over the tribute; and all Israel stoned him with stones, that he died. Therefore king Rehoboam made speed to get him up to his chariot, to flee to Jerusalem. 19 So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day. 20 And it came to pass, when all Israel heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and made him king over all Israel: there was none that followed the house of David, but the tribe of Judah only. 21 And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to fight against the house of Israel, to bring the kingdom again to Rehoboam the son of Solomon. 22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, 24 Thus saith the Lord, Ye shall not go up, nor fight against your brethren the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the Lord, and returned to depart, according to the word of the Lord."

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REHOBOAM-RULERS LOSE BIG-TIME -- BECAUSE:

A -- THEY PERCEIVE THEMSELVES TO BE "LORDS OVER GOD'S FLOCK"

1 Kings 12:6-7 above makes it clear that Rehoboam had no desire to be a "servant" of the people. Instead, he thought of himself as a Lord OVER and ABOVE God's flock. He did not perceive of himself as one who must SERVE THEM -- he perceived himself as one who must be SERVED AND OBEYED BY THEM. The apostle Peter set forth the Divine Requirement of spiritual leaders when he wrote in 1 Peter 5:3 -- "Neither as being lords over God's heritage, but being ensamples to the flock."

Rehoboam's highminded attitude was: "You may not do as I DO, but you must do as I SAY! For, you see, I am your Lord, Your King, not your servant. YOU are the servants, and you MUST obey ME!"

Church Leader -- follow this line -- as some of you are -- and you will LOSE BIG-TIME, not only in this world, but also in the world to come. Too many dictators in Zion cut themselves

a huge amount of slack in their personal allowances while reining in their people so tightly that they can scarcely move or breathe, lest they fall under their frown. How can a Church Leader behave in such a tyrannical fashion over God's Flock, when Jesus said of Himself TWICE, in his Word:

Matt. 20:28 -- "Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

Mark 10:45 -- "For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many."

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REHOBOAM-RULERS LOSE BIG-TIME -- BECAUSE:

B -- THEY FORSAKE THE COUNSEL OF THE OLD AND WISE FOR THAT OF THE YOUNG AND FOOLISH

Once I was young, but now I am old -- and, one thing I have learned across going on 7 decades is: -- Often, IT TAKES TIME TO LEARN -- time to learn the difference between that which is IDEALISTIC and that which is PRAGMATIC.

Let me give you a sad example from my own experience:

It was my very first pastorate -- I had been taught Idealistically that a pastor must never allow those in his flock to address him as "Preacher-Boy" -- that was a "no-no" that was to be immediately corrected. It sounded like good advice.

Dear, old Bro. and Sis. Coleman (younger a bit than I am now) came to my little parsonage quarters right after I moved in, bringing me food, and no doubt very desirous of encouraging me. As they were leaving, one of them said something quite identical to: "Well, Preacher-Boy, I guess we had better be going."

Remembering my idealistic training, I responded much as follows:

"While I really appreciate your bringing these things, it is NOT 'Preacher-Boy,' it is 'Bro. Maxey' or 'Rev. Maxey.'"

How profoundly, I now regret those words!!!

I shall not here go into the dramatic details, which I have recorded in "Illustrative Sketches From My Life," hdm0888. I shall merely relate that within about 6 months, both of these dear, warm, loving saints of God had been suddenly taken to heaven! And, to my utter chagrin, I learned that I was left with some who opposed my having been voted in as pastor of that church!

Oh, how many times, I might have been so very happy to have the Colemans there, expressing their love to me -- yes, even if they had continued to call me "Preacher-Boy"!!

The old adage says, "Too soon we grow old, and too late we grow smart!" How true, How often! Oh, to have the wisdom of the Aged, coupled with the Strength of Youth, so that Zeal is mitigated with "Love, sweet Love! It's the only thing there isn't plenty of!" -- as a popular song once put it. But alas! Too often, and most often, even Holy Zeal is too stringent in the strength and inexperience of Youth!

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REHOBOAM-RULERS LOSE BIG-TIME -- BECAUSE:

C -- THEY STRENGTHEN, INSTEAD OF LOOSENING THE BANDS OF THE OPPRESSED

This, in essence, is what Rehoboam elected to do, and announced that he would do -- strengthen his bands upon the people. The people had already been forced into compulsory labors for the lavish life-style of Solomon. They wanted relief from that oppression. But, to put it in words that many Holiness Folks will quickly understand, REHOBOAM WAS IN FAVOR OF MAKING THE MANUAL THICKER! Did it have 100 pages of prohibitions and obligations, spelled out to the nth degree? It would have 1,000 pages of the same now -- with even greater detail, and much more zealous enforcement!!! What's more, there will be even more added -- as I see fit.

