

ORACLES
OF
GOD





Deal bountifully with your servant, *that* I may live and keep your word.

Open my eyes, that I may see wondrous things from your law.

I am a stranger in the earth; do not hide your commandments from me.

My soul breaks with longing for your judgements at all times.

You rebuke the proud—the cursed, who stray from your commandments.

Remove from me reproach and contempt, for I have kept your testimonies.

Princes also sit *and* speak against me, *but* your servant meditates on your statutes.

Your testimonies also *are* my delight *and* my counsellors.

Your word *is* a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

I have sworn and confirmed that I will keep your righteous judgements.

I am afflicted very much; revive me, O LORD, according to your word.

Acept, I pray, the freewill offerings of my mouth, O LORD, and teach me your judgements.

My life *is* continually in my hand, yet I do not forget your law.

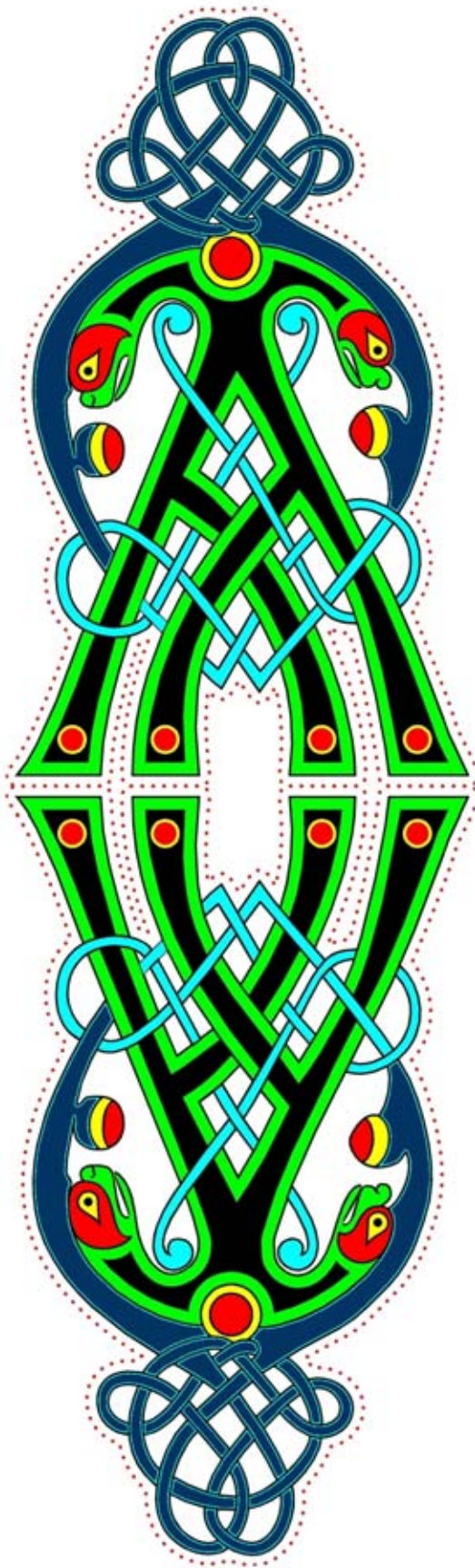
The wicked have laid a snare for me, yet I have not strayed from your precepts.

Your testimonies I have taken as a heritage forever, for they *are* the rejoicing of my heart.

I have inclined my heart to perform your statutes forever, to the very end.

ORACLES
OF
GOD

UNVEILINGS
GIVEN BY GOD;
DIRECTLY OR BY HIS SERVANTS;
TO UNFOLD FOR US
HIS PLAN FOR HUMANITY.



God's Covenant Name Revealed to Moses,
Affirmed and Explained by Jesus


Exodus 3: 7 – 15,
John 8: 52 – 58, 6: 48 – 51, 8: 12, 10: 7 – 10 & 11 – 16,
John 11: 23 – 27, 14: 5 – 9, 15: 1 – 5, 18: 3 – 9,
Revelation 1: 4 – 8, 21: 5 – 8, 22: 12 – 20.

And the LORD said: "I have surely seen the oppression of my people who *are* in Egypt, and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters, for I know their sorrows. So I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up from that land to a good and large land, to a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Amorites and the Perizzites and the Hivites and the Jebusites. Now therefore, behold, the cry of the children of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. Come now, therefore, and I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt."

But Moses said to God, "Who *am* I that I should go to Pharaoh, and that I should bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" So he said, "I will certainly be with you. And this *shall be* a sign to you that I have sent you: When you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Then Moses said to God, "Indeed, *when* I come to the children of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they say to me, 'What *is* his name?' what shall I say to them?"

And God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'" Moreover God said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the children of Israel: 'The LORD God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you. This *is* my name forever, and this *is* my memorial to all generations.'"

hen the Jews [the religious leaders] said to him, "Now we know that you have a demon! Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and you say, 'If anyone keeps my word he shall never taste death.' Are you greater than our father Abraham, who is dead? And the prophets are dead. Whom do you make yourself out to be?"

Jesus answered, "If I honour myself, my honour is nothing. It is my Father who honours me, of whom you say that he is your God. Yet you have not known him, but I know him. And if I say, 'I do not know him,' I shall be a liar like you; but I do know him and keep his word. Your father Abraham rejoiced to see my day, and he saw *it* and was glad."

Then the Jews said to him, "You are not yet fifty years old, and have you seen Abraham?" Jesus said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I AM."

"I am the bread of life. Your fathers ate the manna in the wilderness, and are dead. This is the bread which comes down from heaven, that one may eat of it and not die. **I am the living bread which came down from heaven.** If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is my flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world."

When Jesus spoke to them again, saying, **"I am the light of the world.** He who follows me shall not walk in darkness, but have the light of life."

When Jesus said to them again, **"Most assuredly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep.** All who *ever* came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. **I am the door.** If anyone enters by me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have *it* more abundantly."

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. But a hireling, *he who is* not the shepherd, one who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees; and the wolf catches the sheep and scatters them. The hireling flees because he is a hireling and does not care about the sheep. **I am the good shepherd; and I know my *sheep*, and am known by my own.**

As the Father knows me, even so I know the Father; and I lay down my life for the sheep. And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they will hear my voice; **and there will be one flock and one shepherd.**"

Jesus said to her, "Your brother [Lazarus who had died] will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day." Jesus said to her, **"I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.** Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is to come into the world."


Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?" **Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.** If you had known me, you would have known my Father also; and from now on you know him and have seen him." Philip said to him, "Lord, show us the Father, and it is sufficient for us." **Jesus said to him, "Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known me, Philip? He who has seen me has seen the Father;** so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"


I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinedresser. Every branch in me that does not bear fruit he takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit he prunes, that it may bear more fruit. You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in me. **I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without me you can do nothing.**"


When Judas, having received a detachment of *troops*, and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, came there with lanterns, torches, and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all things that would come upon him, went forward and said to them, "Whom are you seeking?" They answered him, "Jesus of Nazareth."

Jesus said to them, "I am *he*." And Judas, who betrayed him, also stood with them. Now when he said to them, "I am *he*," they drew back and fell to the ground.

