

#11 FORUM POST ON WHY CIRCUMCISION IS ON THE EIGHTH DAY

Dear All,

Aside from the testimony of fulfilled prophecy, there's another affirmation of the accuracy of the Bible little thought is given to. Modern medical science has discovered that on the eighth day of a baby's life, Vitamin K and prothrombin--both critical to blood-clotting, reach 110 percent of their levels in the blood. This occurs only on the eighth day after birth and never happens again. God designed the human body this way, and instructed Abraham to circumcise male babies specifically on the eighth day--thousands of years before the advent of medical science. Who but God could have known 4000 years ago the earliest yet safest day for the rite of circumcision to be performed on a baby?

Beyond circumcision, we see safeguards against infection and transmission of bacteria within a number of the laws of Moses. Handwashing, prohibition of unclean animals like pigs and shellfish, the quarantine of people with contagious diseases, purification rituals, hygiene practices, special handling of corpses, and precautions regarding food preparation and storage all reflect an understanding of harmful microbes. Remember that these bacteria were not understood as threats to humans until development of the germ theory of disease, pioneered by Louis Pasteur and Robert Koch in the late 19th century. But God knew all along, and implemented practices and procedures that minimized the risk thousands of years ago.

R_____

Dear R_____,

Christ words are spirit (**John 6:63**) and they carry meanings that are different from how man defines them (**1Cor 2:13**).

The number "eight" is a spirit word. It represents a new spiritual condition. The change can be either positive or negative.

Here is an example when the number eight represents a negative change:

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.

Here is another example that the number eight when it means the same "worse than the first" spiritual condition:

Rev 17:11 And the beast that was, and is not, even he is the eighth (worsen spiritual state of an apostate believer), and is of the seven (natural spiritual state of mankind), and goeth into perdition.

Here is an example of when it is used in a positive way (this is the most common usage):

1Pet 3:20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

The story of Noah and the ark is a physical "type" that foreshadows the spiritual process of conversion. The ark represents Christ and the eight souls within the ark represents one Elect person who is being born again/converted into a child of God (the new spiritual condition).

Peter uses the number "eight" again here where it carries the same positive meaning:

2Pet 2:5 And spared not the old world, but saved Noah the eighth person, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the world of the ungodly;

The number eight is used by the law of physical circumcision in a positive way, too. Physical circumcision is performed on the eighth day because it is a physical "type" that foreshadows a person's spiritual circumcision when they are converted into a child of God (the new spiritual condition).

Rom 2:29 But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart,

in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God.

Joe

Another member replied to me:

Dear FaithWillDo,

That's numerology. There is no Patristic support for the idea that eight has any significance in Christianity other than the idea that the Life of the World to Come can be thought of as the mystical eighth day of creation. Additionally, many church fathers criticized various Dualist-Emanationist heresies, most notably the Valentinians, for their belief in "Ogdoads", groups of eight aeons that they believe connected the creator of true reality with Jesus and Sophia, the latter a flawed wisdom-demigoddess who accidentally caused the creation of the Demiurge, the evil imposter-god who created matter.

In the Hebrew religion numbers came to be assigned values, but in Christianity all that is relevant to us is our belief in one God who abides in the three uncreated persons of the Holy Trinity (the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, ever one God), the Son who became fully incarnate, thus being both fully God and fully man, who preached the Gospel to the twelve disciples, eleven of whom were joined by St. Matthias (who they ordained to replace Judas) to become the twelve Apostles who received the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and who ordained seven deacons, and who were joined by the Seventy Apostles, and by St. Paul, and the Gospel was recorded by the four Evangelists.

And there are a few other examples of numbers with some historic relevance: there are 151 Psalms, which inspired many Patristic authors to write 151 texts on a subject (of these, only 150 were ever used liturgically, and the 151st Psalm was not included in the Vulgate or most other Western translations of the Bible and thus many Protestants, even Anglicans who are open to the idea of the deuterocanonical books, are unfamiliar with this beautiful Psalm; there are additionally four other apocryphal Psalms which exist only in the Syriac language, but their content is inoffensive and they would make better hymns than most praise and worship music), twenty seven books of the New Testament, either three or seven Ecumenical synods depending on whether you ask an Oriental Orthodox Christian or a Chalcedonian, however the essential doctrinal points of the later four councils (a rejection of Eutychianism, monergism, monothelitism and iconoclasm) were accepted by the Oriental Orthodox even if the specific Chalcedonian formulation was rejected, and likewise there are seven sacraments (three of which will be received by every Orthodox Christian except for those who die as catechumens, namely baptism, chrismation and the Eucharist, with most also receiving the oil of the sick). There are, among the saints, the forty martyrs of Sebaste, the three children consigned by Nero to the furnace, who survived and were joined, by a divine person widely regarded to have been Christ our True God, the Three Holy Hierarchs and so on.

