

LETTER EXPLAINING JUDGMENT AND SALVATION

By Joseph Edwards II

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Dear M____,

I have read your email and wanted to comment on a few points you made.

You said:

This 'leaven', the doctrine of the Pharisees and the Saducees will not grow and fill the earth, whereas the 'leaven' of the "the gospel of the kingdom of heaven" will do so.

Mat 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

Here is my more detailed understanding of this parable. I only see it as negative.

This is one of the “Kingdom of Heaven is like” parables. I have found that all the parables that start in this manner are teaching on certain aspects of the pathway to salvation. This one is no exception.

As you know, we live (meaning the pathway to salvation) by every word, not just the bread. The pathway to salvation includes being deceived by Satan and falling away to become “worse than the first” (Mat 12-43-45).

Matt 13:33 Another parable spake he unto them; The kingdom of heaven is like unto leaven, which a woman took, and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened.

In the Parable of Unleavened Bread, we first must identify the woman. She is key to understanding the parable since she is the one who makes the loaf of bread.

In scripture, there are two analogies which use the spirit word “woman”:

1. The woman/virgin in the marriage analogy who becomes the Bride of Christ. She represents the Elect.
2. The woman in the birthing analogy who represents the bondwoman or the freewoman.

As the “bondwoman”, the woman represents the marred spirit that has a carnal and religious spiritual nature of the first man “Adam”. **Adam** (head/mind) + **Eve** (marred spirit/Great Harlot) = **One Flesh**. It can be restated as **Old Man + Harlot = One Flesh**. After Satan deceived Eve (the woman) in the Garden of Eden, the woman became a harlot. When she turns to religion (apron of Fig leaves) to make herself acceptable to Christ, she becomes the Great Harlot. Ever since that time, all of Adam’s offspring have also been turning to religion (the crooked way) when they try to approach God. This religious spiritual nature of the Great Harlot has produced the many varied religions of the world. Synonymous terms are Old Covenant, earthly Jerusalem, Sodom, Egypt, Damascus, Mystery Babylon the Great city, old/natural earth and old/natural moon.

As the “freewoman”, she represents a person’s new spirit which has a divine spiritual nature. She is also called the New Covenant, New Jerusalem, new earth and new moon.

In the Parable of the Unleavened Bread, the woman can only represent the Great Harlot. She is the marred spirit of mankind which has a carnal & religious spiritual nature that still governs all new believers (babes). Until she is destroyed by judgment during the conversion process, she will continue controlling the believer. She is the one who causes mankind to be sinful. She is also the one who causes unconverted believers to mix works with faith and fall away (this is the sin that leads to death).

This verse below applies to the Great Harlot/marred spirit of Adam:

Rev 18:24 And in her was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all that were slain upon the earth.

After the woman (Great Harlot) takes the leaven (Satan’s lies via the spirit of anti-Christ) from Satan, she hides the leaven in 3 measures of meal (truth) until the whole loaf is leavened. Since an unconverted believer only receives their “truth” from this leavened loaf of bread, very little of the spiritual teachings of Christ are properly understood by them. For this reason, all of the doctrines of orthodox Christianity are false. And since the leaven is HIDDEN in the loaf, an unconverted believer is not even aware that the bread is actually nothing more than the false teachings of Satan. This is the essence of being deceived.

As for the number THREE used in the parable, it represents a spiritual process. It can be the process of judgment as you said, but I believe it can represent other spiritual processes as well. In the case of this parable, it is the same process that Christ teaches in **Mat 12:43-45**. It is the process of becoming spiritually “worse than the first” and becoming a Man of Sin/Beast with Seven Heads and Ten Horns.

The spiritual process of devolution happens to EVERYONE after they have been given the Early Rain of the Spirit. Shortly after a person receives that gift, they will eat the leavened bread which the Great Harlot feeds them. And since the believer remains spiritually blind after receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit (**Mark 8:21-25**), they don’t realize that the leaven is in the bread.

You said:

This parable is paired with the parable of the mustard seed to reveal that the kingdom of God is the Rock hewn out of the mountain without hands which smites the image on its feet and grows, as leaven grows, till it fills the whole earth. This is the positive application of the word 'leaven'.

