

THE GREAT MYSTERY OF THE CHURCH

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INTRODUCTION

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Why does Paul refer to Christ and the Church as a Great Mystery?

Frequently in scripture, the term “mystery” is used to show that something is hidden and has not been previously revealed. But when speaking of Christ and His Church, scripture refers to them as a Great Mystery. Why the special emphasis here?

In this paper, I’m going to explore the answer to that question.

But before I get started, it is necessary to spend some time on how to study and understand scripture. However, as you are probably aware, understanding & belief can only come from the Spirit of God. If you believe that you are one of the many who lack understanding, Christ says that gift is available to all His sons who ask.

Luke 11:9 And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. 10 For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened. 11 If a son shall ask bread of any of you that is a father, will he give him a stone? or if he ask a fish, will he for a fish give him a serpent? 12 Or if he shall ask an egg, will he offer him a scorpion? 13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

As you read this paper, try to determine if you really have all that the Lord wants to give you.

Has Christ given you a love of the truth that is causing you to always be searching for truth?

2Thes 2:10 And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.

Are you willing to give up (sell) all your worldly beliefs so that you can have treasure in heaven?

Luke 18:22 Now when Jesus heard these things, he said unto him, yet lackest one thing: sell all that thou hast, and distribute unto the poor, and thou shalt have treasure in heaven: and come, follow me.

It is my hope (as the Lord wills) that the Lord will create a hunger for His truth within you if He has not already done so. For without a love of the truth, the truth will remain hidden. Please

keep this in mind as you read this paper, and remember, God is ready to give to His children who ask.

CARNAL UNDERSTANDING VS. SPIRITUAL UNDERSTANDING

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.

Mat 13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

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:

As you are probably aware, Christ is the Word of God. A physical witness of Him has been recorded on tablets of stone and scrolls of paper. But after a person has been converted, Christ will spiritually live within the new child of God, thereby making the person a living witness of Him to this world.

Acts 1:8 But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria and to the end of the earth."

And just as there is a physical witness of Christ and a spiritual witness of Christ, Christ teaches His truth by this same division.

The teachings of the Old Covenant are written in the same language that carnal mankind uses and understands. Those teachings are outward & physical and include the physical work of Christ that He did in the flesh which took Him to the cross.

The teachings of the New Covenant are very different. Those teachings are inward and spiritual and are taught using Christ's spiritual language.

Isa 28:9 Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? Them **(the converted Elect) 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 **(spiritual language)** will he speak to this people.**

In this language, Christ uses "spirit" words (**John 6:63**) which carry meanings that are different from the way 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)**.**

To understand the meanings of Christ's spirit words, Paul says to compare them with how they are used elsewhere in scripture. Then, with the guidance of the Spirit of Truth (**John 16:13**), their spiritual definitions can be discerned.

Another way that Christ's New Covenant teachings are different from the Old Covenant teachings is that Christ uses analogies, parables, prophecies and physical types to communicate His messages. And because these four methods use Christ's spiritual language, their messages are very concealed if a person is not being guided by the Spirit of Truth.

In addition to what I stated above, Christ also teaches His truths of the New Covenant "here a little, and there a little" (**Isa 28:9-12**). As a result, truth must be assembled from various scriptures in order for the whole truth of a subject to be understood.

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

And finally, the truth of the New Covenant is also presented "precept upon precept" and "line upon line". In other words, to understand Christ's New Covenant teachings, truth must be built up from a foundational level before higher level truths can be understood. When a person tries to understand a higher level truth before they have properly understood a lower level truth, the person is likely to have errors in their understanding.

So why does Christ teach His New Covenant teachings in such a difficult way to understand?

The answer is because understanding the truth of Christ's New Covenant teachings is reserved for only the converted Elect.

In this age, it is only the Elect who will be blessed by God so that they can find His hidden treasure and come to fully know Him.

Prov 2:1 My son (the converted Elect), if you receive my words and treasure up my commandments with you, 2 making your ear attentive to wisdom and inclining your heart to understanding; 3 yes, if you call out for insight and raise your voice for understanding, 4 if you seek it like silver and search for it as for hidden treasures, 5 then you will understand the fear of the Lord and find the knowledge of God.

For all others (including "babes" who draw milk), Christ will remain veiled from their understanding. Christ does it this way to satisfy the purposes of God according to "election" and not because of anything a person has ever done.

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.

But because Christ loves all mankind and because Christ came to save all mankind (1John 4:14), Christ will reveal Himself (Truth/Word of God) to every person who has ever lived before the ages come to an end. When that day arrives, this scripture below will be testified to be true.

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.

EXAMPLE OF CHRIST'S SPIRITUAL TEACHINGS

Below is a very easy example of how Christ teaches using His spiritual language.

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, that 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 or is His message something else?

In Matt 26:52, Christ is using the spirit word SWORD to teach His spiritual message. To understand what this spiritual symbol 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 spiritual 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). 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 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 and then died by the SWORD. But because the Apostles were “born again” (Latter Rain) as a child of God prior to being slain by the Sword, their lives continued on as a new creation of God. It is in this way that Christ will convert all mankind into His children.

In light of what I presented above, do you understand what this verse below is teaching?

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 (**all mankind**).**

Like Mat 26:52, the verse above is teaching about the baptism of Fire which occurs during the conversion event. And like all of Christ’s New Covenant teachings, its message is hidden in the spiritual language of Christ. The “many” who are “slain of the Lord” is a prophecy that is teaching that all mankind will be converted & saved. This death will only occur after each individual has been given their new birth as a child of God. To know that this is the case, we must look to other scripture (“here a little and there a little” applies).

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.

OVERVIEW OF CHRIST’S PLAN OF SALVATION FOR ALL MANKIND

God the Father sent Jesus Christ into the world to save the world:

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

And since God never fails at anything, Jesus Christ will most certainly accomplish this great work as the scriptures below clearly teach:

1Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at His coming. 24 Then cometh the end, when he shall deliver up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all (no one left out).

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.

Since Christ came into the world to save the world, you may be asking why is He concealing Himself from most people during this present age?

The answer to that question is because Christ came with an established plan that was formed before the foundation of the world. In accordance with that plan, the salvation of mankind is broken down into FOUR groups and will occur over TWO different ages of time.

The first group of people to be saved are being saved in this present age. They are the individuals who have been chosen from the foundation of the world for an early salvation. They are called the Elect and First Fruits of Christ's harvest of mankind. They are considered blessed and are few in number.

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.

Eph 1:11 In whom also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of him who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will:

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

The second group of people to be saved will be saved at the beginning of the next and final age. They are the OT faithful. When they appear before Christ's judgment seat upon their resurrection from the grave, Christ will find them to be faithful and their names written in the Lamb's book of Life. Then, with the help of the Elect, the OT faithful will be converted and will enter into the Kingdom of Heaven.

Heb 11:39 And these all (OT faithful), having obtained a good report through FAITH, received not the promise: 40 God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect (converted).

For the rest of mankind, when they appear before the judgment seat of Christ upon their resurrection from the grave, they will not be found in the Lamb's book of life. As a result, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire (a symbol for judgment) where Christ will administer their judgment in accordance with the Law (**John 5:22**).

The penalty for sin according to the Law is death.

Eze 18:4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sins, it shall die.

The penalty for sin is not eternal torment in literal fire as is commonly taught by most apostate churches of this world.

When Christ judges the remaining balance of mankind in the Lake of Fire, He will not omit "justice, mercy and faith" from their judgment.

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.

Because Christ will not omit the "weightier matters of the law" from His judgment, He will show each person MERCY before they perish. His mercy will come to them as the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. With the Holy Spirit, they will have FAITH (**1Cor 12:3**) and will be "born again" as a child of God. Christ will then gather the newly born child of God to heaven, leaving only the child of the Devil in the Lake of Fire to perish. The death of the child of the Devil will satisfy JUSTICE (near-kinsman redeemer law applies).

Within this last remaining portion of mankind who will be judged in the Lake of Fire, their salvation is broken into two groups; the Gentiles will be first to be saved, followed by the unfaithful physical descendants of Abraham. These last two groups constitute the third and fourth groups of mankind to be saved.

These scriptures apply:

Rom 11:25 For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in. 26 And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: 27 For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins.

Luke 13:28 There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets (**OT faithful**), in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out. **29** And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. **30** And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.

After the last Jewish person is saved in the final age, Christ will have completed the mission His Father gave Him.

This verse will then be proved true:

Luke 3:4 As it is written in the book of the words of Esaias the prophet, saying, the voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight. **5** Every valley shall be filled, and every mountain and hill shall be brought low; and the crooked shall be made straight, and the rough ways shall be made smooth; **6** And all flesh shall see the salvation of God.

THE PATHWAY TO SALVATION FOR THE ELECT

In the remaining sections of this paper, I will explain the pathway that Christ causes His Elect to travel to their salvation in this present age. Christ teaches this pathway “here a little and there a little” in His spiritual language using parables, types, analogies and prophecies. The concealed nature of the pathway to salvation is the core of the great mystery of Christ and His church.

In this present age, Christ is only saving the Elect, the First-Fruits of His harvest of mankind. They are called & chosen and are few in number:

Mat 22:14 For many are CALLED, but few are CHOSEN.

Understanding the implications of this verse is one of the keys to understanding how Christ will bring in His harvest of First Fruits in this present age.

In this age, most of mankind will NOT be called to be a saint, but many people will be. From this group of many, a few have been chosen to actually become saints.

THE EARLY RAIN OF THE SPIRIT

The pathway to salvation begins for a person when they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit.

The Early Rain of the Spirit is a small portion of the Holy Spirit. It is not the baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain) that many mistake it to be.

Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in Jehovah your God; for he gives the Early Rain in just measure, and he causes to come down for you the Rain, the Early Rain and the Latter Rain, in the first month.

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.

It is the small gift of the Spirit that calls a person to be a saint and is what gives them a “measure of faith” (**Rom 12:3**) & certain spiritual gifts (**1Cor 12:11, Eph 4:7**). The people who are called to be saints are “many” in number and they make up the various denominations & sects of Christianity in the world – all who claim to represent Christ and His truth. This large group of churches is made up of chosen and non-chosen individuals who have only received the Early Rain of the Spirit.

The letters that Paul and the other NT teachers wrote to the churches were primarily addressed to the “many” who had only received the Early Rain of the Spirit and had been called to be saints. They are also referred to as the “faithful”.

Below are a few examples:

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:

Gal 1:6 I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto another gospel:

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints (called & chosen) which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus (those called to be saints):

Col 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

2Pet 1:1 Simon Peter, a servant and an apostle of Jesus Christ, to them that have obtained like precious faith with us through the righteousness of God and our Savior Jesus Christ:

After a person is given the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will make a confession of faith in Christ when they are presented the Gospel (**1Cor 12:3**). It is at this time that the person will enter the church as a faithful “babe” who only has the ability to consume milk.

Because the Early Rain of the Spirit is only given in “measure”, it will leave the new believer in a very weak spiritual state. In this condition, they will remain carnally minded and spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**). They will be able to see carnally (**Christ and Him crucified, 1Cor 2:2**)

but the spiritual teachings of Christ will largely be veiled from their understanding. As a result, all babes will remain unconverted and outside the Kingdom of Heaven.