Then he asked them again, "Whom are you seeking?" And they said, "Jesus of Nazareth." **Jesus answered, "I have told you that I am *he*.** Therefore, if you seek me, let these go their way," that the saying might be fulfilled which he spoke, "Of those whom you gave me I have lost none."

ohn, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and has made us kings and priests to his God and Father, to him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. Behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even they who pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. Even so, Amen.

I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End,*" says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

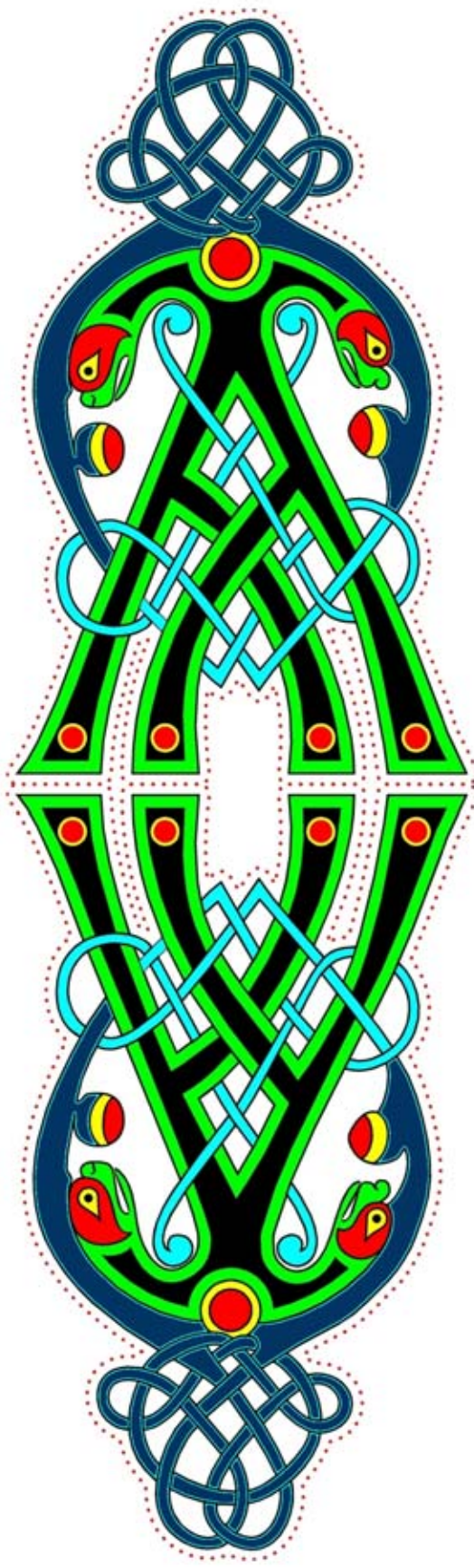
hen he who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And he said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful." *And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be my son. But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death."*

"**A**nd behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward *is* with me, to give to every one according to his work. **I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.**"

Blessed *are* those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practises a lie.

"**I**, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things in the churches. **I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.**" And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.

For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly." Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!



Revealed to King David,
Communion Within the Godhead

(and by David to the whole human race)

Psalms 2: 1 - 9



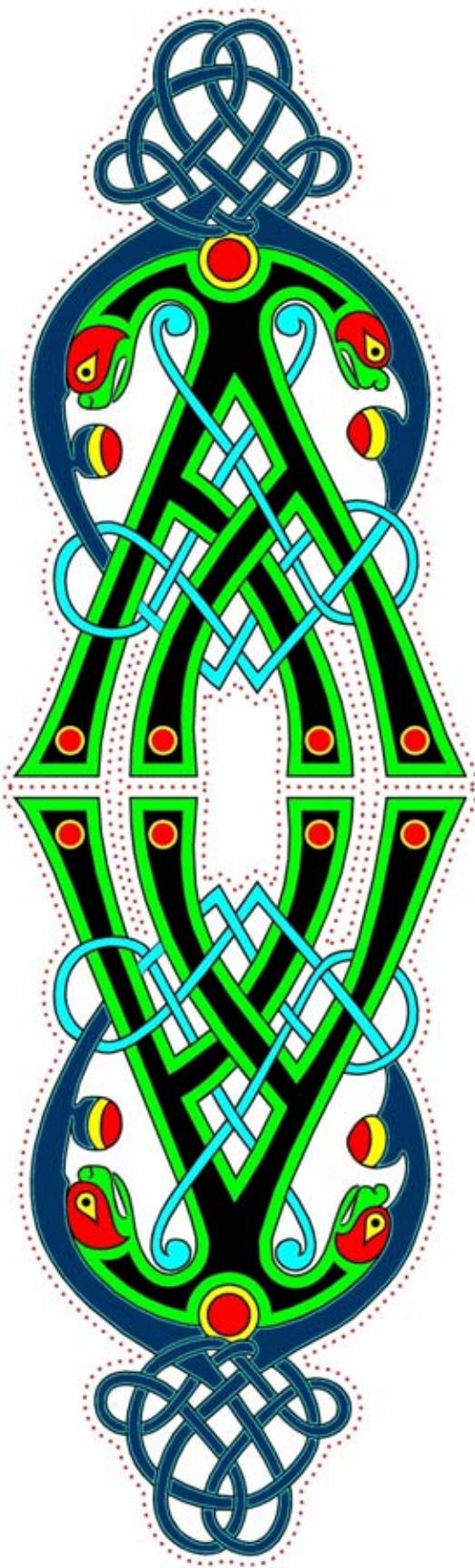
Why do the nations rage, and the people plot a vain thing? The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together, against the LORD and against his Anointed, *saying*, "Let us break their bonds in pieces and cast away their cords from us." He who sits in the heavens shall laugh; the Lord shall hold them in derision.

Then he shall speak to them in his wrath, and distress them in his deep displeasure: "**Yet I have set my King on my holy hill of Zion.**"

"I will declare the decree: The LORD has said to me, '**You are my Son, today I have begotten you. Ask of me, and I will give you the nations for your inheritance, and the ends of the earth for your possession.**'

You shall break them with a rod of iron; you shall dash them to pieces like a potter's vessel.'"⁽¹⁾

(1) Obviously this did not happen on Christ's first coming to the earth therefore, since God's promises are certain, the King of kings will take possession of his throne and establish his kingdom of righteousness at his second advent (in the millennial kingdom).



Revealed Through King David,
The Son of God's Sacrificial Crucifixion

(prophesied a 1000 years before the event)

Psalms 22: 7 - 31

All those who see me ridicule me; they shoot out the lip, they shake the head, *saying*, "He trusted in the LORD, let him rescue him; let him deliver him, since he delights in him!" But you *are* he who took me out of the womb; you made me trust *while* on my mother's breasts. I was cast upon you from birth. From my mother's womb you *have been* my God.

Be not far from me, for trouble *is* near; for *there is* none to help. Many bulls have surrounded me; strong *bulls* of Bashan have encircled me. They gape at me *with* their mouths, *like* a raging and roaring lion.

Iam poured out like water, and all my bones are out of joint; my heart is like wax; it has melted within me. My strength is dried up like a potsherd, and my tongue clings to my jaws; you have brought me to the dust of death.⁽¹⁾

For dogs have surrounded me; the congregation of the wicked has enclosed me. They pierced my hands and my feet; I can count all my bones.⁽²⁾ They look *and* stare at me. They divide my garments among them, and for my clothing they cast lots. But you, O LORD, do not be far from me; O my strength, hasten to help me! Deliver me from the sword, my precious *life* from the power of the dog. Save me from the lion's mouth and from the horns of the wild oxen!

