

## The Glory of Christ

**Isaiah 6:1-9** *In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple. 2Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly. 3And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory. 4And the posts of the doors moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke. 5Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts. 6Then flew one of the seraphim unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar: 7And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged. 8Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me. 9And he said, Go, and tell this people, Hear ye indeed, but understand not; and see ye indeed, but perceive not. 10Make the heart of this people fat, and make their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and convert, and be healed.*

We are told by John that Isaiah saw the glory of Christ in this vision (John 12:38-41). This vision concentrates on Christ and his glorification. The description of the seraphim allows us to associate it with the four living creatures of Rev 4 and the cherubim of Ezek. 1 and the man of one spirit in Daniel 10 and the 144,000 in the vision of the Millennial Kingdom in Rev 14... all visions of the multitudinous Christ. First let's identify the term "seraphim." It is always associated with fire in the sense of a fiery serpent.

*Num 21:6-9 And the LORD sent fiery serpents among the people, and they bit the people; and much people of Israel died. 7Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the LORD, and against thee; pray unto the LORD, that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people. 8And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a pole: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live. 9And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*

This bronze serpent, this seraph, was also a symbol of Jesus (John 3:14). This symbol indicated his victory over the curse of the serpent... the sting of the fiery serpent is a symbol of the effects of sin (1 Cor 15:54-57). If one was bitten by a venomous sand serpent then all they had to do was to look on this bronze serpent and they would be healed from the deadly poison. The act of looking would be a sign of faith.

Let's examine the scene: Isaiah witnesses the Lord (from Adonai, indicating a multiple application -as seen in verse 8 (who will I send - who will go for us). Isaiah sees the king, Yahweh of Hosts.... He Who Shall Be Armies. He sits on his throne and his train fills the temple. The Seraphim with their six wings, declare his holiness three times and that the whole earth is filled with his glory, the glory of He Who Shall Be Armies. We are specifically told this is a vision of the glory of the Messiah.

Let's compare the seraphim to the four living creature of Rev. 4-5 and the Cherubim of Ezekiel one ... which are also visions of the glory of Christ and the saints. There are similarities and yet differences.

**Rev 4:6-9** *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. 7And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. 8And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to*

*come. 9And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever.*

There are a number of similarities... the seraphim had six wings just like the four creatures. The Greek is *zoon* (poorly translated as 'beast') which indicates a living creature but not necessarily a beast. The Greek word for beast is *therion*. *Zoon* is more a living creature than a "beast", as in the sense of the "beast of the sea" and the "beast of the land" of Rev 13 referring to the Holy Roman Empire and the Papal office and the beast that the woman of Rev 17 rides upon that corrupted the earth. Those are all '*therion*' and not '*zoon*'.

Besides the similarity of the six wings these four creatures also surround the throne of the king just like the seraphim...

**Rev 4:6** *And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind.* The message of the seraphim and the four creatures were very similar as they surrounded the throne of the king  
The 4 living creatures of Rev 4: *they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come.*

The seraphim of Is 6: *And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.*

There are also strong similarities between the seraphim in Isaiah, the four living creatures in Revelation and the cherubim of Ezekiel 1, but there are differences as well (Ezekiel 1:5-13).

There are four living creatures described by Ezekiel in chapter 1. The faces of the four living creatures of Rev 4 are man, lion, calf and eagle... just like the faces of the four living creatures of Ezekiel 1, which are referred to as cherubim by the time we get to Ezekiel 10:15,20-22.

The faces of the Seraphim are not described. The four living creatures of Rev. had eyes all over them. The 4 cherubim were accompanied by wheels that were covered by eyes (Ezek 1:18) and we are told the spirit of the living creatures was in the wheels. The cherubim in Ezekiel, just like the seraphim and the 4 living creatures of Rev, are by the throne of Yahweh (Ezek 1:26)... which is consistent in all three applications.... seraphim, living creatures and cherubim.

One of the differences is that the cherubim only have four wings (not six like the Seraphim and living creatures). Much greater detail is given in Ezekiel's vision than in Revelation or Isaiah. Although the Living Creatures are identified as four and the cherubim are identified as four, the seraphim quantity is not defined. It simply uses the plural sense of Seraphims and the plural expression of "each of them."

The fact that there are four Living Creatures and four Cherubim suggest there may have been four seraphim but since the information is not given we can only suggest without confirmation. The fact that there are four of these creatures in the other two visions further confirms the understanding that these visions represent the immortalized saints in symbolic form. They are there by the throne of Yahweh Elohim declaring his holiness... similar to the divinely ordained **four** square encampment in the wilderness at Sinai where the tribes of Israel surrounded the tabernacle with the golden ark of the covenant where God's glory rested between the cherubim. We have considered this relationship between the number four and the consistent relationship with God manifest in the flesh on a number of occasions before.

- 4 square encampment (doubled: 4 quadrant political exterior formation and 4 component spiritual interior)

- 4 priesthood Ages: Patriarchal, Aaronic, Ecclesial, Millennial (reflected in the 4 maturity stages of Aaron's rod that identified him as the High Priest; Num. 17:8 *...the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was (1) budded, and (2) brought forth buds, and (3) bloomed blossoms, and (4) yielded almonds.*
- 4 rows of stones on the breastplate representing the tribes of Israel
- 4 faces of the cherubim matching historical record of standards of four lead tribes in encampment
- 4 gospel records of God manifest in the flesh (God with us)... our Messiah
- 4 equal ingredients of incense (galbanum, stacte, onycha, frankincense) representing the prayers of the saints (Ps. 141:2; Rev. 8:3-4) and its conversion from dust to cloud on day of Atonement reflecting the immortalization of our Messiah from dust nature to cloud nature (Lev. 16:12-13)
- 4 divine dwellings/sanctuaries ... tabernacle, Solomon's temple, post exile temple, kingdom temple
- 4 cornered sheet representing gentiles being welcomed into the ecclesia in Peter's vision (Acts 10)
- 4 men in Nebuchadnezzar's furnace untouched by flames (Dan 3)
- 4 comprising the inner circle of Christ: Jesus, Peter, James & John... in private attendance at the raising of Jairus, the transfiguration on the mount and the inner guard for Christ's prayers at Gethsemane
- 4 living creatures of Rev 4 representing the redeemed
- 4 armies God would use to judge his people (Babylon, Persia, Greece, Rome) from Dan 2 and 7
- 4 categories of earth in the sower parable (Matt 13) representing the four categories of enlightened into whom the seed of the word of God is sown
- 4 stages in God's plan (Eden-no death but no eternal life), post curse (sin & death), Millennial Kingdom (rest from sin & immortality and mortality together, post-Millennial Kingdom (no sin, no death, no flesh nature - only immortality/spirit nature)
- 4 letters in the memorial name of God, the tetragrammaton: YHWH

The **four** living creatures and four cherubim project 'God manifest in the flesh' during the Millennial Kingdom. The four cherubim faces indicate four aspects of the saints... lion, man, ox and eagle. The lion indicates political authority as Christ the king of the world in the Millennial Kingdom Age will serve as the lion of the tribe of Judah. The man-face indicates our created purpose, the distinction from animals in that man was originally created in the image and likeness of God. The ox represents obedient service and willing submission... accepting the divine harness and yoke of service. The eagle represents the heavenly application, the divine component and enlightenment, as the eagle has incredible eyesight. He represents those among the enlightened who have eyes that actually see.

I found it fascinating when Dorrie & I visited Mexico and went on a tour to a place called Chechen Itza, which is billed as the religious center of the Mayan empire. Like the Scriptural Cherubim and Living Creatures the Mayans revered four symbols for their gods that are still evident in all their stone buildings, worship centers, homes, sports fields and daily life... instead of a lion there was the jaguar (which would qualify as the lion of South America), just like the cherubim.... secondly there was a man's face, third was the eagle ... but instead of the ox as in the cherubim the fourth face in the Mayan pagan religion was so very appropriately .... a serpent. The Mayans were an incredibly scientifically advanced society, blending very advanced astronomy and construction techniques to leave an impressive legacy... although socially their pagan faith exhibited their fleshly failings in their human sacrifice practices... killing men women and even children in the name of religion, just like some of the Canaanite nations surrounding Israel. I found it interesting that the one difference between the divine standard of the four faces and the perverted Mayan application was the Mayan serpent instead of the divinely appointed ox. The serpent is a scriptural symbol of deception (Gen 3), false religion and an enemy of the ecclesia (Rev 12, 20). The serpent became a symbol of the curse of sin and death... as seen in the bronze serpent Moses constructed that we are told represented Jesus Christ. The ox is

an obvious symbol for submission and willing service, therefore a circumcised heart. An uncircumcised heart is throne of the serpent power and influence. The serpent represents indulgence and self-gratification without conscience. I found it interesting how close the Mayans mimicked the Jews but with this truly significant difference that highlights the difference between truth and lie, between true religion and paganism.

So these four aspects of the immortalized saints will be evident in the millennial kingdom. The lion depicts the saints relationship to the king (but not exclusively)... as they will be his family, his brothers and sisters. The man depicts their shared origin in cursed humanity. The ox represents the application of willing service and the eagle depicts heavenly enlightenment.

It does no good to just **know** the truth... to just concentrate on the eagle aspect. We have to apply it like the ox. James warns us that we certainly know there is only one God... but then adds: So what? even the lunatics know that... faith without works is dead (James 2:19-20). The lion without the ox is valueless. Having the 'blood' of the sacrifice is not enough. We have to pour it out at the altar. Having the incense is not good enough. We have to burn it to convert it into the cloud. 'Knowing' isn't good enough. The application of that knowledge - often to our immediate disadvantage - is absolutely necessary. Accepting the harness of divine service and working **daily** in the field of divine service is every bit as necessary as enlightenment. The field of service happens to be everything in our lives.. not just 'preaching' as some among us suggest. While that is an excellent avenue of a harnessed ox-like 'field' service, it is by no stretch of the imagination exclusive.

There are six wings on the seraphim, just as there are 6 wings on the four living creatures, but only four wings on the cherubim. The wings of the seraphim are described as 2 covering the face, 2 covering the feet and 2 for flying.... 3 sets of 2 wings. The purpose for the wings of the living creatures are not provided, simply stated that they have 6 wings. The cherubim's four wings were also separated into sets of two... 2 lifted up on each side, joining two of the cherubim on either side of them and the other two wings covering their bodies but hands can be seen beneath the wings. There were exactly right wings on the four cherubim.

I can make suggestions for 'why' but I cannot prove these things to my total satisfaction. I will simply offer these thoughts as suggestions. There are six wings. Six is a number constantly associated with the features of the Edenic curse. Six is used as a number for sin, for mortal man and for death. There were six days each week for laboring under the terms of the curse and in the seventh there would be a day of rest. There would be 6,000 years under the curse until there would be a rest from sin and its effects. There were six years of constant labor to make a living in the cursed earth until the sabbath year of rest. The ultimate man of sin is identified by the number 666. Yet, even though there are six wings... they are wings. Wings indicate the capacity to fly... to rise above the cursed dust of the earth into the heavens... to the clouds of God's presence and glory, to give the illusion of defeating the law of gravity binding us to the cursed earth. This relationship is highlighted in the description of the seraphim that the third set of double wings was for the very purpose of flying. The wings indicate an association with the heavens. A wingless bird cannot leave the earth. It is the wings that define its capacity to soar through the heavens. It is the correctly configured wings of a plane or jet, combined with propulsion that enables it to literally climb the air into the heavens. There is a blending of both the curse and the blessing here... the quantity being six but the numbered component being wings. The wings indicate a freedom from the terms of the curse with a connection to the heavens .... but there are six of them. I think the blending of these two symbols represents the fact that it is mortal man that has been immortalized. The fact that they are separated into three sets of two wings may be a parallel to the fact that there are exactly three immortalization events in the plan of God when the two components of flesh and spirit are combined but with spirit completely enveloping the flesh (the spirit swallows up the flesh; 1 Cor. 15:50-54; 2

Cor 5:4). These 3 immortalization events are 1) Christ; 2) saints at the beginning of the Millennial Kingdom and 3) the rest of the saints at the end of the Millennial Kingdom.... when flesh will be swallowed up by life (2 Cor 5:1-4) and we will no longer be naked before our Creator.

The curse will have been enveloped by the blessing, as seen in the wing “coverings”. The heavenly nature has been added to the earthly nature... not replaced it, but eclipsed it through covering it. The spirit nature is simply added to it. This is an understanding impossible to the immortal soul advocates who are mired in their pagan based doctrine. Christianity suggests the salvation process is an uncovering as opposed to a covering. They claim that at death the mortal frame is removed, uncovering the immortal spirit consciousness that had been trapped within. The truth is that the immortal spirit nature is a covering (an atonement) and not an uncovering. A subtle confirmation of this understanding that the 6 wings suggest the immortalized (formerly mortal saints) is the fact that the wings are described as covering the face and body. The principle of covering is what the atonement is all about. The immortal nature of heaven will cover the mortal nature of man. Mortal must put on immortal, corruption must put on incorruption. We wait for our heavenly tabernacles that will clothe us so that we will not be found naked, when life will swallow up mortality (again... 2 Cor 5:1-4). These wings (associated with heaven) “cover” the bodies of the saints (formerly identified by the Edenic curse symbolized by the number 6)... just as the heavenly tabernacles, the heavenly mansions will cover the mortality of the faithful (John 14:1-3; 2 Cor 5:1-4). Therefore the wings represent the fact that these seraphim are former mortals that have been immortalized.

There are three sets of these wings... 2 cover the face, 2 cover the body and 2 are used for flying.... **why are there ‘3’ sets?** There are a number of consistent threefold progressions presented in scripture.

- Jesus himself, who is the symbol-the rallying point, the standard- of all the saints, defines himself in a three fold progression as the 1) truth, the 2) life and the 3) way.
- There were the three door rituals in the Mosaic law.... writing the 1st & great commandment on the doorposts (Deut. 6:4-9); painting the blood of the Passover lamb on the 3 door frames of posts and lintel (Ex 12:7) and boring the ear of the lifelong Jewish slave at the doorpost (Ex. 21:6).
- There were the three applications of blood on the priests at the ordination of the Aaronic priesthood: right ear, right thumb & right toe (Lev 8:24)
- There were the three stages where blood was applied in the high priest & national sin offering procedure (the 7 blood splatterings on the veil of the tabernacle, the application on the four horns of the golden altar of incense and the pouring out of the remaining blood at the bronze altar. This indicates 12 blood applications as 3 separate stations).
- There are the three divisions of the peace offering... thanksgiving, vow performance and freewill... which Hosea 6:6 declares to be fulfilled in merciful love (as *zebach* refers exclusively to the Peace Offering).
- There were three great laws of love... loving God with all our heart, mind and strength (Deut. 6:5), loving our neighbor as ourselves (Lev. 19:18) and loving our brothers and sisters greater than ourselves (John 13:34-35;15:12-13; Gal. 6:2,10)
- There were three entrances/doors into the three successively holier enclosures of the divine sanctuary: 1) the doorway into the Tabernacle courtyard with its 3 components - bronze altar, bronze laver & tabernacle tent; 2) the doorway into the Holy Chamber with its 3 components - golden table of shewbread, golden lampstand and golden incense altar; 3) doorway/veil into the Most Holy Chamber with its 1 component (Ark of the Covenant) that had 3 deposits inside: bowl of manna, covenant stones, High Priest living rod.
- There were three Day of Atonement rituals performed in the most holy chamber of the Tabernacle:
  - 1) Processing the 2 handfuls of incense dust into a cloud to save the life of the High Priest; 2) bullock

- blood spattered east & west across the Mercy Seat for the atonement of the family of the High Priest; and
- 3) the goat blood spattered east and west across the Mercy Seat for the atonement of the rest of the nation.
- There were 3 harvest feast week celebrations required in the laws of the Kingdom of God: 1) Feast of Unleavened Bread, 2) Feast of Weeks (Firstfruits & Pentecost), 3) Feast of Tabernacles
  - There will be 3 immortalization events in the divine plan: 1) Jesus Christ 2) The saints at the beginning of the restored Kingdom and the remaining saints at the end of that 1,000 year Kingdom.

I think there is a link between one of these particular “three” applications to the vision in Isaiah 6... which would be how our Messiah defines himself as the truth, the life and the way.

Read John 14:6-10. ‘Seeing’ Jesus is equivalent to seeing God, which is why one of Christ’s titles is Emmanuel, meaning “God with us.” It is also why Jesus answers Phillip’s request to see God by saying “*if you have seen me you have seen the Father.*” The path to God is through Jesus who presents himself in this threefold progression of truth, life and way. The seraphim are declaring the glory of Yahweh by his throne... saying *holy holy holy is He Who Shall be Armies, the whole earth is full of his glory.* Notice the 3-fold repetition of “holy” and parallel that to the 3 holiness divisions of the Tabernacle design with its 3 entrances. Jesus associates the witnessing of the Creator as himself in a threefold progression... way-truth-life. What I find interesting is that this threefold progression can be clearly seen in several of the other “3” applications we mentioned...the blood on the priest and the door rituals.

The truth is the first stage in our path to seraphim status. We become enlightened. This can be equated with the 1st stage of the priestly ordination ritual where the blood was placed on the tip of the right ear. The ear hears. It doesn’t do anything with the things it hears, it simply accommodates reception. This can be equated with the truth stage of the ritual of the commandment of God being written on the door of the Hebrew home (another of the ‘3’ patterns noted above. The commandments of God had to be learned and talked about and considered regularly. The truth stage can be paralleled with the 2 wings of the seraphim covering the head, the cerebral center of thought, recognition, and consideration. The patterns are parallel.

The second stage of this exhortational Christ progression would be life. This stage corresponds to the priests ordination blood being placed on the tip of his right thumb following the initial placement of blood on the right ear (representing the truth stage). The thumb is used for grasping and holding. Without this opposing digit to the other four fingers we would have a difficult time holding onto anything in our hands. The thumb allows us to wrap our hands around something, locking our fingers and grasping firmly. This indicates the ‘choice’ stage. We have chosen **life**. We heard the truth in our ear. Now we grasp for life, which is the prize of truth. This second stage corresponds perfectly to the door ritual of Passover when the blood of the lamb covered the door posts and lintel but not the threshold. This ritual represented the extension of life, as the angel passed over the home whose entrance was covered in the blood of the Passover lamb. Therefore we should also equate the 2nd set of seraphim wings to represent life, the fact that the body of the former mortal has been given the life it yearned for. The covering aspect of the wings can be identified with atonement, which signifies salvation/ immortalization. The second set of wings covered the body of the seraphim.