In Isaiah 58:6 we read: "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to LOOSE THE BANDS of wickedness, to UNDO the HEAVY BURDENS, and to let the oppressed go free, and that ye BREAK EVERY YOKE?"

Notice here, that God was condemning as downright "WICKED" the binding of His Flock -- by some very zealous, very religious leaders -- leaders of which He says in the preceding verse 4 -- "Behold, ye fast for strife and debate, and to smite with the fist of wickedness: ye shall not fast as ye do this day, to make your voice to be heard on high."

The bondage against which Jehovah prophesied through Isaiah was not a tyranny of those one might naturally look upon as tyrants -- It was a bondage being forced upon God's People by those who were supposed to be their Examples as Servants!!! That's what made it even MORE wicked! One expects a Hitler, a Stalin, a Saddam Hussein, to behave thus. One does not so quickly picture a supposed Shepherd of the Flock in this way. But, when a leader loses his humility, like Saul, and begins to cast javelins at innocent Davids, and when one, like Rehoboam, ascends to a ready-made position in a work he did not build, and begins to emulate his attitude and behavior, he has become "WICKED" -- there is no other word for it!

But, like Rehoboam, he will split the kingdom, and lose most of his followers -- only a tiny fraction remaining with him!

Do I hear one such declare: "Loose the bands?!! Why, we CAN'T do THAT! Worldliness will creep into the Church. Let me reply with the words of St. Paul:

Galatians 4:21-28 -- "Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? 22 For it is written, that Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman. 23 But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. 24 Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. 25 For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. 26 But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.. 28 Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise.. 30 Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the freewoman."

The "Glorious Freedom" about which Holiness Folks so often sing, is a Freedom from Sin, and From Men!

Once when I got a little too bossy with one of the dearest and best saints in my congregation, she graciously let me know Christ was her Master, not I.

Paul preached strongly against servitude to men: 1 Cor. 7:23 provides an example of this: "Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men."

And James as well as Peter warned against Church Leaders getting too bossy: James 3:1 -- "My brethren, be not many masters, knowing that we shall receive the greater condemnation."

Some years ago now, I went and preached for a group that had left the mother organization. Shortly thereafter I was taken to task for doing this by a fellow preacher. As he persisted in trying to set me straight, I kindly, I told him, "Bro. _____, I love you, but you are NOT my Lord." He was, and may still be, one of those types who feels called to straighten out the brethren. All too often, those who feel so called are the very ones who cause divisions which result in massive exoduses from their presence.

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REHOBOAM-RULERS LOSE BIG-TIME -- BECAUSE:

D -- THEY KILL BROTHERLY LOVE

In verse 16 of our Scripture passage above we read: "So when all Israel saw that the king hearkened not unto them, the people answered the king, saying, WHAT PORTION HAVE WE IN DAVID?"

Rehoboam's Rough-Talking, Rough-Dealing Arrogance had destroyed all feeling of kinship they had as brothers in Israel.

I have read a story similar to the following:

One thinking to stump a wise, old sage, contrived to bring a little bird to him, completely hidden in his hand. He would ask the sage if the hidden bird in his hand was alive? or dead? If the sage said, "It is alive," he would simply squeeze his hand, killing the bird, before allowing the wise man to see it. If the sage said, "It is dead," he would simply open his hand and let the bird fly away.

However, when the would-be confounder put the question to the sage, the latter, perceiving the contrivance, replied: -- "The bird is, whatever you want it to be -- either dead, or alive."

In Hebrews 13:1, we read: "Let brotherly love continue."

Like the bird in the hand of the would-be confounder, even so "Brotherly Love" will "continue" to "LIVE" in its own, God-ordained, Heavenly Freedom -- or -- it will DIE -- when the squeeze is put on God's Flock -- robbing them of both their Liberty and their Life!!! Happy are those little birds who escape the grasp of a Rehoboam Spiritual Ruler, before they lose either! Selah.

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REHOBOAM-RULERS LOSE BIG-TIME -- BECAUSE:

E -- THEY FIGHT TO GET BACK WHAT THEY LOST!