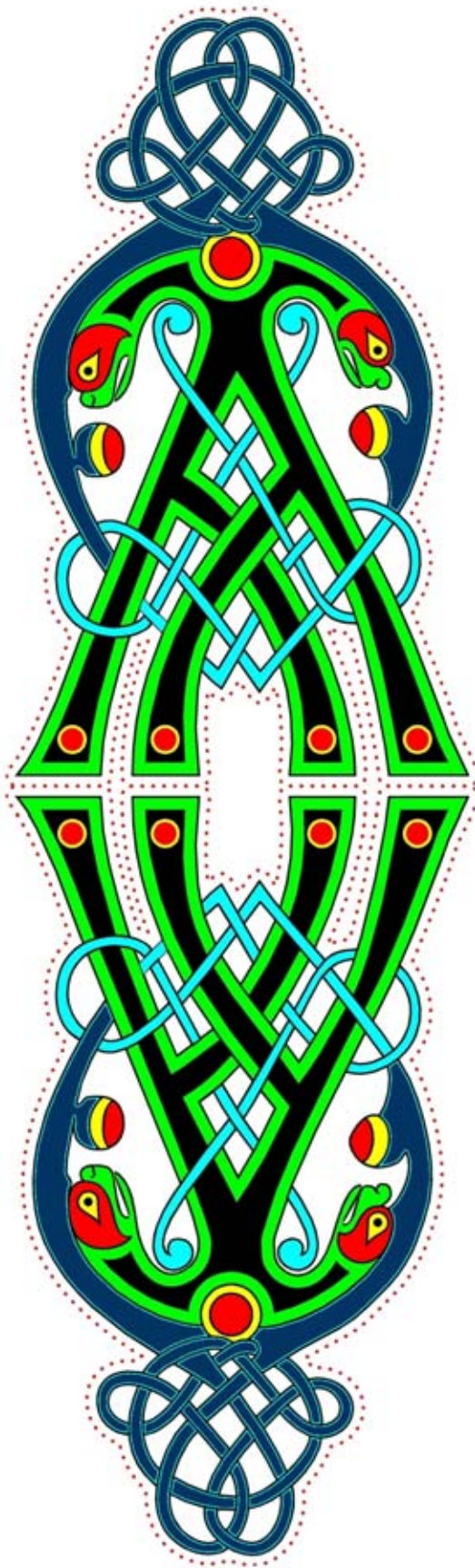
You have answered me. I will declare your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will praise you. You who fear the LORD, praise him! All you descendants of Jacob, glorify him, and fear him, all you offspring of Israel! For he has not despised nor abhorred the affliction of the afflicted; nor has he hidden his face from him; but when he cried to him, he heard.

My praise *shall be* of you in the great assembly; I will pay my vows before those who fear him. The poor shall eat and be satisfied; those who seek him will praise the LORD. Let your heart live forever!

All the ends of the world shall remember and turn to the LORD, and all the families of the nations shall worship before you. For the kingdom *is* the LORD'S, and he rules over the nations.


(1) It is God's own plan of redemption for fallen humanity that necessarily took the Son of God to his death on the cross – for our sins – since he was without sin.

(2) The Jews never used crucifixion as a means of execution and, at the time of writing about 1000BC, Rome had not established it.



A Vision of God Given to Isaiah,
Later Applied to Jesus by John the Apostle

Isaiah 6: 1 – 10 & John 12: 35 – 41

n the year that King Uzziah died, *I saw the Lord sitting on a throne, high and lifted up, and the train of his robe filled the temple.* Above it stood seraphim; each one had six wings: with two he covered his face, with two he covered his feet, and with two he flew. And one cried to another and said: "Holy, holy, holy *is* the LORD of hosts; the whole earth *is* full of his glory!"

And the posts of the door were shaken by the voice of him who cried out, and the house was filled with smoke. So I said: "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 my eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts." Then one of the seraphim flew to me, having in his hand a live coal *which* he had taken with the tongs from the altar. And he touched my mouth *with it*, and said: "Behold, this has touched your lips; your iniquity is taken away, and your sin purged."

Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: "Whom shall I send, and who will go for us?" Then I said, "Here *am* I! Send me." And he said, "*Go, and tell this people: 'Keep on hearing, but do not understand; keep on seeing, but do not perceive.'* Make the heart of this people dull, and their ears heavy, and shut their eyes; lest they see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and understand with their heart, and return and be healed."

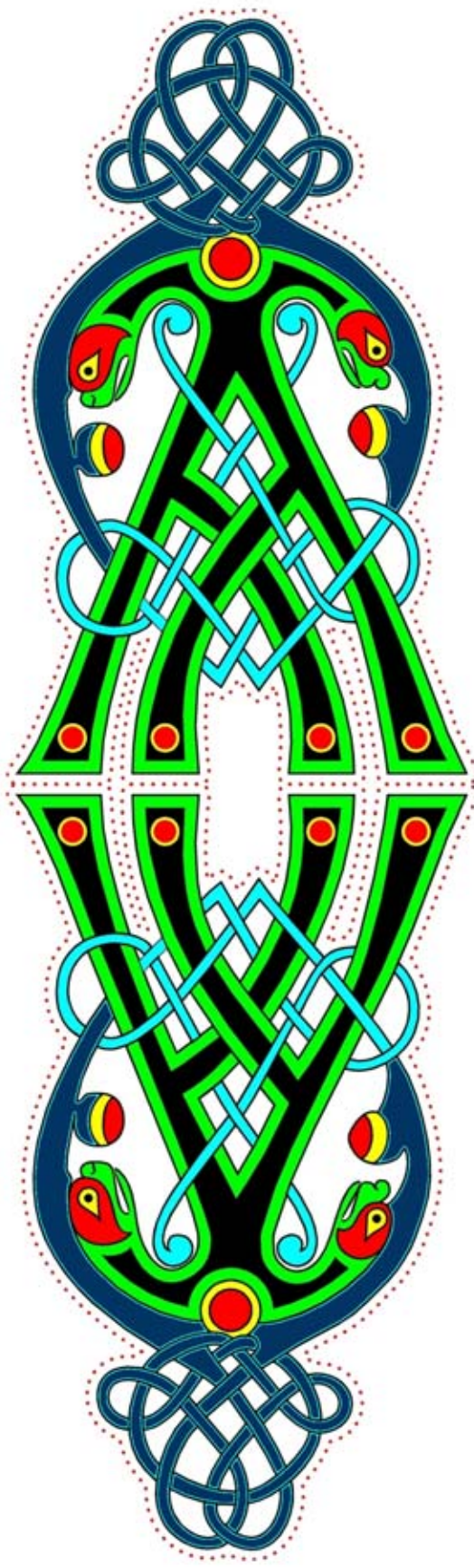


hen Jesus said to them, "A little while longer the light is with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness overtake you; he who walks in darkness does not know where he is going. While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light." These things Jesus spoke, and departed, and was hidden from them.

But although he had done so many signs before them, they did not believe in him, that the word of Isaiah the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spoke: "Lord, who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed?"