Just as the seraphim represent the multitudinous Christ, the one man who was the perfect image and likeness of the Creator and all of those who heard him, chose him and followed him... so the three sets of wings indicates this threefold self-description of truth life and way. The last stage is the “way.” After we have 1) heard Jesus, after we have learned the Jesus/truth... we proceed to the second stage of choosing him - choosing life, grasping for it through baptism (at least during our Ecclesial Age). Following the choosing life stage we must then 3) walk in the way of the Messiah. He is the truth the life and the way. This is why the third blood application

stage of the priestly ordination had the blood placed on the tip of the right toe. The large toe is the rudder of the body. It allows us to direct our path. Take away the large toe and we would be stumbling about shifting our body weight to direct our path, instead of a smooth deliberate stride. The blood on the large right toe represented the way of life... the way of the man who was, is and will again be “God to us.” It is the way of selflessness... the way of self-sacrifice... the way of pouring out the blood (our life) at the feet of the man who is the truth the life and the way. This also corresponds perfectly to the third door ritual of bringing an indentured Hebrew servant to the door of his master, whom he has chosen to serve forever rather than go free with great abundance. An awl is driven through his ear at the doorpost to indicate his willing lifelong service. This is ‘the way’ .... of Jesus. Willing service and 100% dedication, without reservations, sacrificing everything. The third set of dual wings do not cover anything. They are used to fly with. This indicates the “way” of the seraphim. During their former mortal lives these seraphim rejected the fleeting pleasures related to curse of the dust, pursuing the heavenly ‘way’. In the Seraphim state of projecting the multitudinous Christ they are no longer bound to the curse of the dust. With wings they rise above the earth, defeating the law of gravity that is a divine projection of how we are bound our dust-curse... *dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return*. Gravity is not simply a feature of the Physics science of creation, it projects a divine truth. With wings pumping the seraphim leave the dust behind... rising above the curse with all its horrible effects. They pursued that third stage of the heavenly ‘way’ in their mortal life, and therefore the third set of two wings in their immortal life continues this theme of a heavenly association in that they were used for flying.

## **Isaiah 11**                      **A Vision of the Millennial Kingdom**

*And there shall come forth a rod out of the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots: 2And the spirit of the LORD shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the LORD; 3And shall make him of quick understanding in the fear of the LORD: and he shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: 4But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. 5And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins. 6The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. 9They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. 10And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious. 11And 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. 12And 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. 13The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. 14But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. 15And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. 16And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt. 4And in that day shall ye say, Praise the LORD, call upon his name, declare his doings*

*among the people, make mention that his name is exalted. 5Sing unto the LORD; for he hath done excellent things: this is known in all the earth. 6Cry out and shout, thou inhabitant of Zion: for great is the Holy One of Israel in the midst of thee.*

The rod issues from the stem of Jesse... a branch out of his roots. Jesus describes himself in similar terms at the end of the Bible Rev 22:16 (root and offspring) and Rev 5:5 - root. This 'root' issue was the hard part for the Jewish people. They didn't understand or accept how the son of David would be both David's descendant and David's superior (Matt 22:41-46). Jesus is expressed as a branch as well as a root more than once in scripture (Is 53:1-2; Zech 3:8; John 15:1-6). Therefore Jesus was symbolically portrayed in the branch or tree that God directed Moses to throw into the poisonous bitter waters of Marah and turn them from bitter to sweet and from death to life.

Is 11:2-4 Jesus will not be hampered with only what his eyes see and ears hear. He could read thoughts during his ministry. He will judge with equity. No matter what we think is fair, we will be able to trust his judgement as correct. This reminds me of the example of Solomon's judgement in the two women who both claimed to be the mother of the baby. Solomon, with divine wisdom, cut through the lies and found the truth. Civil trials will not have to last years and months and have countless witnesses and supposed experts on both sides of the issue. Christ and the saints will be able to know truth without wondering who is telling the truth, who is intentionally lying and who only thinks they are telling the truth.

Certainly there will be disputes during the millennium kingdom, but righteous judgements will be issued... not flavored by personal gain or ego or bribes or how expensive your lawyer might be or which university they graduated from. I also find the expression defining the execution of his judgements interesting: he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked. The tool of judgement is the rod of Christ's mouth and the breath of his lips. Jesus will 'speak' and punishments will be effected. God has used earthquakes, lightning bolts, volcanic action, destructive hailstones, floods, panic, plague and simply removal of life (heart attack or whatever - Ananias & Sapphira) Acts 5:9-11 *Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. 10Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost: and the young men came in, and found her dead, and, carrying her forth, buried her by her husband. 11And great fear came upon all the church, and upon as many as heard these things. Peter spoke and judgement was carried out... she fell down dead.* Peter, by the power of the Spirit of God given him by Jesus Christ, perceived Ananias was lying. Despite the evidence to the contrary and nothing recorded to provoke Peter's assault on Ananias... Peter **knew** Ananias was lying about his gift to the brotherhood and therefore lying to God. Jesus, and those in whom Jesus invests the nature and spirit of God, will judge with righteous judgements... not simply with eyes and ears.

Righteous judgements will be determined. The truth will not be hidden. Perceptions will not be the judgment standard, but truth itself. Do we wonder what the others around Peter thought when Annanias dropped dead at Peter's rebuke and then he spoke Sapphira's judgement and she too dropped dead? We're told the Brothers and possibly Sisters witnessing these events **feared**... rather understandably. Did they think it was fair? Did they wonder if Peter's determination was accurate? Nonetheless, Peter spoke and Annanias and Sapphira dropped dead. There was no stoning, no sword, no weapon... other than the sword of Peter's words. This is why Jesus is described as having a sword coming out of his mouth (Is 49:1-3; Rev 1:13-16; 2:16; 19:11-21). This is a highly appropriate description as the sword coming out of the mouth of Jesus is the word of God.... Eph 6:13-17; Heb 4:12.



A sword is used for both offense and defense. When one is attacked with a sword a defensive move is called a parry and an offensive move is called a thrust. We defend our faith in the true gospel with God's word. We also use the word of God to cut ourselves... to circumcise the heart. The word of God is not defined as a marshmallow or a pillow, but a weapon of war. God's judgements and declarations of righteousness have a humbling effect on those with whom the word of God actually has life-changing power. We read more than once of how David's heart "smote" him (like a sword thrust) . One occasion is 2 Sam 24:10 in the numbering of Israel. The word of God activates the conscience, slicing away the crusty exterior of the self righteous heart (circumcising it) and folding back the sliced open heart so that God's word can be painfully stamped or burned into our hearts. That is painful. Circumcision cannot be accomplished without pain. It was an important part of the procedure... the pain. The activation of the conscience is painful when the sword of self-disappointment or disapproval slices into our hearts. Just as physical circumcision was painful, its' mental counterpart has to be painful... or it is fake. The word of God is a sword. Jesus and those who are one with him, invested with God's power, will judge righteously and the word of God will be a sword in their mouths... just like it was with Peter.

Paul also had a sword in his mouth (Acts 13:8-12). *But Elymas the sorcerer (for so is his name by interpretation) withstood them, seeking to turn away the deputy from the faith. <sup>9</sup> Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, <sup>10</sup> And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? <sup>11</sup> And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand. <sup>12</sup> Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.*

Another interesting thought in this context is that we are told "*with the breath of Christ's lips he will slay the wicked*". Do we find the moral debate over the death penalty rather interesting? Mankind reveres mortality. Self-worshippers see our current 'cursed' state as holy and the greatest of all states... even more righteous than immortality. We can see this irreverent attitude expressed endlessly in novels, television shows, movies, comic books and definitely societal attitudes. Frequently immortality is depicted as morally flawed with mortality being morally superior. While not exactly a fan, I do remember seeing a Star Trek episode where they encountered a planet of self-righteous but immoral immortals... it was the moral superiority of the mortal space adventurers that won the day in the end. It was a truly God-despising premise that mortality is inherently more 'right' and just than immortality. City of Angels was a movie a few years ago where Nicholas Cage played a bored, disillusioned immortal angel that yearned for the supposed freedom of mortality and Dennis Franz played an angel that had already 'advanced' from immortality to mortality and showed him how to accomplish that supposedly wonderful goal. The ending was a cruel twist that suggested God was indignant with his angel's preference for mortality... again suggesting the ridiculous premise of a moral superiority in mortality. I remember seeing a comic book series where an all-powerful being from another universe (which I realize is a contradiction in terms) corporealized himself on earth, interacting with superheroes and villains and humanity. His undoing was his yearning to experience the out of reach goal of actual mortality. When he achieved this goal he was euphoric and the thought was presented that mortality was a great improvement over immortality. Undoubtedly, the flesh worships our current cursed state. I remember a brother in the truth commenting among some brethren as I was exiting the ecclesial hall (when I was much younger) that when Christ came if a machine gun were put in his hands and he was told to be part of Christ's army and kill people he would throw the weapon down at Christ's feet and refuse. I was so angry I couldn't speak (uncommon for me... ordinarily my anger initiates a flood of words). Predictably he was not in the truth much longer after this. His self-righteousness was based on a reverence for cursed life. He was expressing his moral superiority over the son of

God if mortal life were threatened.... as if mortal life itself is the highest form of existence and must never be violated. What a disgusting attitude. This is a denial of the righteousness of the Edenic curse of death for sin. Death, mortality, is the result of sin. Mortality is saturated with sin. Human nature is the manufacturing plant for sin. There are only two answers for sin.... kill it or cover it. Death or atonement. The breath of Christ's lips will slay the wicked... not the repentant, but the indignantly unrepentant.... Christadelphians or otherwise.

The sword of God's word will cut us one in one way or another. Either we will use it voluntarily to painfully circumcise our hearts or it will be used to eliminate our hearts forever, the source of sin. We have to be conscious and beware of this attitude of reverence for cursed mortal life that is an illegitimate foundation in the moral debate of capital punishment, abortion, stem cell research and the assisted suicide of the tortured diseased anxious to end their incredible pain and suffering in death.

God also has a very different opinion on when life begins than those who call abortion 'murder'. Under divine law if someone killed another the motivation would have to be determined. If it was intentional that person would have to be executed. If it was an accident there were cities of refuge one could flee to in order to avoid retribution from the dead person's family. However if a pregnant woman lost her child due to an attack neither law was invoked (Ex 21:22-23). *If men strive, and hurt a woman with child, so that her fruit depart from her, and yet no mischief follow: he shall be surely punished, according as the woman's husband will lay upon him; and he shall pay as the judges determine.*<sup>23</sup> *And if any mischief follow, then thou shalt give life for life.* The loss of the pregnancy due to the altercation did not qualify as a loss of life according to God. However, if mischief followed then life would be given for life.... absolutely clearly stating that the loss of the unborn child did not qualify as a loss of life... not requiring an execution or the need to flee to a city of refuge. No matter what our instincts may suggest about when life begins, God's definition is based on 'independent' life and not unborn life.

We cannot participate in this reverence for cursed life. It is a subtle attitude saturating society and self-righteously defended vehemently when threatened. It is an immoral attitude, since it denies the righteousness of God's judgement in requiring death for sin. *The breath of Christ's lips will slay the wicked.*

This prophecy in Is 11 describes incredible changes in animal life: *6 The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. 7 And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. 8 And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice den.* Dangerous, carnivorous animals will become docile and harmless. This is a genetic modification. The lower levels of the food chains instinctive fear of predators will disappear, allowing them to mingle without concern. This is not evolution when lions become grass eaters and not flesh eaters. These animals are not going to 'evolve' to a higher state on the basis of the survival of the fittest. They will be changed in the Sabbath Millennium of rest from sin **and therefore also the effects of sin**. The danger of wild animals... lions and wolves and bears and venomous reptiles and sharks and barracudas.... are part of the curse. When sin is restrained, when satan is bound 1,000 years, the effects of sin are restrained. Can you imagine the environmental uproar that would take place if someone suggested we change the DNA of carnivorous animals to make them herbivorous? Environmentalists are also 'curse worshippers'. They are called tree huggers. There is nothing wrong with loving and respecting God's creation. The problem is worshipping its current cursed state above God's plans, both the next stage of rest and then the final stage of perfect harmony with all divine principles. Creation is going to change incredibly.

Even though carnivorous animal species will become extinct, the ‘balance’ of nature will not be distorted. There will be no chaos in the natural order. Order and balance will actually be improved. It is sin that initiates and promotes chaos... which is the antithesis of peace (which is harmony and not simply the absence of disturbance or conflict as mankind mistakes to their shame). The natural enemy state of wolves and lambs and calves and lions will surrender to harmony as the peace of God emanates from the Jerusalem... a name appropriately meaning teacher of peace. The asp and cockatrice (adder) are currently poisonous snakes that will not be harmful in the millennial kingdom (although this phenomenon may begin initially at Jerusalem and then radiate slowly around the planet). These formerly poisonous reptiles will not be a danger to the young child during the millennium kingdom. This also confirms the presence of newborns, not just the removal of venom from reptiles. This is another confirmation of the presence of mortals during the kingdom of God... unlike the highly distorted image of the kingdom of God understood by popular Christianity. Why would we need zoos? There would be no need for cages or protected environments separating dangerous animals from us.

Is 11:9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.* The planet will be saturated with the familiarity with its Creator. That’s certainly a far cry from the situation today. The knowledge of Yahweh is a very rare commodity in our society and across the planet. Sadly the principle of divine knowledge is even highly degraded in the Christadelphian community in our current generation. The Babylonian Roman influence has made the kings of the earth and its inhabitants drunk with the wine of her fornication... as the prophecy reads in Rev 17. The apostate distortions of the Bible is what currently saturates the earth. It will take exhibitions of great power to change the minds and consciousness of mankind. People don’t change easily. It takes powerful experiences for us to change and frequently people still return to their comfortable ways after those powerful events fade into the past. This is why we read of the cataclysmic events that surround the introduction of the millennial kingdom.... the destruction of the Gogian military host on the Judean hills... the earthquakes, the volcanic action, the plague, the warnings to the political leaders of the world to submit to God’s son or face the horrible circumstances that result from the Creator’s anger. God’s veil will be removed. He will not accommodate the self-worshipping imaginations of the academic and religious leaders of the world.

There are specific prophecies that detail the enlightenment in relation to the Heavenly Father that the genealogical descendants of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob will experience.

**Jer 31:33-34** *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. 34 And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.*

**Hosea 6:1-3** *Come, and let us return unto the LORD: for he hath torn, and he will heal us; he hath smitten, and he will bind us up. 2 After two days will he revive us: in the third day he will raise us up, and we shall live in his sight. shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD: his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth.*

This prophecy depicts how living in the sight of God is dependent on our “knowing Yahweh.” It is interesting how the same thing is said two different ways...

1. after two days we will be revived
2. In the third day he will raise us up

The third day is after the 2nd day, so both statements say the exact same thing. It is intentionally redundant but expressed somewhat differently. How are we going to be revived or raised up after two days and why it is repeated? Prophetically we know that a day is equivalent to 1,000 years (2 Pet 3:8 *But, beloved, be not ignorant*

*of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day*). If we say that after two thousand years we will be revived and in the third millenium God will raise us up then it makes sense. The resurrection takes place two thousand years after Christ's death and resurrection. It is the third millennium since his resurrection that we will be raised up. Why does God repeat this? There is actually more than one reason. Initially, it is because for us to live before God we have to be raised up twice. The first resurrection is the accountable before God are revived from the dead for the purpose of judgment... this is the resurrection of the just and the unjust to mortality, described as an awakening. The 2nd resurrection is exclusively for the approved (the just and not the unjust who were included in the first resurrection category) who will be raised from the curse of sin and death to the nature of God and clothed with immortality, which is never described as an awakening but frequently as a birth. This will happen after two days that he will revive us and in the third day he will raise us up and we shall live in his sight. The second reason is that there are actually two separate resurrection events scheduled for that 3rd 'day' (the 7th millennium from creation but the 3rd from Christ's precedent setting resurrection). There is a "raising up" at both the beginning and end of that millennial day.

In the context of our current lesson the significant issue is the condition of knowledge... *Then shall we know, if we follow on to know the LORD*. Our intimate familiarity with the Heavenly Father is dependent upon our following on to 'know' Yahweh. We must have both an academic recognition of God as well as an intimate familiarity demonstrated by emulation in order to know God. The academic recognition can be paralleled to the expression we are considering... the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of Yahweh as the waters cover the sea. So what are we? We are earth. We are just a combination of the dust of the ground and the breath of God. Just as God intends to fill the earth with his knowledge... we can do exactly the same. We can confirm the righteousness of this intention by filling, saturating our earth (body & mind) with the knowledge of God. We would be emulating Yahweh by filling our 'earth' (our body) with His knowledge, just as He intends to do with all the earth.

But 'knowing' God is more than academic. It is not a casual familiarity. It is an embracing of that knowledge and using it to energize us and fuel our lives to reshape ourselves into His image and likeness. Isn't it interesting the expression that Adam knew his wife Eve and she conceived. This is the correct translation. That is exactly the Hebrew expression for their intimacy... to *know* each other. If we wish to be known of God we must know Him and that requires the seed of academic knowledge of the Creator taking root and bearing fruit.

The last expression of this Hosea 6 prophecy is that *his going forth is prepared as the morning; and he shall come unto us as the rain, as the latter and former rain unto the earth*. These statements confirm our understanding that this reviving after the 2nd day and raising up on the 3rd day refers to the millennial kingdom when a new day will dawn, when the dark ignorance of apostate humanity will surrender to the enlightenment that comes with the Creator's direct and open intervention in the affairs of mankind. The coming of Jesus is likened to the coming of the early and latter rains in both the old and new testaments ( James 5:7 *Be patient therefore, brethren, unto the coming of the Lord. Behold, the husbandman waits for the precious fruit of the earth, and hath long patience for it, until he receive the early and latter rain*; see also Psalm 72:1,6). This phrasing also highlights and therefore confirms that same timeframe of the Millennial Kingdom

Is 11:10-16 *And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious . 11And 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. 12And 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. 13The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. 14But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. 15And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. 16And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.*

At the beginning of Isaiah 11 we saw the Messiah expressed as a stem or branch growing out of Jesse. In the last part of this same chapter he is expressed as a root of Jesse (Rev 22:16... root & offspring of David). Jesus Christ is the beginning and the ending. He is the very root and the branch. Even though Jesus is the descendant of David, David addresses him as his lord in Ps 110. This an understanding the Jewish people had a hard time with. They did understand the Messiah as the offspring of David, but not as the root. Jesus addresses this issue in his teaching (Mark 12:36; Matt 22:41-46). Jesus is the root in the sense that David sat on the throne that was intended for his descendant. David would see his descendant established on his throne forever and submit to his descendant's greater authority. When David is promised that the Messiah would be one of his descendants David recognizes the relationship to the promise in the garden of Eden after the fall of man ( 2 Sam 7:12-16; 18-19). *And is this the manner of man, O Lord GOD?*

manner = torah (direction)

man=Adam

David's question appears to be addressing if this descendant is actually the promised seed from Genesis 3:15. Jesus would be both the offspring and the root of David. This "root" issue was a stumbling block to the Jewish people. It is related to the veil over their minds where they cannot accept that a human being would be the son of God. This 'veil' will be removed when Christ reveals himself to them and saves them in their darkest hour, as the Gogian host is slaughtering them at Jerusalem (Ezek. 38-39. Zech 13-14, Ezek 9). The prophecy we are considering states that the Messiah will be an "ensign" of the people. This word ensign is the same Hebrew word that is used for the bronze pole with the bronze serpent that saved the Jewish people in the wilderness from the poisonous serpent's bite.

