

#101 FORUM POST ON THE NUMBER “FOURTEEN”

Dear all,

Before tackling the symbolism of the number **fourteen** in the Bible, let us first consider the number **seven**, since fourteen is a multiple of seven. In Hebrew, the word for **seven** is *sheba* (*shibah*), but this word also means **promise, oath, or covenant**. Hence in Genesis 22:15, 16, we find God **swearing** (or literally **sevening**) to Abraham that, because the latter did not waver in his faith in the Lord and was willing to sacrifice his son, Isaac, God would greatly multiply his seed and bless all the families of the earth through it. Similarly, in Genesis 21:29-31, Abraham offers **seven** ewes to Abimelech in order to secure an **oath** made between them: “Therefore he called that place Beersheba, because there the two of them took an **oath**. So they made a **covenant** at Beersheba...”

The number **seven** in the Bible denotes perfection, completion, also God’s assurance or oath that His word and purposes stand firm. Accordingly, the number **fourteen**, the second multiple of **seven**, simply reinforces this completeness, or seals it in concrete by doubling it. Jacob worked for Laban **seven** years, received Leah through trickery, and then worked another **seven** years or **fourteen** years in all to obtain Rachel as his wife. When Solomon’s first temple was finished, the dedication feast lasted “**seven** days and **seven more** days, even **fourteen** days. On the eighth day (eighth after the second seven-day period) he sent the people away and they blessed the king,” (I Kings 8: 65, 66).

The most significant use of the number **fourteen** is found in the date Nisan 14. On this date occurred the deliverance of Israel from bondage to Egypt, as well as the deliverance of the first born from death by means of the blood of a lamb sprinkled on the doorposts. This event of paramount importance foreshadowed the future deliverance of the entire world of mankind from slavery to sin and death through the sacrifice of our Lord Jesus. The Jews were commanded to keep this observance called the Passover until the advent of Christ, the Messiah, “the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world” (John 1: 29).

Furthermore, we find in the first chapter of Matthew additional references to the number **fourteen**. In addressing the genealogy of Christ, Matthew writes, “So all the generations from Abraham to David are **fourteen** generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, **fourteen** generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, **fourteen** generations,” (Matthew 1: 17). All three generation spans are multiples of the perfect number **seven**. By this symbolic delineation of time leading to the advent of Christ, the Redeemer, we are assured that God’s plan moves unwaveringly toward its completion. (It is also noteworthy that the name David, broken down into its consonants **D-V-D** in Hebrew has a numerical value of **4-6-4**, totaling **14**.) Thus, in repeating the number 14, Matthew is demonstrating that Jesus is, in fact, the Son of David (Matthew 22: 42, 44).

B

Dear B _____,

I read your post and can agree with a small portion of what you presented. However, you are missing the overall meaning of the number fourteen due to you not understanding the pathway to salvation. I do agree that 14 has two parts (7 + 7) as you stated.

Here is what I see for the number 14:

$7 + 7$ or 2×7

Fourteen represents the spiritual progress of the Elect as they travel the pathway to salvation. The first "seven" begins when an Elect person is born and leads up to when they are given the Early Rain of the Spirit. The Early Rain of the Spirit is what gives them their faith in Christ. This is when they are called to be a saint and when they enter the church. The second "seven" occurs as the Elect person waits for the Lord to return with the Latter Rain of the Spirit and conversion. Conversion is the end of the spiritual progression and is when Christ is revealed to the Elect believer (when Christ is anointed by the believer).

Here are some of the related numbers associated with the number fourteen:

The number seven represents "perfection" (not completion, the number 10 represents completion).

The number two represents the "witness of God" and is usually referring to the converted Elect who are Christ's witnesses in the world.

The number three represents a "spiritual process".

Below are three scriptural examples which teach the spiritual progression represented by the number 14. You referred to two of these examples in your post. The three examples will correspond with the pathway to salvation that the Elect will travel to be converted. If you don't understand the pathway to salvation, you will not be able to understand the spiritual progression taught by the number 14.

1). The story of Jacob, Leah and Rachel.

The first "seven" is represented by the seven years that Jacob worked for Rachel. That "seven" ends with Jacob being deceived (represents becoming apostate) and marrying Leah (the first born/ruled by Satan) rather than Rachel (the second born/ruled by Christ) who he thought he had married. To marry Rachel, Jacob worked another seven years, at the end of which, Jacob finally married Rachel.

2). The story of Joseph and the seven years of plenty followed by the seven years of famine.

The first "seven" occurs to a Elect person from the time of their birth up until they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit. It is a time of plenty when they store up the harvest of this world (the

crop represents their carnal beliefs). The second "seven" is a time of famine which begins after the Elect person is given the Early Rain of the Spirit and ends when they are given the Latter Rain of the Spirit. The time of famine is caused by the spiritual blindness of the new believer because they cannot consume the spiritual food of Christ (bread, meat and New Wine). This time period of famine corresponds to Elijah's 3 1/2 years of drought and the last 3 1/2 years of Daniel's Seventy Weeks prophecy. During this time of famine, the new believer will still consume the food (carnal beliefs) that they stored up during the time of plenty. The time of famine (the second "seven") ends when the Elect believer is given the Latter Rain of the Spirit which heals their spiritual blindness. It is at this time that the believer will feast of the true bread from heaven and be converted.

3). Mat 1:17 “So all the generations from Abraham to David are fourteen generations; from David to the deportation to Babylon, fourteen generations; and from the deportation to Babylon to the Messiah, fourteen generations,”

There are "three" segments of 14 generations mentioned in the verse. The number three represents a "spiritual process" which occurs as an Elect person travels to their conversion (to Christ). Fourteen represents the spiritual progression that ends with conversion.

The example you gave of Nissan 14 also represents the spiritual progression that leads to conversion (salvation of the first born/carnal man).

Joe

B_____ never responded.

H_____ responded to an old post I made on another thread concerning mankind's inability to choose Christ and to stop sinning. H_____ is a SDA and has a very strong "works" belief system.

Dear FaithWillDo,

So mankind has no ability to choose to follow the truth or God and will stay in the bondage of sin and iniquity and its consequences in the lake of fire?

H_____

Dear H_____,

Yes.

God's Word says that Christ created mankind with a marred spirit. As a result of this marred spirit, mankind became carnally minded and sinful (subject to vanity). In this condition, mankind is said to be the children of the devil who CANNOT understand and receive the truth of God or ever stop sinning.