Luke 13:18-19 Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it.

Again, this is one of the “Kingdom of Heaven is like” parables which teaches certain aspects of the pathway to salvation.

Here is what I understand from this short parable:

The mustard seed represents the Word of God which is written in the heart of a person when Christ gives them a small measure of the Holy Spirit (Early Rain). After receiving the Early Rain, the new believer will then grow into a great tree. A “tree” spiritually represents an unconverted believer who can be either chosen or non-chosen. Once the seed grows into a tree, birds/fowls of the air will come and lodge in its branches (make the tree their home). The fowls represent unclean spirits which originate from Satan. These unclean spirits bring the lies & deceptions of Satan to the unconverted believer. This event makes their last state worse than the first. The Parable of the Mustard Seed teaches the same basic message that the Parable of the Unleavened Bread does and what Christ taught in **Mat 12:43-45**.

The Wide Gate

Both the fowls and the leaven apply to an unconverted believer (a babe) after they have received the Early Rain of the Spirit and before they receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

The time between a person receiving the Early and Latter Rains is typed by Elijah’s 3 ½ years of drought and by the last 3 ½ years of Daniel’s Seventy Weeks prophecy (also stated as time, times and a half, 1260 days and 42 months).

After a person is given the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will enter through the Wide Gate that leads to destruction.

For the believers (the Elect) who will fully travel the wide path during their lifetimes, they will experience their destruction during the conversion process (Latter Rain, followed by the Day of the Lord).

For the believers (non-chosen) who do not complete the wide path during their lifetimes, they will remain unconverted. In the final age, they will finish the wide path in the Lake of Fire when they are converted.

In this present age, “many” will enter through the wide gate because Christ calls many people to become saints.

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

But from this group of “many”, only a few have been chosen to complete the wide pathway before they physically die. They are the Elect.

Mat 7:13-14 Enter ye in at the straight gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: because straight is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

The Straight Gate

Once the Latter Rain of the Spirit is given to an Elect person, they will be made ready (faithful) and blameless during the Day of the Lord which will immediately follow their new birth. Once the Elect person is converted, they will pass through the straight gate and will be traveling the narrow path that leads to life in the Kingdom of Heaven as a fully matured son of God.

Since Christ is the Savior of the world, all mankind will travel through both the wide and straight gates at their appointed times. The wide path will lead to destruction and will destroy the child of the devil who is spiritually marred & sinful. The straight gate will lead the child of God to life in the Kingdom of Heaven.

In the end, the Potter (Christ) will make all mankind into a spiritually perfect vessel (child of God).

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.

You said:

"After an early rain believer has fallen away and is no longer saved Christ must come to them a second time with the Latter Rain of the Spirit (the baptism of the Holy Spirit) if they are going to be saved in this age."

You are implying that Paul "fell away... and was no longer saved" between the time he met Christ on the road to Damascus and when Ananias came to him three days later. I do not believe our 'leaving our first love... falling away' happens in that short of a time. Just something to discuss.

Paul's conversion is a type that teaches the pathway to salvation which all the Elect (after Paul's death) will follow.

Paul said this:

1Tim 1:16 Howbeit for this cause, I obtained mercy, that in me first Jesus Christ might shew forth all longsuffering, for a pattern (type) to them which should HEREAFTER believe on him to life everlasting.

I have a detailed teaching on Paul's conversion in my paper "The Great Mystery of the Church".

Paul's Damascus Road experience "typed" when a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit. Everyone who is "called to be a saint" will receive this small measure of the Holy Spirit. With the Spirit, the person will make a confession of faith when they are presented the Gospel. When Paul received the Early Rain, he became blind (types his spiritual blindness) and remained so for THREE days in Damascus (symbol for the marred spirit of Adam). Also, for those three days, Paul could not eat or drink. This time of fasting (typed by Christ when he fasted for 40 days) represented Paul's inability to be nourished by the true bread from heaven and Christ's New Wine. The "three days" represents the spiritual process that will make Paul "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**). Then, after the three days are complete and Paul has become a "man of sin", Ananias (represents Christ) comes to Paul with the Latter Rain of the Spirit which causes the scales to fall off Paul's eyes (represents his spiritual blindness being healed). Paul is then told to "eat meat" since he has been given "eyes that can see". After Paul's judgment was completed (not presented in Paul's testimony), Paul was converted.