Therefore they could not believe, because Isaiah said again: "**He has blinded their eyes and hardened their hearts, lest they should see with *their* eyes, lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.**"

These things Isaiah said when he saw his glory and spoke of him. [Christ the Lord]



Isaiah, David, Paul & the Writer of Hebrews
Reveal to Israel, the Nations and Believers, the
Greatness of God – Father & Son

Isaiah 40: 13 – 24, Psalms 19: 1 – 14,
Colossians 1: 13 – 20, Hebrews 1: 1 – 2: 7



Who has directed the Spirit of the LORD, or *as* his counsellor has taught him? With whom did he take counsel, and *who* instructed him, and taught him in the path of justice? Who taught him knowledge, and showed him the way of understanding?

Behold, the nations *are* as a drop in a bucket, and are counted as the small dust on the scales; look, he lifts up the isles as a very little thing. And Lebanon *is* not sufficient to burn, nor its beasts sufficient for a burnt offering. All nations before him *are* as nothing, and they are counted by him less than nothing and worthless.

To whom then will you liken God? Or what likeness will you compare to him? The workman moulds an image, the goldsmith overspreads it with gold, and the silversmith casts silver chains.

Whoever *is* too impoverished for *such* a contribution chooses a tree *that* will not rot; he seeks for himself a skilful workman to prepare a carved image *that* will not totter.⁽¹⁾

Have you not known? Have you not heard? Has it not been told you from the beginning? Have you not understood from the foundations of the earth? *It is he who sits above the circle of the earth, and its inhabitants are like grasshoppers, who stretches out the heavens like a curtain, and spreads them out like a tent to dwell in.*

He brings the princes to nothing; he makes the judges of the earth useless. Scarcely shall they be planted, scarcely shall they be sown, scarcely shall their stock take root in the earth, when he will also blow on them, and they will wither, and the whirlwind will take them away like stubble.⁽²⁾

(1) There seems to be considerable sarcasm here in reference to the worldly 'idols' (presumably physical, emotional, intellectual, materialistic, etc) that people rich and poor manufacture to satisfy their desires and meet their needs – while the eternal, omnipotent Creator is available to help those who turn to him.

(2) Our much-vaunted humanistic activities are viewed by the LORD as being on the same level as grasshoppers (which of course noisily devour everything in their path)! Equally, our much-admired leaders, lawmakers, politicians, educators, businessmen, etc are also inconsequential in God's economy – but that seems 'just' for a world system that disregards him anyway!




he heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge. *There is no speech nor language where their voice is not heard.* Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world. In them he has set a tabernacle for the sun, which *is* like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoices like a strong man to run its race. Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether. *More to be desired are they than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.* Moreover by them your servant is warned, *and* in keeping them *there is* great reward.

Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*. Keep back your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.

Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.

e has delivered us from the power of darkness and conveyed *us* into the kingdom of the Son of his love, in whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins. He [Christ] is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn [pre-eminent one] over all creation. *For by him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through him and for him. And he is before all things, and in him all things consist [hold together].*

And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things he may have the pre-eminence. *For it pleased the Father that in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.*



od, who at various times and in various ways spoke in time past to the fathers by the prophets, *has in these last days spoken to us by his Son, whom he has appointed heir of all things, through whom also he made the worlds; who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become so much better than the angels, as he has by inheritance obtained a more excellent name than they.*

For to which of the angels did he ever say: "You are my Son, today I have begotten you"? And again: "I will be to him a Father, and he shall be to me a Son"? *But when he again brings the firstborn [the pre-eminent one] into the world, he says: "Let all the angels of God worship him."*

And of the angels he says: "Who makes his angels spirits and his ministers a flame of fire." *But to the Son he says: "Your throne, O God, is forever and ever; a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of your Kingdom. You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness more than your companions."*


And: "You, LORD, in the beginning laid the foundation of the earth, and the heavens are the work of your hands. They will perish, but you remain; and they will all grow old like a garment; like a cloak you will fold them up, and they will be changed. But you are the same, and your years will not fail." But to which of the angels has he ever said: "Sit at my right hand, till I make your enemies your footstool"? Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

Therefore we must give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just reward, how shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard *him*, God also bearing witness both with signs and wonders, with various miracles, and gifts of the Holy Spirit, according to his own will?

For he has not put the world to come, of which we speak, in subjection to angels. But one testified in a certain place, saying: "What is man that you are mindful of him, or the son of man that you take care of him? You have made him a little lower than the angels; you have crowned him with glory and honour, and set him over the works of your hands.

Through Isaiah, the LORD Reveals
Christ's Mission to the Gentile Nations

Isaiah 42: 1 – 9

” ehold! My Servant whom I uphold, my Elect One *in whom* my soul delights! I have put my Spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the Gentiles. He will not cry out, nor raise *his voice*, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street. A bruised reed he will not break, and smoking flax he will not quench; he will bring forth justice for truth. **He will not fail nor be discouraged, till he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands shall wait for his law.**”

Thus says God the LORD, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, who gives breath to the people on it, and spirit to those who walk on it: **”I, the LORD, have called you in righteousness, and will hold your hand; I will keep you and give you as a covenant to the people, as a light to the Gentiles, to open blind eyes, to bring out prisoners from the prison, those who sit in darkness from the prison house.**

I*am* the LORD, that *is* my name; and my glory I will not give to another, nor my praise to carved images. Behold, the former things have come to pass, and new things I declare; before they spring forth I tell you of them.”



The Cost to God of Providing Atonement for
Human Sin is Recorded

Isaiah 53: 1 – 12



Who has believed our report? And to whom has the arm of the LORD been revealed? For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground. He has no form or comeliness; and when we see him, *there is no* beauty that we should desire him. He is despised and rejected by men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with grief. And we hid, as it were, *our* faces from him; he was despised, and we did not esteem him.

Surely he has borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we esteemed him stricken, smitten by God, and afflicted. But he *was* wounded for our transgressions, *he was* bruised for our iniquities; the chastisement for our peace *was* upon him, and by his stripes we are healed.

All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; **and the LORD has laid on him the iniquity of us all.**⁽¹⁾ He was oppressed and he was afflicted, yet he opened not his mouth; he was led as a lamb.⁽²⁾ to the slaughter, and as a sheep before its shearers is silent, so he opened not his mouth.

He was taken from prison and from judgement, and who will declare his generation? **For he was cut off from the land of the living; for the transgressions of my people he was stricken.**⁽³⁾

And they made his grave with the wicked—but with the rich at his death,⁽⁴⁾ because he had done no violence, nor *was any* deceit in his mouth. **Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he has put *him* to grief. When you make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see *his* seed, he shall prolong *his* days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand.**⁽⁵⁾

He shall see the labour of his soul, *and* be satisfied. **By his knowledge my righteous Servant shall justify many, for he shall bear their iniquities.**⁽⁶⁾ Therefore I will divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong, **because he poured out his soul unto death, and he was numbered with the transgressors, and he bore the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.**

(1) God's just punishment for the sins of humanity was laid on his sinless Son.

(2) Hence John the Baptist referred to Jesus as the 'Lamb of God' (John 1: 36).

(3) Christ died vicariously, so that those who believe may be redeemed.

(4) Although crucified as a 'criminal', Jesus' body was laid in the rock tomb of Joseph of Arimathea – a rich member of the Sanhedrin who believed.