In verse 21 above we read: "And when Rehoboam was come to Jerusalem, he assembled all the house of Judah, with the tribe of Benjamin, an hundred and fourscore thousand chosen men, which were warriors, to FIGHT against the house of Israel, to BRING THE KINGDOM AGAIN to Rehoboam the son of Solomon."

No sir! They weren't going to leave HIM without a FIGHT!

Look Out! Rehoboam-Ruler in Israel! You're "cruisin' for a bruisin' that way. Rehoboam made powerful plans to prevent, with force, the schism from him: "22 But the word of God came unto Shemaiah the man of God, saying, 23 Speak unto Rehoboam, the son of Solomon, king of Judah, and unto all the house of Judah and Benjamin, and to the remnant of the people, saying, 24 Thus saith the Lord, YE SHALL NOT GO UP, NOR FIGHT AGAINST YOUR BRETHREN the children of Israel: return every man to his house; for this thing is from me. They hearkened therefore to the word of the Lord, and returned to depart, according to the word of the Lord."

Rehoboam was wiser than some of his modern ilk -- HE WITHDREW. Some high-handed Church Leaders today who cause the rupture of their denomination, actually "GO TO COURT TO PREVENT FOLKS FROM LEAVING THEM!"

But, you know -- Sometimes, the downfall of Legalism is the LAW!

Those who get legalistic spiritually -- those who are always enforcing and adding to "the letter" of their Church Law, even get to the place where they consider it no sin to take their brethren to Civil Court! "After All" they say to themselves, "THESE FOLKS TRYING TO LEAVE US ARE N-O-T, NOT OUR BRETHERN ANYMORE!"

1 Corinthians 6:5-9 is looked upon as non-applicable to their case: "I speak to your shame. Is it so, that there is not a wise man among you? no, not one that shall be able to judge between his brethren? 6 But brother goeth to law with brother, and that before the unbelievers. 7 Now therefore there is utterly a fault among you, because ye go to law one with another. Why do ye not rather take wrong? why do ye not rather suffer yourselves to be defrauded? 8 Nay, ye do wrong, and defraud, and that your brethren. 9 Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God?"

But it IS APPLICABLE!!! And, it is NO ACCIDENT that verse 9, following all of the stern condemnation of taking brethren to court, reads: "Know ye not that the UNRIGHTEOUS shall not inherit the kingdom of God?" IT IS UNRIGHTEOUS TO DO SO!!! PLAIN AND SIMPLE.

Now, if one who no longer considers you to be his "brother" takes you to court, then you are left with no alternative than to GO TO COURT -- but BEWARE OF BEING THE ONE WHO INITIATES SUCH LEGAL ACTION!!! IT IS MOST LIKELY THAT GOD WILL SEE TO IT THAT YOU END UP LOSING "BIG-TIME" -- both in this world, and in the word to come!!! Selah.

Who are you talking about? YOU, if you're guilty!

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13 -- REGARDING SLANDER

God's Word declares in Psalm 101:5 -- "Whoso privily [privately, behind his back] slandereth his neighbour, him will I cut off: him that hath an high look and a proud heart will not I suffer." God puts Slanderers and Boasters in the same category.

After King David had taken-in the crippled Mephibosheth, Ziba, told David that Mephibosheth had betrayed him. When King David confronted Mephibosheth about the alleged betrayal, Mephibosheth said that ZIBA "HATH SLANDERED THY SERVANT unto my lord the king; but my lord the king is as an angel of God: do therefore what is good in thine eyes."

BEING UNCERTAIN WHICH TO BELIEVE, DAVID SPLIT THE INHERITANCE HE HAD INTENDED TO GIVE TO MEPHIBOSHETH, GIVING HALF THEREOF TO ZIBA -- WHO MAY WELL HAVE BEEN A LIAR!

If Ziba WAS INDEED guilty of SLANDER, IT WAS A SLANDER THAT COST MEPHIBOSHETH DEARLY! -- The spirit and magnanimous attitude of the crippled

Mephibosheth after Ziba's (alleged) slander, leads me to believe that ZIBA DID ROB MEPHIBOSHETH OF A HUGE AMOUNT THROUGH SLANDER -- THROUGH FALSE ACCUSATIONS MADE "PRIVILY" BEHIND HIS BACK!

Too many Holiness Folks, Too Many Christians of all sorts, are too prone to believe and latch onto what they hear from others about a person. "Well, I heard such and such about so and so, and I am inclined to believe it, because Bro. (or Sis.) Big Mouth is one that I have confidence in, and HE (or SHE) would not have told me that if it wasn't so!"