Because the child of the devil sins, the child of the devil is "condemned already" (John 3:18).

Nothing can stop the children of the devil from perishing. For that reason, we must be born again as a new creation.

To correct mankind's spiritual flaws, the Father sent Christ into the world to change mankind from being a child of the devil into being a child of God. This spiritual work is called conversion and is what it means to be "born again".

After Christ converts a person, they will then understand & receive the truth of God and will no longer be carnally minded and sinful.

The spiritual work of conversion can only be accomplished by Christ. Mankind has no ability to contribute anything toward their own conversion. They can't even repent of their works or have any faith in Christ until Christ gives them this ability by the free gift of the Spirit.

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

Mankind is totally at the mercy of Christ to save us.

To convert the people who were blessed to be saved in the early harvest of mankind, Christ will come to them at a time of His choosing and freely give them the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by His judgment.

The Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit will give the Elect person their new birth. Christ's judgment will then follow and will destroy all the things within the person which has caused them to be carnally minded and sinful. This judgment will result in the death of the child of the devil and will satisfy the penalty of the law of sin and death. After Christ has completed His spiritual work within the Elect person, they will be like Christ. This is what it means to be saved.

And because Christ loves all mankind, He has promised to save all mankind. God is not a respecter of persons and will not exclude anyone from His free gift of salvation.

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

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom

for all, to be testified in due time.

What I have just presented above is the true Gospel (Good News) of Christ and is what Christ's witnesses in this world (the Elect) are commanded to teach.

1Tim 4:10 For therefore we both labor and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Savior of all men, specially of those that believe. 11 These things command and teach.

Joe

Another member made a post on another thread:

Dear All,

1. Christ is Lord of lords
2. Christ is King of Kings
3. Christ is the Holy One
4. Christ is the Redeemer

Christ is the Husband

For **thy Maker** [*is*] thine **husband**; the LORD of hosts [*is*] his name; and thy **Redeemer** the **Holy One** of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. (Isa 54:5)

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:

For **by him were all things created**, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether [*they*] be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: **all things were created by him, and for him:**

And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. (Col 1:15-17)

And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her **a bill of divorce**; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. (Jer 3:8)

Surely [*as*] a wife treacherously departeth from **her husband**, so have ye dealt treacherously with me, O house of Israel, saith the LORD. (Jer 3:20)

Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day [*that*] I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an **husband** unto them, saith the LORD: (Jer 31:32)

For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one **husband**, that I

may present [*you as*] a chaste virgin to Christ. (2Co 11:2)

Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for **the marriage of the Lamb** is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. (Rev 19:7)

And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed [*are*] they which are called unto the **marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God. (Rev 19:9)

And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto **the supper of the great God**; (Rev 19:17)

And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. (Rev 21:2)

For **the husband** is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. (Eph 5:23)

Wherefore, my brethren, ye also are become dead to the law by the body of Christ; that ye should be married to another, [*even*] to him who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God. (Rom 7:4)

Peace.

B _____,

Dear B _____,

Do you understand that the marriage analogy used throughout scripture is a teaching on the pathway to salvation that the Elect will travel?

The time of engagement occurs to a person when Christ gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit.

2Cor 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

The marriage occurs after a time of "waiting" and just after Christ gives the espoused believer the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

After the Elect believer is given the Latter Rain of the Spirit, their spiritual blindness will be healed (Mark 8:15-25 & Acts 9:17-18). Christ will then spiritually "appear" to the virgin and gather them back to heaven (Mat 24:29-31) for the marriage ceremony (spiritually speaking). This is when the Elect believer becomes the Bride of Christ and is when they actually become a saint (no longer just called to be a saint).

The event I just described above is the Second Coming of Christ. It is a reoccurring spiritual event (Rev 1:4 & 8) which happens to all the Elect before they die. It is not a single physically visible event that happens at the end of this age as is commonly taught - that is a false teaching.

After the marriage ceremony, the Marriage Supper of the Lamb will occur. It occurs at this time because the believer (now with "eyes that can see") can have the ability to receive and understand the spiritual teachings of Christ (bread and New Wine). This event is also called the Lord's Supper and is what the physical act of communion foreshadows.

After the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, judgment will fall on the believer to remove all the spiritual things (spirit of anti-Christ & the Great Harlot/Mat 24:37-41) within them which have caused them to be carnally minded.

Here is a little more on the engagement when a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit:

After a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will have a "measure of faith" (Rom 12:3) and will call Jesus "Lord":

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

This event was "typed" by Paul when Christ appeared to him on the Damascus Road. This is when Paul (and others) enter the church.

At this point in the pathway to salvation, the new believer is a "babe" and a "virgin" who must wait for the Lord to return for the marriage ceremony to take place. Many of the NT letters are addressed to this type of believer (virgins/babes) who are waiting for Christ's return.

These verses apply:

Rom 1:7 To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be saints: Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and the Lord Jesus Christ.

1Cor 1:2 Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all that in every place call upon the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints (converted Elect/Bride**) which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful (**unconverted babes/espoused virgins**) in Christ Jesus:**

Col 1:2 To the saints (converted Elect/Bride**) and faithful brethren (**unconverted babes/espoused virgins**) in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.**

In the verse below, James is addressing unconverted believers (virgins/babes) and teaches them about the TWO major steps that are necessary for salvation:

James 5:7 Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the farmer waiteth for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receives the EARLY and LATTER RAIN. 8 Be ye also patient; stablish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

James confirms that the Second Coming of Christ will occur "quickly" (Rev 22:12) within the lives of each Elect believer and that it is NOT a one-time event that happens a long way into the future. If Christ doesn't return to give the virgin the Latter Rain of the Spirit before they die, they are not one of the Elect.

The teaching of the marriage analogy includes 1). a time of engagement, a 2). a time of waiting, and 3). a time when the Bridegroom returns to gather His virgin back to heaven for the marriage ceremony.

These 3 steps on the pathway to salvation are also shown in the farming analogy. The "time of engagement" occurs when a person is given the Early Rain of the Spirit. The time of waiting is the time between the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. The "time when the Bridegroom returns and gathers His virgin to heaven" is reflected by the receiving of the Latter Rain, the burning of the tares/chaff and being harvested into the barn (Kingdom of Heaven).

Without a proper understanding of the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit and the Second Coming of Christ, many of the NT teachings will not make sense.

Joe

B_____ did not respond to my post.

Another member made this post below:

Dear All,

"Let no one say when he is tempted, 'I am being tempted by God'; for God cannot be tempted by evil, and He Himself does not tempt anyone. But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust. Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death."