*Num 21:8-9 And the LORD said unto Moses, Make thee a fiery serpent, and set it upon a **pole**: and it shall come to pass, that every one that is bitten, when he looks upon it, shall live. 9And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived.*

Just as the Jewish people had been bitten by the poisonous serpents and would die... but could look to their ensign... the bronze serpent on the pole so that they might live....so the Jews & the world will look to the Christ ensign and eventually be healed from the curse of sin and death as a result of the serpent deceiving Eve in the garden. Paul expresses this victory in very similar terms in 1 Cor 15:54-56 *So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The **sting** (like a serpent's venom) of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

We are told the Gentiles will seek to this global Messiah ensign and his "rest" will be glorious. The word rest is not sabbath (although the principal is the same. It is 4496 , [mânuwchah, mânuchah /men·oo·khaw/] n f . From 4495; TWOT 1323f; GK 4957 and 4967; 21 occurrences; AV translates as rest 15 times, resting place

twice, comfortable once, ease once, quiet once, and still once. 1 resting place, rest. 1a resting place. 1b rest, quietness. Rest is a concept that represents escape from the terms of the Edenic curse. Adam was cursed with hard work and frustration... *cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; 19In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread*

*Eve: I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee*

Frustration, hard work, sorrow, pain, dominance ... all things we would like a rest from. The rest that the Messiah ensign will provide for Jew & Gentile will be glorious.

There is an interesting place this same 'rest' word is used that presents the same context of the Gentiles joining the Jews to enjoy the divine blessings:

*Number 10:29- 35 And Moses said unto Hobab, the son of Raguel the Midianite, Moses father in law, We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel. 30And he said unto him, I will not go; but I will depart to mine own land, and to my kindred. 31And he said, Leave us not, I pray thee; forasmuch as thou knowest how we are to encamp in the wilderness, and thou mayest be to us instead of eyes. 32And it shall be, if thou go with us, yea, it shall be, that what goodness the LORD shall do unto us, the same will we do unto thee. 33And they departed from the mount of the LORD three days journey: and the ark of the covenant of the LORD went before them in the three days journey, to search out a resting place for them. 34And the cloud of the LORD was upon them by day, when they went out of the camp. 35And it came to pass, when the ark set forward, that Moses said, Rise up, LORD, and let thine enemies be scattered; and let them that hate thee flee before thee. 36And when it rested, he said, Return, O LORD, unto the many thousands of Israel.*

We have a picture of the Gentiles (Moses Father in Law and his entourage) being invited to participate in the blessings Yahweh has planned for the Jewish people. The Ark of the Covenant goes before them for three days journey to search out a menuchah... a place of rest. The Ark of the Covenant, with its completely golden covered accacia wood construction with the Cherubim facing each other and the mercy seat where God's glory shown from and the 4 items inside (Aaron's rod of resurrection, the bowl of uncorrupted manna and the two stones of the covenant where God wrote the words of the covenant (10 commandments) with his finger)... this represented the Messiah and his accomplishments. This Messiah ark would lead the Jewish/Gentile community for three days and then find a resting place.

The antitypical ark of the covenant (Jesus of Nazareth) has preceded us by two prophetic days right now... 2 thousand year periods. He was immortalized two millenniums ago. After three prophetic days... three 1,000 year periods all creation will join him in the rest that he has found. We, as the Christadelphian community, often focus on the millennial kingdom. This is logical and certainly not inappropriate. It is the time of our rest, but it is not the time of God's fulfilled plan for creation. It is the post millennial period that will constitute the ultimate rest... when sin and death and all the accompanying challenges, pains, difficulties and frustrations are eliminated... when three prophetic days have passed as the antitypical ark of the covenant searched out a resting place for Jew & Gentile.

Isn't it interesting that we are created with the need to rest 1/3 of every day. The experts say we need 8 hours of sleep every day. Each day we live the prophecy of death and resurrection. It is our natural urge to fall asleep in the darkness and awake to the light... just as we awake to the dawning of the day the divinely accountable will awake to the light of Jesus Christ when he returns for judgement after two prophetic days since the time he

entered his rest from sin and death

In the remaining section of this prophecy we read of how God will regather the Jewish people to the promised land and their Ephraim/Judah divisiveness and antagonism will end.

*11And 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. 12And 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. 13The envy also of Ephraim shall depart, and the adversaries of Judah shall be cut off: Ephraim shall not envy Judah, and Judah shall not vex Ephraim. 14But they shall fly upon the shoulders of the Philistines toward the west; they shall spoil them of the east together: they shall lay their hand upon Edom and Moab; and the children of Ammon shall obey them. 15And the LORD shall utterly destroy the tongue of the Egyptian sea; and with his mighty wind shall he shake his hand over the river, and shall smite it in the seven streams, and make men go over dryshod. 16And there shall be an highway for the remnant of his people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt.*

This blending of Judah & Ephraim and their re-establishment in the land is prophesied more extensively in Ezekiel 37:13-28.

We also see another prophecy of the geographical restructuring of the planet with the Nile River apparently will no longer empty into the Mediterranean. This would most probably be the work of the earthquakes that will level the Judean hills and elevate Jerusalem high above those prostrated mounts (Zech 14:4-5,10)... representing how the formerly elevated mountain nations of the world will prostrate themselves to their geographic political head: Jerusalem.

### **Isaiah Chapters 24-27**

#### **Isaiah's Vision of the Kingdom**

The next millennial kingdom prophecy in Isaiah we will examine begins in chapter 24 and continues through chapter 27. Let's begin by reading Is 24:16-23.

*16From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous. But I said, My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously. 17Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth. 18And it shall come to pass, that he who flees from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake. 19The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly. 20The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again. 21And it shall come to pass in that day, that the LORD shall punish the host of the high ones that are on high, and the kings of the earth upon the earth. 22And they shall be gathered together, as prisoners are gathered in the pit, and shall be shut up in the prison, and after many days shall they be visited. 23Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously.*

First let's identify the context. The final verse of the chapter makes it very clear we are talking about the millennial kingdom... when Yahweh of Hosts (military title... which would be unnecessary in the post-millennial kingdom) rules in Mt Zion ... before his "ancients" gloriously. The military title of God is applied here due to

the tone and details of the preceding verses. This is a prophecy of the reversal of fortunes for those of the earth who will be replaced in their influence and prosperity by those associated with the heavens. The exploiters will be removed and the formerly exploited will replace them.

vs 16 *From the uttermost part of the earth have we heard songs, even glory to the righteous.*

This comments on the hope. We hear the songs of redemption. We rejoice musically in the time when the righteous will be glorified. However the next verse comments on the current exploitation of the righteous... *My leanness, my leanness, woe unto me! the treacherous dealers have dealt treacherously; yea, the treacherous dealers have dealt very treacherously.* The subsequent verse expresses the desire of the righteous for repayment for their exploitation and confidence in the promise that God will not leave that exploitation unanswered and introduces us to the details of that retribution for exploitation and oppression of the righteous.

17 *Fear, and the pit, and the snare, are upon thee, O inhabitant of the earth.*

This prophecy is directed to the inhabitants of the “earth”. I would suggest this distinction of “earth” does not indicate all who reside on the planet but those who are spiritually associated with the earth, as opposed to the heavens. For example:

**Jer 17:13** *O LORD, the hope of Israel, all that forsake thee shall be ashamed, and they that depart from me shall be written in the earth, because they have forsaken the LORD, the fountain of living waters.*

**Luke 10:20** *Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven.*

**Heb 12:23** *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect*

We see the distinction between earth and heaven throughout scripture. The curse of sin and death is symbolized by ‘earth’ ... *dust thou art and to dust thou shalt return... dust shall be the serpent’s meat.* Paul comments on this distinction in his reasoning concerning the resurrection in 1 Cor 15 46-50.

*Howbeit that was not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual. The first man is of the earth, earthy: the second man is the Lord from heaven. As is the earthy, such are they also that are earthy: and as is the heavenly, such are they also that are heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly. Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption.*

We have seen this negative ‘earth’ distinction in rituals as well to confirm it as a principle... spanning doctrine, prophecy and ritual. The Day of Atonement sees the two handfuls of incense... aromatic dust... tossed into the fire in the Most Holy by the High Priest. The fire converts the dust into a cloud that surrounds the glory of God resting on the mercy seat between the cherubim on the Ark of the Covenant, that the High Priest die not. Dust to Cloud... curse to blessing... earth to heaven... indicating the change in nature that is described by the apostle Paul in 1 Cor 15.

I believe this is the sense in which we see the term ‘earth’ used in this prophecy in Isaiah 24 when we read of the inhabitants of the earth being consigned to the pit and the snare and fear. This is consistent with the statements “the foundations of the earth do shake. 19 *The earth is utterly broken down, the earth is clean dissolved, the earth is moved exceedingly.*” The foundations of the earthly, self worshipping system are going to shake.... just as correspondingly - geographic earthquakes will shake the earth so wil societal and political earthquakes will shift and topple and bury the fleshly, earthly focus of society as God ends His prophetic time of silence and roars like a charging soldier and like a woman giving birth (Is 42:14-15). Matching the societal earthquakes will be the physical earthquakes described as “The earth shall reel to and fro like a drunkard, and



shall be removed like a cottage; and the transgression thereof shall be heavy upon it; and it shall fall, and not rise again.”

The political structure of the ‘earth’ will be forever changed. The host of the high ones and the kings of the earth will be judged. The “high ones” are the politically and financially influential... the dictators and presidents and generals and industry moguls and crime-lords. Their reign of exploitation will be over. There will be a new heaven and a new earth. Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously. Traditionally Christadelphian expositors have applied the political entity to the sun and the ecclesiastical entity to the moon in such a context. I would agree with this understanding. We find these terms used consistently with a dramatic overthrow.

Is 13:1,9-11 destruction of Babylon

Joel 2:6-11, 28-32 the great and terrible day of the Lord

Joel 3:9-17

Matt 24:29-31

In this prophecy we see the statements concerning the sun and moon in a state of confusion and shame: Then the moon shall be confounded, and the sun ashamed, when the LORD of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem, and before his ancients gloriously. The sun (political influence) will be confused. Whatever system it is that is the foundation for political power... democracy, communism, military dictatorship... are all going to be challenged and replaced by the Kingdom political model of theocracy. Military might and political influence will be totally ineffective. It will be a frustrating and confusing time for the political leaders of the world as their influence quickly erodes. The ecclesiastical systems will be ashamed... Jer 16:14-21 (inherited lies); Isaiah 25:7 destroy veil over nations.... The political and ecclesiastical systems will suffer confusion and shame as the Son of God and his “ancients” begin their glorious reign in Mt Zion.

## Isaiah chapter 25

*O LORD, thou art my God; I will exalt thee, I will praise thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things; thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. 2For thou hast made of a city an heap; of a defenced city a ruin: a palace of strangers to be no city; it shall never be built. 3Therefore shall the strong people glorify thee, the city of the terrible nations shall fear thee. 4For thou hast been a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat, when the blast of the terrible ones is as a storm against the wall. 5Thou shalt bring down the noise of strangers, as the heat in a dry place; even the heat with the shadow of a cloud: the branch of the terrible ones shall be brought low.*

This prophesied time will be a time of recognition and praise for the Creator. The foolishly arrogant, confident in their own strength will resist, refusing acknowledgement of the God of heaven and earth. The city will become a heap and the defensed city a ruin. The military aggressive and defensive systems of this world are powerless against Yahweh, who created all things. Compare Ezek 38:14-23; 39:6-7,21-22; Hab 3:1-15

**Is 25:6-9** *And in this mountain shall the LORD of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things, a feast of wines on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wines on the lees well refined. 7And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. 8He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord GOD will wipe away tears from off all faces; and the rebuke of his people shall he take away from off all the earth: for the LORD hath spoken it. 9And it shall be said in that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us: this is the LORD; we have waited for him, we will be glad and rejoice in his salvation.*

This mountain... Mt Zion ... will be a place of divine provision and divine education. Jerusalem means “teacher

of peace.” Provision will be excellent.... Deut 28:4,8,11-12; Lev 26:3-5,10; Deut 30:8-9

**Education:** In this mountain God will destroy the covering over the minds of people, the veil over the nations. That veil is the doctrine of the antichrist system ... the denial of the flesh, the humanity of Christ... will be revealed as the lie it is. We are told specifically that the veil represented the flesh of Christ (Heb 10:19-20). This denial of the flesh, the humanity, of Jesus is the most blasphemous of all contradictions to our Creator’s righteousness. The nations will be sobered up from the drunkenness induced by the antichrist system... Rev 17:2; 18:3. God will swallow up death in victory, wipe away tears and the rebuke of his people. This is a time of reversals. the “swallowing up of death in victory” is explained by the Apostle Paul in 1 Cor 15 where he quotes this reference 1 Cor 15:51-54-56 (similarly in 2 Cor. 5:4). *Swallowing up death in victory* is the resurrection to immortality following the judgement. This also confirms our understanding that this is a millennium kingdom prophecy. This is one of the features of immortalization ... no more tears (Rev 7:13-17;21:3-4). There be no more need for physical pain, disease, or the decay of aging that identified the mortal state. God will take the rebuke of his people away from off the whole earth. This includes those that are called by His name... both faithful Gentiles and Jewish. There are a number of prophecies concerning how the Jewish curses will be turned into blessings , which happens at this time (Deut 30:1-9; Jer 30:7-8,16-24; Jer 33:7-9, 17-26; Amos 9:11-15).

As the prophecy states... those who “wait” for Yahweh will be glad and rejoice in his salvation. Waiting is not easy for human beings, especially in our society. Fear, anxiousness, coveting, instant gratification... all work against the patient waiting for Yahweh. Especially in our society, we are trained by birth to want things **now**... to be insistent, demanding, indignant and complain loudly. We have instant communication, instant meals, high speed transportation... if it is faster it will sell. We are taught to crave instant gratification from childhood by society. David understood this challenge and wrote about it (Ps 37:1-11). Patience has a lot to do with hope and we are told that we are saved by hope (Rom 8:23-25). Saul couldn’t wait for Samuel and lost his kingdom (1 Sam 13:8-14). We will have to wait or we will lose the kingdom.

**Isaiah 25:10-12** *For in this mountain shall the hand of the LORD rest, and Moab shall be trodden down under him, even as straw is trodden down for the dunghill. 11And he shall spread forth his hands in the midst of them, as he that swimmeth spreads forth his hands to swim: and he shall bring down their pride together with the spoils of their hands. 12And the fortress of the high fort of thy walls shall he bring down, lay low, and bring to the ground, even to the dust.*

Moab was the son of Lot and the eldest daughter of Lot. Moab, as a nation, was to the east of the Jordan and the last stop before Israel entered the promised land under Joshua. Moab was the enemy of Israel and condemned by God for its pride (Zeph 2:9-11). Today the Palestinians and Jordan possess the land of Moab. God will judge all those surrounding nations that vaunt themselves at the Jews....Ezek 36:1-15.

**Isaiah 26:1-4** *In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. 2Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keep the truth may enter in. 3Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee. 4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD Yahweh is everlasting strength:*

Singing is a significant part of the joy of the kingdom. Singing is an emotional expression. Israel sang after their being saved from Pharoah’s army at the Red Sea (Ex 15:1). The immortalized saints will sing the song of Moses and the Lamb (Rev 15:3-4). David is famous for the songs that he composed for God. The ‘song’ of Solomon is a picture of Christ and his ecclesial bride. When the armies of Moab, Edom and Mt Seir marched against Judah, Jehoshaphat went out to meet them with singers praising God (2 Chron 20:20-25). God helped them when they began to sing. Also at the dedication of Solomon’s temple it was when the singers began to sing that

God's glory filled the temple in the form of a cloud 2 Chron 5:13-14. This would also have been in conjunction with fire coming from heaven to consume the burnt and peace offerings on the altar (2 Chron 7:1-4... same song as expressed in chap 5:13-14). Since singing is and will be a significant part of worship I like to believe and think it is valid that those of us who can't carry a tune and are tone deaf will be blessed with that ability in our immortalized state... just like the blind will see and the deaf will hear and the dumb will speak and the lame will walk.

These singers in Is 25 sing *We have a strong city; salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks. 2 Open ye the gates, that the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.* Salvation is associated with this city. The city would be Jerusalem. This is clear in that new Jerusalem is a symbolic representation of the community of immortalized saints (Rev 21:9-10). It is the city of the great king. It is where Yahweh has placed his name. It will be the capitol of the world. The name "Jerusalem" means teacher of peace (with peace meaning harmony... and not merely the foolish presumption of the absence of disturbance). Jerusalem is where Christ executed sin in the flesh and rose from the dead. It is where the ecclesial age was born. It is where the truth of salvation emanated from. It is that truth radiated from Jerusalem that must be kept so that we might be part of that righteous nation and enter that city of salvation. God is a God of truth and requires that we worship him in spirit and in truth (John 4:23-24). We must maintain truth in order to be saved (1 Cor 15:1-2). Why? because the natural delusions of apostate Christianity are blasphemous to God and glorify man... raising the created above the Creator... degrading God and exalting man. Those doctrines are contradictions of the Creator's righteousness (His right-ness). Truth is essential for a positive relationship with God. Apostasy is based on the pompous arrogance of the flesh. Accepting the truth about God, Christ, our nature, the nature of evil, our hope.... requires humbly accepting a lower position in our own eyes than is offered by the delusions of Christianity and all the other mirror worshipping religions of the flesh. Nebuchadnezzar had to learn this lesson the hard way, by being stricken with insanity for 7 'times' (indicating years) to humble him before the one true God... projecting the 7 'times' (millenniums during which the 'beast mentality' (serpent perspective) would be accommodated in creation. After 7 'times' (at the beginning of the 8th millennium - the flesh with its perspective and mortal nature will be completely eliminated in all of creation).

*Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusts in thee. 4 Trust ye in the LORD for ever: for in the LORD Yahweh is everlasting strength:* The phrase "perfect peace" is actually shalom shalom.... peace peace... or double peace . This is the promise to those whose 'mind' is stayed on God. The double peace expression is a promise that is repeated in Is 57:18-19 (near=Jews; far off = Gentiles). Again, we have to understand, peace should not be defined by society and think that this is simply a statement concerning the shallow goal of a peace of mind.... that is a symptom of God's peace but not its limitation. God's peace is the presence of harmony (Eph 2:14-15)... oneness. Society tells us to respect diversity and tolerate varying concepts of morality... absence of disturbance is peace to them. God tells us that diversity is not the way to salvation.... accepting His standards and walking in His path is the way to peace and oneness and salvation, which is expressed here as "everlasting strength."