LOOK OUT! -- BEFORE YOU CUT SOMEONE OFF FROM YOUR FELLOWSHIP -- AND ESPECIALLY BEFORE YOU REPEAT WHAT YOU HEARD!

God's Word declares clearly in Deuteronomy 19:15 -- "ONE WITNESS SHALL NOT RISE UP AGAINST A MAN FOR ANY INIQUITY, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: AT THE MOUTH OF TWO WITNESSES, OR at the mouth of THREE WITNESSES, SHALL THE MATTER BE ESTABLISHED."

Do I hear someone say, "Oh, that is an Old Testament commandment -- not applicable to New Testament Christians!"

Is that so? Then why did the apostle Paul repeat it to those in the Corinthian Church?: -- "This is the third time I am coming to you. In the mouth of two or three witnesses shall every word be established" (2 Cor. 13:1).

Psalms 15:1 asks -- "Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle? who shall dwell in thy holy hill?"

Psalms 15:3 replies -- "He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbour, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbour."

There is a double-pronged commandment involved here regarding slander:

(1) IT IS A SIN TO "BACKBITE" OR TO "SLANDER" ANOTHER, AND

(2) IT IS A SIN TO "RECEIVE AS TRUTH" THAT SLANDER OF YOUR NEIGHBOR, OR CHRISTIAN BROTHER OR SISTER, COMING FROM THE MOUTH OF ONE WITNESS, WHO HAS NO CORROBORATING WITNESSES TO CONFIRM IT.

Strong's Concordance says that the Hebrew Word for "taketh up" in the phrase "taketh up a reproach" is: "qarowb" and means -- "taketh... or, receiveth, or, endureth."

That is pretty STRONG language (not just Strong's Concordance language)! It means that IT IS SINFUL TO "RECEIVE" slander into your ears; IT IS SINFUL TO "TAKE IT UP" into your mind and spread it with your mouth; and -- IT IS SINFUL EVEN TO "ENDURE" LISTENING TO IT!

It appears to me that while Ziba robbed Mephibosheth of a fortune by his malicious slander, millions of others have robbed people of their good name, their good reputation, and their good influence by their slanders -- things of far greater value than material and monetary riches.

IT IS EASY TO GET THE WRONG IMPRESSION -- AND TO SURMISE THAT A PERSON IS BAD, AND TO BEGIN TO SLANDER THAT ONE, WHEN THE IMPRESSION AND BACKBITING ARE ENTIRELY MISTAKEN! This sad fact is illustrated in the following true story, titled:

"THE MISER OF MARSEILLE"

I remember hearing about "The Miser of Marseilles." About twenty-three years ago, he was a figure on the streets of that town. He lived for nothing but money. He gripped, and he grabbed, and he kept. A miser, a moneygrub, and very wealthy he was known to be. He was the object of derision throughout the whole of Marseilles, and the South of France. When he appeared in the streets, the boys hooted at him. When he was mentioned among his business associates, they jeered at him, the old skinflint, the miserable old wretch, heaping up money, storing it up. Ah, he was contented thus to live, and thus to die; and his body was carried to the grave without a single attendant. There was not a soul in Marseilles but gave a kind of sneer, and a kind of curse, as he passed the body of the miser on the way to the grave.

Ah, yes, but when his will was read, what is this that brings mourning and lamentation to the whole city: It is this: "From my infancy, I noticed that the poor of Marseilles had great difficulty in getting water. I noticed that water, the gift of God, was very dear, and very difficult to obtain in this city, pure and sweet: and I vowed before God that I would live but for one purpose, for one end. I would save money, money, money; and now I give it to the city, on one condition, that an aqueduct be made from yonder lake on the hills to Marseilles."

As they drink the sweet, luscious, fresh water of that city, I believe the poor say, "Ah, when he lived we misunderstood him, but he did it for us." The bubbling fountain in Marseilles was the gift of the man who was misunderstood and jeered at.

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A SECOND ACCOUNT OF THE MISER OF MARSEILLES

A man of the name of Guyo lived and died in the town of Marseilles, in France. He amassed a large fortune by laborious industry and severe habits of abstinence and privation. His neighbors considered him a miser, and thought that he was hoarding up money from mean and avaricious motives. The populace pursued him, whenever he appeared, with hootings and execrations, and the boys sometimes threw stones at him. He at length died, and in his will were found the following words: "Having observed from my infancy that the poor of Marseilles were ill supplied with water, which can only be purchased at a great price, I have cheerfully labored the whole of my life to procure for them the great blessing; and I direct that the whole of my property shall be laid out in building an aqueduct for their use."