You said:

While it is true that Christ comes to us "a second time" inwardly, that is not 'the sum of the Lord's word' (Psa 119:160, ASV).

1Th 4:13 But we do not want you to be ignorant, brothers, about those who are asleep, so that ye may not grieve, as also the others who have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and arose, so also those who became asleep through Jesus, God will bring with him. 15 For this we say to you in the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, who remain for the coming of the Lord, will no, not precede those who became asleep. 16 Because the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with a voice of the arch-agent, and with a trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first, 17 then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up simultaneously with them in clouds to the Lord's gathering in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord.

There is a principle that is made clear in scripture and that principle is that when a statement is qualified, with words like "The Lord Himself" then we need to tremble before those words, and acknowledge that qualifying term. "The Lord Himself" is not speaking of those who died in Christ. Neither does it refer to those "who are alive and remain". This verse tells us "the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven..."

I believe these verses are not speaking about a visible second coming of Christ to this world. That event never happens. The second coming of Christ is when Christ comes back to an unconverted Elect believer with the Latter Rain of the Spirit. At that time, Christ heals the Elect believer's spiritual blindness, and from that healing, Christ spiritually appears to the person. After Christ appears, the new child of God is gathered to heaven (**Mat 24:29-31**) and the Day of the Lord commences.

The verses you quoted are speaking about the resurrection of the dead – the bodily resurrection. And yes, the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout. However, this is also a spiritual event which will not be visible to mankind who only have physical eyes.

Please consider this scripture:

Acts 3:20-21 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: Whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.

The verses above say that Christ will remain in heaven (the spiritual realm of the mind) until the restitution of all things. Christ will never again be seen with human eyes.

You said:

The physical always precedes the spiritual. You and I are in "marred vessels of clay" at this very moment (Jer 18:4), demonstrating the Godly doctrine: 1Co 15:46 Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. 47 The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven.

Yes, I agree with this truth and I teach it frequently in my forum discussions. Here is how it applies to the pathway to salvation:

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.

There are only TWO times Christ “appears” to mankind. The first time was when Christ came in the flesh. The second time is when Christ appears spiritually within a person after they receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit and have had their spiritual blindness healed.

When Christ comes with the Early Rain to an unbeliever, Christ does not appear to them spiritually. The new believer will only be able to see Christ in the flesh at that time because the new believer remains carnally minded & spiritually blind.

You said:

Of course we must first overcome 'the nations' within, but this is not all we are given to rule. We are also given to rule with the Lord for a thousand years "the kingdoms of this world"

Yes, you are speaking of Rev 20 concerning the Thousand Years. As I have said, the Thousand Years is a spiritual symbol for Christ’s judgment and it is “like” the Day of the Lord:

2Pet 3:8 But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

The Elect (as a new child of God/Bride) will reign with Christ over their own Man of Sin/Old Man when Christ’s judgment (Day of the Lord) comes to the believer. It is a 100% spiritual event. Then, in the final age, the Elect will reign with Christ a second time when His judgment falls on each individual person in the Lake of Fire.

The Elect are experiencing the Day of the Lord/Thousand Years reign in this age before they die. The balance of mankind will experience the Day of the Lord in the final age but they will not reign with Christ during it. This happens because the judgment of the “lost” in the final age comes to them before they are given the Latter Rain of the Spirit and are born as a child of God. For this reason, the “lost” who are judged in the final age will experience wrath up until the point they are converted.

As for “first comes the physical, then comes the spiritual”, the physical judgment of Christ came upon the world at the time of Noah’s Flood. Now, Christ’s judgment comes spiritually to the world as the Day of the Lord.

Mat 24:37 But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be.

Since the Elect are converted before they die, scripture says that their “days are shortened” (**Mat 24:22**). Their days are shortened (time as a man of sin) so that the “end of the ages” will come upon them now. The end of the ages is when a person is converted.