These three verses have been the basis of countless sermons from almost the time that they were written. Of course, the reason is that the process it describes is so horribly accurate when it comes to the steps that lead to sin and the consequence. However, there is one important point that must be remembered. God does not tempt anyone, and He does not make anyone sin.

Many years ago, there was a funny little slogan that people would say when they were caught in something or had made a mistake. "It's not my fault, the devil made me do it!" Comedians would use it in their show and the audience would laugh, but nothing was farther from the truth. Because the devil does not force people to sin either!

Now, yes, the devil DOES tempt people. But the decision to give in to the temptation is a

PERSONAL decision. Therefore, the consequences are a result of PERSONAL decisions and actions. People will live worldly lives with no thought of God and His word. But when, as a result of their own actions and conduct, their lives experience some tragedy or upheaval, they desperately ask for help from God or become angry at God because of the mess that THEY created.

James 1:14-15 “But each one is tempted when he is carried away and enticed by his own lust.” The process described in these verses is very clear, and this flies in the face of the doctrine that a person is born sinful due to Adam and Eve’s sin in the Garden. A baby, a small child, or even an older child will do things that are wrong, but there is no real sense that the actions are spiritually or morally wrong.

But one day, as that child grows older and matures physically and mentally, the time will come where a situation has developed where a decision must be made and the thought that goes through that person’s mind is “I really want to do this, but I know that it is wrong”.

The temptation is attractive. Very few people are tempted to go to the dentist to have a tooth pulled just because they like having their teeth pulled! No, this is “bait” that the devil has placed before that young person. It may be going out with a group of friends to a party where there will be drinking, possibly illegal drugs, and very suggestive dancing. Yet, that young man or young woman KNOWS it would be morally and spiritually wrong. What will the decision be?

For an older man or woman, it may be a chance to get ahead in work if I “cheat” or “lie” just a little bit. “Afterall, it will only be a ‘little’ lie.” Or, there may be a ‘juicy’ piece of news heard about an acquaintance. It may be a co-worker, a neighbor, or even a brother or sister in Christ.

It is not something that has to be shared with others; but.... it is just TOO GOOD to not tell someone. The scriptures condemn gossiping and the person knows it. “But it not really gossiping if I just tell one person and make them promise not to tell others is it?” So, the bait has been set for the trap. Again, what will be the decision?

If the person TAKES the bait. In other words, he/she has been carried away and enticed by his/her own lust and has given in to the temptation, “Then when lust has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and when sin is accomplished, it brings forth death.” It is important to note that “death” in this case is describing spiritual death just like what happened in the Garden when the Man and Woman ate the forbidden fruit. Obviously, when they ate the fruit, they did not physically fall over dead.

And today, being guilty of sin does not normally lead to immediate physical death. But the fact remains that the person guilty of sin is spiritually DEAD. That person has died as far as God is concerned, because the price for being guilty of committing sin is DEATH. On top of that, there is no way that a person can save himself/herself from that condition. So, alone, there is no hope for forgiveness.

T _____

Dear T _____,

As you stated, the penalty of sin is death and that penalty was passed down from Adam to all his offspring. As a result, when a person is born, they are "condemned already":

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

Paul also presented this same issue that James presented in the verses you quoted. But Paul goes on to present the solution to mankind's sin problem:

Rom 7:23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord.

The solution to mankind's sin problem is Jesus Christ. He is the only one who can deliver mankind from the debt of death that all mankind owes.

To save mankind from sin and death, Jesus Christ offered Himself up as the perfect and final blood sacrifice that will remove mankind's sin.

To receive the protection of Christ's sacrifice, a person must be "in Christ". Once a person is "in Christ", they are no longer under the law of sin and death.

So how does a person come under the protection of Christ's sacrifice? It most certainly is not by a person's own works (religion). Israel proved that a man's "works" cannot make a person righteous before God. The Old Covenant was given to Israel to prove that truth to them (and us) so as to be our schoolmaster to lead us to Christ. As Paul said, Jesus Christ is the answer to who will deliver mankind from sin.

Under the New Covenant of Grace through Faith, Christ does 100% of the works which are necessary to save a person. To begin the process of a person's salvation, Christ will come to them (without their asking or permission) and freely give the person the Early Rain of the Spirit. With the Spirit within them, they will have a measure of faith. A person's faith in Christ can come from no other place. Faith is a gift and must be given to mankind because all mankind is carnally minded and spiritually blind to God's truth.

Rom 8:7 Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.

1Cor 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

But since the Early Rain of the Spirit is only given in measure, it will leave the new believer (a babe) unconverted and spiritually blind. In this condition, the new believer will not be able to understand and receive the truth of God:

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

As a result, the new believer (a babe who draws milk) will "fall backward and be broken and snared and taken". To fall backward means the same thing as to "fall away". Falling away occurs as a result of mixing man's works with the works of Christ (faith). This sin is the ONE and ONLY sin that leads to death (loss of salvation). Since all the Elect begin the pathway to salvation as a babe, they cannot avoid falling away and being taken by Satan. It is from the "sin that leads to death" that Satan has built his apostate church which masquerades as the true church in this world.

All babes in Christ have experienced the apostasy since Paul's death. Christ taught this same truth below:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a False Prophet, a Man of Sin, a Minister of Satan and a Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns.

Since Christ calls "many" to be saints but has only chosen a "few" to actually become saints, most of the apostate church will die in their sins and will receive their portion with the unbelievers in the Lake of Fire.

For the "few" who have been chosen, Christ will come a second time (the second coming of Christ) to them and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit. The Latter Rain of the Spirit will cause them to be "born again" as a child of God. It will also heal the believer's spiritual blindness so that they will be able to finally receive the truth of God. With their blindness healed, they will "see" the Abomination of Desolation (Mat 24:15-16) that previously occurred within themselves so that they can see that their wickedness was great:

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? (day of salvation for the Elect) I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and RAIN (Latter Rain); that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great, which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no Latter Rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

Also, with their blindness healed, Christ will spiritually appear to them and commence his judgment to complete the person's conversion. With his judgment, Christ will remove the spirit of anti-Christ (Mat 24:40) and the Great Harlot (carnal nature, Mat 24:41) from within the Elect believer. Both will then be cast into the Lake of Fire for destruction (Rev 19:20). After this judgment is complete, the believer will be converted.