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

Below is a portion of a forum response which I posted that addresses the Early Rain of the Spirit and how it applied to the Nation of Israel and to the early Gentile churches. Though it may repeat some of what I have presented above, I believe it will be helpful in gaining a fuller understanding of the Early Rain concept.

Dear J____,

I believe there are up to seven baptisms mentioned in scripture but there is only ONE baptism that saves us. This ONE baptism is the Latter Rain/Baptism of the Holy Spirit. It is this baptism that most Christians mistakenly believe that they had received when they first came to Christ and were baptized in water. However, what the new believer actually received at that time was only the Early Rain of the Spirit. It was not the baptism of the Spirit as they believed.

The Latter Rain of the Spirit is the baptism that the 120 Jewish Elect received on the Day of Pentecost. It is also the one that Paul received in Damascus after being blind and unable to eat or drink for three days.

Question: Since the 120 Jewish Elect received the Latter Rain of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, when did they receive the Early Rain?

I'll answer that question below, but before I do, let's look at the first baptism the Nation of Israel received so that we don't confuse it with the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Here is what Paul said:

1Cor 10:1 Moreover, brethren, I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the (Red) sea; 2 And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea;

So what does this baptism represent? Is it the Early Rain of the Spirit?

Let's look at the answer piece by piece (symbol by symbol).

The scripture says that the Israelites were baptized "unto Moses". Moses is a spiritual symbol for the Law.

The scripture also says that the Israelites were "under the cloud" and were baptized "in the cloud". The "cloud" is a spiritual symbol for the veil that conceals Jesus Christ from mankind

due to mankind being carnally minded. In other words, the Israelites followed Christ by day but He was veiled from their understanding. And just like Paul on the Damascus Road, the Israelites could hear Christ (via Moses) but they could not see who was actually speaking to them.

The scripture also says that the Israelites “passed through the (Red) sea” and were baptized in it. The Red Sea is also a spiritual symbol. The term “sea” represents carnal mankind. The term “red” represents sinfulness. Since the Israelites passed through the Red sea on dry ground, we must consider the spiritual meaning of “dry ground”.

Exo 14:16 But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

The term “dry” represents that something is void of the Holy Spirit. Other synonymous symbols are drought, wilderness, desert and parched land. The Holy Spirit is symbolized by the terms wet, water, rivers, rain, showers, dew, snow and spit. The term “ground” means the same as the symbol “old/natural earth” which represents mankind’s marred spirit which has a carnal and religious spiritual nature.

By assembling all the symbols of the scripture together, we can discern that the Red Sea baptism is the baptism into Law (Moses) which was under the authority of Jesus Christ (cloud). Since the baptism was a “dry” baptism, the Israelites did not receive the Holy Spirit, and as a result, Christ remained “veiled” and “without”. And since the Israelites were baptized into Law (Moses), the Old Covenant of Law (through the animal sacrifices) would not let them be touched by mankind’s sinfulness (Red Sea).

Later, Christ told Moses that in “due season”, He would give them (those who are Elect) the Early & Latter Rains of the Spirit.

Here is what Christ told Moses:

Deu 11:14 That I will give you the rain of your land in his due season, the Early Rain and the Latter Rain, that thou mayest gather in thy corn (bread, truth), and thy wine (New Covenant**), and thine oil (**anointing of the Holy Spirit**).**

The time of “due season” commenced when Christ appeared to the Nation of Israel in the flesh. The Israelites who recognized that Jesus was the Christ were the ones who had been given the Early Rain of the Spirit. We know this to be the case because “no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy 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.

Since the Early Rain of the Spirit is “spiritual” and cannot be seen with human eyes, the only way to know that a person has received it is to look for the outward evidence of it.

The scripture below is the evidence that Peter and the other eleven disciples were given the Early Rain of the Spirit:

Mat 16:15 He said unto them, But who do you say that I am? **16** And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. **17** And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood has not revealed it unto you, but my Father which is in heaven (by the Early Rain).

Mat 10:1 And when he had called unto him his twelve disciples, he gave them power (gifts of the Spirit) against unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

John 6:66 From that time many of his disciples went back, and walked no more with him. **67** Then said Jesus unto the twelve, Will ye also go away? **68** Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? thou hast the words of eternal life. **69** And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God. **70** Jesus answered them, Have not I chosen you twelve, and one of you is a devil?

John the Baptist confirms this truth about the Early Rain of the Spirit in the verse below:

John 3:27 John answered and said, “A man can receive nothing unless it has been given to him from heaven.

Note: Judas received the Early Rain of the Spirit and is a “type” for what would later happen to the babes (Early Rain only) in the church after Paul’s death.

As for the water baptism that John the Baptist, Christ and His disciples performed, it was a baptism of repentance from works (the crooked way/religion) and acceptance & belief in Jesus Christ as Lord. It was not the baptism of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 1:5 For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence (on the Day of Pentecost).

Acts 19:2 He said unto them, Have ye received the Holy Spirit since ye believed? (outward evidence of them having already received the Early Rain) And they said unto him, We have not so much as heard whether there be any Holy Spirit. **3** And he said unto them, unto what then were ye baptized? And they said, Unto John's baptism. **4** Then said Paul, John verily baptized with the baptism of repentance, saying unto the people, that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Jesus Christ. **5** When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. **6** And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them (Latter Rain); and they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. **7** And all the men were about twelve (numerical symbol for the Kingdom of Heaven which they just entered).

Note: For a person to want to receive John's water baptism, they would first have to be given the Early Rain of the Spirit which is why they have a measure of faith.

The verse below also mentions the baptism of repentance:

John 3:26 And they came unto John, and said unto him, Rabbi, he that was with thee beyond Jordan, to whom thou barest witness, behold, the same baptizes, and all men come to him.

And this verse, too:

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins (baptism of repentance); and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain that would come later after a time of "waiting").

When a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, they are indwelt with a small amount of the Holy Spirit. Even with just a small amount of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit will give the new believer "spiritual gifts" (1Cor 1:7) and a "measure of faith" (Rom 12:3).

Below is where Paul speaks of the Early Rain of the Spirit that the new Gentile believers in Corinth received along with its accompanying spiritual gifts:

1Cor 1:6 Even as the testimony of Christ (Early Rain) was confirmed in you: **7** So that you come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ: **8** Who shall also confirm you unto the end (Latter Rain), that ye may be blameless in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ (judgment).

The Early Rain of the Spirit (testimony of Christ) was confirmed in the Corinthian believers because they exhibited the evidence of having received it - the gifts of the Spirit and their confession of faith.

With the Early Rain of the Spirit, the new Corinthian believers (babes/called to be saints) received a "measure of faith" to sustain them while they waited for Christ to return to them later and convert them (Latter Rain & judgment).

Paul mentions the time of waiting that all "babes" (who are chosen) must endure until Christ returns to them with their 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.

Joe

THE APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH (THE BABES)

Acts 20:29 For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock. 30 Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them. 31 Therefore watch, and remember, that by the space of three years I ceased not to warn every one night and day with tears.

Shortly after the death of Paul, the spirit of anti-Christ came into the churches and devoured the “babes” which were easy prey due to their spiritual blindness. Babes can understand & receive the carnal teachings of Christ that apply to the Old Covenant (**Christ and Him crucified, 1Cor 2:2**) – however, the spiritual teachings of the New Covenant will largely remain concealed from their understanding. Because of this lack of understanding, a babe who can only draw milk will “fall backward and be broken, and snared, and taken” by Satan. They cannot avoid it.

Isa 28: 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**).**

Paul discusses how a babe in Christ becomes apostate below:

Heb 6:1 Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection; not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works, and of faith toward God, 2 Of the doctrine of baptisms, and of laying on of hands, and of resurrection of the dead, and age-enduring judgment. 3 And this will we do, if God permit. 4 For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift (Early Rain**), and were made partakers of the Holy Spirit, 5 and have tasted the good word of God (**milk**), and the powers of the world to come 6 if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance: seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.**

In short, falling away (becoming apostate) happens to a babe when they begin mixing in their own works with the works of Christ under the New Covenant. In this way, they are no longer repentant and have become unfaithful.

The scripture below describes what happens to a babe when they mix their own works with faith:

Prov 23:26 My son, give me thine heart, and let thine eyes observe my ways. 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 increases 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 (Old Wine**), when it giveth his color in the cup, when it moves itself (**man's works**) aright. 32 At the last it bites like a serpent, and stings like an adder.**

In the wine analogy used by Christ in His spiritual teachings, the Old Wine (red) represents the Old Covenant and the New Wine represents the New Covenant.

The Old Covenant is based solely upon the works of man to make a person acceptable to God. In contrast, the New Covenant is based solely upon the works of Christ (both His physical and spiritual works) by which He will make a person acceptable to God.

When a babe begins mixing in their own works with the works of Christ, they are saying that the works of Christ are not sufficient to save them. When a babe accepts this lie, they are following the crooked way of Satan rather than the straight way of Christ. This is the “sin that leads to death” (**1John 5:16**) and is when a babe falls away and is broken, snared & taken by Satan.

Paul said that when a believer commits the sin that leads to death, they cannot be renewed to repentance because they sacrifice the Son of God afresh. But there is a solution presented by God’s Word (here a little and there a little) which can restore an apostate believer. That way is for Christ to come to them a second time and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit. The baptism of the Spirit will come in strength and will heal their spiritual blindness. As a result, the apostate believer will repent of their works and will come out of Satan’s deceptions. The judgment of the Day of the Lord will then immediately follow to remove and destroy all the spiritual things (**chaff, Mat 3:12**) within them that have made them a sinful child of the Devil. It is from this judgment that the child of the Devil perishes by the Sword.

Have you ever wondered why there is little unity of truth taught by the many different denominational churches in the world? It is because the churches of this world are fully apostate and have become places where the blind lead the blind. However, they do have one common belief. They all believe that a person must contribute at least some “works” to receive their free gift of salvation from Christ. Some apostate churches require many works, while some require just one or two. However, the number of works is unimportant since it only takes one work to commit the sin that leads to death and fall from grace.

Consider what Paul stated below about the “work” of circumcision that was the issue of his day among Jewish believers:

Gal 5:1 Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. 2 Behold, I Paul say unto you, that if ye be circumcised, Christ shall profit you nothing. 3 For I testify again to every man that is circumcised, that he is a debtor to do the whole law. 4 Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace.

Christ made this statement below concerning babes who believe that their works will earn them their salvation:

Matt 7:21 Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me

in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work lawlessness.

These believers in the scripture above “work lawlessness” because their works have made them “debtors to do the whole law”. And since no man other than Christ is able to keep the whole law, the law of sin and death is still accusing them. They have fallen from grace.

In the scripture below, Christ explains why all babes will quickly fall prey to Satan’s deceptions and will fall from grace.

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.