That 'double peace' is an extension of a scriptural and creational theme of two stages to completeness.... The body and then breath stages of Adam's creation (Gen 2:7); the corresponding two prophecies of Israel's resurrection in Ezek. 37 (assembled body and then breath); the two foursquare stages in the body of the enlightened in the wilderness encampment (First: outer foursquare political: 12 tribes in 4 quadrants and then Second: inner foursquare spiritual: 3 Levite divisions & priests); two resurrections (1. resurrection to mortality from grave for judgment and 2. resurrection from mortal to immortality following judgment; and highly appropriately the two comings of our Messiah, first as Jesus for reconciliation and then as Christ for salvation

(Rom 5:10). However this double peace reference seems to directly parallel the two progressive peace stages of the Millennial Kingdom when creation will experience a rest from sin and the following peace stage at the conclusion of the Millennial Kingdom which is not partial (merely a rest) but a complete elimination of all the contradicts our Creator's righteousness in any way, shape or form. True peace is never-ever about a widening inclusiveness (as in toleration of diversity) but the necessary cutting away of all that is diverse from the model.

One of the features of the curse is that we grow tired. We get weaker. We need sleep to renew our strength. After we reach maturity we grow weaker as the years pass. Increasing weakness is a feature of the curse of sin and death. All the world respects and glorifies strength. The challenge is for us to trust in Yahweh's strength and not our own. It is through our weakness that God's strength operates most efficiently. Paul explains how he learned this lesson the hard way in 2 Cor 12:7-10. One of the expressions of faithful activity in Hebrews 11 also expresses this concept (Heb 11:33-34 *out of weakness the faithful were made strong*). This is also the lesson portrayed in the Kingdom of heaven parable of the mustard seed in Matt 13:31-32... the least become the greatest as that smallest of all seeds grew up out of the cursed dust straining for the heavens to become the greatest of all shrubs. When we looked at Is 57 for the peace-peace promise this same concept of strength out of weakness was in the context.

*Is 57:13-15 When thou criest, let thy companies deliver thee; but the wind shall carry them all away; vanity shall take them: but he that puts his trust in me shall possess the land, and shall inherit my holy mountain; 14 And shall say, Cast ye up, cast ye up, prepare the way, take up the stumblingblock out of the way of my people. 15 For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabits eternity, whose name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*

Reviving is the picture of strengthening... and resurrection. strengthening the humble and contrite. "Contrite" is ... Strong's 1792 [daka /daw·kaw/] v . A primitive root (compare 1794); TWOT 427; GK 1917; 18 occurrences; AV translates as break three times, break in pieces three times, crush three times, bruise twice, destroy twice, contrite once, smite once, oppress once, beat to pieces once, and humble once. 1 to crush, be crushed, be contrite, be broken. 1a (Niphal). 1a1 to be crushed. 1a2 to be contrite (fi g.). 1b (Piel) to crush. 1c (Pual). 1c1 to be crushed, be shattered. 1c2 to be made contrite. 1d (Hithpael) to allow oneself to be crushed. 46 Enhanced Strong's Lexicon: 1792

Here are applications of this same Hebrew word translated "contrite":

Job 4:19...clay, whose foundation is in the dust, which are crushed before the moth? They are destroyed ...

Job 5:4...habitation. His children are far from safety, and they are crushed in the gate, neither is there any to Job 6:9...for! Even that it would please God to destroy me; that he would let loose his hand

Job 19:2...How long will ye vex my soul, and break me in pieces with words?

Job 22:9 away empty, and the arms of the fatherless have been broken.

34:25...works, and he overturneth them in the night, so that they are destroyed . He striketh them as wicked

Psalms 72 he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor.

Psalms 89:10 the waves thereof arise, thou stillest them. Thou hast broken Rahab in pieces,

Psalms 94:5..all the workers of iniquity boast themselves?They break in pieces thy people, O LORD,

Psalms 143:3 For the enemy hath persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground; he hath ... ..persecuted my soul; he hath smitten my life down to the ground;

Proverbs 22:22...Rob not the poor, because he is poor: neither oppress the afflicted in the gate:

Isaiah 3:15 What mean ye that ye beat my people to pieces, and grind the faces

Isaiah 19:10...that weave networks, shall be confounded. And they shall be broken in the purposes  
Isaiah 53:5; 10 ...was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement  
of our peace ...his mouth. Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief:  
Isaiah 57:15...of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones. For I will not contend for ...  
Jeremiah 44:10...Judah, and in the streets of Jerusalem? They are not humbled even unto this day,  
Lamentations 3:34... nor grieve the children of men. To crush under his feet all the prisoners of the ...  
God dwells with the contrite ones... the broken hearted, the crushed in spirit, those who do not worship  
themselves. He will strengthen the weak with everlasting strength. Jesus tells us blessed are the poor in spirit,  
for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. God will give double peace to those who seek true peace.

**Is 26:5-6** *For he brings down them that dwell on high; the lofty city, he lays it low; he lays it low, even to the ground; he brings it even to the dust. 6 The foot shall tread it down, even the feet of the poor, and the steps of the needy.*

“For he brings down them that dwell on high.” This thought of God reversing the orders of significance is continued. The high will be brought low and the low will be elevated. The crushed in spirit will be strengthened and those that are full of themselves will be emptied and deflated. God will lay low the lofty city... bringing it down to the dust. This is yet another expression of the curse of the dust. The dust is also an expression of lowness and diminishing, since it is the lowest point of our existence and our sense of reality... it is underfoot. The feet of the poor and needy (poor in spirit and those who sacrificed the indulgences of society) will tread down the formerly glorious and influential city. Jerusalem will be elevated and Rome will be diminished ... along with Washington, Moscow, London, Paris and all the other influential cities. The Apostle John witnessed the destruction of Rome and its apostate foundation for Christianity and heard the mourning of those who inappropriately had valued it.... Rev 18:16-24.

**Is. 26: 7- 11** *The way of the just is uprightness: thou, most upright, dost weigh the path of the just. 8 Yea, in the way of thy judgments, O LORD, have we waited for thee; the desire of our soul is to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee. 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 earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness. 10 Let favor be shown to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD. 11 LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.*

Interestingly we move from the downward focus of the dust to a focus on ‘uprightness’ ... the way of the just is uprightness. We change our natural focus from the dust to the heavens... from the satisfaction of the flesh to the concentration on heavenly issues... from glorifying the flesh and worshipping the curse of the dust to treading it underfoot as we strain our eyes to the heavens focusing on the blue sky and the clouds of God’s presence and glory and power.

God weighs the path of the just. This is an indication of value. Money was ‘weighed’ in previous times. Values weren’t printed on paper. A shekel was a weight measurement. When we read that God “weighs” the path of the just it means he is considering the extent of its value. The way of the just is uprightness and the most upright considers the path of those who will try to be like him - upright. Those who wait for God in the way of his judgements desire his name... *the desire of our soul is to thy name.* This is because His name is our hope.... Yahweh = He Who Shall Be... El- Mighty One. The greatest of all commandments expresses the divine intent for those who will practice that commandment. The promise is hidden in the name. Deut. 6:4-5

Hear O Israel, the LORD our God is one LORD,

and you shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your might.

Hear O Prince of the Mighty One... He Who Shall Be our Mighty Ones is He Who Shall Be one.  
You shall love He Who Shall Be Your Mighty Ones with all your heart and soul and might.

This commandment expresses the divine intent of bringing man into the Creator's image and likeness... becoming one with God... unity in multiplicity... a multitude that is one.... peace, the presence of harmony. This is all expressed in the memorial name of God. The goal is to be one with the Heavenly Father... the path is extreme dedication... loving him with all our heart, all of our life, intensely. God's name is the desire of the upright. Isn't this what we do at baptism?! We take his name. Matt 28:19 *Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.* We take the name of God at baptism. We become His. His name is the desire of our soul. We then 'bear' His name... we are the ecclesial bride that takes the name of her divine groom.... the newborn child that is given the name of their parents. We then bear that name... for honor or dishonor. This was the third commandment written into stone by the finger of God (Deut 20:7 *Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain*). Unfortunately, those who do not understand or value the name of God reduce this commandment to the idea of a verbal expression. The Jews forbade anyone from speaking the name of God aloud and the Christians think of this as swearing... how shallow and pathetic. The action word is "take"... don't take God's name in vain. this is the Hebrew word *nasa*. It means to lift up upon oneself, to carry or bear.

This Hebrew word is used to describe how the flood waters bore up Noah's ark above the destruction. It is the same word God uses to tell Abraham to lift up his eyes and look all around him at the land God will give him and his seed for an everlasting gift. It is the word used when the sons of Jacob loaded the grain they had purchased in Egypt on their animals. This is the word used to describe how the Levites would transport the articles of the Tabernacle... they would bear them. It is the word used to describe how the priests would lift up and bear the ark of the covenant into the Jordan River so that the river would recede and allow the Israelites to cross the river bed. Clearly this word does not indicate just some simple verbal expression. God commanded the Israelites not to take upon themselves His name lightly, casually, falsely or disrespectfully. The same warning goes for us. When we take His name at baptism and bear His name from then on, we must be true to that name and not bear that name in a disrespectful, casual or false manner.

When a bride takes upon herself the name of her husband she likes being called by that name.... the person who performs the marriage ceremony will introduce to the wedding guests to Mr & Mrs Dillingham or whatever. I have seen joy on a bride's face many times at hearing her new name. The wife gets enjoyment out of being called by her new name. She has joined herself to the man she loves and to whom she has dedicated the rest of her life. If she acts in a disrespectful manner to that name, it is shameful to that name she has taken upon herself. The ecclesial bride is no different. Upon baptism we enjoy hearing our new title of Brother or Sister. It is a joy. We rejoice in our new name. We have taken upon ourselves God's name. We have been baptized into the name of God and Christ and the Holy Spirit.... just like a wife or a newborn. We must be true to that name. Our behavior must reflect honor on the name that is our great joy, *the desire of our soul*.

**Is 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 earth, the inhabitants of the world will learn righteousness.10 Let favor be shown to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly,*

*and will not behold the majesty of the Yahweh. 11 Yahweh, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.* It is a fact that we will yearn for the one we love. If we love Yahweh our Elohim, then we will desire him in the night. Our spirit, our consciousness, will be drawn to thoughts of him and the aching for His presence. We will think often of how His righteous standards will be taught and required in all the earth and rejoice in those thoughts and imaginations. We can take comfort in knowing that things will not continue as they currently exist forever. God will intervene, dramatically. His judgements will be “in the earth.”

Here is an interesting tidbit of human behavior presented here. *Let favor be shown to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly.* If we think that we will receive good behavior back when we offer good behavior **we are wrong**. To the wicked, good behavior and honesty is just an opportunity to abuse and take advantage. We should be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. This is something I have witnessed countless times in business.... whether it is customers, suppliers or employees. The wicked will not reciprocate kindness, uprightness, honesty and support. It is simply an opportunity to take advantage. We are naive if we think we can change the wicked with good examples. There are those who are entirely self centered and will not change, without judgements. When the Yahweh’s judgements are in the earth the world will be taught what righteousness is... not the convenient, self validating, politically correct sense of right-ness society deceives themselves with today... accurately described as mob morality. There are those who take advantage without remorse and still feel good about themselves. Society has a saying... how can you sleep at night? When the conscience is seared and crusted over, insensitive to self-examination, the wicked have no trouble sleeping. There are always comfortable excuses... business is business... it was necessary... it was expedient. This was the excuse of Caiaphas (John 11:47-51). I have no doubt Caiaphas slept like a baby after orchestrating the death of the son of God, without remorse. Despite the miracles, despite his refusal to accept political urgings... these wicked would not learn righteousness... but they will when God ends His silence (Matt 26:64). So a word of advice from God... let favor be shown to the wicked, yet he will not learn righteousness.

The real problem with their blind wickedness is expressed immediately after this statement. These wicked, unresponsive to the righteousness in front of them, will not behold the majesty of Yahweh. When the earth is filled with the glory of Yahweh as the waters cover the earth, the wicked will not be there to behold it. We do not have the capacity to appreciate that statement at this time. We are told that eye has not seen nor ear heard the things that God has prepared for those who love him. We don’t possess the imagination to consider the majesty of God’s glory saturating creation. This is a great cost of wickedness. The final answer to wickedness is not education. It is elimination: eternal death. The sadness of preferring wickedness is the absence from experiencing the majesty of Yahweh.

The wicked will continue in their self-deluding, perpetually descending sense of morality without pause, **until** Yahweh lifts up his hand. When God lifts up his hand the wicked shall be educated... as fear is the ultimate educator. Those totally without fear are justifiably regarded as extremely foolish. Those among the enlightened community who preach that we never have to be afraid of inflaming God’s anger... are complete & utter fools... as the fear of God is the very beginning of knowledge.

**Is 26:11** *LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them.*

This ‘lifting up of the hand’ is expressed in another of Isaiah’s Millennial Kingdom prophecies as “making bare his arm.” Is 52:7-15 *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publishes peace; that brings good tidings of good, that publishes salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God*

*reigns! 8 Thy watchmen shall lift up the voice; with the voice together shall they sing: for they shall see eye to eye, when the LORD shall bring again Zion. 9 Break forth into joy, sing together; ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. 10 **Yahweh hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations**; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. 11 Depart ye, depart ye, go ye out from thence, touch no unclean thing; go ye out of the midst of her; be ye clean, that bear the vessels of the LORD. 12 For ye shall not go out with haste, nor go by flight: for the LORD will go before you; and the God of Israel will be your reward. 13 Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. 14 As many were astonished at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: 15 So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider.*

Society still uses the same expression. When we have a serious job to do we talk about rolling up our sleeves and getting to work, even if we don't intend to literally roll up our sleeves. We make bare our arm. When Yahweh rolls up His sleeves, acting through Jesus and the saints in front of the nations, those nations will finally learn... the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider. We are told Jesus will **sprinkle** them. This is a very expressive Hebrew verb. It is the verb 'nazah.' In reference to the altar offerings, this is the verb that is exclusively used with the sin offering when it comes to the so-called "sprinkling" of the blood. There is one exception (with oil) but the context and ritual can be demonstrated to be related to the sin offering and its lessons. The sprinkling of the blood in the other altar offerings uses the verb 'zaraq.' This verb *nazah*, used with the sin offering, is more harsh, more violent... more of a spattering than a sprinkling. This is the verb scripture uses when we are told the glorious Messiah will **sprinkle** the nations. There will be a cleansing of the nations, as this is the context of sprinkling the blood. The nations will learn the lesson of the blood of Christ. It is the lesson of understanding our sinful, unclean nature. It is understanding the principle of sacrifice and how God's glory, righteousness and grace is declared in the sacrifice of His son. When understood, the lesson of the blood has conscience purging power. We are specifically told this in Hebrews 9:12-14 *Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?*

The nations will be sprinkled (*nazah*) - 'spattered' with the lesson of the blood of Christ - powerfully, unmistakably, violently... with the intention of jumpstarting a global repentance. Mouths will be stopped, political leaders will be dumbfounded and ashamed... like Nineveh at the preaching of the ghostlike Jonah declaring their impending doom the nations will eventually repent before the power of the blood 'sprinkler'. When Yahweh ends his silence, shouting like a charging soldier, crying out like a woman giving birth, laying bear his arm... the wicked will be taught righteousness. The fire of God's and his people's enemies will devour themselves. This is how the education of the wicked must happen.... through severe discipline. The wicked do not learn any other way.

**Is 26:12-18** *LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us. O Yahweh our God, other lords beside thee have had dominion over us: but by thee only will we make mention of thy name. They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish. Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou*



*hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth. LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them. Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and crieth out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.*

Yahweh will ordain peace for us... harmony with Himself with all the peace benefits such as comfort, the absence of fear, the absence of disturbance. We will share His nature and not have the capacity to sin ever again. We have other supervisors (lords-adon) that have some influence over us (dominion), but this should not prevent us from making mention of His name. We human beings proclaim what we feel strongly about. We declare our love publicly for our spouse in a marriage ceremony. We publish books and write articles and blogs declaring what we believe is important. Our earthly supervisors... employment, political, family... should not prevent our declaring the name of God. We do it verbally and behaviorally. The names of God declare His power, His exclusive 'source' status, His intention & plan for creation and the hope of the faithful. We take that name in covenant relationship and declare it. We don't take it in vain. Because if we don't declare it, then we certainly have taken it in vain. Peter cautions us to sanctify the Lord God in our hearts and be ready always to give an answer to those who ask a reason for the hope that is in us, respectfully and humbly (1 Pet 3:15)

*Vs 14 They are dead, they shall not live; they are deceased, they shall not rise: therefore hast thou visited and destroyed them, and made all their memory to perish.*

The unenlightened and unaccountable perish. They shall not rise. They are destroyed. The sons of Korah sang a psalm about this issue of those that are in honor and don't understand, that they shall die and not rise... as opposed to the faithful [Psalm 49]. This is a statement in vs 14 about the lie of universal resurrection. It is also a statement about the fact that people don't want to be forgotten. They name places and structures and memorials after themselves... even gravestones satisfy this need to avoid the concept of being totally obliterated from even the memories of the living. But man being in honor and understanding not are like the beasts that perish. It is man's honor, his ego, that creates the barrier to understanding. This is the lesson of the parables and the dark sayings and visions and dreams our Heavenly Father teaches through... to strip away the self worshipping ego of man. The beast-like will perish. Remember, perishing is different from dying. Perishing is forever. Jesus tells his disciples that they will die but not a hair of their head will "perish". Unlike the beast-like deaths of the un-Godlike, The God-like will rise again and live forever. This is one of the many references paralleling the unenlightened to beasts in scripture. Another parallel between the death of the unenlightened and the death of the beast is from Solomon.

**Ecc 3:17-21** *I said in mine heart, God shall judge the righteous and the wicked: for there is a time there for every purpose and for every work. 18 I said in mine heart concerning the estate of the sons of men, that God might manifest them, and that they might see that they themselves are beasts. 19 For that which befalls the sons of men befalls beasts; even one thing befalls them: as the one dies, so dies the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. 20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again. 21 Who knows the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?*

The unenlightened (the sons of men), the temporary lords (adons) of the earth, will die and not rise. They will be destroyed and even worse - forgotten. Remembering is important to us. It is important to God. This is why we 'remember' every first day of the week. Remembering is important. The wicked perish and will be forgotten.