(5) Having died for sinners, the necessary return of Jesus to life is in view.

(6) As Jesus said, many 'sons' (including daughters), both Jew and Gentile, would be brought to glory; and he did it 'for the joy that was set before him'.





Isaiah Records Words of the Pre-incarnate
Messiah, Luke Records the Living Christ

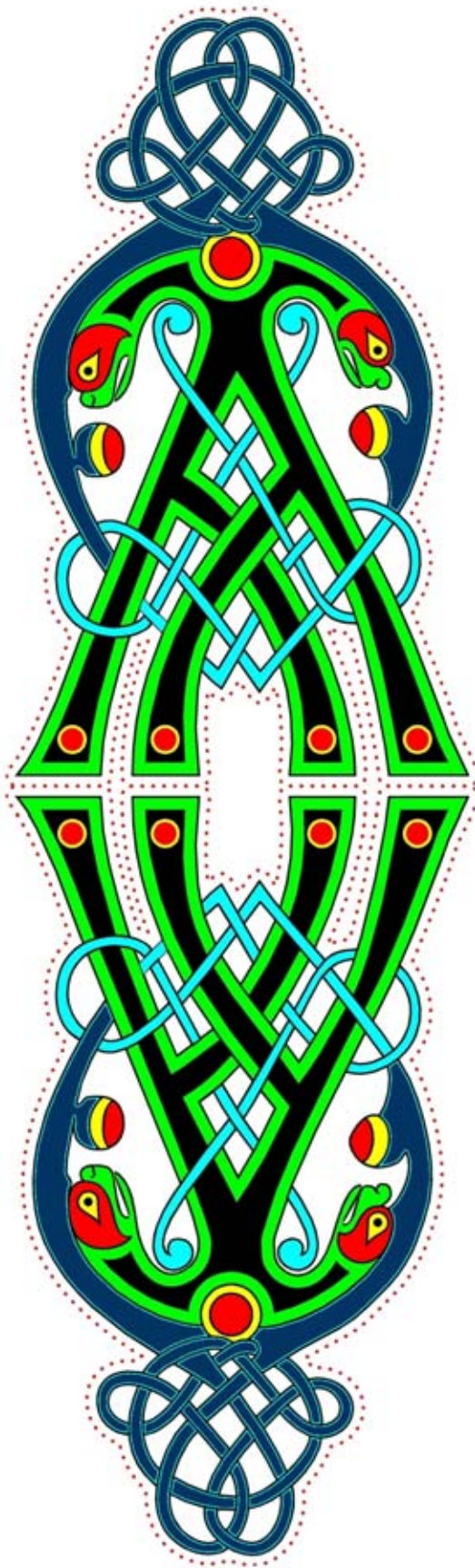
Isaiah 61: 1 – 4; Luke 4: 16 – 21



he Spirit of the Lord GOD *is* upon me, because the LORD has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to *those who are* bound; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that he may be glorified."




o he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as his custom was, he went into the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and stood up to read. And he was handed the book of the prophet Isaiah. And when he had opened the book, he found the place where it was written: "*The Spirit of the LORD is upon me, because he has anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he has sent me to heal the broken-hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed; to proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD.*" Then he closed the book, and gave *it* back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all who were in the synagogue were fixed on him. *And he began to say to them, "Today this Scripture is fulfilled in your hearing."*




Isaiah Sees God's Avenger in the LORD's Day,
John the Apostle Sees the Omnipotent Christ

Isaiah 63: 1 – 6; Revelation 19: 11 – 21



Who is this who comes from Edom, with dyed garments from Bozrah, this *one who is* glorious in his apparel, travelling in the greatness of his strength? — "I who speak in righteousness, mighty to save." Why is your apparel red, and your garments like one who treads in the winepress? "I have trodden the winepress alone, and from the peoples no one *was* with me. For I have trodden them in my anger, and trampled them in my fury; their blood is sprinkled upon my garments, and I have stained all my robes.

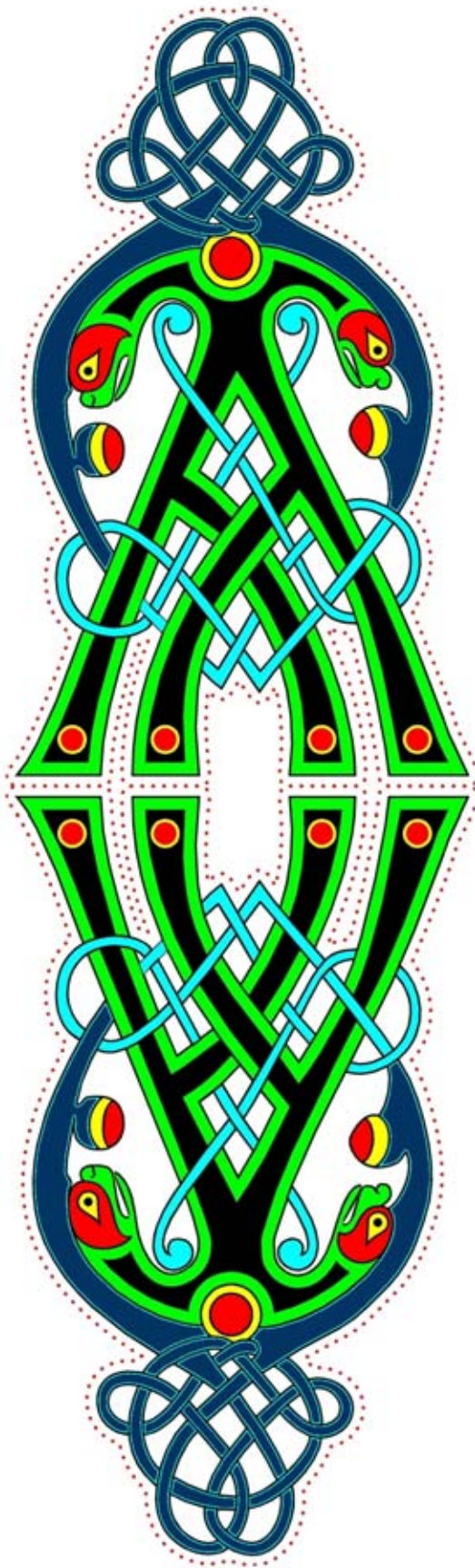
For the day of vengeance *is* in my heart, and the year of my redeemed has come. I looked, but *there was* no one to help, and I wondered that *there was* no one to uphold; therefore my own arm brought salvation for me; and my own fury, it sustained me. I have trodden down the peoples in my anger, made them drunk in my fury, and brought down their strength to the earth."



Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. and he who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God.

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses. Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on *his* robe and on his thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast [the antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse and against his army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.