Lastly, the Number of the Beast works out to be a Hebrew cypher for Nero using gematria (which suggests St. John may have been exiled to Patmos while Nero was still in power).

However, it must be stressed that the importance of these values is in what they refer to. No number has any power in and of itself.

L_____

Dear L_____,

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.

Spirit words (which include numbers) are what Christ uses to teach the spiritual truths of the New Covenant. And as Paul said, spirit words carry meanings that are different from how mankind defines them.

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).

Even though Christ spoke Hebrew when He came in the flesh, He was actually speaking "another language" because of His use of spirit words.

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 (spiritual language) will he speak to this people. 12 But the word of the LORD was unto them (babes who draw milk) 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).

Christ teaches in His spiritual language so that His spiritual teachings can only be understood by the converted Elect. Babes who draw milk (Early Rain only) will not be able to understand this language. As a result of a babe's spiritual blindness, they will easily be deceived by Satan shortly after they are given the Early Rain. A babe's spiritual blindness is what caused the apostasy of the church to occur shortly after the death of Paul (**Acts 20:29-31**). Nothing has changed for the babes in the church since that time.

To understand the meanings of spirit words, a person must be guided by the Spirit of Truth which comes to a babe when they are baptized by the Holy Spirit (**John 16:13**). This baptism will heal

the believer's spiritual blindness so that the truth of Christ's spiritual teachings will finally open up to their understanding. This is when a babe becomes a little child and enters the Kingdom of Heaven.

Mat 18:3 And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven.

Here is an easy example on how to understand the spirit word "sword" used in the verse below:

Mat 26:52 Then said Jesus unto him, put up again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword.

Does Christ really mean that if you use a sword to kill others, then you must likewise be killed with a sword? Literally, that is what He is saying. However, if we understand this verse literally, His statement can easily be proven to be false. There are countless examples of people who have used violence to kill others but then do not die from that same type of violence - it almost goes without saying.

Is Christ mistaken in Mat 26:52 or is His message something else?

In Matt 26:52, Christ is using the spirit word SWORD to teach a spiritual message. To understand what this spirit word represents, we must look at how it is used elsewhere in scripture. As Paul said to do, we must compare spiritual words with spiritual words.

Eph 6:17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God:

Heb 4:12 For the word of God *is* quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two edge sword...

Rev 1:16 And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword...

From the verses presented above, it is easy to understand that the spirit word SWORD represents the Word of God who is Christ.

Christ's hidden spiritual message He is teaching in Matt 26:52 is that all who take up the Sword (those who have been given the Early Rain of the Spirit and have been "called to be a saint"), will later perish by the Sword (death of the child of the devil) when they are converted. This death is a necessary part of the conversion process which happens when the Word of God

(Christ, the Sword) comes to a person a second time and gives them the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain), followed by the Baptism of Fire (judgment):

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Spirit, and with Fire.

This same conversion event that is presented above is what the Apostles experienced on the Day of Pentecost:

Acts 2:1 And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. 2 And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. 3 And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of FIRE, and it sat upon each of them. 4 And they were all filled with the HOLY SPIRIT, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance.

In the spiritual language of Christ, the Apostles took up the SWORD when they received a small measure of the Holy Spirit (Early Rain). That is when they recognized Jesus as the Christ and began following Him. At this point, the Apostles were babes who could only draw milk. They were carnally minded, spiritually blind and unconverted.

After a time of waiting, the Apostles received the baptism of the Holy Spirit (the Latter Rain) on the Day of Pentecost. At that time, their spiritual blindness was healed and they were finally slain by the SWORD (converted). This is when the spiritual teachings of Christ finally opened up to their understanding. Before that time, they could not understand (**Mark 8:13-21**).