Christ also taught about the spirit of anti-Christ in these verses below:

Mar 5:2 And when he was come out of the ship, immediately there met him out of the tombs a man with an unclean spirit, 3 Who had his dwelling among the tombs; and no man could bind him, no, not with chains: 4 Because that he had been often bound with fetters and chains, and the chains had been plucked asunder by him, and the fetters broken in pieces: neither could any man tame him. 5 And always, night and day, he was in the mountains, and in the tombs, crying, and cutting himself with stones. 6 But when he saw Jesus afar off, he ran and worshipped him, 7 And cried with a loud voice, and said, what have I to do with thee, Jesus, thou Son of the most high God? I adjure thee by God, that thou torment me not. 8 For he said unto him, Come out of the man, thou unclean spirit. 9 And he asked him, What is thy name? And he answered, saying, my name is LEGION; for

we are many. 10 And he besought him much that he would not send them away out of the country. 11 Now there was there nigh unto the mountains a great herd of swine feeding. 12 And all the devils besought him, saying, Send us into the swine, that we may enter into them. 13 And forthwith Jesus gave them leave. And the unclean spirits went out, and entered into the swine: and the herd ran violently down a steep place into the sea, (they were about two thousand and were choked in the sea.

The "man" who is possessed by the many unclean spirits represents an Elect believer who has been fully made into a Man of Sin. In this "worse than the first" spiritual condition, the man is ready for the "end" (conversion) to come.

This verse applies to the possessed man:

Mat 24:14 And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the earth for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.

In this verse above, the "gospel of the kingdom" is the "another gospel" mentioned in 2Cor 11:4 and the "kingdom" is Satan's kingdom.

2Cor 11:4 For if he that comes preaches another Jesus (Satan**), whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit (**spirit of anti-Christ**), which ye have not received, or another gospel (**works mixed with faith**), which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.**

In Mat 24:14, the phrase "preached in all the earth" represents that Satan's lies and deceptions have been fully taught to the believer from within (in the person's spirit/earth) by the spirit of anti-Christ. The "nations" contain the beliefs and character traits of the person. The "end" comes to the believer when Christ "comes again" and pours out the Latter Rain; followed by the judgment of the Day of the Lord. This is the conversion event when the Man of Sin is destroyed.

Back to the story of the possessed man: The stones the man uses to cut himself represent the Law. He cuts himself with the stones because his attempts to follow the law by his own works are unsuccessful and harm him.

The unclean spirit (Legion, who are many) represents the spirit of anti-Christ who has spiritually killed the man (he dwells among the tombs). It is by the deceptions of Satan's spirit that Satan kills the saints (**Mat 24:9, Rev 11:7**). This is when a babe commits the sin that leads to death (mixing works with faith) and falls away from faith and loses their salvation.

When Christ comes to the possessed man with the Latter Rain of the Spirit, Christ drives out the spirit of anti-Christ by the brightness of His appearing (**2Thes 2:8**). Before this judgment happens though, Legion asks to go into the great herd of Swine feeding upon the hill.

The spiritual symbol “swine” represents new believers (babes), who, like swine, have cloven hooves (divided hooves) and are trying to serve two masters. In the story, their number is said to be about “2000”. This number is also a spiritual symbol and is understood as 2x10x10x10.

The number two represents the witnesses of God who are the Elect. The number ten represents “completeness”. When it is repeated three times, the meaning of the number three is added to the equation. The number three represents a spiritual process.

With these meanings, we can now discern what the herd of 2,000 swine represents. It represents Elect believers who have only received the Early Rain of the Spirit and who are now going through a spiritual process. When it is complete, they will be made “worse than the first” and will become a Man of Sin.

When Legion (spirit of anti-Christ) enters the Swine, they run into the sea and are killed. This represents the spiritual death of the babes and is the same spiritual death that the possessed man experienced earlier.

John also was very aware of the coming apostasy of the church. In his first letter, John wrote that the spirit of anti-Christ was coming, and had in fact, already come:

1John 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

In the book of Revelation, John also presents the spirit of anti-Christ as the False Prophet:

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

Rev 19:20 And the (first) Beast was taken, and with him the False Prophet (second beast) 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.

Instead of using the symbol that John was used later, Paul calls an apostate believer who has the indwelling spirit of anti-Christ a Man of Sin, the son of perdition:

2Thes 2:1 Now we beseech you, brethren, by the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, 2 That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. 3 Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there comes a falling away first, and that MAN OF SIN be revealed, the son of perdition; 4 Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

For a more complete teaching on the spirit of anti-Christ/False Prophet and the Man of Sin/Seven Headed Beast, please see my paper entitled “The Beast and the Great Harlot.”

After the death of Paul, the spiritual process of becoming a Man of Sin happens to EVERYONE shortly after they receive the Early Rain of the Spirit and enter the church. No one can avoid it, not even the Elect babes.

Matt 4:4 But he answered and said, it is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

Mankind is saved not just by bread but by every word that God speaks. Some of those words are evil:

Lam 3:38 Out of the mouth of the Most High doth not there proceed evil and good?

The “many” who are called to be saints will eat Satan’s leavened bread and will become a Man of Sin.

Consider this short parable:

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

The woman in the verse represents mankind’s marred spirit which has a carnal & religious spiritual nature. She is the one who is deceived by Satan via the spirit of anti-Christ. After she is deceived and has made the leavened bread, she will feed the leavened bread to the carnal mind of the babe which will cause the young believer to fall from grace and spiritually die.

Because Satan knows the easiest route to deceive a person is through their marred spirit, Satan tempted Eve in the Garden instead of Adam. Eve is a “type” for the marred spirit of a person.

After Satan deceived Eve, she gave the fruit (leavened bread) to Adam (“type” for the carnal mind/head of a person) and “he did eat”:

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die: 5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil. 6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food (lust of the flesh), and that it was pleasant to the eyes (lust of the eyes), and a tree to be desired to make one wise (pride of life), she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

This concept taught by Adam and Eve and the parable of the Leavened Bread is expanded by Christ’s teaching using the wine analogy. Since all babes are carnally minded, they will

naturally prefer the Old Wine over the New Wine. Because of this preference, a babe will easily accept Satan's lies because his lies are carnally pleasing to the believer.

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

The Old Wine represents the blood of the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant of Law. The Old Covenant is man's preferred way of approaching Christ and it is by "works" rather than by faith. This is the crooked way that is taught by the Old Covenant of Law and by Satan's "another gospel". This is what earned Satan the name "crooked serpent".

Job 26:13 By his spirit he hath garnished the heavens; his hand hath formed the crooked serpent.

When a person approaches Christ for salvation by the crooked way, the remission of sins is not possible.

Heb 10:3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year. 4 For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.

The New Wine represents the blood of Christ which He shed for the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

Mat 26:27 And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, Drink ye all of it; 28 For this is my blood of the New Covenant, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. 29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

The New Covenant of Grace through Faith is the only acceptable approach to Christ and it is based solely on the works of Christ "lest any man should boast" (**Eph 2:9**). Under this covenant, Christ will change mankind from "within" by His own works. However, this approach to Christ is rejected by mankind because mankind inherently believes that they have at least some ability to make themselves acceptable to God. This inherent belief is responsible for the many religions of the world and is why carnally minded babes will mix their own "works" with faith. When babes commit this sin, they are trying to serve two masters; Satan & Christ (**Mat 6:24**).

In addition, when a babe uses their own "works" (crooked way/religion) to approach Christ, their "works" will only make them appear to be righteous from the outside. But within, they will still be unclean.

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

In the Sword analogy, when a person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, Christ will strike a blow to the head (carnal mind) of the child of the Devil with His Sword. This blow by the Sword (God's Word) will give the person a deadly head wound. But since the new believer remains spiritually blind and unable to receive the truth of Christ's New Covenant teachings, the death of the child of the Devil will not occur. And to make matters worse, Satan will come to the aid of the child of the Devil and strengthen his carnality via the deceptions of the spirit of anti-Christ.

Also, when the spirit of anti-Christ enters a babe, the Abomination of Desolation will occur in God's temple (the believer). This is what happened to Judas just before he betrayed Christ:

Luke 22:3 Then entered Satan into Judas surnamed Iscariot, being of the number of the twelve. 4 And he went his way, and communed with the chief priests and captains, how he might betray him unto them.

Judas is the original Man of Sin, the son of perdition and is a "type" for all apostate believers who come after him (**John 17:12 & 2Thes 2:3**).

When Satan enters a babe via the spirit of anti-Christ, he will masquerade as Christ to the believer (**2Cor 11:14**) and will deceive them through their marred spirit. And since the carnal mind (Adam/husband) wants to please his marred spirit (Eve/wife, **1Cor 7:33**), the carnal mind will take the forbidden fruit and eat it just as Adam did. When this happens, the deadly head wound to the head of the child of the devil will be healed.

Rev 13:3 And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death; and his deadly wound was healed; and all the world wondered after the beast (Man of Sin).

Satan will then remain the head of the person instead of Christ becoming their new head. As a result, the babe will not be converted but will become "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**); a Man of Sin, the son of perdition.

Note: Christ is the head of the true church; the converted Elect (**Eph 5:23**).

Now that the spirit of anti-Christ has entered the babe and made them apostate, their carnal and religious beliefs have been worsen:

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great city is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils, and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird.

As I mentioned earlier, the Seven Headed Beast described in Revelation chapter 13 is a spiritual symbol for an apostate believer when they are in their worsened spiritual state and are under Satan's control via the spirit of anti-Christ.

The Seven Headed Beast/Man of Sin's number is 666.

Rev 13:18 Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.

The number 666 is understood as 6+6+6. The number “6” is a spiritual symbol (spirit word) which represents mankind who falls short of perfection (7). Since the number 6 is repeated three times, the number 3 is added to the meaning of the number 6. The symbol “3” represents a spiritual process. The spiritual process in question will make a person “worse than the first” when the spirit of anti-Christ indwells them, thus forming the number 666.

The prophet Daniel also explains this spiritual process of devolution into a Man of Sin. Please read my papers entitled “Daniel’s Seventy Weeks Prophecy” and “Numerical Symbols of Daniel’s 70th Week” for more information on this prophecy.

The Doctrine of Free Will is the most common lie from Satan which causes a new believer to fall away from faith and turn to the crooked way of man’s works for their salvation.

Satan uses the Doctrine of Free Will to take advantage of mankind’s inherent "works" based belief preference that comes from a person’s carnal and religious spiritual nature (Great Harlot/ Mystery Babylon the Great City).

Satan then uses the Doctrine of Free Will to support another one of his false doctrines; the Doctrine of Hell.

The apostate churches of this world will use the Doctrine of Free Will to justify why unbelievers are worthy of hell and why they are not. Because they view salvation in this manner (by works), it forces them to believe that they are wiser, smarter or simply less evil than the people who reject Christ. This belief makes for a very self-righteous person. But according to God’s Word, the credit for the decision a person makes to accept Christ as their Lord does not belong to them. The credit belongs to Christ who prepared their hearts with the Early Rain of the Spirit so that the only answer from their tongues would be to accept Him as their Lord.

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

Since mankind was created spiritually marred (**Jer 18:4**) and subject to vanity (**Rom 8:20**), no person is any better than anyone else. All mankind comes up short of being worthy of Christ’s gift of salvation. Furthermore, in this marred condition all mankind has from birth, no one can know God or even have a desire to follow Christ (**Rom 3:10-11, Rom 8:7**), much less accept Jesus as Lord. If it wasn’t for the Grace of God (manifested in Christ) coming to a person and giving them the free gift of the Holy Spirit, no one would ever be saved. A person has nothing to boast about concerning their salvation because 100% of the works & credit of a person’s salvation belongs to Christ.