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This story is a vivid illustration of HOW WRONG IT IS TO SLANDER THE CHARACTER OF A PERSON WITHOUT KNOWING ALL OF THE FACTS! -- Need I say, "SELAH"? -- DVM

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14 -- A REMARKABLE DIVINE DELIVERANCE

From: Stan Schwanz -- Parma, Idaho

GOD PROTECTS HIS OWN!

Bill Hekman, Pastor

Calvary Life Fellowship in Indonesia

We know that 80% of the town of Meulaboh in Aceh was destroyed by the Tsunami waves and 80% of the people also died. This is one of the towns that was hit the hardest. But there is a fantastic testimony from Meulaboh. In that town are about 400 Christians. They wanted to celebrate Christmas on December 25th but were not allowed to do so by the Muslims of Meulaboh. They were told if they wanted to celebrate Christmas they needed to go outside the city of Meulaboh on a high hill and there celebrate Christmas.

Because the Christians desired to celebrate Christmas the 400 believers left the city on December 25th and after they celebrated Christmas they stayed overnight on the hill. As we all know the morning of December 26 there was the earthquake followed by the Tsunami waves destroying most of the city of Meulaboh and thousands were killed. The 400 believers were on the mountain and were all saved from destruction. Now the Muslims of Meulaboh are saying that the God of the Christians punished us for forbidding the Christians from celebrating Christmas in the city. Others are questioning why so many Muslims died while not even one of the Christians died there.

Had the Christians insisted on their rights to celebrate Christmas in the city, they would have all died. But because they humbled themselves and followed the advice of the Muslims they all were spared destruction and can now testify of God's marvelous protection.

This is a testimony of the grace of God and the fact that as believers we have no rights in the world. Our right is to come before God and commit our lives to Him. Our right is that of kneeling down before the Lord almighty and committing our ways to Him. He is our Father and is very capable to care for His children. Praise the Name of the Lord.

Stan

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15 -- THE BODY OF GLORIFIED SAINTS

"How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" (1Corinthians 15:35).

"That body that shall be" (1Corinthians 15:37).

St. Paul wrote to the Roman Christians: "we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for.. the redemption of our body" (Rom. 8:23). The Full Redemption of God's people will include the redemption of their body, as well as that of their spirit, or soul. But, "with what body" shall "they come" forth from the grave? Does the Bible describe "THAT BODY that shall be"? While the full revelation and realization awaits their resurrection, there ARE some revelations and hints in God's Word to His people about what manner of Body they shall inherit at Christ's Return. Please bear with me: -- various truths on this subject overlap one another, and in presenting Scripture below, in focusing on a given point, I shall omit another aspect mentioned some verses, but will touch upon them later. Please consider, if you will, the following concerning "The Body of Glorified Saints:

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(A) It will be A DIFFERENT AND CHANGED BODY

"Thou sowest not that body that shall be" (1 Cor. 15:37).

"We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Cor. 15:56-57)

Whatever else the saints' glorified body is, or is not, it is certain that it will be "different" from their present body. In describing this fact, the apostle said, more fully, in 1 Cor. 15:37 -- "And that which thou sowest, thou sowest not that body that shall be, but bare grain, it may chance of wheat, or of some other grain."

In part, Paul was saying here: -- Just as "bare grain" is different from a fully grown and ripened stalk of "wheat" or the fully ripened stalk of "some other grain," even so the "earthly body" of a saint is different from his or her "resurrected body".

But different HOW? -- a "bare grain" is smaller than the "ripened stalk" -- a "bare grain" has a different shape and appearance from a "ripened stalk," even though part of that ripened stalk contains many more grains like that sown. I doubt that we can ascertain precisely what is meant by this comparison. Will the saints' glorified body be larger, as well as strikingly different, just like a stalk of wheat is both larger and very different in appearance from the "bare grain"? I don't know, and neither do you.

However, St. John wrote thus to the saints: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear.. we shall see Him as He is" (1 John 3:2).