God Reveals the Means by which We are
Washed Clean of Sin and Given a New Heart
In the Power of the Holy Spirit


Ezekiel 36: 23 – 27; Hebrews 9: 12 – 15;
Titus 3: 3 – 7

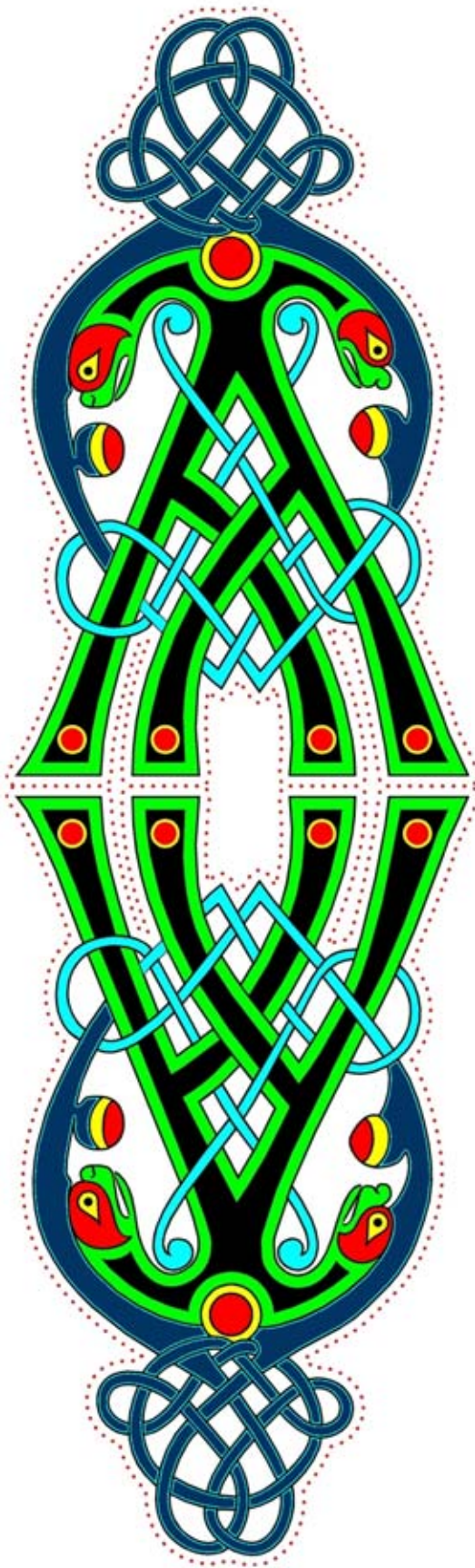
" **A**nd I will sanctify my great name, which has been profaned among the nations, which you have profaned in their midst; and the nations shall know that I *am* the LORD," says the Lord GOD, "when I am hallowed in you before their eyes. For I will take you from among the nations, gather you out of all countries, and bring you into your own land.

Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you shall be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; I will take the heart of stone out of your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my Spirit within you and cause you to walk in my statutes, and you will keep my judgements and do *them*."

Not with the blood of goats and calves, **but with** his own blood he entered the Most Holy Place **once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh [the Jewish sacrificial system], **how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?**

And for this reason he is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.


 or we ourselves were also once foolish, disobedient, deceived, serving various lusts and pleasures, living in malice and envy, hateful and hating one another. But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, **but according to his mercy he saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour,** that having been justified [viz. declared 'not guilty'] by his grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.



Daniel is Given an Overview of World
Empires that Will Rule on Earth and Their End

(Starting from Israel's Captivity in ca 590 BC)

Daniel 2: 31 – 48

ou, O king, [Nebuchadnezzar] were watching; and behold, a great image! This great image, whose splendour *was* excellent, stood before you; and its form *was* awesome. **This image's head *was* of fine gold, its chest and arms of silver, its belly and thighs of bronze, its legs of iron, its feet partly of iron and partly of clay. You watched while a stone was cut out without hands, which struck the image on its feet of iron and clay, and broke them in pieces. Then the iron, the clay, the bronze, the silver, and the gold were crushed together, and became like chaff from the summer threshing floors; the wind carried them away so that no trace of them was found. And the stone that struck the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth.**

This *is* the dream. Now we will tell the interpretation of it before the king. You, O king, *are* a king of kings. For the God of heaven has given you a kingdom, power, strength, and glory; and wherever the children of men dwell, or the beasts of the field and the birds of the heaven, he has given *them* into your hand, and has made you ruler over them all—***you are this head of gold.***⁽¹⁾ ***But after you shall arise another kingdom inferior to yours;***⁽²⁾ ***then another, a third kingdom of bronze,***⁽³⁾ ***which shall rule over all the earth. And the fourth kingdom shall be as strong as iron,***⁽⁴⁾ ***inasmuch as iron breaks in pieces and shatters everything; and like iron that crushes, that kingdom will break in pieces and crush all the others.***

Whereas you saw the feet and toes, partly of potter's clay and partly of iron, **the kingdom shall be divided; yet the strength of the iron shall be in it, just as you saw the iron mixed with ceramic clay. And as the toes of the feet were partly of iron and partly of clay, so the kingdom shall be partly strong and partly fragile.**⁽⁵⁾ As you saw iron mixed with ceramic clay, they will mingle with the seed of men; but they will not adhere to one another, just as iron does not mix with clay. **And in the days of these kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people; it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever.**⁽⁶⁾ Inasmuch as you saw that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands,⁽⁷⁾ and that it broke in pieces the iron, the bronze, the clay, the silver, and the gold—the great God has made known to the king what will come to pass after this. The dream is certain, and its interpretation is sure."

Then King Nebuchadnezzar fell on his face, prostrate before Daniel, and commanded that they should present an offering and incense to him. The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God *is* the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret." Then the king promoted Daniel and gave him many great gifts; and he made him ruler over the whole province of Babylon, and chief administrator over all the wise *men* of Babylon.

(1) Nebuchadnezzar's Babylonian empire.

(2) The Medo-Persian empire.

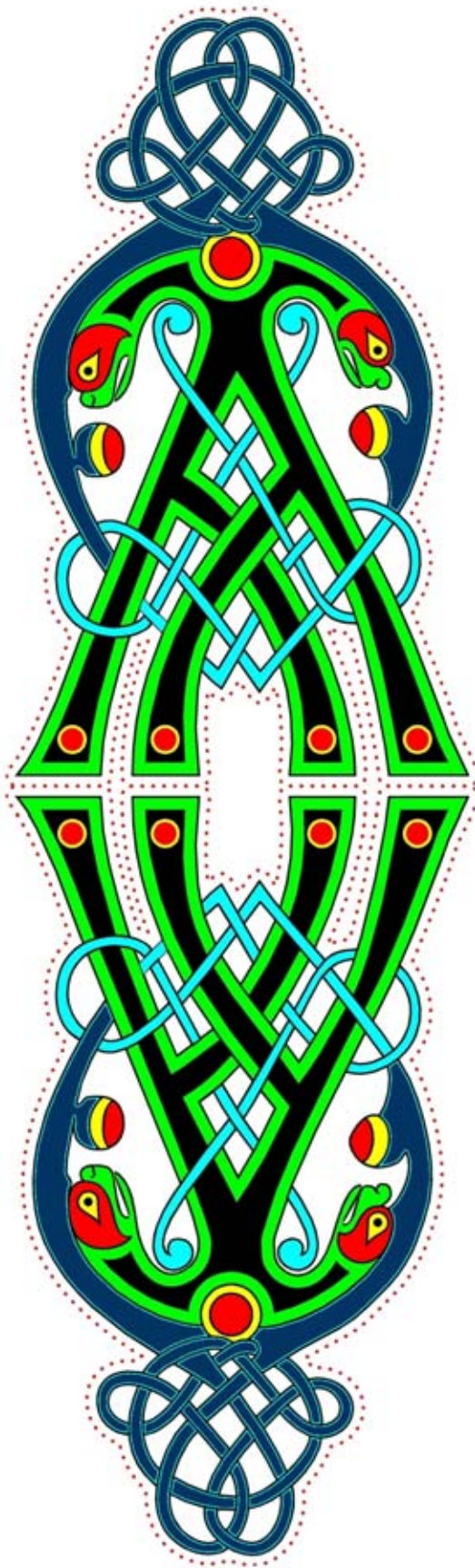
(3) The Greek kingdom of Alexander the Great, subsequently divided up by his four generals.