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.

Scripture clearly teaches that unless Christ gives us the Holy Spirit, no one can call Jesus “Lord”.

1 Cor 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.

It is only AFTER Christ comes to a person and gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit that they will make a confession of faith in Christ. And with the indwelling of the Spirit, that is the only answer of their tongue that they will make since no man can reject Christ after being given the Holy Spirit.

Paul told Timothy that his conversion experience is the pattern (**1Tim 1:16**) that all the Elect will follow to be saved in this present age.

Paul’s calling on the Damascus Road presents (in type) the Early Rain of the Spirit. Christ came to Paul on the Damascus Road, uninvited by Paul and without Paul’s permission, and gave Paul the Early Rain of the Spirit. Paul had no choice in the matter as to whether to accept the Spirit or to reject the Spirit. The Spirit was given to him, and after it was, Paul fell to his knees and called Jesus “Lord”.

I will explain the pattern (type) of Paul’s conversion in more detail later in the paper.

After a babe falls from grace (**Gal 5:4**) and is no longer saved, there is nothing they can do to correct their fallen away spiritual condition. The only solution is for Christ to come to them a second time and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit. However, in this age, Christ will only “come again” to the apostate babes who have been chosen for this blessing from the foundation of the world. They are the Elect. For all other apostate babes, Christ will not come to them a second time before they die. As a result, they will die in their sins and be resurrected to judgment in the Lake of Fire. They have no choice in the matter because salvation is a gift from God and He alone decides when it will be given to a person.

Let’s now take a closer look at what God’s Word teaches about the Latter Rain of the Spirit/Baptism of the Spirit.

LATTER RAIN OF THE SPIRIT

Prov 16:15 In the light of the king's countenance is life; and his favor is as a cloud of the Latter Rain.

Job 29:23 And they waited for me as for the rain; and they opened their mouth wide as for the Latter Rain.

Psa 68:9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful Rain (Latter Rain), whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary (in a fallen away condition).

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no Latter Rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead (a mind that has been fed leavened bread by the marred spirit), thou refused to be ashamed.

Before receiving the Latter Rain of the Spirit and “life”, all chosen believers are spiritually no different than any other believer who has fallen away. In this worsened spiritual condition, the Elect are spiritually blind, deceived by Satan, fallen from grace and have devolved into a Man of Sin. They are languishing in this spiritually darkened state alongside the other babes who have not been chosen.

However, since the Elect are chosen to be First Fruits and heirs of Abraham, Christ will send a person to them in the spirit of Elijah with the call to repent of their “works”. After they are given the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the fallen away Elect believer will respond to the call and repent of their works. This act of repentance will make the pathway “straight” for the Lord to appear to them. When He does, the newly born child of God will be gathered to heaven (spiritually speaking, not a literal change of locations).

In the spirit of Elijah, John the Baptist was sent to the Apostles and the other Jewish Elect to guide them in their transition from the crooked way of works (Old Covenant) to the straight way of faith (New Covenant). To cause them to respond to John’s call of repentance, the Apostles were given the Early Rain of the Spirit. With this small amount of the Spirit, the Apostles were made faithful while they waited for Christ to “come again” with 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.

When the Apostles’ day of salvation arrived on the Day of Pentecost, Christ poured out the Latter Rain of the Spirit upon them. With the baptism of the Spirit, their spiritual blindness was healed. Christ then appeared to them and gathered them to heaven (spiritually speaking).

This is the time when the Apostles first truly saw Christ “face to face” and fully knew Him:

1Cor 13:11 When I was a babe (after receiving the Early Rain), as a babe I was speaking, as a babe I was thinking, as a babe I was reasoning, and when I have become a man (after receiving the Latter Rain), I have made useless the things of the babe; 12 for we see now through a mirror obscurely (as a spiritually blind babe), and then face to face (as a newly born child of God who can see spiritually); now I know in part, and then I shall fully know, as also I was known;

Important Note: The first time Christ appears to a person is after He gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit. This first appearance is said to be in the flesh because the new believer can only see Christ carnally at this time.

In the scripture below, John refers to Christ's first appearance to a person as the time when Christ comes to them "in the flesh":

1John 4:1 Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits, whether they are of God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world. 2 By this you know the Spirit of God: Every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God, 3 and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the spirit of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world.

When a believer denies that Christ ever came to them in the flesh, they are speaking by the spirit of anti-Christ. In other words, the apostate believer is denying that they had ever received the Early Rain of the Spirit which left them spiritually blind. Instead, the apostate believer will claim that they have received the Latter Rain of the Spirit and can see. This spiritual state of blindness is similar to that of the Pharisees:

John 9:39 And Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. 40 And some of the Pharisees which were with him heard these words, and said unto him, Are we blind also? 41 Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see, therefore your sin remains.

And like the Pharisees, an apostate believer will remain under the Law which is why their "sin remains".

Since the Apostles were remaining faithful while they waited for Christ to come to them on the Day of Pentecost, there was no need for them to repent of their works a second time. But after the spirit of anti-Christ came into the church near the end of the 1st Century A.D., this changed for the rest of the Elect. Now, when an Elect babe waits for the Lord to return, they will not remain faithful. To correct this situation, Christ will send a person (another converted Elect believer) to each fallen away Elect babe. This person will come to them in the spirit of Elijah with the call of repentance. Christ will then give the babe the Latter Rain of the Spirit which will cause them to repent and become faithful again. At this same time, the new child of God will also be born. Christ will then spiritually appear and find the Elect believer to be faithful (made ready). When Christ appears, He will gather the newly born child of God to heaven (spiritually

speaking) and then begin His judgment (the Day of the Lord) to complete the Elect person's conversion.

James teaches about this process of repentance below:

James 5:17 Elijah was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain (**no Latter Rain**): and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months (**last 3 ½ years of Daniel's 70 weeks prophecy**). **18** And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit (**Wheat/child of God**). **19** Brethren (**babes**), if anyone among you wanders from the truth, and someone (**like Elijah's prayer for the Latter Rain**) turns him back, **20** let him know that he who turns a sinner from the error of his way will save a soul from death and cover a multitude of sins.

With the Latter Rain of the Spirit, an Elect believer will be "sealed" with the Holy Spirit of Promise which is the down payment of their inheritance until they receive their glorious spiritual body upon their resurrection from the grave.

Eph 1:13 In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of Promise, **14** Which is the down payment (**earnest**) of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession (**immortal spiritual body**), unto the praise of his glory.

The "sealing" of the 144,000 servants of God in Rev 7:1-8 teaches that all the Elect will be sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise (Latter Rain) prior to the judgment of Christ commencing upon them.

Rev 7:3 Saying, Hurt (**judge**) not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads. **4** And I heard the number of them which were sealed: and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.

The prophecy that John was shown above matches with what Paul stated to the Corinthian babes. The sealing of the Holy Spirit of Promise (Latter Rain) is what makes an Elect babe "ready" (**Mat 24:44**) and "blameless in the Day of our Lord Jesus Christ" (**1Cor 1:8**).

THE SPIRITUAL PROCESS OF CONVERSION

The scripture below applies to the spiritual process of conversion:

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: **12** Whose fan is in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Conversion requires two baptisms:

A). Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain of the Spirit)

B). Baptism of Fire (Day of the Lord)

I will discuss each of the two baptisms below.

A). BAPTISM OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Since God has predestined the Elect to be the First-fruits of Christ's harvest of mankind, Christ will come to them a second time (second coming of Christ) before they die and give them the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

With the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the Elect believer will become the Bride of Christ and be born again as a child of God:

Rev 19:7 "Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the Marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready."

This scripture also applies:

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit. 30 And I will shew wonders in the heavens and in the earth, blood, and fire, and pillars of smoke. 31 The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood, before the great and the terrible day of the LORD come.

Upon receiving the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the chosen believer will be given eyes that can see.

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest today? I will call unto the LORD, and he shall send thunder and rain (Latter Rain**); that ye may perceive (spiritual blindness healed) and see that your wickedness is great (Man of Sin revealed), which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.**

With their spiritual blindness now healed, the Elect person will realize that they had been following the ways of Satan instead of the ways of Christ (**Mat 24:15**). They will then immediately repent of their works and become faithful.

Now that the new child of God has been born, the Elect believer will no longer dwell upon the earth but will rise and be gathered to dwell with Christ in heaven. This is a spiritual event and it reflects the Elect believer's new spiritual state of being.

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

B). BAPTISM OF FIRE

The conversion process not only includes the birth of a new child of God, it also includes the death of the child of the Devil (all the spiritual things that have made the person carnally minded and sinful).

As I presented earlier, judgment is represented by the spirit word “Fire”.

Christ’s judgment comes during the Day of the Lord and has TWO parts:

1). The Judgment of the Man of Sin and the Great Harlot/Mystery Babylon the Great City. After this judgment is complete, the person will be converted.

Note: The Great Harlot/Mystery Babylon the Great City represents the carnal and religious spiritual nature of mankind’s marred spirit.

2). The Judgment of the Old Man (carnal mind). This judgment occurs after the believer is converted and is for the purpose of maturing the little child (**Mat 18:3**) into a perfect man of full age who can discern good and evil (**Heb 5:14**).

The judgment of the Man of Sin and the Great Harlot is also called the Supper of the Great God:

Rev 19:17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, “Come and gather together for the Supper of the Great God.”

The full judgment of the Day of the Lord for the Elect is called the Thousand Years Reign of Christ:

Rev 20:1 And I saw an angel come down from heaven, having the key of the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. 2 And he laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years, 3 And cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal upon him, that he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled: and after that he must be loosed for a little season. 4 And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them: and I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands; and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years. 6 But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished. This is the First Resurrection.

The First Resurrection mentioned above is the spiritual resurrection of a person and it represents the entire spiritual process of conversion. It includes the birth of the child of God which occurs during the Marriage of the Lamb (**Rev 19:7**). It also includes the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (**Rev 19:9**) when the believer is served bread and meat (truth) by Christ which occurs as a result

of their spiritual blindness being healed. And lastly, it includes the complete destruction of the child of the Devil (**Rev 19:11-20**).

The First Resurrection is not the bodily resurrection as is commonly believed by many. It is a spiritual resurrection when Christ spiritually changes a person from within during the conversion process. The bodily resurrection will occur later after the person has physically died (**Rev 20:11-15**).

The verse below applies to the judgment of the Old Man (carnal mind).

Rev 19:21 And the rest were slain with the SWORD of him that sat upon the horse, which sword proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

The “rest” who were slain is representative of the remaining carnal thoughts and beliefs within the believer which remain and still cause them to sin.

I will now explain in more detail these two judgments.

1). THE JUDGMENT OF THE MAN OF SIN AND THE GREAT HARLOT

The below formulas will help provide a better understanding of the symbols related to the Man of Sin and the Great Harlot :

BEAST + FALSE PROPHET = MAN OF SIN

BEAST = MAN OF SIN/APOSTATE BELIEVER

FALSE PROPHET = SPIRIT OF ANTI-CHRIST

GREAT HARLOT W/DEVILS = WORSENERD CARNAL & RELIGIOUS SPIRITUAL NATURE

The carnal & religious spiritual nature of a person’s marred spirit is made worse by the indwelling spirit of anti-Christ.