These same steps of the pathway to salvation were taught by Paul's conversion testimony which are presented in Acts chapter 9. Paul received the Early Rain on the Damascus Road. Paul's blindness at that time represented his spiritual blindness. During the "three" days Paul spent in Damascus (the number three means a spiritual process is taking place), Paul became apostate (worse than the first, Mat 12:43-45) due to his blindness. After the three days were complete, Christ (typed by Ananias) came a second time to Paul and poured out the Latter Rain (the baptism of the Holy Spirit). It was at this time that the scales fell from Paul's eyes and when he was finally able to eat meat (truth).

The conversion event is what is being described in the scripture below:

Isa 66:16 For by fire (judgment) and by his sword (Word of God) will the LORD plead with all flesh (all mankind): and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

The spirit word "fire" means judgment.

The pathway to salvation that the Apostles traveled is the same pathway that all mankind will travel to their moment of conversion/salvation. Everyone will take up the Sword and then will later be slain by the Sword. Only then will the spiritual teachings of Christ open up to a person's understanding.

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,

What you've basically done is to reinvent Alexandrian typological hermeneutics, albeit on an unstable foundation: your using the novel phrase "Spirit words" is an innovative concatenation which is opaque and also a misinterpretation - what [John 6:63](#) is talking about is how the words Christ speaks, as recorded in the Gospel, and the words spoken by St. Peter, that Christ is the Son of the Living God, are inspired - which in the former case means that Christ our True God said those words, and in the latter case that what St. Peter said about Him was accurate, for we know from [John 1:1-18](#) and from the Synoptics that Jesus Christ is the Only Begotten Son and Word of God, Very God of Very God, begotten, not made, begotten before all ages, by whom all things were made, and we know that no man sees the Father except through Him.

Now, while the idea that Scripture is "the Sword of the Spirit" is not controversial (although referring to it as the Word of God is problematic, because [John 1:1-18](#) explicitly declares Jesus Christ to be the Word of God, and in all places where the Greek phrase λόγος τοῦ θεοῦ ("the Word of God") appears in the New Testament, it can be interpreted as referring to Jesus Christ, in addition to or instead of the Sacred Scriptures; that said, the Scriptures are the words about the Word, and so are the Word of God in the sense that they are a verbal icon of our Lord, God and Savior Jesus Christ, but since Christ is literally the Word, according to John ch. 1, which begins with a variation upon [Genesis 1:1](#) to underscore the importance of this point, Ἐν ἀρχῇ ἦν ὁ λόγος, καὶ ὁ λόγος ἦν πρὸς τὸν θεόν, καὶ θεὸς ἦν ὁ λόγος. ("In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"). Thus we should use the phrase "the Sword" to refer to Scripture, but we should refer to Scripture as "the Word of God" only in the sense that it is a verbal icon of Christ. That said, unfortunately, contemporary Christians have become very lax concerning this aspect of terminology, so this of your post was not particularly noteworthy.

More problematic however, is this assertion:

FaithWillDo said:

Christ teaches in His spiritual language so that His spiritual teachings can only be understood by the converted Elect. Babes who draw milk (Early Rain only) will not be able to understand this language.

The problem with this idea, which originates in Adventist and Pentecostal theology (since you list your denominational affiliation as “Non-Denominational”, presumably you are not Adventist, but perhaps you are a member of a non-denominational church which has charismatic elements, as many do, is that it implies salvation by secret knowledge, it suggests the inadequacy of baptism, which is contrary to Scripture (insofar as any baptisms were by themselves inadequate, scripture makes it clear that these were those baptisms administered by St. John and his followers, which were a prophetic act symbolizing the baptism that would follow with Christ our True God - a baptism in which infants and catechumens absolutely do receive the Holy Spirit in the Orthodox Church and other traditional liturgical churches, through insufflation. Additionally, in the Orthodox Church we immediately chrismate (confirm) neophytes, which in the Patristic tradition at present preserved in this respect only by the Eastern Orthodox, the Oriental Orthodox, the Assyrian Church of the East, the Ancient Church of the East and certain other eastern churches, is not connected to catechism, does not require a bishop, and is not limited to adolescents and older Christians, but is rather available to all who have been baptized. This sacrament is the seal of the Holy Spirit, and is also provided when someone returns from a period of apostasy, for example, if someone left the Church to join an occult sect, such as practitioners of Wicca or Voodoo or Hinduism (such as the Hare Krishnas) or another dangerous Pagan religion, we would chrismate them upon their return from what is often an adolescent misadventure, as a means of ensuring they are once more blessed with the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, and this will also reduce the risk of demonic possession arising from their time spent worshipping idols, which is extremely dangerous (Psalm 96 v. 5 in the Masoretic declares “The gods of the gentiles are idols” and the equivalent verse** in the LXX (the Septuagint, the ancient Greek translation), Psalm 95 v. 5, “The gods of the gentiles are demons.” Both are correct - we can therefore assert that the gods of the gentiles are idols of demons.