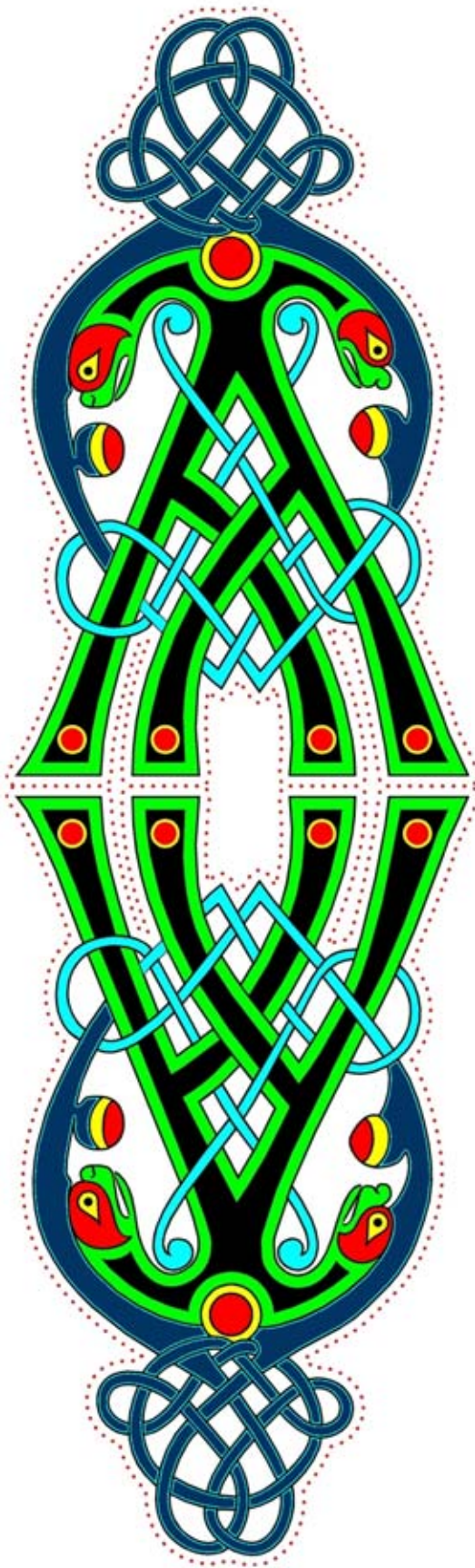
(4) The empire of Rome's iron legions.

(5) The revived Roman empire brought back into existence with the signing of the Treaty of Rome.

(6) Jesus Christ's millennial kingdom, ultimately becoming his everlasting kingdom.

(7) Jesus Christ is the 'stone of stumbling' and the 'rock of offence' to unbelievers, but the 'cornerstone of the building' to believers.





God's Plan for Israel is Revealed to Daniel

(As is the Consummation of World Affairs)

Daniel 9: 20 – 27



ow while I *was* speaking, praying, and confessing my sin and the sin of my people Israel, and presenting my supplication before the LORD my God for the holy mountain of my God, yes, while I *was* speaking in prayer, the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, reached me about the time of the evening offering.

And he informed *me*, and talked with me, and said, "O Daniel, I have now come forth to give you skill to understand. At the beginning of your supplications the command went out, and I have come to tell *you*, for you *are* greatly beloved; therefore consider the matter, and understand the vision: **Seventy weeks⁽¹⁾ are determined for your people and for your holy city, to finish the transgression, to make an end of sins, to make reconciliation for iniquity, to bring in everlasting righteousness, to seal up vision and prophecy, and to anoint the Most Holy.**

Know therefore and understand, *that* from the going forth of the command to restore and build Jerusalem until Messiah the Prince, *there shall be* seven weeks and sixty-two weeks;⁽²⁾ the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublesome times.

And after the sixty-two weeks Messiah shall be cut off, but not for himself; and the people of the prince who is to come shall destroy the city and the sanctuary. The end of it *shall be* with a flood, and till the end of the war desolations are determined. Then he shall confirm a covenant with many for one week;⁽³⁾ but in the middle of the week he shall bring an end to sacrifice and offering. and on the wing of abominations shall be one who makes desolate, even until the consummation, which is determined, is poured out on the desolate."

(1) The Hebrew says seventy 'sevens', obviously, 70×7 years = 490 years total.

(2) With the first advent and crucifixion of Messiah, 69×7 years are elapsed, leaving a one 'week' = 7 year period to 'seal up vision and prophecy and anoint the Most Holy'.

(3) The 'he' who 'confirms a covenant with many for one week' is considered to be the antichrist who, having achieved a position of world domination, will break his promise(s) after three and a half years and dispatch humanity into the final period leading to the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ – who will judge the world in righteousness and rule it with a 'rod of iron'.

Joel is Shown the Day of the LORD

(When God Gathers the Nations to War and
Begins Remaking the Celestial Realm)

Joel 3: 9 – 17



Proclaim this among the nations: "Prepare for war! Wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near, let them come up. Beat your ploughshares into swords and your pruning hooks into spears; let the weak say, 'I *am* strong.'" Assemble and come, all you nations, and gather together all around. Cause your mighty ones to go down there, O LORD. Let the nations be wakened, and come up to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; for there I will sit to judge all the surrounding nations. Put in the sickle, for the harvest is ripe. Come, go down; for the winepress is full, the vats overflow — for their wickedness *is* great."

Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. The sun and moon will grow dark, and the stars will diminish their brightness. The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter his voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for his people, and the strength of the children of Israel.

"**S**o you shall know that I *am* the LORD your God, dwelling in Zion my holy mountain. Then Jerusalem shall be holy, and no aliens shall ever pass through her again."