Long ago, I think I may have picked up on some hidden significance in this verse:-- viz., that WHILE JESUS WAS ON EARTH, even after His resurrection, JOHN AND CHRIST'S OTHER FOLLOWERS DID NOT YET "SEE HIM AS HE IS" IN HEAVEN. Christ's transfiguration was probably the closest thing to a pre-Second-Coming revelation of Christ "as He" NOW "IS" in the Glory World. Even after His resurrection, Christ was probably compelled to reveal Himself here on earth to his disciples "as He WAS" during "the days of His flesh," Heb. 5:7 -- so that they could recognize him as "this same Jesus."

There IS, therefore, a Revelation yet of come of Christ, "as He IS" now in heaven. Will His size be different? -- just as the grown and ripened stalk exceeds the size of the grain? Perhaps so. Somehow, his Awesome, Majestic Face will be seen as He sits in the heavens at His Return. His visage will LOOM LARGE in the sky, and the wicked will cry "to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the FACE of HIM that sitteth on the throne..!!" (Rev. 6:16).

At that awesome Revelation CHRIST'S SIZE may be much more immense than most now imagine, and perhaps the saints' resurrected bodies will also be much greater in dimension, but none can now know this. Nevertheless, whether or not size and shape are involved in the "different" body of the resurrected saints, Paul does say that they shall be instantaneously "changed" -- and, he clearly teaches that their resurrected body will be different in some remarkable ways. Both the Revelation of Christ "as He IS" and the display of His saints in "that body that shall be" is going to be STRIKING, and something DIFFERENT than human minds can now imagine.

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(B) It will be A BODY LIKE THAT OF CHRIST

In Philippians 3:21, Paul wrote thus of Christ's Changing of His people at His Second Coming: -- "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned LIKE UNTO HIS GLORIOUS BODY.."

And an entire quotation of 1 John 3:2 reads: -- "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, WE SHALL BE LIKE HIM; for we shall see him as he is."

At Christ's awesome Revelation "every eye shall see him" (Rev. 1:7) -- yea, "see Him as He IS" in all of August Majesty and Power -- and the body of every saint caught up to meet the Lord in the air will be like unto HIS body.

In Philippians 3:21, the adjective "vile" is in the Greek "tapeinosis," signifying, in part, says Strong's Concordance "depression (in rank or feeling)." Cheer up, depressed saint! At the Rapture you shall inhabit a body that will never again be "depressed" -- in either "rank" or "feeling"! Can you say, HALLELUJAH! "Tapeinosis" also means to "be made low" -- but in "that body that shall be" you're gonna "fly HIGH," and stay "High"! Again, "tapeinosis" means

to be of "low estate" -- but in that body "fashioned like unto His glorious body" you're gonna live in an "High Estate" in New Jerusalem that will make the grandest palace in this world look like an hovel in comparison!

After your "earthly house of this tabernacle" is "dissolved" into the dust, Christ is going to raise it up again, "a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2 Cor 5:1)! Yes, Jesus' House (His Body) will be the most glorious of all, but -- mark it -- yours will be "like unto it"!

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(C) It will be A BETTER AND ENDURING BODY

"Ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance" (Heb. 10:34).

Your "earthly house of this tabernacle" is subject to decay -- sooner or later, if Jesus tarries, it will be "dissolved" because that's how it is in this old world -- nobody has a body that can live forever. But, though the saint's body "is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption," (1 Cor. 15:53), a body that shall never decay nor perish.

One of the sailors on Columbus's second voyage to America was Juan Ponce De Leon. When Columbus returned Ponce De Leon stayed in Hispaniola, became popular, and was made governor of Puerto Rico in 1508. There, he heard of the mythical "Fountain of Youth," the drinking of its water said to keep one young. Ponce became determined to find this fountain, and after several years of searching he thought he knew where it was, and gained permission from Spain's King Charles V to go, with ships, in search of it, so long as Ponce agreed to pay for the ships and crew. In March of 1513, this deluded, but determined, seeker and his company sailed from Bimini in the quest to find this non-existent fountain. After sailing for days without seeing the Island of Bimini, Ponce De Leon and his crew sighted the Florida coast on March 27, and on April 2 they landed at a spot that he named, St. Augustine, and which became the first Spanish settlement on the mainland of North America.

Even after his first venture failed to locate the mythical "Fountain of Youth," so determined was Ponce to find it that in 1521 he made a second voyage in search of what was no more discoverable than the mythical Pot of Gold at the end of a rainbow. During this repeat trip and venture Ponce and his men were attacked by native tribesmen in Florida. Many of the expedition died. Ponce was himself gravely wounded, and though he escaped to Cuba, where he entered a hospital, there he died of his wounds.