The only thing left to make the new child of God into a "perfect man" (Eph 4:13) is for Christ to teach the new child of God His righteousness. He does this by continuing to teach them His truth from God's Word and by His chastisements to correct their sinful ways. From this work of Christ, the believer's carnal mind (which is the cause of sin) will be slowly transformed into the mind of Christ. It is only at this point that the believer will no longer sin. Up until that point, the believer's sins will be covered by the blood of Christ.

But as I pointed out earlier, there is ONE sin that leads to death. It is the same sin that Satan uses to deceive all new believers. That sin is to mix man's works with faith (Christ's works). When a new believer mixes the Old Wine with the New Wine, they will fall from grace and lose their salvation.

Prov 23:27 For a whore is a deep ditch; and a strange woman is a narrow pit. 28 She also lieth in wait as for a prey, and increaseth the transgressors among men. 29 Who hath woe?

who hath sorrow? who hath contentions? who hath babbling? who hath wounds without cause? who hath redness of eyes? 30 They that tarry long at the wine; they that go to seek mixed wine. 31 Look not thou upon the wine when it is red, when it giveth his colour in the cup, when it moveth itself aright. 32 At the last it biteth like a serpent (Satan), and stingeth like an adder.

All other sins that a believer may (and will) commit are covered by the blood of Christ.

Joe

T_____ did not respond.

I moved onto another thread:

Dear All,

When Scripture is silent on something, we often make an assumptions about what likely happened based on our own predilections masquerading as logic.

Here's an example: **Did Methuselah die in the Great Flood?** Gen. 7:6 tells us that Noah was 600 years old at the time of the flood. That means his dad Lamech, who was 182 at Noah's birth, Gen. 5:28, was born 782 years before the flood. Coincidentally (or perhaps not coincidentally) Methuselah lived 782 years after Lamech was born, Gen. 5:26. So Methuselah died in the year of the flood. But IN the flood? We don't know.

It is tempting to assume that if Methuselah were still alive when the rains came, Noah would have found a spot on the Ark for his grandpa, and Genesis would have mentioned this elderly passenger. Such an assumption fits nicely with our presuppositions about the kind of man Noah was, and perhaps that Methuselah was. But in my view, these sorts of temptations must be resisted. Living with the uncertainty is preferable to guessing wrong.

As a warm up, I've intentionally given an example where the "right" answer is insignificant in the grand scheme of Biblical things. Before the fastballs start coming, I'll just ask: **who agrees with me that filling in Scriptural blanks is in invitation to indulge our biases?**

R_____

Dear R_____,

God's truth in scripture is presented "here a little, and there a little". Because truth is presented in this manner, it is necessary to search the scriptures and assemble the pieces of truth in order to understand the full truth of a subject.

Psa 119:160 The sum of your word is truth, and every one of your righteous rules endures forever.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts. 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

Teaching truth "here a little, and there a little" contributes to why "babes" in Christ cannot understand the truth of God. Christ teaches truth in this manner to keep God's truth concealed from everyone but the converted Elect (those who no longer draw milk).

Note: Conversion requires the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by judgment.

Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children (no longer a babe who draws milk), ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Because babes can only understand a small amount of truth from scripture (Christ and Him crucified), Satan has no problem deceiving unconverted believers with his lies. And since all believers start off as "babes", all believers will experience a time under Satan's deceptions in his apostate church. This happens because it suits God's purposes and not for any other reason. God is not a respecter of persons. Since the death of Paul, all the Elect will travel the same pathway to salvation.

Christ presents this truth again in the verses below:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer (a "babe" who draws milk) remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual

condition is worse than the first.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a False Prophet, a Man of Sin, a Minister of Satan and a Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns.

Because all Elect believers will become apostate before they are converted, they will all see the Abomination of Desolation after Christ has given them the Latter Rain of the Spirit and has healed their spiritual blindness.

Mat 24:15 When (not "if") ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand:)

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no Latter Rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead, thou refusedst to be ashamed.

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest to day? (day of conversion for the Elect) I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and RAIN (the Latter Rain); that ye may perceive and see that your wickedness is great (have become an apostate believer), which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

Below is a very common example of how teaching truth "here a little, and there a little" will led a "babe" into error:

Deu 30:19 I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:

Most "babes" will use verses like the one above to argue that mankind has a free will to choose Christ (life). However, the verse above is silent on the cause of a person's decision to choose life. To understand whether or not a person has a free will ability to choose life, we must look to other scripture. When we do, it become very clear that Christ alone is the cause of a person's decision to choose life. Mankind does not have a free will ability to make that decision.

Prov 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Jer 10:23 I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.

Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

John 15:16 Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

So how does Christ cause a person to "choose life"?

This is how:

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

When Christ is ready for an unbeliever to "choose life", Christ will come to them and freely give them the Early Rain of the Spirit. With the Spirit within the unbeliever, they will make the decision to choose life when presented the Gospel. Their decision was not a free will decision because their decision was caused by Christ. Christ was the one who gave them the "answer of their tongue".

When babes add to scripture (like in the manner I presented above from Deu 30:19), this verse below will apply to them:

Rev 22:18 For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book:

And since all babes "add" to scripture, all babes will experience the plaques presented in the book of Revelation.

These verses below confirm this truth:

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for THE TIME IS AT HAND.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Truth is taught "here a little, and there a little" and the sum of God's Word is truth. Do you believe it?

Joe

Another member responded:

Dear FaithWillDo,

No one will know God and Christ unless HE wills it so. We are not enabled to know them and be saved on our own without His help.

Yes, we are chosen by Him, we did not choose Him, He chose us.

Our desiring to see and know is not enough as God is the one who chooses to whom He will reveal Himself.

Luke 10

21 In that hour Jesus rejoiced in the Spirit and said, "I thank You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that You have hidden these things from *the* wise and prudent and revealed them to babes. Even so, Father, for so it seemed good in Your sight. 22 All[g] things have been delivered to Me by My Father, and no one knows who the Son is except the Father, and who the Father is except the Son, and *the one* to whom the Son wills to reveal *Him*."

23 Then He turned to *His* disciples and said privately, "Blessed *are* the eyes which see the things you see; 24 for I tell you that many prophets and kings have desired to see what you see, and have not seen *it*, and to hear what you hear, and have not heard *it*."

In fact, Peter tells the Lord Jesus to leave him as he is a sinful man. God had different plans and overruled Peter's thoughts, mind and ways. God does change our hearts, else no one would follow Christ. God is fully aware of all our failings, yet He says do not be afraid, for those He has chosen to belong to them. God will work it out as all things work to the good of those who love God, who are called according to His purposes.