**Isaiah 26:15** *Thou hast increased the nation, O LORD, thou hast increased the nation: thou art glorified: thou hadst removed it far unto all the ends of the earth. 16 LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they*

*poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them. 17 Like as a woman with child, that draws near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and cries out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. 18 We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.*

Verse 15 declares God's favoring of the Jewish nation after scattering it to the ends of the earth. This is repeated in other prophecies.... When Yahweh increases the Jewish nation He will be glorified... the nation that he removed across the planet.

**Psalm 102:13-22** *Thou shalt arise, and have mercy upon Zion: for the time to favor her, yea, the set time, is come. 14 For thy servants take pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust thereof. 15 So the heathen shall fear the name of the LORD, and all the kings of the earth thy glory. 16 When the LORD shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory. 17 He will regard the prayer of the destitute, and not despise their prayer. 18 This shall be written for the generation to come...[“to come” = acharon -51 occurrences; AV translates as last 20 times, after(ward)(s) 15 times, latter six times, end twice, utmost twice, following once, hinder once, hindermost once, hindmost once, rereward once, and uttermost once.]: and the people which shall be created shall praise the LORD. 19 For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the LORD behold the earth; 20 To hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death [resurrection]; 21 To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; 22 When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms [nations], to serve the LORD.*

When the Lord will build up Zion, He will appear in his glory.... or as it says in Isaiah 26 *When you have increased the nation that you scattered, You will be glorified.* The global glorification of the Creator, His removing the veil cast over the nations, performed with great power, will coincide with the favoring of the genealogical descendants of Abraham Isaac and Jacob.

The parallel to giving birth in Isaiah 26 is quite appropriate as this is not an uncommon reference to the initiation of the Millennial Kingdom. We read extensively of the Kingdom in Isaiah 42. In verse 13 Yahweh declares how He will end His long-term silence (prophesied in Micah 3:6-7; Amos 8:11-12), describing it as the heart chilling cry of a soldier's war shout and also as a woman giving birth. Paul uses this expression concerning the return of Christ and the sudden destruction that will follow to the Thessalonians: *For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup> For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape (1 Thess 5:2-3).*

There is significant depth and scriptural interaction with this creational parallel. The resurrection to immortality (following the judgment which follows the resurrection to mortality) is often described as a birth. Nicodemus did not understand this relationship (John 3) when Jesus declared *Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God.* Sadly, even many Christadelphian Bible commentators limit this expression to nothing more than a mere mental and emotional repentance... distancing Christ's words from the true depth based in the expressions of the Old Testament. Jesus goes on to describe how being born again refers to the change in nature that will be experienced by all those who will inherit the Kingdom. Jesus says: *Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God. <sup>6</sup> That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. <sup>7</sup> Marvel not that I said unto thee, Ye must be born again. <sup>8</sup> The wind blows where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: so is every one that is born of the Spirit.* Being born a second time, into the spirit nature, is paralleled as being made like wind. That word wind is the same word that is translated “spirit” (pneuma) as in Holy Spirit that is used throughout the Greek New Testament. Correspondingly, the one element in air that sustains our mortal lives is oxygen, whose scientific numerical identification is 8... due to the 8 protons in its nucleus. We should

know by now that the number 8 is the scriptural number of immortality. Another spirit-creation validation is the recognition that just as eternal life was related to a tree in the Garden (Tree of Life) it is trees in our current cursed environment that converts the poison we breathe out (carbon dioxide) back into oxygen (the element that numerically represents eternal life).

- **Col 1:18** *And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.*

Jesus was the first to be “born” from the dead. This can only refer to the resurrection to immortality as he certainly was not the first to experience the resurrection to mortality, which is nothing more than a mere awakening from the grave. He ‘awakened’ a very appropriate three people (the daughter of Jairus, the Nain widow’s son and Lazarus). The only reason Jesus can be described as the first is because being “born” from the grave indicates immortalization... not simply rising from the dead.

Jesus and Paul harnessed the Old Testament precedents for this scriptural and creational expression.

- **Ps 22:27,31** [ For context] *All the ends of the world shall remember and turn unto the Lord: And all the kindreds of the nations shall worship before thee. <sup>31</sup> They shall come, and shall declare his righteousness. **Unto a people that shall be born, that he hath done this.***

When all the nations come before God to worship (obviously the Millennial Kingdom) then it will be a people that shall be “born” that will testify to the nations about “His righteousness”. Those people that shall be born will be the immortalized saints, teaching the world about the Creator’s righteousness.

- **Is 66:5-8** *Hear the word of the Lord, ye that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, That cast you out for my name’s sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified: But he shall appear to your joy, and they shall be ashamed. <sup>6</sup> A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, A voice of the Lord that renders recompense to his enemies. <sup>7</sup> Before she travailed, she brought forth; Before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child. <sup>8</sup> Who hath heard such a thing? who hath seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth in one day? Or shall a nation be born at once? For as soon as Zion travailed, she brought forth her children.*

The context here is obviously the Kingdom, when the Lord will appear to glorify the faithful and extend His right of vindication to those who opposed those who maintained His right-ness. This is clearly seen in the “your brethren that hated you” will be ashamed. The earth will be made to “bring forth” in one day. That is the marriage supper of the lamb. This immortalization will precede the birthing pain that Jerusalem will experience through the Gogian host. The immortalized saints accompany Jesus in saving the 3rd of the remaining Jews who have not been butchered by the band of 6 (Ezek. chap. 9 & also 38) that make up the Gogian host. Therefore the birth delivery (the saints being born again into the spirit nature) precedes the pain Jerusalem will experience. This is why Jesus and Paul refer to salvation as a birthing procedure, while the resurrection to mortality for judgment is merely an awakening.

Notice how Paul uses this relationship between being born into a new nature and the fact that those who are “born” into the spirit nature (the wind nature that Jesus references to Nicodemus) means that those saved no longer have the capacity to sin, but can only live righteously.

- **1 John 2:28-29** *And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming. <sup>29</sup> If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that does righteousness is **born** of him.*
- **1 John 3:9** *Whosoever is **born** of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remains in him: and he cannot sin, because he is **born** of God.*

- **1 John 5:4, 18** <sup>4</sup> For whatsoever is **born** of God overcomes the world: and this is the victory that overcomes the world, even our faith. <sup>18</sup> We know that whosoever is born of God sins not; but he that is begotten of God keeps himself, and that wicked one touches him not.

When the faithful are immortalized (reborn into the divine spirit nature), they will only have the capacity to do righteousness. They will not even have the capacity to sin, as we always do in our cursed nature. The immortalized cannot be touched by that wicked one (diabolos, sin in the flesh, that serpent mentality we are all born with). The immortalized cannot be tempted by lust or suffer the wages of sin, which is death.

The Jewish people will pray to God in their time of great persecution Isaiah 26: 16-18 *LORD, in trouble have they visited thee, they poured out a prayer when thy chastening was upon them. 17 Like as a woman with child, that draweth near the time of her delivery, is in pain, and cries out in her pangs; so have we been in thy sight, O LORD. 18 We have been with child, we have been in pain, we have as it were brought forth wind; we have not wrought any deliverance in the earth; neither have the inhabitants of the world fallen.*) This parallel between the Jewish people and a woman giving birth is also bound to the promise of their regathering and favor in the last days in Jeremiah 30:3-9; then 10-17 then verse 24 **latter days**: [ʾachariyth /akh·ar·eeth/ 61 occurrences; AV translates as “end” 31 times, “latter” 12 times, “last” seven times, “posterity” three times, “reward” twice, “hindermost” once, and translated miscellaneously five times. 1 after part, end. 1a end, issue, event. 1b latter time (prophetic for future time). 1c posterity. 1d last, hindermost.

This time of great distress when the Jews repent and pray for God’s deliverance is described in detail by the prophet Zechariah.... 13:8 through 14:4. The time of great distress that accompanies the coming of the Messiah is paralleled to a woman giving birth which appropriately references the Jewish time of great trouble Also Micah 4... the context is also millennial kingdom vs 1-7; 9-13. This continues right into Micah 5:2-3 He will give them up until the travailing to bring forth, after which the remnant return.

The time of Jacob’s trouble that the Messiah and the immortalized saints will save them from, is repeatedly likened to a woman giving birth, just at it is here in Isaiah 26:16-18 Just look at the immediate context here following the statements concerning the time of Jacob’s trouble. Obviously vs 19 is about the resurrection of the dead: *Thy dead men shall live, Together with my dead body shall they arise. Awake and sing, ye that dwell in dust: For thy dew is as the dew of herbs, And the earth shall cast out the dead.*

### **The Gogian Defeat, the Jewish Re-Favoring, Spiritual Education of the Enlightened, God’s Glorification**

**Is 66:15-21** *For, behold, the LORD will come with fire, and with his chariots like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. 16 For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many. 17 They that sanctify themselves, and purify themselves in the gardens behind one tree in the midst, eating swine’s flesh, and the abomination, and the mouse, shall be consumed together, saith the LORD. 18 For I know their works and their thoughts: it shall come, that I will gather all nations and tongues; and they shall come, and see my glory. 19 And I will set a sign among them, and I will send those that escape of them unto the nations, to Tarshish, Pul, and Lud, that draw the bow, to Tubal, and Javan, to the isles afar off, that have not heard my fame, neither have seen my glory; and they shall declare my glory among the Gentiles. 20 And they shall bring all your brethren for an offering unto the LORD out of all nations upon horses, and in chariots, and in litters, and upon mules, and upon swift beasts, to my holy mountain Jerusalem, saith the LORD, as the children of Israel bring an offering in a clean vessel into the house of the LORD. 21 And I will also take of them for priests and for Levites, saith the LORD.*

Immediately after the prophecies concerning the destruction of the Gogian confederacy invading Israel and immediately before the prophecies concerning the building, geography and activities surrounding Ezekiel's temple we have these statements sandwiched... again combining the thoughts of God's glorification to the nations, the spiritual education of the unenlightened and the favoring of the Jewish people:

The next two verses in Isaiah 26 apply to the time when God deals with the invading armies in Israel: 20 *Come, my people, enter thou into thy chambers, and shut thy doors about thee: hide thyself as it were for a little moment, until the indignation be over-past.* 21 *For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.* This expresses God's protection for His people when he goes forth as a mighty man to save them and glorify Himself. Somewhat like Noah and his family were shut up in the ark safely. The waters placed above the firmament at creation collapsed, the oceans rose and the mountains sank. This time the direction will be education and God's glorification... not elimination. There is a similar precedent in the way several thousand were taken to Babylon before the horrific destruction following Zedekiah's rebellion. Those included in that first deportation (i.e. Daniel, Mishael, Azariah, Hananiah & Ezekiel) were protected ... in a sense they were hidden in chambers with the doors shut until that Jerusalem indignation was overpast.

Yahweh "comes out of his place".... This is kind of an odd statement, as God is everywhere. He is omnipresent. David comments on the wonders of God in that there is nowhere he could be that God wouldn't already be there (Ps 139). This phrase of God coming out of His place is not an expression of the limitation of God to a single place but that he will no longer veil Himself and his activities. His time of silence will end. He reveals Himself in dramatic fashion, powerfully ... and then the pompous delusions of mankind like evolution and humanism and false religion will no longer be tolerated. God will come out of his place. Isaiah expresses his desire for God to "come out of his place" in chapter 64:1-4

*Oh that thou would rend the heavens, that thou would come down, that the mountains might flow down at thy presence, As when the melting fire burns, the fire causes the waters to boil, to make thy name known to thine adversaries, that the nations may tremble at thy presence! When thou didst terrible things which we looked not for, thou came down, the mountains flowed down at thy presence. For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waits for him.*

This expression of God "coming out of His place" is another way of expressing that our Creator will no longer limit His actions to providence but act openly and powerfully, ripping away the veil of ignorance from the face of Jew & Gentile (2 Cor. 3:14; Is. 25:7). As previously noted, this is when Yahweh will end His self-imposed silence (Amos 8:11-12; Micah 3:6-7; Isaiah 42:13-14).

In Isaiah chapter 63:7-14 we see the commentary concerning the care and lovingkindness of God for the Jewish people. Verses 15-19 are a commentary on His absence from their care and their yearning for His intervention... then we have the cry of "rend the heavens"...come out of your place.... for God to be the fire that is so hot it melts metal and boils water... for the purpose of making His name known to his enemies and educating the nations. This is in the context of the incredible promise that the Apostle Paul quotes to the Corinthians (1 Cor 2:9). We don't have the capacity to even imagine how wonderful God's blessings will be for those who love him. Isaiah 64 is another expression of the time when God will reverse the fortunes of the people who are called by His name and when apostate mankind will be held accountable for their wickedness.... when *the earth will disclose her blood.*

This is the expression back in Isaiah 26 and the last verse *For, behold, the LORD cometh out of his place to punish the inhabitants of the earth for their iniquity: the earth also shall disclose her blood, and shall no more cover her slain.* Yahweh “comes out of his place” ... He “rends the heavens” (rips through the political structure of the world). This is a similar statement to what we will see in the immediate verses following Isaiah 26 where rending the heavens is expressed as punishing Leviathan, the crooked serpent and dragon of the sea). At the moment our concern is the expression... *the earth shall disclose her blood.* This is an expression concerning the revealing of criminal evidence and guilt that has been long hidden... the ultimate “cold case.” The very first expression like this is an accounting of the first murder (Gen 4:10-11). The blood of Abel ‘spoke’ to God, despite being hidden. The testimony of Abel’s blood is mentioned in Hebrews 12:24 but pales next to the testimony of the Messiah’s blood.

The “earth disclosing her blood” is presented in more detail in Revelation within the several presentations of the millennial kingdom introduction. Rev 6:9-11; 18:24-19:4... The prophecy of the judgements upon Rome that will finally be executed at the beginning of the millennial kingdom age expresses this same thought of discovering their blood-guilt. This judgement upon Rome is part of the expression “rending the heavens.” Heaven or heavens is sometimes expressive of the elevated political structure of man’s society. For example Eph 3:8-10. Referring to the destruction of Babylon by the Medes God speaks of shaking the heavens (like rending, as an earth-tearing quake) - Isaiah 13:13. Also Is 34:1-5 is a clear indication of God’s expression of rending the heavens referring to political upheaval and political restructuring.

## Isaiah 27

Jesus refers to this political heavens upheaval in context with his return in the Olivet prophecy (Matt 24:29-31). This rending of the heavens... this ripping apart the political structure of apostate humanity is commented on in the first few verses of Isaiah 27 in this way: *In **that day the LORD** with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea. In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day. 4 Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. 5 Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me. 6 He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.*

The day of Yahweh is a phrase indicating a time when he will render ones deeds upon their heads. There are a number of applications to “the day of the Yahweh”. The judgements upon Israel in AD70 are referred to as the day of the LORD. The activities described in Zechariah chapters 12-14 concerning Israel when the Gogian host invades them and Christ saves them is repeatedly referred to as the Day of Yahweh. This ‘day of the LORD’ refers to the time when leviathan, the dragon of the sea, will be violently judged by the Creator. Those that were here when we studied Revelation may remember the definition of the dragon that is depicted throughout scripture. The dragon is the **political** representation of sin in the flesh. The serpent is used metaphorically to represent sin in the flesh throughout scripture, as in the case with the bronze serpent on the pole representing how the Messiah would die. The dragon is the aggregate societal representation of that sin in the flesh in political form... the Roman empire, Pagan Rome, the Holy Roman empire and the Papal office for 1260 years. The dragon identification begins in Daniel, although its roots are in the serpent in Eden. In Daniel 7 we have the dragon that is presented as the Roman empire, the fourth beast with its seven heads and ten horns, iron teeth and the antichrist system that issues from the Roman dragon in the form of the little horn that makes war with the saints... Dan 7:7-14.16-27. The Roman dragon would continue in some form until after the return of Jesus Christ. The dragon would be destroyed when the Messiah establishes his kingdom... this is what is meant by the

sword of God slaying the Leviathan of the sea. Remember all four of the empire beasts that Daniel saw came up out of the sea: Dan 7:2-3 *Daniel spake and said, I saw in my vision by night, and, behold, the four winds of the heaven strove upon the great sea. 3And four great beasts came up from the sea, diverse one from another.*

Then in Revelation 12 we see the next application of this dragon when it makes war with the woman with child, referring to pagan Rome's battle with Constantine and the apostate Christian community. By the end of chapter 12 the dragon, still Roman, is now Christian Rome and no longer Pagan Rome as it was in the beginning of the chapter. This prophecy describes the defeat of paganism under Constantine. In chapter 13 we have the beast of the sea and the beast of the land, with the similar dragon description. The beast of the sea is the Holy Roman empire and the beast of the land is the Papal office with its perfectly clear identification of 666. The same dragon is associated with several mutations but always maintains its relationship with apostate mankind's political structure, therefore the identification of the dragon being the political manifestation of sin in the flesh.

When we read in Isaiah 27 that *In that day the LORD with his sore and great and strong sword shall punish leviathan the piercing serpent, even leviathan that crooked serpent; and he shall slay the dragon that is in the sea...* we are reading of the violent judgements on the political manifestation of sin in the flesh. The Roman influence will be defeated and eliminated and sin in the flesh will no longer control the political affairs of mankind. Jesus will rend the political heavens. He will slay the dragon. The sword that slays the Leviathan dragon is clearly the word of God, issuing from the mouth of Christ.

**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-edged sword*

And Jesus was that word of God made flesh. He is the word of God made flesh and now resurrected to the immortal spirit nature - God's sword - that will slay the dragon, which is the political manifestation of sin in the flesh... just as he slew sin in the flesh on the cross at Calvary. Soon he will defeat the political application of the same power. 2 Thess 2:1-8 tells us when this will happen. This tells us the antichrist would appear before Christ came again and that Christ would destroy him after his return.... exactly the opposite of what popular Christianity teaches about the antichrist today... incorrectly presuming he will be revealed after Christ returns briefly for the rapture.

All Roman influence will be eliminated. This is expressed in several ways in scripture. Revelation 17 and 18 depict the problem of the Roman influence and the elimination of it and the weeping of apostate mankind for its loss. This prophecy tells us specifically that the antichrist will appear and do his deceiving work long before the return of Christ with its activity already starting in Paul's day. Christ will consume him with the spirit of his mouth.... which is the sword of the spirit that issues from the mouth of the multitudinous Christ described in:

**Rev 1:12-18** *And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 13And in the midst of the seven candlesticks one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. 14His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire; 15And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters. 16And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. 17And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: 18 I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death.*

This slaying of the dragon by the sword of God referred to in Isaiah 27 is expressed in greater detail in another prophecy depicting a sword coming out of the mouth of the Messiah and also the context of him destroying the

beast: Rev 19:11-21.