Rev 18:2 And he cried mightily with a strong voice, saying, Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and is become the habitation of devils (spirit of anti-Christ), and the hold of every foul spirit, and a cage of every unclean and hateful bird. 3 For all nations (contains beliefs and character traits) have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication (following Satan’s crooked way), and the kings of the earth (ruling beliefs and character traits) have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth (unclean spirits) are waxed rich through the abundance of her delicacies.

When the spirit of anti-Christ deceives the marred spirit via the Great Harlot with his false gospel which mixes works with faith, the believer (babe) will spiritually die. For this reason, scripture shows that the death of the prophets and saints (along with all other babes) will occur in Old

Jerusalem and that their blood is found in Great Harlot. Old Jerusalem represents the carnal and religious spiritual nature of the marred spirit. It is synonymous with the Great Harlot, Mystery Babylon the Great city, Sodom and Egypt, all of which are used in the spiritual nature analogy.

These verses apply:

Rev 11:8 And their dead bodies (Two Witnesses/all the Elect) shall lie in the street of the great city (Old Jerusalem), which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified.

Rev 17: Rev 17:6 And I saw the woman (Great Harlot) drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.

Rev 18:24 And in her (Great Harlot) was found the blood of prophets, and of saints, and of all (non-elect babes) that were slain upon the (Old) earth (marred spirit).

The Great Harlot is synonymous with Mystery Babylon the Great City and the city of Gomorrah.

The scripture below applies to the Day of the Lord when judgment falls on an Elect believer. When the scripture mentions “two men” or “two women”, is it referring to the two different types of spiritual components within ONE believer. It is not referring to two physical people.

Luke 17:24 For as the lightning, that lighteneth out of the one part under heaven, shineth unto the other part under heaven; so shall also the Son of man be in his day...34 I tell you, that night there shall be two men in one bed; the one shall be taken (spirit of anti-Christ/ False Prophet) and the other shall be left (Holy Spirit/Christ). 35 Two women shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken (Great Harlot), and the other left (New divine spiritual nature). 36 Two men shall be in the field; the one shall be taken (Man of Sin), and the other left (Child of God). 37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And he said unto them, Wheresoever the body is, thither will the vultures be gathered together (Supper of the Great God).

Matthew chapter 24 has a similar teaching:

Mat 24:28 For wheresoever the carcass is, there will the eagles be gathered together (Supper of the Great God). 29 Immediately after the tribulation of those sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven days shall the, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken:

Mat 24:39 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; the one shall be taken (Man of Sin), and the other left (Child of God). 41 Two women shall be grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken (Great Harlot), and the other left (new divine spiritual nature).

The verses below also apply to the judgment that occurs during the conversion process:

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; **16** And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: **17** For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?

Rev 19:18 That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. **19** And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him that sat on the horse, and against his army. **20** 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.

2Thes 2:8 And then shall that Wicked (Man of Sin/Beast) be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

Rev 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her **(Great Harlot)** torment, saying, Alas, alas, that Great City Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

The symbol “beast” who is cast into the Lake of Fire in **Rev 19:20** is the Seven Headed Beast with Ten Horns and Ten Crowns (**Rev 13:1-10**). The beast represents an apostate believer (head/worsened carnal mind) who has a marred spirit that has a worsened carnal & religious spiritual nature (also called the Great Harlot w/devils).

During the time of judgment, Christ will destroy the Great Harlot and Man of Sin and replace them with a new divine spirit and the mind of Christ.

Important Note: God’s Word teaches about the destruction of the child of the Devil who is representative of all mankind (**1John 3:8-10**). The child’s destruction is a spiritual destruction which destroys the person’s carnal and religious spiritual nature (Great Harlot) and their carnal mind (Old Man).

This destruction is shown in the verse 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 scripture above is referring to the spiritual destruction of the person and not the destruction of the actual person themselves. It appears to show that the person (child of the devil) has

perished, and in God's eyes & in scripture, they have. But in reality, the person has only been spiritually changed (converted) on the inside. To reflect this spiritual change, scripture says the child of the devil has perished and the child of God has been born. Through this transformation, the person's individual conscious existence will remain the same.

The spiritual process that causes this change to occur is called conversion.

To make this spiritual change within a person, Christ will give a person the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit will change the person's marred spirit into a new spirit that has a divine spiritual nature. It is the same spirit that the person has always had, only now, it is changed because of the governance of the Holy Spirit.

And from this new divine spirit within the person, the carnal mind of the individual will slowly change into the mind of Christ.

Both the spirit & mind of the person are the same ones that the person has always had, except now, they are "made new" (**Rev 21:5**) by the governance of the Holy Spirit within them.

So when you see verses like the one above (**Isa 66:16**), know that the person has not been destroyed but has only been spiritually changed from the old vessel into the new vessel.

Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, ...

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 original marred vessel (marred spiritual makeup) is converted into a new vessel (perfect spiritual makeup) from the same lump of clay (the individual person). In this way, God will have new children who have a knowledge of both good and evil – something that God desires His children to have.

After the destruction of the Man of Sin and the Great Harlot, there will be a paradigm change within the Elect believer and it will turn their world upside down.

Mat 24:29 Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the (natural) sun be darkened, and the (natural) moon shall not give her light, and the (natural) stars (fallen angels) shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: 30 And then shall appear the sign of the Son of Man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of Man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

After the Man of Sin (who is governed by the False Prophet & the Great Harlot) has received his judgment in the Lake of Fire, the believer will no longer be under the spiritual influence of

Satan. The carnal and religious spiritual nature of a person's spirit will be destroyed and replaced with a new divine spiritual nature by the governance of the Holy Spirit within them.

After this judgment is complete, all that will remain within the person will be the last of Satan's false truth and character traits of the carnal mind (Old Man). Because the Old Man still has some influence over the believer, judgment will now commence on him.

2). THE JUDGMENT OF THE OLD MAN

This second portion of judgment is unlike the first portion of judgment in that it will be a much slower process:

John the Baptist is a type of the Old Man.

John said this:

John 3:30 He must increase, but I must decrease.

And Paul said this:

Rom 6:6 Knowing this, that our Old Man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin.

To help understand the judgment of the Old Man (carnal mind), I will first present the conversion process as presented by the CELESTIAL ANALOGY.

The old Heavens represents Satan's spiritual kingdom which shines its light (Satan's false truth and his carnal and religious character traits) upon the Old Earth. Satan's kingdom consists of the natural sun (Satan), the natural moon (Old Covenant/Bondwoman) and the natural stars (fallen angels/unclean spirits). The light that comes from these celestial bodies represents Satan's false truth and character traits.

It is from this light that Satan rules the Old Earth (mankind's marred spirit):

Gen 1:16 And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: he made the stars also.

After the Old Earth receives Satan's light, it will accept his false beliefs and will develop a carnal and religious spiritual nature (Great Harlot).

To begin the spiritual process of conversion, Christ will first give the Elect individual the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This will give them a New Heavens which is called the Kingdom of Heaven. This kingdom consists of a spiritual sun (Christ), a spiritual moon (New Covenant of Grace through Faith/Freewoman) and spiritual stars (holy angels). The light from the New Heavens will cause the New Earth to receive the truth of God and to have a divine spiritual nature (New

Jerusalem/virtuous woman). It is at this time that the believer will repent of their works so as to make themselves faithful and ready for judgment.

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

Shortly after the Elect believer has been made ready, judgment will fall on Satan's kingdom (Old Heavens & Old Earth) to remove and destroy it from within the person.

This scripture applies:

2Pet 3:10 But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the (Old) Heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the (Old) Earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat? 13 Nevertheless we, according to his promise, look for a New Heavens and a New Earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

After this judgment is complete, the Elect person will be converted.

The final stage of judgment is now ready to begin on the remaining carnal beliefs and character traits of the carnal mind (Old Man). This judgment originates from the New Earth which passes its truth and divine spiritual nature onto the mind of the person.

The verses below apply:

Rev 19:21 And the rest were slain with the sword of him that sat upon the horse, which proceeded out of his mouth: and all the fowls were filled with their flesh.

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.

The Old Man's judgment will coincide with the maturing process of the new child of God.

The new child of God matures (increases) by consuming their "daily bread" (**Luke 11:3**) that they will receive from Christ. With this new knowledge of the truth and with the chastisement of Christ, the person will "learn righteousness". As this process occurs, the influence of the Old Man will decrease more and more until it is removed completely.

After the Old Man has been destroyed and the child of God has been fully matured, the Elect person will only have the beliefs and character traits of Christ.

The verses below apply:

Col 3:9 Lie not one to another, seeing that ye have put off the Old Man with his deeds; **10** And have put on the New Man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him; **11** Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all, and in all. **12** Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering; **13** Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

Rom 12:2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.

Eph 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the Old Man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts; **23** And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; **24** And that ye put on the New Man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Heb 12:8 But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons.

Heb 12:11 Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.

TIME OF TESTING

The spiritual symbol “thousand years” represents the time when the Bride of Christ reigns with Christ in judgment. This reign will happen at two separate times (“**twice told**”, **Ecc 6:6**). Also, the “thousand years” is not a literal amount of time as taught by man’s wisdom (**1Cor 12:3**).

The first time the Bride reigns with Christ is over their own judgment. This is depicted in Rev 19:11-21. The second time they reign with Christ is over the balance of mankind in the final age. This is depicted in Joel 2:1-27.

After the Bride of Christ’s first time reigning with Christ is complete, Satan will be let loose for a little season to tempt the new child of God. This time of testing was typed by Christ in the wilderness after His 40 days of fasting. At that time, Satan came to Christ and tempted Him **THREE** times. The number 3 represents a spiritual process. And just as Christ overcame Satan’s temptations, so will the new son of God.

Please keep in mind that this time of testing by Satan will be an “outward” attack. It will not be like the “inward” attack (spiritual war) which occurred when the believer had the indwelling of the spirit of anti-Christ.

Rev 20:7-10 And when the thousand years are expired, Satan shall be loosed out of his prison, 8 And shall go out to deceive the nations which are in the four quarters of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle: the number of whom is as the sand of the sea. 9 And they went up on the breadth of the earth, and compassed the camp of the saints about, and the beloved city: and fire came down from God out of heaven, and devoured them. 10 And the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for the ages of the ages.

Note: When Satan, the Beast & the False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire, please remember that the Lake of Fire is not a literal place where there is fire and brimstone. The Lake of Fire is a spiritual symbol which represents Christ's judgment. After Satan, the Beast and False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire, they will NEVER be able to influence the believer ever again.

After this time of testing, the new son of God will be successful in resisting Satan's temptations. In other words, they will have overcome Satan and this world just as Christ overcame them:

Rev 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

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.

The child of God is now ready for the bodily resurrection which will occur at the literal end of this age. At that time, the converted elect believer will receive a spiritual body to match their new spiritual identity.

An Elect person's pathway to salvation is now fully complete.

ADDITIONAL SCRIPTURAL SUPPORT FOR THE EARLY AND LATTER RAINS

I am now going to go through some of the scriptural references which speak of the TWO portions of the Holy Spirit which are necessary for conversion.

1). JAMES 5:7-8 – THE EARLY AND LATTER RAIN

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.