At any rate, salvation is not by secret knowledge, nor does it depend on some additional baptism following “Early Rain”, which is also a peculiar way of referring to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which has no basis in the early church but rather likely originated in Holiness and Restorationist churches in the 19th century, from which it spread to the writings of the SDA leader Ellen G. White, who SDA members regard as an infallible prophet, and the writings of various Pentecostal and Charismatic theologians (which makes sense insofar as the Pentecostal movement is an offshoot of the Holiness Movement, which was a distortion of John Wesley’s teaching of Entire Sanctification, by which John Wesley, an Anglican priest with a knowledge of, and strong connections to, Eastern Orthodoxy***, sought to translate the Patristic and Orthodox soteriological concept of Theosis into English (for the same reason, he desired Methodists to use

the word “Superintendent” rather than the Anglicized Greek word “Bishop” and to use the English word “Elder” instead of “Priest” or “Presbyter”, the Greek word of which Priest is an Anglicization, and some Methodists have also used the word “Servant” instead of “Deacon”, and all of the above are valid translations of the Greek words that refer to the offices of those who oversee multiple churches, those who lead a single congregation in worship, and those who serve the needs of people in a group of churches and also traditionally read the Gospel and assist in the celebration of Holy Communion.

Entire Sanctification refers specifically to the ancient Patristic concept of salvation, which predates, but was particularly well articulated by, St. Athanasius of Alexandria, the defender of the Trinity at the Council of Nicaea in 325 AD, and also the man who finalized our current 27 book New Testament canon, that God became man so that man might become god, that is to say, that we might, by cooperating with the Holy Spirit, become through His grace what Christ is by nature, in the sense that Christ our True God, having remade man in His image on the Cross, is sinless, loving, truthful, merciful and imperishable. In the process of Theosis or Entire Sanctification, also sometimes called Christian Perfection, versions of which were also taught by Martin Luther and even John Calvin according to my friend [@hedrick](#), we can hope to learn over time to resist and overcome the temptation to indulge the sinful passions, and in so doing, become more loving, more serene, and also, importantly, preparing ourselves for eternal life, during which many Fathers argue the process of Theosis will continue; indeed some say that the process will continue eternally, for God is perfect, and we are not, and the gap between His perfection and our imperfection is infinite, and thus we can always look forward to continue to being better compared to how we were previously.

* Also helpful are other ancient (first millenium) translations into other languages, for these offer crucial insight into how the early church understood the Greek, for example, the second century Vetus Latina, the third century Vetus Syra, the fourth century Syriac Peshitta and Latin Vulgate, and the fifth century Coptic bible, and the sixth century Syriac translation of St. Thomas of Harqel, and also the ancient Ge’ez (Ethiopic) New Testament translation, and indeed the ancient Ge’ez Old Testament, and the Septuagint Old Testament as received by the early Church, and translations of it (for example, it was the Septuagint that was translated into Latin with the Vetus Latina, and into Coptic, and which also served as the source for several books that at the time were lost in their Hebrew form, but which have since been found, in whole or in part, among the Dead Sea Scrolls. Also important are the original translations of Scripture into Classical Armenian and Georgian, roughly contemporaneous with the translations we mentioned before (indeed Armenia was the second kingdom, after the city-state of Edessa, and the first nation, to convert to Christianity, in 306 AD, and Georgia was the third or fourth, converting around the same time as , and into Church Slavonic a few centuries later by Saints Cyril and Methodius.

** The LXX combines some Psalms and separates others, so its numbering is frequently out of

sync with that of the KJV and other MT-based scriptures

*** John Wesley was also secretly ordained a bishop by a visiting Greek Orthodox bishop, Erasmus of Arcadia, in 1763, which increased the authority he had to ordain Thomas Coke as superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Church of North America,

L_____

Dear L_____

I do not affiliate with any denomination or church. I used to prior to my conversion back in 2005 but no more because light cannot fellowship with darkness. At the time of my conversion, the scales fell from my eyes just like they did with Paul when he was converted. This is nothing unusual because it happens to all Elect believers when they are given the Latter Rain.