Luke 5

5 But Simon answered and said to Him, "Master, we have toiled all night and caught nothing; nevertheless at Your word I will let down the net." 6 And when they had done this, they caught a great number of fish, and their net was breaking. 7 So they signaled to *their* partners in the other boat to come and help them. And they came and filled both the boats, so that they began to sink. 8 When Simon Peter saw *it*, he fell down at Jesus' knees, saying, "Depart from me, for I am a sinful man, O Lord!"

9 For he and all who were with him were astonished at the catch of fish which they had taken; 10 and so also *were* James and John, the sons of Zebedee, who were partners with Simon. And Jesus said to Simon, "Do not be afraid. From now on you will catch men." 11 So when they had brought their boats to land, they [a]forsook all and followed Him.

S _____

Dear S _____,

I agree with most of your post except for your comment "We are not enabled to know them and be saved on our own without His help." Your comment implies that mankind must still do some of the work to be saved. However, scripture clearly teaches that Christ will do 100% of the work for our salvation. Mankind contributes nothing. I'll explain below.

Carnal mankind has no ability to seek and understand Christ (Rom 8:7 & 1Cor 2:14) unless Christ intervenes and draws them to Himself. To cause a person to be drawn to Him, Christ will spiritually come to an unbeliever (without their asking or permission) and freely give them the Early Rain of the Spirit. This is what Paul's Damascus Road experience "typed".

If Christ doesn't come to a person with this gift, the person will continue as an unbeliever until they die. They have no choice in the matter. Most of the world falls into this group of individuals who are not called to be a saint.

Mat 22:14 For many are called, but few are chosen.

However, Christ will call "many" to be saints. Christ calls them by giving them the Early Rain of the Spirit. With this small amount of the Spirit, the person will have a measure of faith and certain spiritual gifts. Then, when the person is presented the Gospel, they will make a confession of faith and enter the church.

This verse applies to their confession of faith:

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

This is how Christ draws a person to Himself and how He calls them to be a saint. 1Cor 1:1-8 teaches this truth.

But since the Early Rain of the Spirit does not convert the person or heal their pre-existing spiritual blindness, Christ will only appear to the new believer (a babe) in a carnal way. They will be able to understand "Christ and Him crucified" (Christ's physical work He performed under the OC) but the spiritual teachings of the New Covenant will mostly remain concealed from them. Mark 8:15-25, Mat 12:43-45 and Paul's conversion experience testify to this truth.

However, because the new believer remains spiritually blind, Satan has no problem deceiving the new believer. Satan deceives them by planting his seed of the spirit of anti-Christ within them. With the spirit of anti-Christ within them, the Abomination of Desolation will occur within the new believer. Satan will then kill the new believer (loss of salvation) by causing the new believer to "fall away" (mix works with faith). This is the sin that leads to death which Paul and John both mentioned. It is the only sin that a believer can commit that will cause them to lose their salvation. Satan knows this truth so he uses this sin to kill the saints (Mat 24:9, Rev 11:7). This is

how Satan builds his apostate church which is manifested in the world as all the various 2,000 different denominations/sects of Christianity.

Since Paul's death, "falling away" has happened to ALL new believers shortly they have entered the church. The Parable of the Wheat and the Tares, Paul's conversion experience and Mat 12:43-45 are just a few places in scripture which teach this spiritual truth. No new believer can avoid experiencing their "Day of Evil" when they are made "worse than the first" (a man of sin).

Christ explains how it happens below:

Mat 12:43 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself SEVEN other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an unclean spirit represents a spirit which teaches Satan's false truth through lies and deceptions.

Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more. The number "seven" represents perfection. In this case, the number seven represents the perfection of Satan's lies/deceptions which come to a believer by the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within the believer, they now have EIGHT. The number eight is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first.

This "worse than the first" spiritual condition causes the believer to become a False Prophet, a Man of Sin, a Minister of Satan and a Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns & Crowns.

The scripture below also applies:

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (no longer babes/converted). 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken (by Satan).

Since all new believers will fall away, Christ will return to the "few" who have been chosen for

salvation in this age and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the Elect believer's spiritual blindness will be healed and the true Christ will appear to them. This is when the person will "see" the Abomination of Desolation (Mat 24:15) and when they will come out from Satan's deceptions. Judgment (Day of the Lord/Thousand Year Reign) will then commence upon the Elect believer to remove the spirit of anti-Christ and the Great Harlot (their worsened carnal nature). This judgment is taught in Mat 24:36-41 and Rev 19:11-20. After this judgment is complete, the believer will be converted and will then begin spiritually growing into a perfect man.

This same conversion experience happened to Paul after his 3 days (types Paul's Day of Evil) in Damascus were complete.

All of what I have presented above to save an Elect person is a result of the spiritual work of Christ that He does under the New Covenant. The Elect person contributes nothing toward their own conversion - it truly was a gift from God:

Eph 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

Rom 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth.

Is this the pathway to salvation that you understand and believe?

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Consider what I said about His aiding us to salvation by means of His propitiation sacrifice the same as in Hebrews 2, where He aids to salvation the children God has given Him and what you said.

The elect must believe, and is also the reason why Paul says he labors. So yes pray that the Lord sends laborers into His field which is the world as that is where His elect are born. No one is born saved. Paul labors so that the elect obtain salvation by believing.

[2 Timothy 2:10](#)

Therefore I endure all things for the sake of the **elect**, that they also may obtain the salvation which is in Christ Jesus with eternal glory.

Hebrews 2

10 For it was fitting for Him, for whom *are* all things and by whom *are* all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. 11 For both He who [g]sanctifies and those who are being sanctified *are* all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, 12 saying:

“I will declare Your name to My brethren;
In the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.”
13 And again:

“I will put My trust in Him.”
And again:

“Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.”

14 Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, 15 and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. 16 For indeed He does not [h]give aid to angels, but He does [i]give aid to the seed of Abraham.

17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like *His* brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things *pertaining* to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. 18 For in that He Himself has suffered, being [j]tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

S

Dear S _____,

You said:

The elect must believe, and is also the reason why Paul says he labors. So yes pray that the Lord sends laborers into His field which is the world as that is where His elect are born. No one is born saved. Paul labors so that the elect obtain salvation by believing.

I agree - the Elect are not born saved. However, the Elect are born "chosen" to be saved before they die. To be saved, Christ will do 100% of the work of saving the Elect. Included in this work, Christ will cause bondservants like Paul to help bring in His harvest.