Back in Isaiah 27, following the prophecy of the slaying of the dragon we read from vs 2: *In that day sing ye unto her, A vineyard of red wine. 3 I the LORD do keep it; I will water it every moment: lest any hurt it, I will keep it night and day. 4 Fury is not in me: who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle? I would go through them, I would burn them together. 5 Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me. 6 He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.*

In Isaiah 5 we studied the song of God's vineyard, the nation of Israel. This prophecy in Isaiah 27 refers to the favoring of Israel, the time of their conversion, the circumcision of their hearts, when the vineyard will be restored, when God's fury is ended, the curses of Deut 28 and Lev 26 end and the kingdom is restored to Israel with the son of David sitting on his throne before David and the seed of Abraham inheriting the land with the very father of the faithful.

The question is asked 'who would set the briers and thorns against me in battle'? In the context of a flourishing vineyard we can certainly understand how briers and thorns would be the enemy of the vineyard. However, the analogy goes much further than this. Briers and thorns are a consistent symbol presented in scripture originating in the Edenic curse (Gen 3:17-19). Paul applies this parallel in 2 Cor 12:7 describing how he learned that his weakness was the key to accessing God's strength.

Briers and thorns bear no fruit. They are the enemies of fruitfulness. Jesus presents the thorns in the parable of the sower as worldly influences that choke the fruitfulness of the plant (*He also that received seed among the thorns is he that hears the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful*). God encourages the prophet Ezekiel in paralleling rebellious Judah to thorns & briers (Ezek 2:6-7). Hebrews 6 parallels the improper application of the miraculous Holy Spirit gifts to the ground that has received the rains bringing forth briers and thorns and bears a curse (Heb 6:4-8). Ps 118 parallels the king's defeat of the enemies of God's kingdom to the burning up of thorns.... just like Isaiah 27 (Ps 118:10-12). Thorns are used to parallel the apostate as when Song of Solomon describes the bride of Christ As the lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters. Jesus parallels thorns and thistles to false prophets in his warning in Matt 7:15-20. Ezekiel presents the judgement against Zidon, an enemy of Israel & home of Jezebel as the elimination of a picking brier or grieving thorn (Ezek 28:20-25). The briers and thorns that are the enemies of fruitful Israel will be eliminated. Is 27 presents the same thought as the briers and thorns that challenge God... but this time being burned up... by God.

The alternative to being burned as thorns is then presented in Isaiah 27 : *Or let him take hold of my strength, that he may make peace with me; and he shall make peace with me. 6 He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.* If you would prefer not to be burned like thorns in a hot, loud, brief, consuming fire... then make peace with God. This is the offer to the nations in Ps 2.... submit or be destroyed. Some nations will submit. Others will not. We know of the prophecy in Rev 19 of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords that rides on the white horse at the head of the army of God with the sword coming out of his mouth and makes war with the nations. However, some nations will submit before others... Is 60:1-12; Ps 72:1-11.



The last phrase in this prophecy maintains the parallel with plant life but shifts back to fruit bearing plant life (as opposed to briars and thorns) as is always the case with the enlightened... *6. He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit.* The vineyard will be restored. The choice vine will be planted on the fruitful hill and the wall and hedge will be restored (as originally described in Is 5). The Jewish people will repent. They will be regathered from around the world and become a symbol of the presence of the Creator..... *Zech. 8:22-23 22 Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD. 23 Thus saith the LORD of hosts; In those days it shall come to pass, that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you.*

This plant life metaphor is used extensively by God in relation to Israel. Ezek 36:7-12 is one example confirming this same application we are considering. This fruit bearing capability fits within the rule of fruitfulness that Jesus establishes with his disciples at the last supper (John 15:1-8). Because Judah did not accept or abide in the vine they were therefore unfruitful and were broken off and cast into the fire. When they accept their Messiah and repent... then their vine branches- extending from Jesus- will bear much fruit to God among the nations.

### **Enlightenment - Blessings- Righteousness**

*Isaiah 29:17-24 Is it not yet a very little while, and Lebanon shall be turned into a fruitful field, and the fruitful field shall be esteemed as a forest? 18 And in that day shall the deaf hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind shall see out of obscurity, and out of darkness. 19 The meek also shall increase their joy in the LORD and the poor among men shall rejoice in the Holy One of Israel. 20 For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off: 21 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproves in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought. 22 Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale. 23 But when he sees his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel. 24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.*

The darkening of understanding is followed by enlightenment... the deaf hearing, the blind seeing, they come to understanding and learn doctrine. The millennium kingdom will be a time of great enlightenment. Ignorance of the Creator will no longer be tolerated. Unfamiliarity with the founder of the kingdom of Israel and His son the Messiah will no longer be allowed. Divine education will sweep across the globe like the rising sun bringing light to those in darkness. Is 42:6-7, 13-20. God's previous education policy of reinforcing a chosen perspective will be reversed. God currently speaks in dark sayings, visions and parables to separate out those who truly want to understand from those who were looking for an excuse to wallow in self-worship. Personal perspectives will not be accommodated at the introduction of the millennial kingdom. Instead of the intentional complexity of dark sayings and visions and dreams there will be paradigm shifting earthquakes and volcanic action and plague and demands for submission.

When the world is enlightened, when light shines in dark places (meaning the minds of men) then the meek will increase... the poor will rejoice... the terrible will be brought to nothing.... the scorner consumed... those who anxiously watch for iniquity will be cut off.

The meek are identified frequently in relation to the benefits of the millennial kingdom. Ps 37:11; Matt 5:5; Ps 22:26-28; Ps 76:7-9; Ps 149:4-9; Is 11:4; Is 61:1-3 This is quoted by Jesus at beginning of his ministry to preach

the gospel of the kingdom... meek is changed to poor in Luke 4:17 where “poor” indicates the lowest class:

Strong’s Concordance:

34 [ebyown /eb-yone/] m adj . From 14, in the sense of want (especially in feeling); TWOT 3a; GK 36; 61 occurrences; AV translates as needy 35 times, poor 24 times, beggar once, and poor man once. 1 in want, needy, chiefly poor, needy person. 2 subject to oppression and abuse. 3 needing help, deliverance from trouble, especially as delivered by God. 4 general reference to lowest class. same word used in these places

Matt 5:3 *Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the kingdom of God*

In Luke 16 we see a certain beggar named Lazarus who is depicted as divinely acceptable while the rich man (probably indicating Caiaphus) is rejected.

James 2:5 *Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him?*

The poor of this world are those disenfranchised by the serpent/dragon powers (economical, political, religious and military. When the dragon is defeated the disenfranchised (the poor) benefit from this.

Why are specifically the meek so frequently identified with the benefits of the millennial kingdom? Because it is only the meek that can respond to the unique communication of God. Human ego is automatically repelled by God’s unique communication. Remember the lesson of why God speaks in visions and dreams and dark sayings and parables.... Numbers 12:6-9,3. It is meekness that opens our ears to the voice of God. It is meekness and suppression of ego... it is circumcision of the heart that opens the door to enlightenment. All the world worships a distorted reflection of themselves, whether they call it Jehovah or Allah or buddha or humanism or evolution... they worship the mirror. It is humility, meekness, rejection of self worship that is the key to understanding. The danger to our community is that the absence of a circumcised heart is not limited to the unenlightened community. It was the enlightened community that rejected Christ’s ministry and orchestrated his execution with the Romans. Jesus, Paul, Peter and Jude warn the Ecclesia of the many false teachers that will always develop from **within** the body of the enlightened.

Meekness is not natural to our cursed state. Our deceitful hearts are always seducing us with visions of our own importance and independence and self-satisfaction. It is the constant exposure to the humbling word of God that develops meekness. It is one of the four blessings of the daily readings.

**Deut 17:18-20** *And it shall be, when he sits upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: 19And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them: 20That his heart be not lifted up above his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel.*

Reading scripture has a very humbling effect. The daily readings can bring us to tears, send chills throughout our body, fill us with joy and appreciation and hope. I find it is rare when I am unmoved or emotionally untouched by the daily readings. I assume it is the same for most of us. Reading scripture humbles us... the consumed and digested word of God affects us. It is like a sharp sword cutting through the defensive crust of the conscience, allowing the word to be imprinted on our hearts, suppressing the relentless human ego.

Meekness is the opposite of arrogance. Meekness is the map for the path God wants us to walk. We walk the path of service and sacrifice... not being served and indulgence. Arrogance is the map for the path of indulgence and self-serving behavior. Meekness is an attitude that facilitates a readiness to step in and care for others, to empathize with their needs and pain, to compel assistance and service. Arrogance is the foundation for finding

humor in the disappointing challenges of others... such as the obstacle placed in the path of the blind (Lev 19:14 *Thou shalt not curse the deaf, nor put a stumblingblock before the blind, but shalt fear thy God: I am the LORD.* From Mt Ebal 6 tribes shouted the curses and one of them was *Cursed be he that makes the blind to wander out of the way. And all the people shall say, Amen* Deut 27:18. The meek assist... the arrogant serve themselves. Arrogance is a natural barrier to understanding in general. Arrogance and ignorance are the siamese twins of human behavior. Meekness is a window to education.

Meekness does not mean we are doormats or invisible. It means we are not self-promoters, and that we have an exterior focus as opposed to being focused on ourselves. The meek will accept abuse without recourse, but are not masochistic, inviting abuse. We shouldn't mistake confidence as arrogance, which eclipses meekness. Jesus was meek but still confident and resolute. He twice aggressively and violently cleared the temple of commercial activity. He publicly defined the arrogant Pharisees as hypocrites, whited sepulchres and the blind leading the blind. The Apostle Paul was meek but did not shrink from identifying ungodly behavior and promoting ecclesial discipline. The meek will inherit the earth, therefore we should develop meekness within ourselves, an exterior focus and a willingness to serve despite inviting abuse from both inside and outside the body of believers.

Immediately following the Isaiah 27 prophecy highlighting the increasing of the meek in the Millennial Kingdom these statements are presented: *20 For the terrible one is brought to nought, and the scorner is consumed, and all that watch for iniquity are cut off: 21 That make a man an offender for a word, and lay a snare for him that reproves in the gate, and turn aside the just for a thing of nought.*

These six failings will be addressed when the meek ascend, as then the arrogant must correspondingly descend.

1. the terrible ones are brought to nothing
2. the scorner is consumed
3. iniquity watchers are cut off
4. those who make a man an offender for a word are cut off
5. those who lay snare for the reprover in gate
6. those who turn aside the just for little value

This is not the behavior of the meek. The definition as being "terrible" indicates oppression. The word is translated oppressor, violent, strong, mighty. In Is 13:11 we read: *And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.* These terrible oppressors who serve themselves of others will be brought to nothing. The scorner will be consumed. The word for scorner is also translated mocker, and derision. The application here is those who mock righteousness will be consumed. We can certainly see this in our society today where iniquity is defined as righteousness and Godly behavior is scorned and maligned. Conscientious objectors who will not fight in the war are maligned as cowards and unpatriotic and unthankful for the benefits of this country. Those who oppose homosexual behavior are labeled judgmental, unloving, unforgiving and unChristlike. But in the Millennial kingdom the scorners will be consumed. Those who watch for iniquity will be cut off. There are those whose focus is iniquity, looking for opportunities... like a watchman on the wall scanning the horizon. This attitude depicts a focus. A focus is very powerful. It is vigilance. When one is focused, every aspect of their attention concerns their focus, examining everything in context of their focus and translating it into how it can benefit their focus. The focus of ones life is the object for which sacrifice is endured. If one's primary focus is family then everything else is subject to the dominance of family. If the truth is the focus then even family is subject to the dominance of that focus. This is why Jesus says *If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.* Those whose focus is iniquity, those who watch for iniquity .... will be cut off.

Those who make an offender for a word will also be cut off. The Hebrew word for offender is chaw-tah' which is primarily translated sin. There are those who are quick to identify others as sinners... for just a word. There are people focused on the failures of others, judgmental people who Pharisaically pounce on others at the slightest provocation. These are the people who manufacture new ways to sin, expanding the application of scripture to things that are not identified. The Pharisees expanded on God's commandments concerning clean and unclean items and determined that the washing of hands and dishes was Godliness and if one did not comply they were branded as wicked. It isn't that we are not supposed to reprove ungodly behavior. However the focus is concern for the offender and not the reflection on our own personal preferences. These personal preferences are frequently the focus of straining at a gnat in Christadelphian writings. We are no different than all the previous generations. We certainly have those who shout sinner, firing out their accusing finger ... for a word, at the slightest provocation. These people will be cut off in the kingdom. There are going to be many surprises at the judgement. People that have worked miracles are going to be told by Jesus... I never knew you. *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? 23And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.* Matt 7:23. We are told that many are called but few are chosen. We have the remember that is the enlightened that are the called - not the chosen. Few of the enlightened are going to be chosen. We should beware of being too quick to condemn, to scorn others as a sinner ... for a word.

The next failing is the exact opposite direction... one who responds incorrectly to **appropriate** rebuke. Those who lay a snare for the reprover in the gate will be cut off in the Restored Kingdom. The reprovers in the gate were the elders. The gate was the location where issues were judged. This failing is for those who respond negatively to appropriate rebuke.... as opposed to simply being condemned for a word. Some respond to rebuke by focusing their attentions on causing discomfort to those who rebuked them, laying a snare for the reprover in the gate. Their focus is still outward and not inward. There is no sorrow for inappropriate behavior, just a desire for repayment for their embarrassment. The social sting of the public rebuke by those appointed to determine right and wrong has not penetrated the conscience and effected repentance. These prefer returning evil for righteousness. The Sanhedrin laid a snare for Jesus due to their repeated embarrassments from him. Jeremiah suffered terribly by those within the Ecclesia who were highly offended at his declarations of their divine unacceptability.

Just as there are those within the body of the enlightened that will manufacture illegitimate rebukes (like the Pharisees with their traditions of men) so there are those who are courageous enough to make legitimate rebukes. Those who lay a snare for the legitimate reprover are just as unacceptable to God as the illegitimate reprover. We are required to **know** what is right.

The last of the six categories of unacceptable human behavior noted here is turning aside the just for a thing of naught. This behavior displays great disdain for the value of righteousness (being 'right'). Turning aside is diverting the progress of the just. Causing the just to turn aside is introducing some form of impediment in the path of the just. That may refer to temptation... inviting the failure of the just.... or simply inconvenient challenge. The real issue is that the motivation for this is of very little value. I was once told not even to drive through a certain section of the Bronx by locals because there are people there that will literally kill you there just for a bottle of soda or a candy bar. If this is true these offenders consider another person's life as having very little value. Those who turn aside the just for something of small value are showing a great disrespect for just behavior, considering its diversion as inconsequential. This disrespect for just behavior will be cut off in the millennial kingdom. This perverted serpent based value system will no longer be tolerated.

Is 29:22-24 *Therefore thus saith the LORD, who redeemed Abraham, concerning the house of Jacob, Jacob shall not now be ashamed, neither shall his face now wax pale. 23 But when he sees his children, the work of mine hands, in the midst of him, they shall sanctify my name, and sanctify the Holy One of Jacob, and shall fear the God of Israel. 24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.*

This is another prophecy of the repentance of the Jews, their enlightenment and the removal of their curses. The prophecy reads that the house of Jacob will not be ashamed.

Deut 28:37 curse of byword & humiliation; 1 Kings 9:7 (Solomon); Jer 24:9-10; 29:18-19; Ps 44 9-15 ...

Ezek 39:21-29 ending of shame of Israel ... Joel 2 19, 23-30; Zeph 3:12-20; Zech 8:11-15, 22-23

When a resurrected Jacob sees his children in the midst of him.... they will sanctify God's name and sanctify the Holy One of Israel and fear Him .... this is the repentance of the Jews. This is prompted by the recognition of Jesus of Nazareth as their Messiah Zech 13:6;

**Zech 12:9-14** *9And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will seek to destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem. 10And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourns for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. 11 In that day shall there be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. 12 And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart; 13The family of the house of Levi apart, and their wives apart; the family of Shimei apart, and their wives apart; 14All the families that remain, every family apart, and their wives apart.*

Looking upon the one they pierced expresses the recognition of Jesus of Nazareth as being their Messiah. There is a deep mourning following this realization. The mourning of Haddad Rimmon in the valley of Megiddo was for the death of Josiah who died there at the hands of Pharaoh Necho. It is expressed as very individual... families separate, & spouses separate. This is interesting as it identifies a very personal sorrow. When we mourn we rarely choose to do this alone. For the recent death of President Reagan the entire nation observed a memorial day with a holiday declared. We have memorials for a deceased family member where families and acquaintances gather to mourn together. We share grief and share the burden. Many attend these memorials out of a sense of duty and participate in the cumulative grief and sorrow and mourning. The mourning in this prophecy is not that category. It is a deep, powerful recognition that is individual and transforming. There is no contagious group emotion, no mob repentance... this is experienced on an individual basis with families apart and even spouses separate. We have four families identified. Four has always been the number of God manifest in the flesh and closely associated with the Jewish people. Both Political and Religious aspects of the Jews will join in this repentance, as the house of David and the house of Levi are identified.

David = beloved      Nathan = giver      Levi = joined      Shimei = renowned

Brethren have created different messages from these names, but they are similar in essence. My suggestion is that Israel will be beloved when they are give themselves to the renowned (Jesus) when he joins them (at the time of their greatest peril) ... since these names are bound up in the prophecy of the Jews recognition of the Messiah and their repentance.

We have already seen in previous considerations of these kingdom visions the repentance and favoring of the children of Jacob. Let's just look at a couple of them to confirm this understanding:

Deut 30:3-9; Ezek 37:21-27; Jer 31:31-34; Rom 11:25-29; 1 Cor 3:12-16; Hosea 14

Finally we are told in this prophecy in Isaiah that those who erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine. Since the focus at this point is the Jewish people I think we should

limit this application to the spiritual enlightenment of the Jewish people. We have considered their deep and personal repentance. This is the dramatic attitude change that invites re-education, a paradigm shift. A paradigm is a frame of reference, often societally shared. We have already seen in the previously considered prophecies of Israel's repentance that they will have a new heart (humbled, meek.... ready for instruction)

2 Cor 3 12-16 the veil will be removed, the blindness will end

Is 42:16-20 sight to the blind servant of God

Is 32:1-4 the rash shall understand knowledge

Zech 13:2-4 truth will be zealously guarded, parents will personally execute their deceiving son

One further exhortational thought in this phrase ... those who erred in spirit shall come to understanding and the murmurers will learn doctrine. Learning doctrine is an expression confirming the essence of this prophecy... repentance, reversal of behavior from unacceptable to acceptable and enlightenment. What is presented as a barrier to learning doctrine is "being a murmurer." We are told that even the murmurers will learn doctrine. Murmuring is therefore a major impediment to learning doctrine and proper behavior. So what is murmuring?

Ex 16:2-3; 17:3-4; Num 14:1-4 Murmuring is complaining.

God hates complaining! Num 11:1-3 The people complained... so God killed them.