Christ is the farmer. The Precious Fruit of the earth is the wheat which represents the Elect. The farmer has “long patience” for the harvest because all new believers (babes) will become apostate shortly after they are given the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Psa 68:9 Thou, O God, didst send a plentiful Rain (Latter Rain), whereby thou didst confirm thine inheritance, when it was weary (in an apostate condition).

Jer 3:3 Therefore the showers have been withholden, and there hath been no Latter Rain; and thou hadst a whore's forehead (worsened carnal mind of an apostate believer), thou refused to be ashamed.

The time period in between an Elect person receiving the Early and Latter Rains is what requires Christ to have “long patience” for the harvest to arrive. It is the same time period of waiting that Paul mentions in the verse below - however, in this verse, it is referred to as the “longsuffering” of Christ:

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

Elijah’s 3 ½ years of drought is also a “type” which represents the time an Elect person spends in between receiving the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit.

James mentions Elijah’s 3 ½ years of drought a few verses later in chapter 5:

James 5:17 Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. 18 And he prayed again, and the heaven gave Rain (the Latter Rain), and the earth produced its fruit (Wheat/the converted Elect).

2). ECC 11:1-5 CAST TWO PORTIONS OF BREAD UPON THE WATERS

Ecc 11:1 Cast thy bread upon the waters: for thou shalt find it after many days. 2 Give a portion to SEVEN, and also to EIGHT; for thou knowest not what evil shall be upon the earth. 3 if the clouds be full of rain, they empty themselves upon the earth: and if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be. 4 He that observeth the wind shall not sow; and he that regardeth the clouds shall not reap. 5 As thou knowest not what is the way of the spirit, nor how the bones do grow in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.

In verses 1 & 2 above, two portions of bread are shown to be cast upon the waters. Water is representative of the Holy Spirit. Bread is Truth (Christ).

The first portion of bread goes to SEVEN which is a reference to mankind in their marred & carnal spiritual state. Casting the first portion of bread to SEVEN represents the time when a

person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit. At this time, the new believer (babe) will be able to understand & receive the physical teachings of Christ of the Old Covenant but little else.

Paul refers to this first portion of bread in the verse below in his first letter to the babes in the Corinthian church:

1Cor 2:2 For I determined not to know anything among you except Jesus Christ and Him crucified.

Next, a second portion of bread goes to EIGHT because “thou knowest not (deception) what evil shall be upon the earth”. The spiritual term EIGHT is a reference to the worsened spiritual state that occurs to all babes shortly after they are given the Early Rain of the Spirit. This spiritual change is hidden from the immature believer’s knowledge because they remain spiritually blind. At this time, Satan will make their last state of carnality “worse than the first” (**Mat 12:43-45**).

If the apostate believer is one of the Elect, Christ will give them a second portion of bread while they are in this worsened carnal state (EIGHT). The second portion of bread is given to them at the time of the Latter Rain of the Spirit. This is the baptism of the Spirit/Spirit of Truth which will heal the person’s spiritual blindness so that they will be able to understand & receive the spiritual teachings of the New Covenant.

In verse 3, the scripture continues talking about “EIGHT” and mentions the clouds being full of rain. This is a reference to the drought that occurs during the time a believer spends between the Early and Latter Rains. It is symbolized by Elijah’s 3 ½ years of drought which is also referred to as a time, times and half a time, 1260 days and 42 months. When the clouds “empty themselves upon the earth”, it is a direct reference to the Latter Rain event that ends the time of drought for a chosen believer.

Verse 3 continues by mentioning a tree which falls either to the North or to the South. A tree is representative of a believer (a babe) who has only received the Early Rain of the Spirit. When the tree falls, that event represents the time when a babe falls away and becomes spiritually worse than the first (apostate). It is the time of Daniel’s Abomination of Desolation when a believer is indwelt with the spirit of anti-Christ and loses their salvation. If the tree falls to the south, it represents the believers who have been chosen to receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit. If the tree falls to the north, it represents believers who have not been chosen to receive the Latter Rain of the Spirit. The decision of who is chosen and who is not chosen was made from the foundation of the world and cannot be changed (where the tree falls, there it shall be).

Verse 4 continues talking about the chosen believers vs. the non-chosen believers.

The believers who “observeth the wind shall not sow” is a reference to the chosen believers who, after receiving the Latter Rain, are “born of the Spirit” (wind, **John 3:8 & Acts 2:2**). They will no longer sow because they have stopped approaching Christ by their own works. They have entered into the rest of Christ.

The believers who “regardeth the clouds shall not reap” is a reference to the non-chosen believers who remain spiritually blind. The clouds represent their spiritual blindness which keeps Christ hidden from their understanding. Because they remain blind, they will not reap and produce the spiritual fruit that is required of a child of God. They will remain in this lost spiritual state until they die.

Verse 5 speaks to the concealed nature of the Pathway to Salvation which was presented in verses 1-4. The first part of verse 5 tells us that we do not know “the way of the (Holy) Spirit” or how the “bones” (a person’s spirit) grow in the womb. Mankind, in their carnally minded spiritual state, cannot understand the ways of God – their carnality blinds them from knowing the truth of God.

Ecc 3:11 He has made everything fitting in its season; However, He has put obscurity (eternity/the carnality of the world) in their heart so that the man may NOT find out His work, that which God does, that which God does from the beginning to the end.

Paul said that Christ and His church are a Great Mystery (Eph 5:32). This truth is the most hidden teaching in scripture. At its core is the teaching of the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit.

Verse 5 continues by mentioning the birthing analogy of the woman who is with child. In this analogy, the woman represents the “freewoman” (**Gal 4:22-31**) and the child in the womb is the child of God waiting to be born. This truth is likewise hidden from mankind.

Verse 5 finishes with another statement that says again that the “works of God who maketh all” is a mystery to mankind.

Summary: Christ’s plan of producing children of God requires TWO portions of bread (truth) to be given to mankind. The first portion of bread (Christ and Him crucified) is given to a person at the time of the Early Rain when they are in their unbelieving carnal state they have from birth. This is symbolized by the spiritual term SEVEN. The second portion of bread (spiritual truths of the New Covenant) is given to them at the time of the Latter Rain after Satan has intervened and made their original carnal state worse than the first. This is symbolized by the spiritual term EIGHT. If a believer has been chosen to receive the second portion of bread before they die, they will be a First Fruit of Christ’s harvest of mankind. They will receive salvation in this present age and be an heir of Abraham. If a believer has not been chosen to receive a second portion of bread before they physically die, they will remain in their worsened carnal state and will die in their sins. They will receive their portion (salvation) with the unbelievers at the end of the final age (**Luke 12:46**).

3). MARK 8:15-25 THE BLIND MAN

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?

In the verses above, Christ is giving His disciples a lesson on the spiritual language of God's Word - His language:

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 (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 might go, and fall backward, and be broken, and snared, and taken.

At this point in time (before they were converted at Pentecost), the disciples had received the Early Rain of the Spirit but had not yet received the Baptism of the Holy Spirit (Latter Rain of the Spirit). And because of such, they were still spiritually blind and could not understand the spiritual teachings of Christ.

Christ ends His comments above by asking the disciples this question: “**How is it that ye do not understand?**” No response from the disciples is recorded in scripture. However, Christ answers His own question in the very next four verses.

Mark 8:22 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. After the man dies and is resurrected from the grave, He will receive the reward of life during the final age where he will reign with Christ.

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away to punishment age-during, but the righteous to life age-during.

For those who were not chosen and were not given eyes that can see spiritually, they will go away to judgment with the unbelievers (**Luke 12:46**). They will suffer loss, but by the end of that age, they, too "shall be saved, yet so by fire":

1Cor 3:13 Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. 14 If any man's work abides which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 15 If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

4). JOHN 8:3-10 THE WOMAN TAKEN IN ADULTERY

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou? 6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not. 7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her. 8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

Before I explain Christ's spiritual message contained in the story above, it is vital to understand the marriage analogy used in the spiritual teachings of Christ.

The "woman" who is taken in adultery represents Adam, the spiritual wife of Christ. Together, Christ and Adam are spiritually "one flesh" (**Gen 2:24**). The formulas below represent this relationship:

HUSBAND + WIFE = ONE FLESH

CHRIST + THE CHURCH/THE ELECT = ONE FLESH

To teach how this spiritual marriage relationship works, God gave us two physical “types” to represent it.

The first physical type represents mankind’s physical makeup. It consists of a head (husband) and a body (wife). Together they are one flesh. This formula applies:

HEAD + BODY = ONE FLESH

Another way to understand this relationship is by this formula:

MIND + SPIRIT = ONE FLESH

The second physical “type” is the marriage relationship between Adam and Eve. In this relationship, Adam is the husband/head/mind and Eve is the wife/body/spirit.

ADAM + EVE = ONE FLESH

The scripture below applies to the marriage relationship between Christ and Adam:

Isa 54:5 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. 6 For the LORD hath called thee as a woman forsaken and grieved in spirit, and a wife of youth, when thou was refused, saith thy God. 7 For a small moment have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee.

Adam is the “wife of youth” and is a physical “type” for the Elect who will become the Bride of Christ.

The phrase “when thou was refused” is referring to the time when Adam sinned and tried to cover his sin with an apron of fig leaves. When Adam followed the ways of Satan and turned to his own works to cover his sin, he committed spiritual adultery with Satan. Since adultery is the only valid reason under the Law for divorce, Christ legally cast Adam out of the Garden of Eden (Christ’s home) and their marriage relationship ended.

After the divorce, and Adam being cast out of Christ’s home, Adam continued to spiritually fornicate with Satan by following Satan’s ways. In this way, Satan became the head of Adam even though they were never married.

Ever since Christ and Adam’s divorce, Christ has been preparing for the day when He will restore His marriage relationship with His forsaken wife, Adam. And as verse 7 says, Christ will do so with “great mercies”. His “great mercies” are manifested in the New Covenant of Grace

through Faith.

Under the New Covenant, Christ will restore His marriage relationship with Adam (a “type” for the Elect) who were chosen from the foundation of the world to become the Bride of Christ. To begin this process, Christ will come to each Elect person and freely give them the Early Rain of the Spirit. With this small measure of the Spirit, the Elect person will have a measure of faith which will cover their past fornications with Satan by Christ’s blood that He shed on the cross. This will make the Elect person into a chaste virgin who will be espoused to Christ.

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.

After the engagement takes place, Christ (the Bridegroom) will leave to “prepare a place” for his chaste virgin. When Christ returns to her, He will take her back with Him so that the marriage ceremony can take place.

John 14:3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

To be a chaste virgin, a person must have the Holy Spirit and remain faithful to Christ. However, shortly after the person receives the Early Rain of the Spirit, Satan will come to the virgin masquerading as Christ and will feed her his leavened bread (**Mat 13:33**). Since the leaven is hidden in the bread, she will not be aware that the bread contains the lies of Satan. Satan is able to deceive the virgin at this time because she is still carnally minded and spiritually blind.

Because of Satan’s deceptions (same as in the Garden of Eden), the virgin will begin following the crooked way of Satan instead of the straight way of Christ.

The crooked way of Satan is trying to make oneself acceptable to God by the works of their own hands. This world calls the crooked way of Satan “religion”.