Also, the Elect believer has no works to perform to save themselves. Yes, the person will make a confession of faith but that confession is a result of the spiritual work that Christ did within the person. The person cannot take credit for their confession. When they do, they are stealing from Christ.

Prov 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

Phil 2:13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure.

1Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.

John 1:12 But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.

Eph 1:4 According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will, 6 To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved.

Also, to be saved, a person must be converted from being a child of the Devil (all mankind) who is "condemned already" (John 3:18) into being a child of God who is not condemned. The confession of faith is what makes Christ's pathway straight for Him to come and convert the Elect person. For those who are not chosen for salvation in this age, Christ will not perform all the necessary spiritual work to save them before they die. The non-Elect person has no say in the matter and has no ability to save themselves.

Paul was asked about the fairness of Christ choosing those who will be saved in this age. Here is the scripture:

Rom 9:11 (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) 12 It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. 13 As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. 14 What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. 15 For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. 16 So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that sheweth mercy.

Conversion requires both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by judgment. Judgment removes all the spiritual things within the person which has caused them to be carnally minded. After the person is converted, they will be like Christ. This is God's free gift to mankind.

The balance of mankind who were not chosen for an early salvation will be saved in the final age. This includes all unbelievers and believers who were called to be a saints but were not chosen for this honor.

The verse below applies to Christ's judgment of the lost which will occur in the final age:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

In the final age, the balance of mankind will be cast into the Lake of Fire (not literal fire, it is a symbol for Christ's judgment) where they will be judged by the Law. Under the Law, the penalty of sin is death. However, before the "lost" perish from this judgment, Christ will have MERCY upon each person. His mercy will come to them in the form of the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit which will give them FAITH. Because of the faith that the Spirit gives them, Christ will appear to the person and complete their conversion. The result will be the birth of a new child of God who will be gathered up to heaven. The child of the Devil will remain in the Lake of Fire until he perishes. This death will satisfy JUSTICE.

By the end of the final age, all who have died in Adam will be made alive in Christ. This result happens solely because it is God's "will" for it to happen. To accomplish His "will", God the Father sent Christ into the world to save us.

These verses apply:

1John 4:14 And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Savior of the world.

Rom 5:18 so then as it was by one offence towards all men to condemnation, so by one righteousness towards all men for justification of life. 19 For as indeed by the disobedience of the one man the many have been constituted sinners, so also by the obedience of the one the many will be constituted righteous.

Phi 2:10 That at the name of Jesus every knee shall bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; 11 and that every tongue shall confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

ok for much except for a final universal salvation at the very end of this world for all who are in Adam or human beings.

At the time of the new earth that God will make, where God makes all things new, the evil and unbelieving will remain in the lake of fire. A literal destruction where they do not ever escape to be saved later. God seals them in that place for all future eternity.

Rev 21

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, [a]John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said [b]to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

6 And He said to me, "It[c] is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. 7 He who overcomes [d]shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.

8 But the cowardly, [e]unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."

There is never any future promise of an eternal salvation in the future for them we are at the end of the books of God.

Christ is the savior of all men, but only if they believe in their hearts in this life in the flesh. Once they die and are fully exposed to the great hidden reality of the true natures of all things, it is no longer of unseen experiences (faith), there is only an awesome reality that they experience. Faith is no longer faith once it is experienced in real totality when the perfect has come in full reality and experienced fully which no one in the flesh body yet has. But when a person passes completely into the spirit realm, then they experience the full reality which was hidden from them, and they will have no excuse,

Right now in this life we live by faith and we only know in part. But at our passing into the spirit realm, we will see and experience all in full measure and it will no longer be of faith.

1 Cor 13

8 Love never fails. But whether *there are* prophecies, they will fail; whether *there are* tongues, they will cease; whether *there is* knowledge, it will vanish away. 9 For we know in part and we prophesy in part. 10 But when that which is [d]perfect has come, then that which is in part will be done away.

11 When I was a child, I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child; but when I became a man, I put away childish things. 12 For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known.

13 And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these *is* love.

13, NOW abide faith hope love, in the future though we will be all be changed.

S _____

Dear S _____,

You said:

At the time of the new earth that God will make, where God makes all things new, the evil and unbelieving will remain in the lake of fire. A literal destruction where they do not ever escape to be saved later. God seals them in that place for all future eternity.

You are misunderstanding the verses you quoted. Those verses are teaching truth in Christ's spiritual language. I'll try to explain what this means below.

Until a person has received both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, they will remain spiritually blind. To be spiritually blind means to understand God's Word (Christ) in a outward and physical way.

The Old Covenant of Law was given to carnal mankind who has no problem understanding it. This includes the work of Christ which led Him to the cross. For that reason, new believers (babes, Early Rain only) who are carnally minded can understand that work.

Consider what Paul said to the Corinthian church:

1Cor 2:2 For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified.

The Corinthian church had only received the Early Rain of the Spirit and they remained carnal in their understanding. They could not understand and receive the spiritual teachings of Paul which were taught in the same way that Christ taught.

In contrast to the Old Covenant, the New Covenant is spiritual and its teachings are spiritual - they apply within a person.

These verses apply:

John 6:63 It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak

unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts (**converted believers**). 10 For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little: 11 For with stammering lips and another language (**Christ's spiritual language**) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them precept upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little; that they (**babes who are carnally minded**) might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

1Cor 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

1Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man's wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things (**words**) with spiritual (**words**).

The verses you quoted are teaching truth in Christ's spiritual language. The spirit words used in those verses carry meanings that are different from how man's wisdom defines them.

Consider these verses that you quoted:

Rev 21

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. 2 Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them *and be* their God. 4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

5 Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

In the spiritual language of Christ, the "New Earth" is referring to the new spiritual nature that the Holy Spirit gives a converted believer. The Old/Natural/First Earth is referring to man's carnal spiritual nature. The "New Heaven" is referring to the "mind of Christ" which converted believers have. The Old/Natural/First Heaven is referring to the carnal mind of mankind.

This concept below applies:

1Cor 15:46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.

The phrase "there was no more sea" means that the converted Elect (the bride/New Jerusalem) walk by faith. In other words, there is no unbelief within them anymore.

The "sea" is where unbelievers are said to dwell. Carnal believers (babes, Early Rain only) are said to dwell upon the "earth" (a little higher spiritual plain). Converted believers are said to dwell with Christ in "heaven". These are all spirit words and do not represent literal physical places.