With my newly gifted sight, I immediately saw the Abomination of Desolation that had previously occurred within myself (God's Temple). The verses below apply to my experience:

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom (Satan's "another gospel") shall be preached in all the world (one believer) for a witness unto all nations (all the beliefs of the believer); and then shall the end come (day of conversion).

The "end" comes to a believer when they are given the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain), followed by judgment to remove the "chaff" from within them. With the Latter Rain, the believer's spiritual blindness will be healed and the Spirit of Truth will begin guiding their understanding of scripture. After the believer has received sufficient nourishment of the truth, they will see the Abomination of Desolation that previously occurred within themselves when the spirit of anti-Christ indwelt them.

15 When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, spoken of by Daniel the prophet, stand in the holy place, (whoso readeth, let him understand 16 Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains:

This verse also applies:

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

After the believer comes out of Satan's deceptions, Christ will spiritually appear and begin His judgment within the believer. The verses below describes this judgment - as do many other

places of scripture.

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 be in the field (within one believer**); the one shall be taken (**the child of the devil**), and the other left (**the newly born child of God**). 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill (**within one believer**); the one shall be taken (**the Great Harlot**), and the other left (**divine spiritual nature/virtuous woman**).**

The scriptures I presented above are written in Christ's spiritual language. Babes cannot understand them as Isa 28:9-12 states.

Christ teaches this same truth from the "type" presented in the verses below:

Mark 8:15 And he charged them, saying, take heed, beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, and of the leaven of Herod. 16 And they reasoned among themselves, saying, it is because we have no bread. 17 And when Jesus knew it, he saith unto them, why reason ye, because ye have no bread? perceive ye not yet, neither understand? have ye your heart yet hardened? 18 Having eyes, see ye not? and having ears, hear ye not? and do ye not remember? 19 When I broke the five loaves among five thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? They say unto him, Twelve. 20 And when the seven among four thousand, how many baskets full of fragments took ye up? And they said, Seven. 21 And he said unto them, how is it that ye do not understand? 22 And he cometh to Bethsaida; and they brought a blind man unto him, and besought him to touch him. 23 And he took the blind man by the hand, and led him out of the town; and when he had spit on his eyes, and put his hands upon him, he asked him if he saw ought. 24 And he looked up, and said, I see men as trees, walking. 25 After that he put his hands again upon his eyes, and made him look up: and he was restored, and saw every man clearly.

Since Christ is the Word of God, He teaches us not only through His words which are recorded in scripture but also by the things that He did. In answering the question that He proposed to the disciples in verse 21, Christ goes to Bethsaida and gives us His answer in type by the healing of a blind man.

In verse 23, Christ leads a blind man out of the city. Once outside the city, Christ places spit on his eyes and touches him with His hands. These actions occur as the blind man is looking down which symbolizes the carnal aspect of His healing. Christ does not have to tell the blind man to look down, the blind man just does it naturally. The spit (water) symbolizes the blind man

receiving the **Early Rain of the Spirit** with its accompanying vision (carnal understanding). This event represents the time when a person is called to be a saint and when they enter the church.

After Christ asks the man what he could see, the man looks up and says that he could see men "walking as trees". "Walking as trees" is a spiritual symbol for babes who walk by sight (the flesh/marred spirit with a carnal & religious spiritual nature) rather than by faith & the Holy Spirit. The man's blindness was not total any longer but he was still very near-sighted and could only see Christ carnally. Paul stated that this near-sighted type of understanding will only allow a believer to see "Christ and Him crucified" (**1Cor 2:2**). This means that the new believer can see Christ's physical work that He did under the Old Covenant, but Christ's spiritual work that He is presently doing under the New Covenant will remain blurred.

This first healing of the blind man reflects the true spiritual condition of a new believer when they first enter the church. At this time, the believer is left carnally minded and spiritually near-sighted. They can see a little, but that only opens the door to Satan's carnally based deceptions - deceptions which each new believer will readily accept due to their marred spirit & carnal mind still being in control of them (**Mat 12:43-45, Mat 24:24 & Luke 5:39**).

For a carnally minded and spiritually blind believer (Early Rain only), the Old Wine still tastes better to them:

Luke 5:39 No man also having drunk old wine straightway desires the new: for he says, The old is better.