The straight way of Christ is to have faith in Christ for Him to provide all the works which are necessary to make oneself acceptable to Him.

When a virgin mixes their own works with the works of Christ under the New Covenant, they are following the crooked way of Satan. Rather than having faith in Christ to provide for all her needs, she believes that she must contribute at least some of her own works to be acceptable to Christ.

To restore the prospective bride’s faithfulness, Christ will come to her a second time and give her the Latter Rain of the Spirit. With the Latter Rain of the Spirit, her spiritual blindness will be healed and she will come out from under Satan’s deceptions. At that time, the woman will repent

of her works and become faithful again. This will make Christ's pathway straight for Him to return and collect His virgin for the marriage ceremony.

The Latter Rain of the Spirit and her repentance is what makes the espoused woman "ready" for the Marriage of the Lamb:

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

After the marriage ceremony takes place, the Elect person will be the Bride of Christ and will be "one flesh" with her new husband in the Kingdom of Heaven.

With all that said, let's look now at the spiritual message taught by the "type" presented by the woman taken in adultery:

John 8:3 And the scribes and Pharisees brought unto him a woman taken in adultery; and when they had set her in the midst, 4 They say unto him, Master, this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act. 5 Now Moses in the law commanded us, that such should be stoned: but what sayest thou?

In the first three verses of the story, a woman is said to have been caught in the act of adultery.

This represents the same event of when Adam was caught in the act of adultery with Satan in the Garden of Eden.

The woman (who represents Adam/the Elect) is then delivered to the Pharisees who were responsible for the administration of the Law. The Pharisees then took the woman to Christ for Him to judge her. This represents the transition from the Old Covenant to the New Covenant.

Under the Old Covenant, the Pharisees were the judges but under the New Covenant, Christ is the judge (John 5:22).

The Law says that the penalty for the woman's adultery is death by stoning. In the spiritual language of Christ, "stones" represent the Law which was condemning the woman to death. When Adam committed spiritual adultery with Satan in the Garden of Eden, he, too, was judged by the Law and was given the penalty of death. At that time, his marriage relationship with Christ ended.

However, since Christ is now ready to restore His marriage relationship with his ex-wife, Christ is now gathering her with "great mercies" under the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

In the next verse of the story, Christ is shown to begin this process of restoration with the woman (remember, she represents the Elect).

John 8:6 This they said, tempting him, that they might have to accuse him. But Jesus stooped down, and with his finger wrote on the ground, as though he heard them not.

Christ's act of writing in the ground represents Him writing the Law of the Spirit in the woman's heart. This act represents the Early Rain of the Spirit.

This verse applies:

Jer 31:33 But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.

The covenant mentioned in the verse is referring to the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. Under the New Covenant, Christ will perform all the necessary "works" (both physical and spiritual works) to restore the woman to Himself. And since the New Covenant is a spiritual covenant, Christ will write his Law of the Spirit in the heart of the woman rather than on tablets of stone as under the Old Covenant.

John 8:7 So when they continued asking him, he lifted up himself, and said unto them, He that is without sin among you, let him first cast a stone at her.

After Christ first writes in the earth (the woman), the Pharisees continue to accuse the woman. They do this because the woman still remains under the Law of Sin & Death after having received the Early Rain of the Spirit. She remains under the Law because the Early Rain was not sufficient to stop her from fornicating with Satan. In other words, she does not have the ability to approach Christ strictly by faith alone yet. She is still compelled by her carnal & religious spiritual nature and the deceptions of Satan to mix in her own "works" with faith. At this point, the woman is trying to serve two masters, both Satan and Christ (**Mat 6:24**). For this reason, the Pharisees do not leave but continue to accuse the woman.

John 8:8 And again he stooped down, and wrote on the ground. 9 And they which heard it, being convicted by their own conscience, went out one by one, beginning at the eldest, even unto the last: and Jesus was left alone, and the woman standing in the midst. 10 When Jesus had lifted up himself, and saw none but the woman, he said unto her, woman, where are those thine accusers? hath no man condemned thee?

In verse 8, Christ stoops down a second time and writes His Law of the Spirit in the heart of the woman again. This act represents the Latter Rain of the Spirit.

It is at this point that Christ heals the woman's spiritual blindness and she comes out from Satan's deceptions. This causes the woman to repent of her works and become faithful. When

this happens, she is covered by the blood of Christ of the New Covenant and the Law is no longer able to accuse her.

After this change from approaching Christ by the crooked way (Old Covenant, man's works) to approaching Christ by the straight way (New Covenant, faith in Christ), the Pharisees stop accusing the woman and leave.

The woman (Adam/the Elect) has now been made into a Chaste Virgin again and is "ready" for the wedding to take place. After the wedding takes place, the woman's marriage relationship with Christ will be restored.

5). ACTS 9:3-19 PAUL'S CONVERSION EXPERIENCE

Scripture says that Paul's conversion is the pattern (type) by which all the Elect will be saved from this time going forward:

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

In order to understand this pattern, we must spiritually understand the steps of Paul's conversion as recorded for us in **Acts 9:3-19**.

The first set of verses below types Paul's time of being called to be a saint. This is when Paul receives the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Acts 9:3 And as he journeyed, he came near Damascus: and suddenly, there shined round about him a light from heaven: 4 And he fell to the earth, and heard a voice saying unto him, Saul, Saul, why persecute thou me? 5 And he said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecute: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. 6 And he trembling and astonished said, Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the city, and it shall be told thee what thou must do. 7 And the men which journeyed with him stood speechless, hearing a voice, but seeing no man. 8 And Saul arose from the earth; and when his eyes were opened, he saw no man: but they led him by the hand, and brought him into Damascus. 9 And he was three days without sight, and neither did eat nor drink.

The first events which happened to Paul "type" (physically symbolize) the spiritual process that all the Elect go through to be called to be a saint so as to enter the church.

When an individual is called to be a saint, Christ will come to them suddenly and without invitation (**Mal 3:1**). Under the New Covenant, when a person has the indwelling of the Holy Spirit (even just the small amount of the Early Rain), they become God's Temple (**1Cor 6:19**).

The reason Christ must come to a person without their invitation is because no one has an ability to seek out Christ or to understand Him due to their marred spiritual state which has made them carnally minded.

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.

Rom 3:10 As it is written, there is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understand, there is none that seek (follow) after God.

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.

If mankind did have a free will ability to choose Christ, the decision to accept Christ would be a “work” of man. A person would then have something to boast about concerning why they are saved and why others are not.

But Paul says that no person has anything to boast about concerning their salvation:

Eph 2:8 For ye are saved by grace, through faith; and this not of yourselves; it is God's gift: 9 not on the principle of works, that no one might boast. 10 For we are his workmanship, having been created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God has before prepared that we should walk in them.

If Christ decides to come to a person in the present age to call them to be a saint, that event is a spiritual event which happens within the person (**Luke 17:21**). Since Christ is now spirit, He cannot be seen with human eyes. In fact, Christ will never again be seen with human eyes because scripture teaches that Christ will remain in “heaven” (the spiritual realm) until the last person of mankind has been saved in the final age:

Acts 3:20 And he shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: 21 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.

When Christ comes to an unbeliever, He will come to them suddenly and spiritually, just as He did when He came to Paul on the Damascus Road. When Christ comes, He will give the person the Early Rain of the Spirit which will cause them to fall to the earth (spiritually speaking) just as Paul did. When Paul fell to the earth, it symbolized a new believer's submission to Christ but in a carnal way. The "earth" is a symbol for mankind's marred spirit which has a carnal & religious spiritual nature.

Since a new believer is left carnally minded upon receiving the Early Rain of the Spirit, they will remain spiritually blind. They will not have the ability to understand who the voice is that is

speaking to them. Christ will remain hidden from their understanding. Because they do not have "ears that can hear", the person must rely on being told who the voice is, just as Paul had to do.

After the voice told Paul that it was Jesus who was speaking to him, Paul answers back to Jesus and calls Him Lord. Since scripture says that no one can call Jesus "Lord" but by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit, we know that this event happening to Paul is the Early Rain of the Spirit.

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

Paul calls Jesus "Lord" but still lacks the ability to know Jesus for himself. Christ remains hidden (veiled) from Paul's understanding, just as He remains hidden from the understanding of all who experience the Early Rain of the Spirit.

Paul then asks Christ "what wilt thou have me to do"?

Since Paul remains carnally minded, he believes that he must do something to earn the Lord's favor. The Lord answers him by saying to arise and go to Damascus. The city represents the carnal and religious spiritual nature of the marred spirit and is synonymous with the Great Harlot, Mystery Babylon the Great City, Old Jerusalem, Sodom and Egypt. It is in Damascus that Paul will be spiritually killed.

Christ then tells Paul that once he is in the city, someone there will tell him what he must do. That "someone" is a minister of Satan (an false teacher/leader of the apostate church) who is just as spiritually blind as Paul is.

2Cor 11:14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore, it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.

Mat 15:14 Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

From verse 7, we see that no one with Paul experienced what Paul did. This visitation by Christ is only for the person who is being called to be a saint. It is a spiritual event and happens within Paul. Human eyes cannot see Christ.

After Paul stands up and opens his eyes, he "saw no man". Paul's blindness represented his spiritual blindness and was the reason why Paul had to ask who was speaking to him. Paul had no ability to see Christ for himself. Scripture goes on to say that Paul had to be led by the hand. This is symbolic of the blind leading the blind (**Mat 15:14**).

After Paul arrives in Damascus, verse 9 says that Paul remained blind and did not eat or drink for

three days. Paul's lack of being able to eat and drink represents Paul's spiritual blindness when he was not able to consume Christ's bread (truth) or drink the New Wine of Christ's blood which He shed for the New Covenant of Grace through Faith. The number 3 is also a spiritual symbol and it represents a spiritual process. The "three days" does not represent a literal length of time as "taught by man's wisdom" (**1Cor 2:13**). It represents the spiritual process which will eventually cause Paul to "fall away" and be spiritually killed. The end product of this spiritual process results in Paul becoming "worse than the first" (**Mat 12:43-45**); a Man of Sin.

The second set of verses below represents when Paul received the Latter Rain of the Spirit, the healing of his spiritual blindness and his new birth as a child of God:

Acts 9:10 And there was a certain disciple at Damascus, named Ananias; and to him said the Lord in a vision, Ananias. And he said, Behold, I am here, Lord. 11 And the Lord said unto him, Arise, and go into the street which is called Straight, and enquire in the house of Judas for one called Saul, of Tarsus: for, behold, he prayeth, 12 And hath seen in a vision a man named Ananias coming in, and putting his hand on him, that he might receive his sight. 13 Then Ananias answered, Lord, I have heard by many of this man, how much evil he hath done to thy saints at Jerusalem: 14 And here he hath authority from the chief priests to bind all that call on thy name. 15 But the Lord said unto him, go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the Gentiles, and kings, and the children of Israel: 16 For I will shew him how great things he must suffer for my name's sake. 17 And Ananias went his way, and entered into the house; and putting his hands on him said, Brother Saul, the Lord, even Jesus, that appeared unto thee in the way as thou camest, hath sent me, that thou mightest receive thy sight, and be filled with the Holy Ghost. 18 And immediately there fell from his eyes as it had been scales: and he received sight forthwith, and arose, and was baptized. 19 And when he had received meat, he was strengthened.