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

As for the people in the final age experiencing torment and weeping & gnashing of teeth, this stress comes from their belief that Christ is a “hard man” - and from their belief that they have lost their opportunity for salvation. They believe that a literal hell is awaiting them at some future point. That is why they will have weeping and gnashing of teeth.

You said:

"When the thousand years have expired" is another qualifying statement which gives the order in which the Lord is working with His creatures. It is only after the thousand year reign of "the Lord and His Christ" that Satan is released from prison and is sent by the Lord to deceive "the nations in the four quarter of the earth", at which time they will "encompass the camp of the saints, and God will now have the occasion He is seeking to annihilate all flesh and through a second resurrection at the great white throne judgment He will finally "destroy death".

The Thousand Years will expire when each Elect believer's judgment is complete in this present age.

Rev 19:21 And the beast was taken, and with him the false prophet that wrought miracles before him, with which he deceived them that had received the mark of the beast, and them that worshipped his image. These both were cast alive into a lake of fire burning with brimstone.

The verse above is speaking about the judgment of the Elect's beast and false prophet. They are "taken" from within the believer after they receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit and have become a child of God.

These verses apply:

Mat 24:40 Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Since judgment falls on an Elect believer after they have become a child of God, they will not experience the wrath during their time of judgment.

The Lake of Fire is called the Second Death. It is a spiritual death that spiritually destroys the child of the Devil.

This verse applies to the Elect who will not be cast into the Lake of Fire as I explained above:

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; he that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

In the final age, the balance of mankind will be cast into the Lake of Fire where the Elect's beast and false prophet were judged and destroyed. But before any of the "lost" who have been cast into the Lake of Fire are destroyed, Christ will have mercy upon them and give them a new birth. The new child of God will then be gathered to heaven, leaving only the child of the devil in the Lake of Fire where he will perish (**Mat 23:23 applies**).

In chapter 20 of Revelation, it addresses the judgment which the Elect will experience. It is called the Thousand Years Reign. For the Elect, they reign with Christ as a child of God (Bride) over their own judgment. Rev 19:11-21 shows them riding white horses with Christ as their Man of Sin is judged. In the marriage analogy, this judgment is called the Supper of the Great God.

After the judgment of the beast, false prophet and the great harlot, the old man will be judged:

Isa 26:9 With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: for when thy judgments are in the (New) EARTH, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.

For an Elect believer, the judgment of Christ upon their Old Man (carnal mind) will come from the indwelling of the Holy Spirit within the person. The Holy Spirit will change the believer's marred spirit into a new spirit which has divine spiritual nature. This new spirit is called the New Earth/New Jerusalem and is where the judgment of the Old Man originates. This judgment is called the chastisement of Christ and will not be done in wrath. The Elect believer will never experience the wrath of God during any of their judgments since they have been "born again" prior to the Day of the Lord commencing.

After the entire judgment of the Thousand Years Reign has ended for the Elect, Satan will be let loose for a short season to tempt (test) the child of God.

Christ typed this time of testing just after He finished His 40 days of fasting. At that time, Satan came to Christ and tempted Him three times (represents a spiritual process). And just as Christ passed His test, so will the new children of God pass their test.

After the Elect believer successfully passes their time of testing, it will be proven that they have overcome this world just as Christ overcame this world.

Rev 3:21 To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne.

After overcoming this world, the Elect believer will be ready to sit with Christ upon His Throne so that they can reign with Christ for a Thousand Years in the final age. The Thousand Years Reign not only occurs during the Elect's time of judgment, it also occurs in the final age when the Elect believer reigns with Christ in judgment over the rest of mankind. The Thousand Years is "twice told":

Ecc 6:6 Yea, though he live a thousand years twice told, yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place? (Lake of Fire)

Revelation chapter 20 continues by showing the bodily resurrection of all mankind. Upon this resurrection, everyone will appear before Christ and be separated as sheep from the goats. The sheep are those who are found in the Lamb's book of Life. The goats represent everyone else. The goats are then cast into the Lake of Fire where their time of judgment will begin. During this judgment, the goats will pay the "last penny". But before they do, Christ will convert them into the children of God and gather them to heaven. When the last person of mankind is saved, it will be testified to be true that Jesus Christ is truly the Savior of the world (**1Tim 2:3-6**).

YBIC,

Joe