The Old Wine represents the Old Covenant which is based on the works of man. The New Wine represents the New Covenant which is solely based on the works of Christ.

Peter says that this near-sighted condition is the same as being blind:

2Pet 1:9 But he that lacks these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.

Peter makes this statement because the believers (babes) to whom he was addressing were mixing their own works with faith. They were still preferring the Old Wine.

In the final verse of the story of the blind man, Christ lays His hands upon the man's eyes again, but as He does, Christ has the man look up instead of down. This second healing represents the **Latter Rain of the Spirit** when true spiritual vision is given to a believer. The man's upward gaze represents the spiritual aspect of the healing in contrast to the carnal aspect when the blind

man was looking down at the earth.

From that moment onward, we can know that the blind man is a type for a called AND chosen believer who has received both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit (**James 5:7-8**). The man has been given eyes that can see spiritually ("**drawn from the breasts**" **Isa 28:9**). From his new ability to understand God's Word, the man will come out from Satan's deceptions and will begin walking by faith and by the Spirit.

You said:

At any rate, salvation is not by secret knowledge, nor does it depend on some additional baptism following "Early Rain", which is also a peculiar way of referring to the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, which has no basis in the early church.

The Early Rain is a small measure of the Holy Spirit. It is not the baptism. It is given to a unbeliever so that they will make a confession of faith and will enter the church. They will then be a babe in Christ.

This verse applies:

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.

The spiritual teaching of the Early and Latter Rains is at the core of the "great mystery of Christ and His church" (Eph 5:32). It is greatly concealed in scripture.

Hos 6:3 Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he (Christ**) shall come unto us as the Rain, as the Latter and Early Rain unto the earth.**

Deu 32:2 My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small Rain (Early Rain) upon the tender herb, and as the showers (Latter Rain**) upon the grass.**

Job 37:6 For he saith to the snow, Be thou on the earth; likewise to the small rain (Early Rain), and to the great rain (Latter Rain**) of his strength.**

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; establish your hearts: for the coming of the Lord draweth nigh.

Only after an unbeliever receives the small measure of the Spirit (Early Rain) will they make a confession of faith. When they do, they will enter the church and become a babe in Christ. The churches of this world are full of babes who have only been given the Early Rain. And because of Satan's deceptions, they have all become apostate and are following Satan's false gospel which mixes man's work with faith. After they have accepted this false gospel, they have committed the one and only sin that leads to death.

The Latter Rain is the baptism of the Holy Spirit and it comes with power and strength. It is only given to the Elect after a time of waiting. It is the Latter Rain that brings salvation.

Here is a short summary of the pathway to salvation that is taught in Christ's spiritual teachings:

At a time of Christ's choosing, He will come to an unbeliever and give them a small measure of the Holy Spirit (the Early Rain). If Christ chooses not to come to a person, they will remain an unbeliever until they die. They have no ability to decide differently.

If Christ does come to an unbeliever to give them the Early Rain, He will do so without their permission and without their asking for the gift. Paul's Damascus Road experience is when Paul received the Early Rain. Paul did not ask for it.

Since the Early Rain will leave a new babe in Christ spiritually blind, carnally minded and unconverted, Satan will come to them and deceive them via the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ. This will cause the Abomination of Desolation within the babe. And since the babe remains spiritually blind and carnally minded, Satan's carnally pleasing deceptions are readily accepted by the new believer. The babe is now a man of sin.

The fallen away babe will remain in this "worse than the first" spiritual condition until they die if they are not one of the Elect. If they are one of the Elect, Christ will return to them and will pour out the Latter Rain. With the Latter Rain, they will be made faithful, have their spiritual blindness healed and be "born again". With their blindness healed, Christ will appear and begin the Day of the Lord within them to remove the "chaff" (all the spiritual things that has made them carnally minded and sinful). After this judgment is complete, the believer will be converted and will be dwelling in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Having the indwelling Spirit of Truth which gives a person the ability to understand the spiritual teachings of Christ is vital in coming out of Satan's deceptions. Satan's deceptions are just so powerful otherwise:

Mat 24:24 For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs

and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.

In your post, you reference the teachings and history of the early churches like they are a source of truth. They are not because by the end of the 1st century, they had all become apostate. The only source of truth comes from God's Word by the guidance of the Spirit of Truth.

Joe

No response.