It is no coincidence that Paul was staying at the house of a man named "Judas" (a type for the Man of Sin who Paul had become).

Ananias is a "type" for Christ. It is also no coincidence that the street to where Ananias was sent is called "Straight".

The crooked way represents approaching Christ by "works" under the Old Covenant of Law. The straight way represents approaching Christ by faith under the New Covenant of Grace through Faith.

Lam 3:9 He hath enclosed my ways with hewn stone (represents the Old Covenant of Law**), he hath made my paths crooked.**

Isa 42:16 And I will bring the blind by a way that they knew not; I will lead them in paths that they have not known: I will make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. These things will I do unto them, and not forsake them.

At the time Ananias received the vision, Paul was praying. Although scripture does not give us the details of Paul's prayer, we can surmise that Paul was asking for understanding of what had befallen him.

These verses apply to Paul's prayer:

Luke 11:13 If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?

1Sam 12:17 Is it not wheat harvest today? I WILL CALL UNTO THE LORD (Paul's prayer), and he shall send thunder and Rain (Latter Rain); that ye may perceive and see (scales fallen from the eyes) that your wickedness is great (become a man of sin), which ye have done in the sight of the LORD, in asking you a king.

Jer 33:3 'Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know.'

In verse 17, Ananias (type for Christ) comes to Paul a second time and heals his spiritual blindness by giving him the Latter Rain of the Spirit. Upon being baptized by the Spirit, Paul "arose" (verse 18) and was born as a child of God and gathered to heaven.

The moment of the new birth is when the new child of God is spiritually gathered to heaven to dwell with Christ.

The verses below apply:

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

Isa 11:11 And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set his hand again the second time to recover the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria, and from Egypt, and from Pathros, and from Cush, and from Elam, and from Shinar, and from Hamath, and from the islands of the sea. 12 And he shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel, and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth.

Because Paul's spiritual blindness was healed, verse 19 says that Paul received "meat" (truth) and was strengthened. This event is symbolized by the Marriage Supper of the Lamb (Rev 19:9) and is the spiritual fulfillment of the Lord's Supper:

Mat 26:29 But I say unto you, I will not drink henceforth of this fruit of the vine, until that day (day of salvation) when I drink it new with you in my Father's kingdom.

From the nourishment that Paul received during the Marriage Supper/Lord's Supper, the brightness of Christ's appearance destroyed the spirit of anti-Christ and Great Harlot within Paul.

Rev 18:10 Standing afar off for the fear of her torment, saying, Alas, alas, that great city Babylon, that mighty city! for in one hour is thy judgment come.

2Thes 2:8 And then shall that Wicked be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of his mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of his coming:

After Paul's judgment was complete (not shown in Paul's conversion testimony), Paul was empowered to walk by faith, truth and the Spirit.

SUMMARY

God's purpose for this creation is to birth many new children who are spiritually like Him and who have a knowledge of good and evil. This is the meaning of life that seems to elude most people.

To accomplish God's goal of producing new children who have a knowledge of good and evil, God (through Jesus Christ) created mankind spiritually "marred" and "subject to vanity". Because of these spiritual flaws, mankind's spirit quickly developed a carnal & religious nature, and in turn, caused mankind's mind to become carnal & religious, as well. It is the carnal mind of man that produces the decision to sin.

It is by the way that I presented above that God is giving mankind a knowledge of evil. Giving mankind a knowledge of evil did not happen by chance or by Adam & Eve's supposed free will ability to choose. It happened because God caused it to happen in accordance with His "will".

Prov 16:4 The LORD hath made all things for himself: yea, even the wicked for the day of evil.

But since God wants His children to be like Him (holy & righteous), God sent Jesus Christ into the world with the task of spiritually changing mankind after each person has fully learned about evil (both on the receiving end and the giving end).

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

This spiritual change from being a child of the Devil (who is sinful) into being a child of God (who is without sin) is called conversion and is mankind's salvation.

To accomplish mankind's salvation, Christ is following an established plan which was formed before the foundation of the world. I call this plan the Pathway to Salvation.

In this age, Christ's plan calls for only saving a small portion of mankind. This blessed group of individuals are called the Elect, the Saints and the First Fruits of Christ's harvest of mankind. They will be the heirs of Abraham and will receive the inheritance of life during the ages and the honor of reigning with Christ in the final age. Their purpose in the final age will be to assist Christ in gathering in the remaining harvest of mankind. After the final harvest is complete, all mankind will be saved and will be God's children who will eternally dwell with Him in the Kingdom of Heaven.

Below are the primary steps that Christ will direct His Elect (after Paul's death) to take which will lead to their salvation:

- A person begins the pathway to salvation when Christ comes to them and freely gives them the Early Rain of the Spirit. This is the group of "many" who have been called to be saints (**Mat 22:14**). After each called person has received their small measure of the Spirit, they will make a confession of faith and will enter the church (**1Cor 12:3**). However, the new believer (a babe) will remain spiritually blind, carnally minded and unconverted (shown in **Mat 12:43-45**, **Mark 8:15-25** & Paul's experience on the Damascus Road).
- Next, the spirit of anti-Christ will enter the unconverted believer and cause the Abomination of Desolation to occur within them. This is when the babe receives the mark of the beast and begins consuming Satan's leavened bread. The babe has now been made "worse than the first"; a Man of Sin. As a Man of Sin, the person will mix their own works with the works of Christ under the New Covenant. This is when the person will experience evil to its fullest – it is their time of "great tribulation" (**Mat 24:21**, **Rev 2:22** & **Rev 7:14**).
- After becoming a Man of Sin, the person will fall from grace and will spiritually die. They will have unknowingly entered Satan's apostate church. The "many" who are called to be saints but who were not chosen will remain in this worsened spiritual condition until they die.
- For the "few" who are chosen (the Elect/Heirs), Christ will "come again" to them and pour out the Latter Rain of the Spirit (Spirit of Truth/Baptism of the Spirit). This is when an Elect person is sealed with the Holy Spirit of Promise (**Eph 1:10-14**) and when they are "born again" as a child of God. As a new child of God, the person's spiritual blindness will be healed. This is also when the Elect person will repent of their works so as to make Christ's pathway straight for Him to "appear". When they repent, they have entered into the rest of Christ and have spiritually fulfilled the Sabbath Day law (**Heb 4:1-10**).
- Now that Christ has made His Bride "ready" (**Rev 19:7**), Christ will spiritually appear to the Elect person and gather the newly born child of God to heaven (spiritually speaking, not literally, **Mat 24:29-31**). This is when the Marriage of the Lamb occurs.

- Now with "eyes that can see", the Marriage Supper of the Lamb/Lord's Supper will occur where Christ will feed His new Bride bread and New Wine. This is when they will "see" the Abomination of Desolation which previously occurred within themselves when the spirit of anti-Christ entered them (**Mat 24:15-16**). The Day of the Lord is now imminent.
- The truth that comes from the bread and New Wine will usher in the Day of the Lord/Thousand Years Reign (judgment) for the Elect person.
- During their judgment, the spirit of anti-Christ and the person's carnal & religious spirit (the worsened marred spirit/Great Harlot w/devils) will be "taken" from within the believer and cast into the Lake of Fire for destruction (**Rev 19:20 and Mat 24:40-41**).
- After this judgment is complete, the child of the Devil will be converted into a child of God.
- After the conversion event, the person's spirit will now only be governed by the Holy Spirit, thereby making their heart and spirit "new" (**Eze 36:25-26**). The person will then be at peace (**Isa 26:12**) and will be ready to begin the maturing process which will make them into a perfect man of full age. The maturing process occurs as the Holy Spirit feeds them "their daily bread" (**Mat 6:11**) and as the Holy Spirit chastises them when they need correction (**Isa 26:9 & Heb 12:8** apply).
- Next along the pathway comes a time of testing when Satan is loosed from his prison (**Rev 20:7-10**). After the child of God passes their time of testing (just as Christ "typed" that they would, **Mat 4:1-11**), it will be said that they have overcome this world (**Rev 3:21**).
- The person is now ready for the bodily resurrection which will occur at the end of this age. This is when the child of God receives their immortal spiritual body (redemption of the body, **Rom 8:23**). Death will then be defeated and they will be ready to begin their reign with Christ in the final age.

For the balance of mankind who were not saved prior to their death, they will be resurrected from the grave at the end of this age. They will then appear before the judgment seat of Christ and will not be found in the Lamb's book of Life. As a result, they will be cast into the Lake of Fire (a symbol for judgment, not literal fire).

While the balance of mankind is being judged in accordance with the Law, Christ will not omit "justice, mercy, and faith" (**Mat 23:23**) from their judgment. Before anyone perishes (the penalty of sin), Christ will have MERCY upon them. His mercy will be manifested by giving each person the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit. With the Spirit, each person will have FAITH and will be born again as a child of God. The newly born child of God will then be gathered to heaven, leaving only the child of the Devil to remain in the Lake of Fire until he is destroyed. This death will satisfy JUSTICE (the law of the near kinsman redeemer applies).

Note: Unlike for the Elect, the Day of the Lord (judgment) in the final age will commence upon a “lost” person PRIOR to them being “born again” as a child of God. Because of this “order” difference, those saved in the final age will experience wrath for a time during their judgment (**Joel 2:1-27** applies).

After Christ’s full harvest of mankind has been gathered into the barn (Kingdom of Heaven), mankind (children of the Devil) will cease to exist but the Kingdom of Heaven (children of God) will be that much fuller. In the end, it will be testified to be true that Jesus Christ is truly the Savior of the world.

1Tim 2:3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 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.

When a person tries to understand Christ with their carnal mind, they will refuse to believe that Christ can succeed in saving 100% of mankind. To believe that Christ can accomplish all that His Father gave Him to do takes FAITH. It takes the same faith that Joshua and Caleb had when they spied out the Promised Land with the 10 other spies from the Nation of Israel. All twelve of the spies saw the “giants in the land” but only Joshua and Caleb had the faith to believe that those giants could be defeated. The symbol “giants” represents Satan’s false beliefs and his carnal & religious character traits that are contained in the mind of his children. These “giants” are the same ones who hide themselves in the dens and in the rocks mentioned in the verse below:

Rev 6:15 And the kings of the earth (Satan’s false truth & his carnal and religious character traits), and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains (strongholds of the mind);

Under the New Covenant, Christ will defeat them so that all mankind will become God’s children who will dwell with Him forever.

To accomplish this great work, Christ will give both the Early and Latter Rains of the Spirit to every person who has ever lived. With the Spirit, all mankind will have faith in Christ and will be “born again” as a child of God. God leaves nothing up to chance or to mankind’s supposed free will ability.

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.

Simply put, mankind is not saved because it is our “will” to be saved. Mankind is saved because it is God’s “will” to save us. Our God is truly a good and loving Father to us all.

It is my sincere hope that Christ will give all who read this paper the ability to receive and fully understand the GREAT MYSTERY of Christ and how He is formed in His church.

Eph 5:32 This is a great mystery: but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Col 1:27 To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is CHRIST IN YOU, the hope of glory:

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel (time of conversion), when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God (Christ in you) should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.