There is no magic elixir in this world whereby the "perishing substance" of our mortal bodies can be transformed into that "incorruptible" body made of that "better and enduring substance" than can live forever. But, there IS A FOUNTAIN, the healing powers of which DO bring Eternal Life! That Fountain has been "opened" (Zech. 13:1) and flowing for nearly 2,000 years since Christ's death on Calvary, and all who partake of it can live forever! -- "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have EVERLASTING LIFE" (John 3:16).

"With what body [shall the saints] come" out of the grave, (1 Cor. 15:35)? -- Answer: -- With a an "incorruptible" body made of "a better and enduring substance" that will never tire, never wear out, and never perish! -- "world without end."

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(D) It will be A SPIRITUAL BODY

The angels are spirits: -- "Who maketh his ANGELS SPIRITS" (Ps 104:4; Heb 1:7)

Jesus said of the saints: -- "When they shall rise from the dead, they.. are AS THE ANGELS" (Mark 12:25) -- and, since the angels have spiritual bodies, then the saints too shall have spiritual bodies.

But, there can be no doubt here at all. 1 Corinthians 15:44 states this clearly: -- "It [the triumphant saint's body] is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

The "better and more enduring substance" of which the glorified saints' bodies shall consist is a spiritual substance. After Christ's resurrection, He had "flesh and bones": Luke 24:39 -- "Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have." Yet, the "substance" of those flesh and bones had to have been "spiritual" for -- he was able to appear in rooms without passing through any opening. He passed through the material substance enclosing the rooms with his spiritual body.

Apparently, we cannot discount the idea that the saints' glorified bodies shall be such that they can still be legitimately called "flesh and bones" bodies. Consider what Job said: -- "And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet IN MY FLESH shall I see God" (Job 19:26).

Job expected to see God "IN HIS FLESH" -- after his resurrection, and we have no reason to doubt that he shall. 1 Cor. 15:39 tells us: "All flesh is not the same flesh: but there is one kind of flesh of men, another flesh of beasts, another of fishes, and another of birds."

God made different kinds of flesh in and for this world. It will be no trouble for Him to create another, supremely different kind of flesh -- spiritual flesh -- for his glorified saints.

In light of the above, perhaps we should take Paul's statement in 1 Cor. 15:50 "that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God" to mean, more precisely, that earthly, flesh and blood bodies cannot enter heaven -- but heavenly and spiritual, flesh and bone bodies shall. What think ye? Whatever the case about substance of the glorified saints being "flesh" it is certain that the bodies of the glorified saints will be spiritual bodies.

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(E) It will be A BRILLIANT, CELESTIAL BODY

Hollywood (more aptly called Hellywood) is inhabited by what worldly people call "Stars". The only Scripture that might agree with their being called "Stars" is Jude 1:13, which tells of those who foam out their own shame, and who are "WANDERING STARS, to whom is reserved the blackness of darkness for ever." This is the kind of "stars" produced by Satan in that cesspool of iniquity.

Christ produces stars of a different order, and of a much brighter magnitude. The body of a glorified saint as he joins Christ in the air "shall shine as the brightness of the firmament" and those who have turned "many to righteousness" shall glisten in their brilliance "as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3)!! This is the kind of "STARS" produced by Jesus!

In 1 Cor. 15:40, St. Paul says concerning the saints' glorified bodies: -- "There are also CELESTIAL bodies, and bodies terrestrial: but the GLORY OF THE CELESTIAL IS ONE, and the glory of the terrestrial is another" (1 Cor. 15:40).

Let me put that in a little homespun language:-- It is one thing to "shine" in a terrestrial (earthly) body, but TO SHINE IN A CELESTIAL BODY -- NOW, THAT WILL BE SOMETHING ELSE!!

Christ gave his disciples a little glimpse of what it will be like when, on the Mount with them He "was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light" (Matt. 17:2).

At His Revelation, Christ's blazing splendor will literally slay the wicked: "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" (2 Thess. 2:8). But, before that burning destruction, the wicked will also see Christ's glorified saints "shall.. also appear with Him in glory" (Col. 3:4), and their brilliance shall be seen as stars of the first magnitude.