Complaining, murmuring is a barrier to knowledge and learning doctrine. complaining is an inward concentration ... what do I want... what do I need ... why aren't I being respected enough? An interior focus (heart generated, mirror worshipping focus) blinds us to divine instruction... since divine instruction is based on an exterior focus. The 'way' that we read so much of in scripture is the 'way' of self-sacrifice, of emptying oneself, of pouring out our blood or life at the feet of Jesus... like the sacrificial blood was poured out at the base of the altar. This 'way' is thankfulness for whatever we have as well as concentrating on the needs of others and not ourselves... An inward focus will blind us to doctrine. Murmurers are self-inflicted with blindness. The problem for our particular generation is that this world teaches us that complaining is right and justified and appropriate and it is right to always want more. This is why we have unions and advocate lawyers and complaint procedures at work and at retail stores. We are trained from childhood by this world to complain endlessly. When I was a child everyone used the terms please and thank you. That is very rare today. The serpent philosophy is accelerating rapidly to its ultimate chaining in the pit by Christ and the immortalized saints.

This is why meekness is the gateway to understanding the veiled language of scripture. Meekness is not self-promotion. The meek do not demand indulgences and are not indignant at getting their way. The meek are not inwardly focused, and therefore open to divine instruction. The meek do not complain but accommodate inconvenience. They turn the other cheek when struck, trusting that God will avenge them.

The lesson is therefore that thankfulness, the opposite of complaining and murmuring, is a key to understanding the mind of God, understanding doctrine... properly applied doctrine (knowledge) is wisdom. One cannot be wise until they lose the inward focus and are more concerned of God and the needs of others than themselves and can learn to be thankful in all situations. The Thanksgiving Offering was the **greatest** of the peace offerings, which is the offering category that represented harmony and fellowship with God... with all participants fellowshiping together in the one sacrificial animal. The thanksgiving offering had more restrictions than the other two peace offerings.

Thanksgiving Offering: Eaten 1st day and then incinerated, no leaven

Votive Offering: Eaten 1st and 2nd day and then incinerated, no leaven

Freewill Offering: Eaten 1st & 2nd day, leaven allowed

One of the ways I have tried to train myself and my family to be thankful is to always thank God before asking him for anything. Dorrie and I trained our daughters to pray as little girls. We sat on the floor and held hands, respecting and demonstrating the principle of God manifestation. We joined ourselves into one body as the four of us held our eight hands together. We were four with one name... just as four is the number of God manifestation and our hope of salvation is to inherit in body the name of Yahweh, the family name into which we are baptized (Matt 28:19). We took turns first deciding something for which we wanted to thank God for and then each requested something to pray for. We did not limit requests, but we did steer, suggesting people to pray for, benefits to request like health and safety and daily bread and specific things to be thankful for. On many occasions I had to write things down because there were so many suggestions and my personal memory limitations are well known. We made a practice of always thanking our heavenly Father before we ever dared ask Him for anything.

Thankfulness defeats murmuring. Murmuring is a veil of darkness insuring ignorance. Jude, in his letter of warning to the brotherhood concerning the great danger from within the brotherhood of false teachers and false brethren alludes to this relationship between murmuring and divine ignorance.

**Jude verse 16** *These are murmurers, complainers, walking after their own lusts; and their mouth speaks great swelling words, having men's persons in admiration because of advantage.*

We'll define who "these" are in a moment, but these members of the Ecclesia Jude is warning us about are somewhat defined as murmurers and complainers. These murmurers and complainers walk after their own lusts... they are self-consumed, which is always the case for complainers. These murmurers and complainers speak great swelling words... they are very convincing. They draw followers, since it is natural to the flesh to concentrate on what we are missing ... what we think we deserve! But listen to the last part of the description... they have persons in admiration because of advantage. Advantage may be financial or social influence. These are not reasons to have people in admiration. Paul tells us why to have people in admiration...

**1 Tim 5:17** *Let the elders that rule well be counted worthy of double honor, especially they who labour in the word and doctrine.*

So who are "these" that are murmurers and complainers walking after their own lusts? They are members of the brotherhood. Jude addresses his letter to the divinely sanctified: verse 1 *Jude, the servant of Jesus Christ, and brother of James, to them that are sanctified by God the Father, and preserved in Jesus Christ, and called.*

Jude doesn't waste any words...he starts right in with his warning

*3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. 4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.*

He is warning of those within the brotherhood. They have crept in unawares. They turn the grace of God into lasciviousness. Doctrinally they deny the Lord God as well as our Lord Jesus Christ. I believe this is initially but not exclusively a reference to the doctrine of the antichrist, the one that would deny the flesh of Christ (2 John vs 7). These murmurers & complainers are promoters of false doctrine. The lock on this understanding, that the murmurers and complainers Jude offers by example are exclusively from within the brotherhood.

*I will therefore put you in remembrance, though ye once knew this, how that the Lord, having saved the people out of the land of Egypt, afterward destroyed them that believed not. 6 And the angels which kept not their first estate, but left their own habitation, he hath reserved in everlasting chains under darkness unto the judgment of the great day. 7 Even as Sodom and Gomorrhah, and the cities about them in like manner, giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire. 8 Likewise also these filthy dreamers defile the flesh, despise dominion, and*

*9 speak evil of dignities. 9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee. 10 But these speak evil of those things which they know not: but what they know naturally, as brute beasts, in those things they corrupt themselves. 11 Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward, and perished in the gainsaying of Core.*

1. Children of Israel that rejected the promised land out of cowardice and faithlessness
2. 'Angels' that left their first estate was the rebellion of Korah Dathan & Abiram claiming the illegitimacy of the Aaronic priesthood and that all Israel was holy.
3. The disputing about the body of Moses is reference to the defensive claims of the illegitimacy of Joshua's High Priest appointment when others claimed priesthood but could not prove lineage.
4. Cain... Balaam ... Korah .... all part of the brotherhood, all enlightened.

It should not be presumed Sodom & Gomorrah qualify as some kind of exception to the brotherhood association. Lot lived among the residents of Sodom and out of his huge entourage that was so large that he and Abraham had to split up... he and his daughters were the only ones saved when destruction came. Out of that vast Ecclesia of Lot... only three people were saved. It is fairly safe to say there were hundreds in Lot's group. We remember that Abram took 318 military capable men from his own group to rescue Lot. That would not include the older, the infirm, the women or the children. And since it was the practice to have many children and even more than one wife it is safe to assume Abram's group numbered close to or more than 1,000. In order for Lot's group to qualify as threatening the consumption of the assets of an environment they would have had to number in the hundreds or their presence would have been completely inconsequential. Out of those Ecclesial hundreds only Lot and his two daughters came out alive. The rest of the ecclesia was destroyed with the Sodomites. Therefore the application of the lesson here is for the danger from **within** the brotherhood... the danger of false teachers, the danger of brothers and sisters who complain and murmur and speak great swelling words and are self consumed and promote false doctrine. Complaining, murmuring (an interior focus) is a barrier to understanding. Thankfulness, appreciation, meekness are the keys to understanding. Self promotion and self consumption is the locked door preventing access to divine understanding.

Our original consideration was the part of the prophecy in Isaiah concerning the Millennial Kingdom that says: *Is 29:24 They also that erred in spirit shall come to understanding, and they that murmured shall learn doctrine.* The murmurers will learn doctrine. The confirmed conclusion is that murmuring, complaining is a barrier to understanding.

## Isaiah 30

Overview before we read the text of Isaiah 30:

- Isaiah 30:12-17 God's rejection of Israel and breaking them like a potter's vessel, just like the first two stones of the ten commandments at the base of Mt Sinai.
- 18-26 concern the favoring of Israel, their repentance and the benefits of the Millennial Kingdom
- 27-33 deal with God's defense of the promised land against the aggressors and some of the methods of His warfare

Read Isaiah 30:12-33

**Is 30:18** *And therefore will the LORD wait, that he may be gracious unto you, and therefore will he be exalted, that he may have mercy upon you: for the LORD is a God of judgment: blessed are all they that wait for him.* There will be a time of waiting from the point at which God breaks Israel like a potter's vessel to the time he favors them and exalts Himself. This parallels the prophecy of God's silence.... when the sun will go down over



the prophets and when there will be a famine of the word of God. God will wait. Blessed are those who wait with Him and for Him.

**Is 40:28-31** *Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, faints not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. 29 He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increases strength. 30 Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: 31 But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

These are some of the benefits of the divine nature, awarded to those who “wait” upon Yahweh:

- renewing their strength like the eagles
- running without getting tired
- walking without loss of energy. Limitless energy for those who wait ... upon Yahweh.

The five foolish virgins from Matt 25 weren't willing to wait long enough. They only brought sufficient oil for a limited wait for the bridegroom and therefore were unprepared when he arrived suddenly. Waiting is difficult. It can be frustrating. We see those who don't wait ... indulging, enjoying and satisfying themselves. Frequently the waiters are coaxed and jeered to stop their foolish wait and join the impatient. It is especially difficult to wait in a military situation. When the enemy is charging and the fear is rising within us and we have to wait for the right moment. The famous order at Bunker Hill during the American Revolutionary War was “don't fire until you can see the whites of their eyes”. Waiting is not easy.

It appears there were those in the first century ecclesia that were impatient also. Paul addresses this issue to the Thessalonians in his second letter. There must have been brethren suggesting that Jesus was going to return in their lifetime. Paul sets them straight. Paul certainly didn't believe Jesus was going to return during his lifetime.... except to judge and destroy the nation of Israel... to burn up heaven and earth.

**2 Thess 2:1-5** *Now we beseech you, brethren, by the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, <sup>2</sup> 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. <sup>3</sup> Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; <sup>4</sup> Who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sits in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God. <sup>5</sup> Remember ye not, that, when I was yet with you, I told you these things?*

Saul couldn't wait for Samuel and took upon himself to offer the sacrifice... 1 Sam 13:6-14

Impatience is dangerous. Just like Saul, we could lose the kingdom because of impatience. It is better to consider the potential cost as the wait begins and settle in our minds our willingness to pay the full price, to determine that we will accept death, impoverishment, abandonment, loneliness, lovelessness... before failure. Are we willing to be abandoned by everyone we love because they won't wait any longer? Are we willing to die rather than stop waiting? Are we willing to lose all our goods and comfort rather than stop waiting. We should see ourselves in our minds eye in these situations and embrace that potential reality.... so that we are resolute in our waiting. Because there is great advantage in waiting for the LORD.

**Is 30:19-22** *For the people shall dwell in Zion at Jerusalem: thou shalt weep no more: he will be very gracious unto thee at the voice of thy cry; when he shall hear it, he will answer thee. 20 And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: 21 And thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, This is the way, walk ye in it, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left. 22 Ye shall defile also the covering of thy*

*graven images of silver; and the ornament of thy molten images of gold: thou shalt cast them away as a menstruous cloth; thou shalt say unto it, Get thee hence.*

It is easy to identify this text as representing the Restored Kingdom period as we see the permanent abandonment of false worship and there will be no more weeping. The Jewish curses will end. We can see in this description the reason why they will no longer drift away and abandon Yahweh for the false gods of the surrounding nations... they will **see** their teachers, who will be in their face (their teachers won't be removed to a corner anymore)... their teachers of old like Moses, David, Elijah, Daniel, etc. Their ears will hear a voice behind them (over their shoulder) saying don't go that way.... over there is the right path, walk over there. I can't tell you how many times I had wished I had an angel behind me telling me which is the right way to go. Yes, we have our conscience. But consciences can be deceived. If we listen to the world (or the ever-present false Brethren within the body of Christ) our conscience can excuse as opposed to accuse. Sometimes it is hard to determine whether our instincts are motivated by scripture or the deceitful heart. The Jews will have their teachers looking over their shoulders saying uh-uh-uhhhh... move more to the right, or you'd better turn around now. This concept is considered a nightmare to our society. Many years ago a book was written by George Orwell entitled 1984. It was about the concept of Big Brother, where the government watched our every move and knew everything everyone did... total surveillance. It was considered a horror story. The difference, of course, is that human government would be very different from divine management. The American Civil Liberty Union would be aghast at such a principle. I don't think they will fit in during the millennial kingdom. The freedom to determine our own morality will not be accommodated. However, if we want freedom from sin and death then we would welcome over the shoulder management. It will not be like the time of the judges when *every man did what was right in his own eyes*. Their teachers will not be removed to a corner again... they will see their teachers and a voice behind them will direct them in the right path. This is why the false worship and the following of their imagination will stop forever. The instruments of their apostasy, expressed as images of gold and silver, will be disposed of with great distaste.

**Is 30:23-25** *Then shall he give the rain of thy seed, that thou shalt sow the ground withal; and bread of the increase of the earth, and it shall be fat and plenteous: in that day shall thy cattle feed in large pastures. 24 The oxen likewise and the young asses that ear the ground shall eat clean provender, which hath been winnowed with the shovel and with the fan. 25 And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.*

Here is yet another prophecy of the agricultural blessings of the millennial kingdom. This agricultural response to Israel's prophesied repentance and behavioral reversal is consistent with God's laws. God promised that if Israel would keep his laws then He would send the rain that the 'promised land' was so dependent upon and the earth would yield abundantly. When the Jewish people repent and turn back to Yahweh... when sin is chained for 1,000 years.... the effects of sin will also be suppressed and the agricultural aspect of the Edenic curse will be suppressed also. The earth will again yield abundantly. Palestine will become a greater land of milk and honey than it ever has been.

- Deut 11:8-17 defines the relationship between positively responding to God's word and receiving the rain.
- Ezek 34:22-31...showers & the agricultural blessing of promised land in the Kingdom.

The abundance will be so great that even the animals will be given the best provender... clean and winnowed and fanned. Rivers and streams will criss-cross the land over mountains and hills, unlike today after the winter and spring rains create "wadis" in Israel... temporary waterways that dry up in the summer, extending throughout the fall and early winter. The land will be geographically reshaped, like we read in Zechariah of how Jerusalem will be elevated while the Judean hills surrounding Jerusalem from a little to the north to far in the south will become a plain... the geographical prostration before Jerusalem. Just as the dust surrounding

Jerusalem will bow before an elevated Jerusalem.... so will humanity (made from the dust of the ground) correspondingly bow before an elevated Jesus, the greatest teacher of peace, which is the meaning of the name Jerusalem. The earth will geographically reflect the plan of God, just as it always has to those who have eyes to see and ears to hear. There is a reference to this reshaping of the geography here in Isaiah 30:25 where it says *And there shall be upon every high mountain, and upon every high hill, rivers and streams of waters in the day of the great slaughter, when the towers fall.* The towers will fall because of the great earthquake. This earthquake is described in Ezekiel 38 (in the context of God's judgements against the nations that have invaded Israel (Ezek 38:18-23). This geographic violence will serve more than one purpose. It will be one of the weapons defined as the sword coming out of the Messiah's mouth, a tool to defeat the enemy of God's people. It will also reshape the land like a landscaper allowing for greater agricultural productivity... cutting waterways and moving topsoil. Rivers and streams of water will appear on the great day of slaughter when the towers fall.

**Is 30: 26** *Moreover the light of the moon shall be as the light of the sun, and the light of the sun shall be sevenfold, as the light of seven days, in the day that the LORD binds up the breach of his people, and heals the stroke of their wound.*

How appropriate that light will increase in the day when Yahweh ends his silence, when He heals the breach of His people, when He judges the aggressors against His people, when the long awaited Messiah appears to save them. The light of the sun will be sevenfold and the moon will prevent darkness as it will shine with the intensity of the sun. There was another day like this when God fought for Israel in the promised land when they were led by another Jesus (Joshua) against the king of Jerusalem and his four allies (Joshua 10:7-14). The sun stood still for about 24 hours ... a full day, projecting the day of the LORD described in Zechariah chapters 12-14 when the Jews in the land of Israel will be humbled and realize Jesus of Nazareth is their Messiah, when the invaders will be eliminated and when Yahweh will become the king of the earth in Jesus Christ.

The intensity of the sun and moon is so appropriate. We read that light is the inheritance of the saints (Col 1:12-13). This is a feature of the glory of the kingdom and the change in nature of the faithful (Matt 17:1-3). Light is an appropriate herald of the Creator, who is defined as light 1 John 1:5 *This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. 6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: 7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanses us from all sin.*

In the **post**-millennial kingdom period darkness, appropriately, ceases to exist (Rev 22:1-5).

At the introduction of the seventh day, the seventh millennium, the light of the sun will be as seven days... when God binds up the breach and heals the stroke of his people. The veil will be removed, from Jew and Gentile... the world will be enlightened. The silliness of evolution will be exposed for the egocentric fantasy it is. The generation will say we have inherited lies from our fathers. Natural and spiritual light will flood the earth in the day of Yahweh... as physical will always have to parallel spiritual, which is why physical curses followed Adam Eve's spiritual failure... and physical blessings follow the chaining of sin.

**Isaiah 30:27-28** *Behold, the name of the Yahweh comes from far, burning with his anger, and the burden thereof is heavy: his lips are full of indignation, and his tongue as a devouring fire: 28 And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.*

I find it interesting we are told the name of Yahweh will come from far (indicating the Creator and those in his name). This is the name that the Jews refuse to speak and have avoided writing. This is the name that the

Christians consider totally insignificant and substitute with the generic LORD in their Bible translations. God's name will come from far... it will be revealed and known. He Shall Be ... revealed.... in the intense light. Just as we read that the weapon of the Messiah is the sword coming out of his mouth we read that Yahweh's tongue is a devouring fire.... his breath is a flooding and overwhelming stream. God's weapon is His word. He speaks and it happens. This power will be demonstrated through Emmanuel.... God with us.... Jesus who bears the family name of Yahweh ... just as we do (Matt. 28:19). Jesus could stop the stormy winds and violent waves by speaking to them (Mark 4:37-41)... he will be able to command them along with all aspects of creation to perform his will. His weapon is his verbal commands. His tongue will be a devouring fire. Notice the standard of judgement for this devouring tongue.... sifting the nations with a sieve of vanity. the Hebrew word for vanity is *shav*. It is the same word used in the 3rd commandment... don't take the name of Yahweh our Elohim in vain (falsely or casually). It is also the word used when God commands his people not to present a "false" report. The word means useless , valueless or false. The 3rd commandment was to avoid taking upon ourselves the name of Yahweh casually or falsely. Yahweh will sift the nations with the sieve of vanity. The useless and the false will pass through the sieve to experience the judgements of the sword issuing from the mouth of Emmanuel. It is interesting that the word vanity in our society has a meaning of self-devotion.... mirror worship. That certainly is false and useless, but it isn't the direct meaning of the Hebrew word *shav*. But it is interesting that every form of false doctrine elevates the flesh and degrades the Creator.... clearly identifying self worship. I have said this many times... **that every form of false doctrine is a form of self-worship**... of vanity. It's easy to find examples of this.