When Christ said "I make all things new", He is speaking about a person who is born again and converted from being a child of the Devil (mankind) into being a child of God. The old (natural) vessel has been destroyed and the new vessel has been created:

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.

Jer 18:4 And the vessel that he made of clay was marred in the hand of the potter: so he made it again another vessel, as seemed good to the potter to make it.

The spiritual process that creates the new vessel and destroys the old vessel is called conversion. Conversion requires the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit (creates the new vessel), followed by judgment (Day of the Lord) which destroys the old vessel. This spiritual process of conversion happens by the work of Christ.

You said:

There is never any future promise of an eternal salvation in the future for them we are at the end of the books of God.

Yes, there are many scriptures that teach that Christ will save all mankind. I quoted a few of them to you already.

In this age, Christ is only harvesting the "first fruits" of His harvest. They are blessed and are the heirs of Abraham. They will receive the reward of having life during the ages and the reward of reigning with Christ to bring in the final harvest which occurs in the final age.

These verses apply:

Exo 34:22 And thou shalt observe the feast of weeks, of the firstfruits of wheat harvest, and the feast of ingathering at the year's end.

The "wheat" represent the Elect who are the first fruits. The year's end harvest represents the salvation of the rest of mankind in the final age.

Consider what Christ said here:

John 7:37 In the last day, that great day of the feast (of Ingathering), Jesus stood and cried, saying, if any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Most of the 7th chapter of John applies to the spiritual events of the final age. The Elect go to the feast first to judge the "lost" by the Law. But before the "lost" perish, Christ will come to the feast and give them the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. Joel chapter 2:1-27 is another teaching on these same events which will occur in the final age. Christ's army represents the Elect/Bride who are reigning with Him.

You said:

Christ is the savior of all men, but only if they believe in their hearts in this life in the flesh.

Belief in Christ can only occur after Christ has given a person the free gift of the Spirit. Also, there are no verses which teach that salvation is limited to this age. The only thing that is limited to this age is being included in the harvest of first fruits/heirs (Feast of Weeks).

There is much more that I would like to present but this post is getting too long.

Joe

Another member made a post to which I responded.

Dear All,

The dead bodies of criminals who had been executed, were thrown into the valley of Gehenna, where fires were kept constantly burning, so the bodies will have been burnt and utterly destroyed. Jesus and his disciples used Gehenna to symbolise eternal destruction, annihilation, or the "second death", an eternal punishment of death (no life, no conscious thoughts, utter destruction).

Revelation 20:14-15 (WEB):

(14) Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

(15) If anyone was not found written in the book of life, he was cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:4 (WEB):

(4) He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; neither will there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain, any more. The first things have passed away."

Anything thrown into the lake of fire is utterly destroyed, and will no longer exist. Death will be

no more, so it is described symbolically as being thrown into the lake of fire. Likewise all those who are cast into the fire will be utterly destroyed and will no longer exist. Those not written in the "book of life" will cease to have life, eternally. Therefore it cannot be true that "every soul has eternal life".

K

Dear K _____,

I agree that those who are cast into the Lake of Fire will perish by that judgment. "Fire" is the symbol for judgment.

In fact, all mankind will perish in the Lake of Fire (including the Elect) because all mankind is "condemned already" (John 3:18). However, before a person perishes, Christ will give the person a new birth as a child of God. The child of God is blameless and will be gathered to heaven. The child of the Devil will remain in the Lake of Fire until he perishes.

For the Elect in this age, they are "born again" prior to judgment falling on them. When judgment falls, the spirit of anti-Christ and the Great Harlot are removed within them and cast into the Lake of Fire. Because the new birth occurs prior to judgment, the believer does not experience wrath during their time of judgment.

The verses below are a teaching on the judgment of the Elect when they are going through the conversion process:

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noe were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 38 For as in the days that were before the flood they were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, 39 And knew not until the flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. 40 Then shall two (contained in one believer) be in the field; the one (spirit of anti-Christ/man of sin) shall be taken, and the other left (newly born child of God). 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one (Great Harlot) shall be taken, and the other left (new spiritual nature of the Holy Spirit).

Chapter 19 of Revelation is another teaching on the conversion of the Elect using the marriage analogy. After the Marriage of the Lamb and the Supper of the Lamb, the believer is born again and gathered to heaven as a Bride. Judgment will then fall on the believer where Christ and His new Bride will ride in judgment to remove the "chaff" (spirit of anti-Christ and worsened carnal nature/Great Harlot) from within the believer. The chaff is then cast into the Lake of Fire for destruction (v. 20).

For the "lost" in the final age, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire prior to their new birth. When judgment falls on them, they will experience wrath. But before they perish in the Lake of Fire, Christ will have mercy upon them:

Mat 23:23 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law: justice, mercy, and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone.

Christ's mercy will come to them in the form of the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. With the Spirit, they will have faith which will make Christ's pathway straight for Him to appear. When He appears, He will gather the newly born child of God to heaven. The child of the Devil will remain in the Lake of Fire to perish. This death will satisfy justice.

Joel 2:1-27 is another teaching of the judgment of the "lost" in the final age. It ends the same way - with the salvation of the "lost".

What I described above is the conversion process that all mankind must go through to be saved. Christ does this work of conversion because He loves His enemies and will only bless and do good to them:

Mat 5:44 But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you;

Because Christ's judgment does not omit mercy, faith and justice, Christ longed to start His judgment upon mankind because He knew that it is a vital part of the conversion process which will save them.

Luke 12:49 "I came to send fire on the earth, and how I wish it were already kindled!"

The verses below also apply to Christ's judgment of mankind:

Psa 33:5 He loveth righteousness AND JUDGMENT: the earth is full of the goodness of the LORD.

Isa 1:27 Zion shall be redeemed with judgment, and her converts with righteousness.

Jer 4:2 And thou shalt swear, The LORD liveth, in truth, IN JUDGMENT, and in righteousness; and the nations shall BLESS THEMSELVES IN HIM, and in him shall they glory.

Prov 28:5 Evil men understand not judgment: but they that seek the LORD understand all things.