When Jesus thus puts His glorified saints on display with Him in the heavens, can we not hear Him saying to those who have badmouthed, despised, and hated them: "Where is now thy mouth? .. Is not this the people that thou hast despised? Go out.. now, and fight with them" (Judges 9:38). And you know the outcome of that battle -- OVERWHELMING VICTORY FOR CHRIST AND HIS GLORIFIED SAINTS!

Before leaving this point, however, let me note with Paul's words that: "There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory" (1 Cor. 15:41). The greater the saint's love, the greater that one's sacrifice, service, and suffering for Christ has been in this life, then no doubt the greater shall be the brilliance of that saint's glowing in glory. I venture to say that many who have not "shined" in the eyes of those in the Church on earth, shall glow in glory with a splendor that will contrast greatly with the lesser brilliance of some who were more popular in the congregation here below. It is clear from the preceding verse, that while none who make it in to heaven will be unhappy with their lot, and the visage of none in heaven will be dim -- SOME WILL GLOW WITH GREATER GLORY there, and doubtless it will be those whose reward is justly much larger and brighter than that of others.

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(F) It will be A PAINLESS AND POWERFUL BODY

Rev. 21:4 tells us that in the New Jerusalem, "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

"With what body do they come" into the Holy City? -- With one that shall be forever free from pain. Just think of it, saint of God: -- You won't be prone to bang your shins in heaven, but even if you were, it wouldn't hurt! Folks won't be stumbling and falling up yonder -- but even if they did, it wouldn't hurt! It is hard to imagine and understand (with finite minds) how it will be possible to never blunder, never stub your toe, and never suffer pain -- but God said "neither shall there be any more pain" in Heaven, and thus it SHALL be.

But, not only will you have a pain-free body in glory, dear saint, you will also have A POWERFUL BODY. Do you feel pretty weak these days? Fret not, Jesus has promised that though the body of his saint "is sown in weakness; it [shall be] raised in power" (1 Cor. 14:43).

You may have been unable to lift your weight in feathers in this world, in that world you shall be a perfect specimen of strength and vitality. You may be very surprised, as well as delighted, at how much strength you have in heaven! Your power (all from Christ, of course) will be great, and unlike the shorn Samson, you will never lose that power!

Again, are you feeling awfully weak, dear saint of God? Remember, the Almighty "giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength," (Isa. 40:29), and in heaven your "increased" power shall never diminish. Read this: "They go from strength to strength, every one of them in Zion" (Psa. 84:7)! Read this also: "The righteous also shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall be stronger and stronger" (Job 17:9). Now if God has promised to make those "stronger and stronger" who are "holding on their way" to heaven, you can be sure that when they get there their glorified powers will ever grow and never diminish!

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(G) It will be A PREPARED BODY

"A body hast thou prepared me" (Heb. 10:5).

1Cor. 15:38 -- "But God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him, and to every seed his own body."

God prepared a flesh and blood body for His Son -- a body in which he suffered, bled, and died for a lost world. God prepared a glorified body for his risen Son. Thrice in the Word it

is declared that God would not "suffer [His] Holy One to see corruption" (Psa 16:10; Acts 2:27; Acts 13:35).

God prepared your earthly body. Hard as it may be for finite minds to understand, it is God who ordains that each one come into this world with the body in which they arrive. Those born with particular deficiencies and problems do often wonder why they are born as they are.

"Once a minister paid a visit to a deaf and dumb asylum in London for the purpose of examining the children in the knowledge they possessed of the divine truth. A little boy on this occasion was asked in writing, 'Who made the world?' The boy took up the chalk and wrote underneath the question, 'In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.' Then the minister inquired in a similar manner, 'Why did Jesus Christ come into the world?' A smile of delight and gratitude rested on the countenance of the little fellow as he wrote, 'This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.'

"A third question was then proposed, eminently adapted to call his most powerful feelings into exercise: 'Why were you born deaf and dumb, while I can hear and speak?' 'Never,' said an eyewitness, shall I forget the look of holy resignation and chastened sorrow which sat on his countenance as he took up the chalk and wrote: 'Even so, Father, for so it seemeth good in thy sight.'" -- Sunday School Evangelist

Saint of God, a body was prepared for you in which to dwell in this world. You may not understand why your earthly body is what it is, but God did not make a mistake in allowing you to come here thus. "God set the members every one of them in [your] body, as it hath pleased him" (1Co 12:18). Like the lad in the story above, it is best that each one accept the wisdom of God in their own case -- whatever it be.

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THE END