- The trinity horribly degrades the Creator and elevates created man. It suggests that the divine intent was a lie and should have been reversed.... that instead of man becoming in God's image and likeness that God had to condescend to recalibrate himself in man's image and likeness in order to save mankind from his supposedly wrecked creation project. Instead of man striving to rise to a reflection of God this blasphemous doctrine demands that God should lower himself to us. It requires us to see God as a horrible liar and deceiver, that he slipped into a human disguise he called Jesus and pretended to be able to be tempted, pretended to be able to die, pretended to die and pretended to come back to life... all things God tells us He is incapable of.
- The fallen angel deception demands we understand that immortality is an unclean state, that immortals have the capacity to sin.... that God's very nature is defiled and morally no better than man's. It requires us to accept that God suffered a war in his home... that he was somehow unaware or ambivalent to the smoldering rebellion under his nose. The fallen angel atrocity frees us from guilt and places the responsibility of sin and even Adam & Eve's failure at the hands of God's former greatest ally. It reverses the source of evil from within us to outside of us.
- We could go on an on. All forms of false doctrine degrade our Heavenly Father and exalt sin cursed humans.

Jesus refers to this principle of how false doctrine degrades God in Luke 20. The Sadducees didn't believe there would be any resurrection. This cursed life is what they worshipped. They saw their elevated financial and influential state as the highest possible divine position one could attain. They also saw their privileges as validations of their presumptions of divine acceptability. Nothing was greater than themselves. There could be no resurrection, as that would be humbling and deflate their vanity. They thought they had the perfect question for this self-proclaimed Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth. We all remember the story they were setting him up with... the story of a woman had seven brothers for husbands one after another. They all died with no children, so who's wife will she be in the resurrection? Jesus rebukes their false presumptions that life after the resurrection will be no different and that the terms of the curse will be the same. Vanity and self-worship has that effect... making us very shallow minded. But Jesus goes much further than answering their question. He addresses how their false doctrine actually degrades God.... Luke 20:37-40 *Now that the dead are raised, even Moses showed at the bush, when he calls the Lord the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of*

*Jacob. 38 For he is not a God of the dead, but of the living: for all live unto him. 39 Then certain of the scribes answering said, Master, thou hast well said. 40 And after that they durst not ask him any question at all.*

Jesus showed them how their self-worshipping doctrine insulted the God they claimed to worship... their false doctrine made Yahweh into nothing but a god of the dead, like the pagan gods of the dead Hades or Pluto or Anubis of Kali. The very way God defined himself by dead men declared the truth of the resurrection. This is why they stopped asking him questions.... their embarrassment was uncomfortable. I find that very interesting. That in itself is proof that one's self-image is more important than enlightenment. The scribes ( the keepers of the law - the supposed experts on God's law) admitted that Jesus (addressing him as "Master") had answered well. That in itself should be the foundation for more questions.... a fountain of enlightenment stood before them. They simply didn't want the embarrassment.... to be told in front of those in the temple that their religious beliefs made their God into a god of the dead. Avoiding embarrassment was worth more than enlightenment. How about us? I learned when I was much younger that there is no such thing as a dumb question. Are we afraid to ask questions - to learn - due to the risk of asking what may be thought of as a dumb question? The only reason a question can be dumb is that it is never asked. How many times do we have questions we are afraid to ask because we are afraid of embarrassment? ... of the snickers of others or the harsh response of the answerer? Here was the ultimate teacher with all the answers... but fear of embarrassment exceeded any love of understanding. This qualifies as one of those 'costing' exercises. Remember how Jesus told us to consider the cost of discipleship in advance (Luke 14:25-35)?! We have to settle in our minds that enlightenment is worth any embarrassment, that truth is paramount. This is one of the reasons I love Peter. Peter was impetuous, yes. He was rebuked for his claim that Jesus would not die, even referred to as "satan" and commanded to get behind Jesus. He was told he would deny even knowing Jesus three times in a row in a single evening. Peter kept getting rebuked in front of others. Peter was not deterred. He kept on coming. Peter makes his motivation clear. In John 6 we see the account where Jesus speaks in riddles to the crowd and many of his disciples are offended at his words... that they would have to eat his flesh and drink his blood and they leave [John 6:66-69]. *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.*

Peter defines his love of enlightenment and hope that would eclipse his fear of embarrassment. Peter kept on coming. Even after his triple denial as his beloved master was on trial for his life... he went out and wept bitterly, but he faced the other disciples and eventually faced a risen Jesus also. Have we considered the cost and determined in our mind that answers are better than potential embarrassment. Who is our God? ... the God of truth or the mirror of vanity? God will sift the nations with the sieve of vanity.

Following the statement concerning the sieve of vanity it reads "*and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.*" The context is the nations... not the Jews. The Jews will actually repent at this time. When the Lord sifts the nations with the sieve of vanity these nations are going to resist. Now this isn't a surprise to us as the Moslems will refuse to accept a Jewish Messiah and Catholics around the world would not accept the real Jesus Christ and many Christians expect the Antichrist in exactly the fashion and events that accompany Christ's return. Evolutionists won't want to admit their confidence was totally groundless. What we should pay attention to is the fact that there will be a bridle in their jaws causing them to err. What is this 'bridle' that causes the nations to err? Is this God or perhaps their ego? Ego is certainly powerful enough, but there are precedents for God putting this bridle in the jaws of the people.

- Is 37:21-29 Isaiah's prophecy to Hezekiah not to fear Sennacharib the king of Assyria... God would put His hook in Sennacharib's nose and a bridle in his lips. That night 180,000 of Sennacharib's troops died.

- Ezek 38:3-4 God puts hooks in the jaws of Rosh and draws their army down to Israel... for the purpose of glorifying His name
- Ex 9:12; Ex 10:1-2 Yahweh hardened the heart of Pharaoh for the purpose of His glorification and for motivation for his children... one generation telling the next.

But who can resist God? Is this fair? Paul addresses this question in the same context with the hardening of Pharaoh's heart: Rom 9:14-24.

Therefore it may be that God puts the bridle in the jaws of the nations for the purpose of glorifying His name... which will probably harness their own egos that will refuse to allow them to humble themselves and admit their foolishness and the history of the intense foolishness of their fathers & ancestors. Whichever the cause, nations will resist Christ and the saints and God will be glorified because of it.

The final verses of this vision of the future present just such a picture of the powerful glorification of God. Is 30:29-33 *Ye shall have a song, as in the night when a holy solemnity is kept; and gladness of heart, as when one goeth with a pipe to come into the mountain of the LORD, to the mighty One of Israel. 30 And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall show the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones. 31 For through the voice of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod. 32 And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass (rod of punishment), which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it. 33 For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.*

The redeemed will have a song of joy, of deliverance. This must be Israel that will be redeemed out of the hands of the latter day Assyrian (vs 31). Israel had a song of deliverance when they crossed the Red Sea (Ex 15). The saints will have a song as well (Rev 15:2-4). This song encompasses much but specifically identifies the destruction of the religious/political beast system centering on the Catholic Church. This is not the Assyrian identified in Isaiah 30. The latter day Assyrian is Russia (Rosh) and Tophet is in the Valley of Hinnom just outside Jerusalem where the battle between Christ and the invaders will take place, as Jesus's feet stand on the mount of Olives as presented in Zech 14 when Jerusalem is liberated.

This will be a song of joy... like when one pipes a song as they go to the mountain of Yahweh. Vs 30 says that Yahweh's voice will be heard. Vs 31 says that through the **voice** of Yahweh shall the Assyrian be beaten down. This is another confirmation of the conclusion we made as to the weapon of the Messiah and the saints. It is a sword that will go out of his mouth. Jesus will speak and lightning will electrocute, hail will crush, the splitting earth will destroy, volcanic action will burn... *For through the **voice** of the LORD shall the Assyrian be beaten down, which smote with a rod. 32 And in every place where the grounded staff shall pass, which the LORD shall lay upon him, it shall be with tabrets and harps: and in battles of shaking will he fight with it.* Christ will **speak** and specifically the ammunition itemized here is lightning, devouring flame, tempest and hailstones. These are all methods of God's warfare he has used in the past. He has sent fire from heaven to consume:

- like the two captains and their fifty that came to take the prophet Elijah and were burned alive.
- God sent a tempest or storm against the iron chariots of Sisera when Debra and Barak led Israel against his invaders. This is yet another parallel with the day the sun stood still when Joshua (Greek is 'Jesus') led Israel against the nations of the 10 kings on the day the sun stood still. Joshua 10:5 the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon.... .  
11 And it came to pass, as they fled from before Israel, and were in the going down to Bethhoron, that the

LORD cast down great stones from heaven upon them unto Azekah, and they died: they were more which died with hailstones than they whom the children of Israel slew with the sword.

Vs 33 sounds very much like the terms of an altar sacrifice: *For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it.* This is very appropriate because God defines this as a sacrifice in Ezekiel when he will defeat the latter day Assyrian at Jerusalem.

There is a pile of wood in Tophet (valley of Hinnom to the west and south of Jerusalem ... at the base of Mt Zion). The 'animal' sacrifice is the invaders and the fire will be ignited by the brimstone-like breath of Yahweh issuing like a sword from the mouth of His son. This is an offering Christ and the immortalized saints make to Yahweh for his glorification before the eyes of the nations. The terms and details of this sacrifice are spelled out in Ezek 38:15-23 earthquake, panic, plague, storm [lightning], hail, rain fire-volcanic action; 39:7, 17-22 (sacrifice aspect for the purpose of God's glorification before Israel and nations).

Finally verse 23 - the motivation: *Thus will I magnify myself, and sanctify myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I am Yahweh.*

## Isaiah 31

Chapter 31 at first appears to be a departure from this vision of the end days, but certain phrases define it as a continuation of the same vision of the end days.

- verses 4-5 God fighting for and defending Jerusalem
- verses 7-9 declare the time of Israel's repentance, Assyrian defeated but not by men, the Godless will fear due to the ensign, and the reference to God's furnace at Jerusalem

The problem with linking chapter 31 to 30 at first appears to be the dire exhortation not to run down to Egypt when threatened, which is exactly what the remnant of Judah did with Jeremiah after Gedaliah was murdered. But due to the continuation of terminology with chapter 31 I think the application would be understanding Egypt as an icon for 'fleshly' might and not geographically Egypt. This prophecy can't refer to that time as God did not defend Jerusalem at that time and the Assyrian certainly wasn't defeated and there was no national repentance of the Jews, all of which are presented in this chapter.

I realize that in chapter 36 of Isaiah we have the account of the Assyrian army besieging Jerusalem and being defeated by God and not men, when 180,000 of them died during the night. However, it is not recorded that Hezekiah even considered sending to Egypt for assistance. He turned to Yahweh. In addition this is not a time of Judah's repentance from godlessness. Therefore that incident is not being addressed either. This is a continuation of the vision presented in chapter 30 and through to chapter 35 of the last days. The application of Egypt cannot be literal. It is a parallel of human might versus divine might and where we put our trust. Do we trust our eyes ... vast numbers of soldiers, chariots, and horses... or do we live by faith and ignore what our eyes can see? Do we live by flesh or spirit? If we want to qualify to become spirit nature then we have to start thinking and trusting in spirit terms... not in what is in front of our eyes. In the last days Egypt wouldn't be the place the Jews would run to for sanctuary anyway. The United States is where they turn to now for military might and protection. I would suggest that Egypt here is a symbol for fleshly might and not literally Egypt.

verses 4-5: *For thus hath the LORD spoken unto me, Like as the lion and the young lion roaring on his prey, when a multitude of shepherds is called forth against him, he will not be afraid of their voice, nor abase himself for the noise of them: so shall the LORD of hosts come down to fight for mount Zion, and for the hill thereof.*

God says he will be like the lion that is unafraid of the multitude of shepherds, who yell at the lion and try to frighten him with noise. At first this may seem like an odd parallel as God is talking about defending Zion, or

Jerusalem. This is the flock of God, why would he present himself as a lion seeking to protect the flock and the shepherds are the aggressors against the flock? There is more than one reason why this is a perfect representation. This is a vision of the last days, when the latter day Assyrian and their allies invade the land. It will be the lion of the tribe of Judah (the immortalized Jesus Christ) that defends them. Christ will be unafraid of the invaders. He commands heaven and earth and their might is nothing against him. He is the lion.

Why would shepherds be the aggressors? Because the invaders have taken the promised land for their benefit. They presume they are the caretakers of the land now. Just like the Jewish elders who were parasitic shepherds, using their influence to exploit and not serve, these shepherds are the invaders who have come to take advantage of the flock. The lion comes to save the flock, at the time when the lion will lie down with the lamb. vs 6. *As birds flying, so will the LORD of hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also he will deliver it; and passing over he will preserve it.* The second analogy is like flying birds. When birds are defending their young in the nest they are unafraid. Every spring we have this crazy bird that builds a nest over the door of our garage. It lays eggs there every year and raises its young. When I exit the house and try to enter the garage early every weekday this bird attacks me. I have never attacked this bird or tried to remove its nest or take its young, but the bird attacks me. This tiny little thing is unafraid, even though I could do it a lot more harm than it could inflict on me. Just as the lion is unafraid of all the shepherds trying to scare it away the unafraid birds attack those it presumes are threatening their young, ignoring any potential personal harm. Why would God parallel Christ and the saints to birds in addition to the very appropriate lion parallel? Because... God frequently uses the fowl of heaven to represent a heavenly party... whether it is a divine heavenly party or a politically elevated 'heavenly' party or a military organization God that dispatches to work his will.

- Ex. 19:3-4; Deut 32:11 (eagles wings)
- Gen 15 the 8 parts of the covenant between God & man - 2 birds (fowl of heaven) un-severed
- two birds were used in offerings (leper cleansing, poor mother for birthing (burnt & sin offering))
- 2 Sam 1:23 interestingly David and Jonathon are paralleled to a lion & a bird - just like Is 31
- Is 40:31 Immortalized saints are paralleled to eagles
- Ezek 1 the cherubim have the face of an eagle (4th face) also living creatures of Rev 4-5

Therefore it is highly appropriate that Christ and the saints are paralleled to birds protecting their young in their nest from marauders.

Verses 6-7 depict the repentance of the Jews who have returned to the land at this time. *6 Turn ye unto him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. 7 For in that day every man shall cast away his idols of silver, and his idols of gold, which your own hands have made unto you for a sin.*

Turn back - to him from whom the children of Israel have deeply revolted. We have seen again and again the many prophecies depicting the repentance of the Jews back in the promised land when the latter day Assyrian invades and their Messiah saves them and they repent. One might be tempted to suggest that this prophecy may refer to how the Jews abandoned idol worship following the Babylonian defeat. After all, Babylon is where the Assyrian empire shifted its capital from Nineveh. However, we are told in this prophecy that God **defends** Jerusalem. He doesn't destroy it like he did through the Babylonians. This repentance is when the Assyrians attack but God defends and defeats them without mortal resistance. Again, this repentance is not simply from idols but all ungodliness. Idol worship can be a symbol for worship substitution. For example covetousness is defined as idolatry by Paul (Col 3:5). Covetousness is the religion of our current society. We want-want-want. We are relentlessly trained from birth to be consumers in the USA. Society makes it easy to be covetous... credit cards and mortgages for very big and expensive homes are easy to secure. If we can't pay for all our covetousness we can always declare bankruptcy and begin again. I would suggest the idolatry from which the Israelites repent in Isaiah 31 is 'replacement' worship. The Jews in Israel today are not Yahweh worshippers.



Perhaps it is an idiom but Jews do worship money. But they will repent, when the latter day Assyrian invades the land, in their darkest hour, in the time of Jacob's trouble (Jer 30:3-9, 17, 24 ... 319 Ōachariyth { akh-ar-eeth' } AV - end 31, latter 12, last 7, posterity 3, reward 2, hindermost 1, misc. 5;). Deut 30:2-6; This is the time when the breath enters the dead bodies on the valley floor depicted in Ezek 37:10-11, which was the 2nd stage of Ezekiel's prophecy. This describes Israel's spiritual resurrection just as the bodies depicted the national political resurrection, it is the wind (spirit) filling their bodies and becoming fully 'alive' again as God's army. This 2nd stage in Ezekiel's prophecy depicts the national spiritual resurrection presented here in Is 31 as their repentance. Zech 12:9-14 the deep, individual repentance.

*vs 8-9. Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited. 9 And he shall pass over to his strong hold for fear, and his princes shall be afraid of the ensign, saith the LORD, whose fire is in Zion, and his furnace in Jerusalem.*

The latter day Assyrian (Russia) will fall, but not from the sword or weapon of man. Christ's weapon is the sword issuing from his mouth ... the word of God, by which he commands the ground to part, the volcanoes to erupt, the skies to rain crippling hail, panic to ensue and plague to ravage (Ezek 38:18-23). *Then shall the Assyrian fall with the sword, not of a mighty man; and the sword, not of a mean man, shall devour him: but he shall flee from the sword, and his young men shall be discomfited.* The Assyrian will flee from the sword, but not the sword of man.... the sword issuing from the mouth of the lion of the tribe of Judah, unafraid of the noisy, multitudinous exploiting, self-appointed shepherds surrounding Jerusalem. Those who aren't destroyed will retreat in fear, afraid of the ensign. The Hebrew word used for ensign here is very interesting (nec... pronounced nace). It is the same word used in the Messianic prophecy in Is. 11:10-12; Is 49:13-23 (ensign is in verse 22); Is 62:10-12 ("standard" is the same Hebrew word as ensign); but also Num 21:8-9 ("it upon a pole" = word for ensign); Num 26:10 (they became a sign = ensign). Jesus and his violent defense of Jerusalem will be the ensign the Russian/Assyrian invader will withdraw from, the standard that will shock the nations, who will know quickly due to our ability to report news and images instantly across the globe.

God's fire and furnace will be in Jerusalem. It is the flame consuming the offering. Remember how at the end of chap 30 we saw the sacrifice terminology (*vs 33 For Tophet is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he hath made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fi re and much wood; the breath of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone, doth kindle it*) and how Ezek. 39 describes this time in the same way (Ezek 39:17-22). But this fire will only consume the offering... the invaders. Jerusalem, the Jews (and of course the immortalized saints) will not be consumed in this furnace. Remember how the king of the Assyrian/Chaldean empire at Babylon tried to burn the three godly men in his furnace heated seven times hotter! Hananiah, Azariah and Mishael were not touched by the flames. They were joined by an angel representing the Messiah, defined as one who was like the son of God... making up the four that so frequently represents God manifest in the flesh. There wasn't even the smell of fire on their clothes. Just like the end days we are considering the word goes out to the nations that the God of those who survived the flames is the only God and the world must worship Him (Dan 3:28-29). God's furnace will be in Jerusalem and His fire in Zion, but neither the repentant Jews nor the faithful nor the Son of God will be consumed or even touched by the flames.

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