Job 34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

After Christ has completed His work within all mankind, it will then be testified to be true that

Christ truly is mankind's Savior:

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior; 4 who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. 5 For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 6 who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

I think you have misunderstood what Jesus was saying here. He was responding to the questions in verse three - Matthew 24:3 (WEB):

(3) As he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, **when will these things be? What is the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?**"

Jesus was not describing a "conversion process", he was describing his coming for the church at the end of the Gospel Age and the rapture of Christians, or as Luke puts it, "the day that the Son of Man is revealed" (Luke 17:30). When he said there were two people, that is exactly what he meant. He said, "Two women will be grinding at the mill"; Barnes' Notes comments:

Two women ... - Grinding in the East was performed, as it is now, chiefly by hand. The millstones were about 2 feet in diameter and 12 foot in thickness. The lower one was fixed, and the upper one was turned by a handle or crank. This was done by two persons, who sat opposite to each other. One took hold of the mill-handle and turned it half-way round; the other then seized it and completed the revolution. This was done by women - by servants of the lowest order - and was a very laborious employment. See Exo_11:5; Job_31:10; Isa_47:2; Jdg_16:21. The meaning of this verse is similar to the former. Of two persons sitting near each other, one shall be taken and the other left. The calamity would be sudden, and would come upon them before they were aware.

Luke says, Luke 17:35 (WEB):

(35) **There will be two grinding grain together.** One will be taken, and the other will be left."

This is definitely talking about two people not one person who has part of themselves destroyed.

Revelation 19 describes the marriage of the Lamb taking place in heaven. The church has already been resurrected and are in heaven - they have to be born again (resurrected as spirit beings) in order to be in heaven. The marriage doesn't take place on the earth and then the Christians are changed and gathered to heaven. Remember Paul said:

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17 (WEB):

(16) For **the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout**, with the voice of the archangel, and with God's trumpet. **The dead in Christ will rise first,**

(17) then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air. So we will be with the Lord forever.

and this all happens in an instant:

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 (WEB):

(51) Behold, I tell you a mystery. We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,

(52) in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

K_____

Dear K_____,

I used to believe the verses that you quoted just as you presented but everything changed for me when I was converted many years ago.

Conversion requires Christ giving a person both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit, followed by judgment. If a believer only has the Early Rain of the Spirit, they are not converted - they are a "babe" who will understand the spiritual teachings of the New Covenant in a carnal way (physically and outwardly). Because of this inability to understand the New Covenant teachings, Satan is able to deceive the new believer. In this way, Satan has built his apostate church in this world. His church consists of all the various sects/denominations of Christianity that have existed since the end of the 1st century. As Paul said, none of the sheep will be spared from the wolves after his departing (Acts 20:29-31). Mat 12:43-45 and Isa 28:9-12 are two of the primary teachings which state this truth. Those teachings apply to everyone after they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit. No one can avoid it happening to them.

Here is a little more on this subject:

The Old Covenant was written for carnal mankind to understand. It is outward and physical. However, the New Covenant is a spiritual covenant and its teachings apply within the Elect.

And since the end-time teachings are a part of the New Covenant teachings, they, too, must be spiritually applied just as Paul does in the verse below:

1Cor 10:11 Now all these things happened to them as types, and have been written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the ages are come.

The end-time teachings show the spiritual events (signs of the times) that lead up to each Elect person's conversion. Conversion occurs when Christ returns to the believer with the Latter Rain of the Spirit and judgment. Christ's second coming is not a one-time outward event that occurs at the literal end of the ages - that is a carnal understanding of those teachings.

Here is how to understand the second coming of Christ:

Luke 17:20 And when he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: 21 Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.

Rev 1:3 Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for **THE TIME IS AT HAND.**

Rev 1:4 John to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace be unto you, and peace, from him which is, and which was, and which is to come; and from the seven Spirits which are before his throne...

Rev 1:8 I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending, saith the Lord, which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty.

Rev 22:7 Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book.

Paul's conversion experience is a "type" that teaches the pathway to salvation. Paul received the Early Rain of the Spirit on the Damascus Road. That is when Paul entered the church and received a measure of faith. Paul's three days in Damascus represented his time in the apostate church when he could not eat or drink Christ's bread and New Wine. After the three days (represents a spiritual process of Paul becoming "worse than the first"/a man of sin), Christ returned to Paul (typed by Ananias) and poured out the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With the Latter Rain, Paul's blindness was healed and He was told to eat meat (truth).

The Apostles received the Early Rain of the Spirit when they walked with Christ. This is when they became "babes" who could recognize and accept Christ as their Lord. But they, too, remained spiritually blind (Mark 8:15-25) until Christ returned to them on the Day of Pentecost. That is when they received the Latter Rain of the Spirit and were converted.

After Paul's death, the spirit of anti-Christ entered the church and consumed it. All the unconverted "babes" fell away and became apostate. Even to this day, the churches in the world remain apostate and are following the carnal teachings of Satan rather than the spiritual teachings of Christ. For that reason, when Christ returns to one of His Elect with the Latter Rain, one of the first things the Elect believer will see is the Abomination of Desolation (Mat 24:15) that previously occurred when the spirit of anti-Christ indwelt them.

The pathway to salvation that each of the Elect will travel before they die is taught by end-time prophecy AND by various analogies. One of those analogies is the Marriage analogy. The engagement of a person occurs when they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit. This is when they become a spiritual chaste virgin. The time of waiting for the Bridegroom to return is when they will fall away and become apostate. The wise virgins (represents the Elect) will be given the

Latter Rain of the Spirit (the extra flask of oil). That extra oil will light the way for Christ to appear the second time and for the marriage to occur (new birth). The Marriage Supper will then occur when Christ feeds His new bride bread and New Wine. With this knowledge of the truth, judgment will fall on the believer to complete their conversion. This must all happen before a believer dies or they will remain apostate and be resurrected with the foolish virgins (the "many" who are called to be saints but not chosen).

One final point: When a person has both the Early Rain of the Spirit and the spirit of anti-Christ within them, they are said to contain two people; the child of God and the child of the Devil. The child of the Devil will be removed and destroyed by judgment as shown in Mat 24:37-41. Your understanding of the two people is carnal. You see the two people as being out in the world. But Christ's teachings are spiritual and must be applied within a person. Until you can understand the teachings of the New Covenant in a spiritual way, you are going to misunderstand them.

Joe

Dear FaithWillDo,

Jesus started by saying, Matthew 24:4 (WEB):

(4) Jesus answered them, "Be careful that no one leads you astray.

also Matthew 7:15 (WEB):

(15) "Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravening wolves.

The nonsense that you wrote in your post makes me think that you are a wolf in sheep's clothing, trying to lead people astray. Sorry, but I don't buy it!

John 14:23 (KJV):

(23) Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

God and Jesus do not abide with "the child of the Devil".

K

I did not respond.