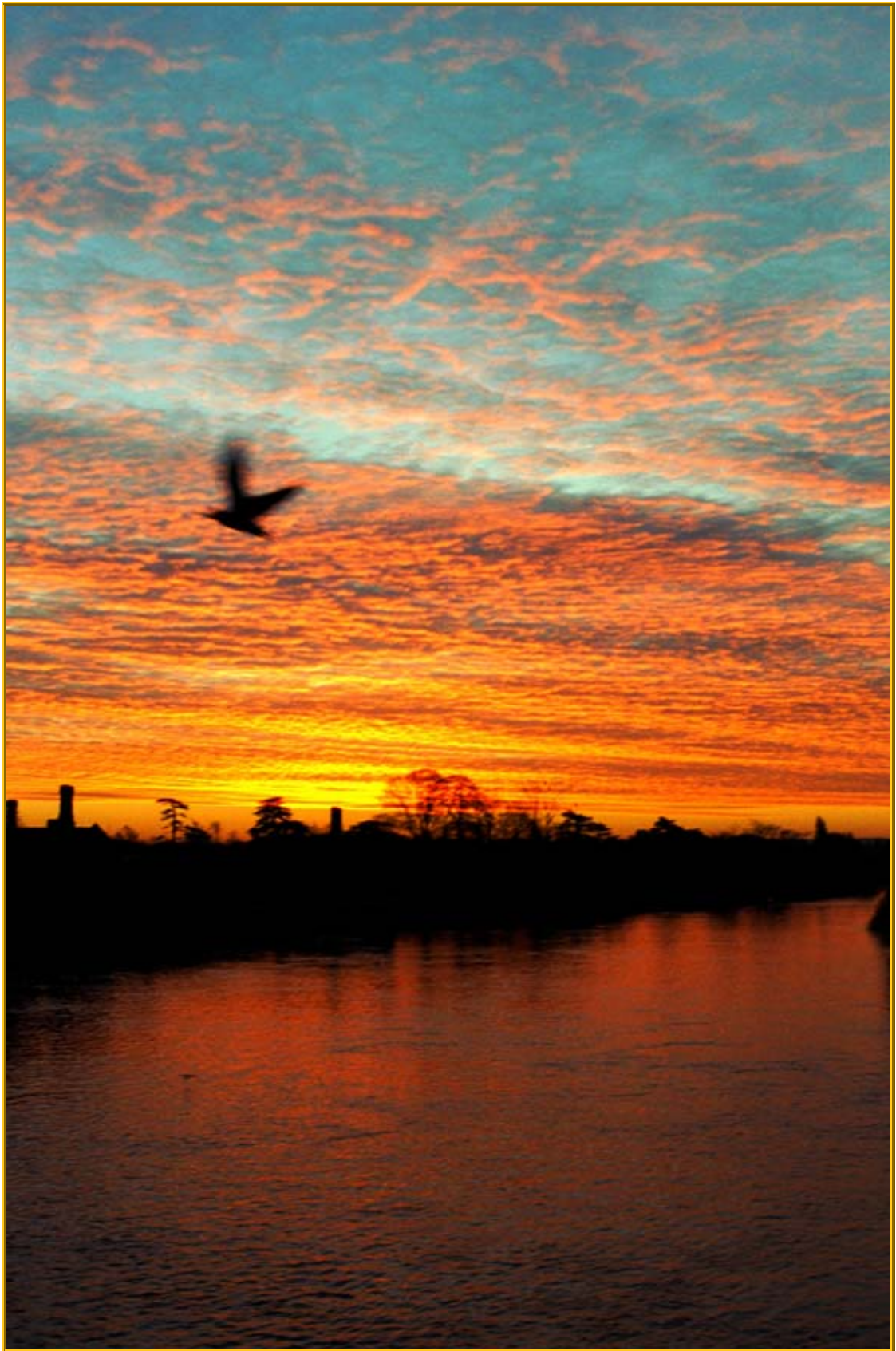
The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows his handiwork. Day unto day utters speech, and night unto night reveals knowledge.

There is no speech nor language *where* their voice is not heard. Their line has gone out through all the earth, and their words to the end of the world.

In them he has set a tabernacle for the sun, which is like a bridegroom coming out of his chamber, *and* rejoices like a strong man to run its race.

Its rising *is* from one end of heaven, and its circuit to the other end; and there is nothing hidden from its heat.

The law of the LORD *is* perfect, converting the soul; the testimony of the LORD *is* sure, making wise the simple; the statutes of the LORD *are* right, rejoicing the heart;





The commandment of the LORD *is* pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the LORD *is* clean, enduring forever; the judgements of the LORD *are* true *and* righteous altogether.

More to be desired *are they* than gold, yea, than much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb.

Moreover by them your servant is warned, *and* in keeping them *there is* great reward. Who can understand *his* errors? Cleanse me from secret *faults*.

Keep back your servant also from presumptuous *sins*; let them not have dominion over me. Then I shall be blameless, and I shall be innocent of great transgression.


Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in your sight, O LORD, my strength and my Redeemer.





Jesus Teaches God's Standards

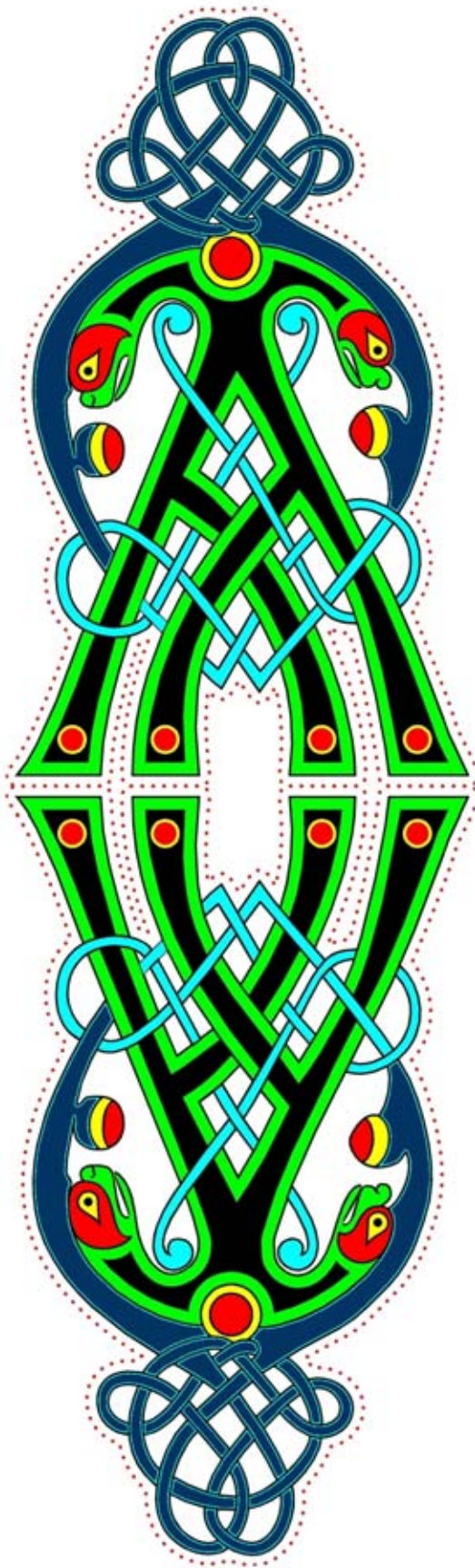
Matthew 7: 13, 14, 21 – 29

 Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. *Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practise lawlessness!'*

Therefore whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall."

And so it was, when Jesus had ended these sayings, that the people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority, and not as the scribes.



Jesus' Parables Only Enlighten Believers,
And then Only if the Heart is Right

Matthew 13: 10 – 23

And the disciples came and said to him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?" He answered and said to them, "Because it has been given to you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it has not been given. For whoever has, to him more will be given, and he will have abundance; but whoever does not have, even what he has will be taken away from him.

Therefore I speak to them in parables, because seeing they do not see, and hearing they do not hear, nor do they understand.

And in them the prophecy of Isaiah is fulfilled, which says: 'Hearing you will hear and shall not understand, and seeing you will see and not perceive; for the hearts of this people have grown dull. Their ears are hard of hearing, and their eyes they have closed, lest they should see with *their* eyes and hear with *their* ears, lest they should understand with *their* hearts and turn, so that I should heal them.'

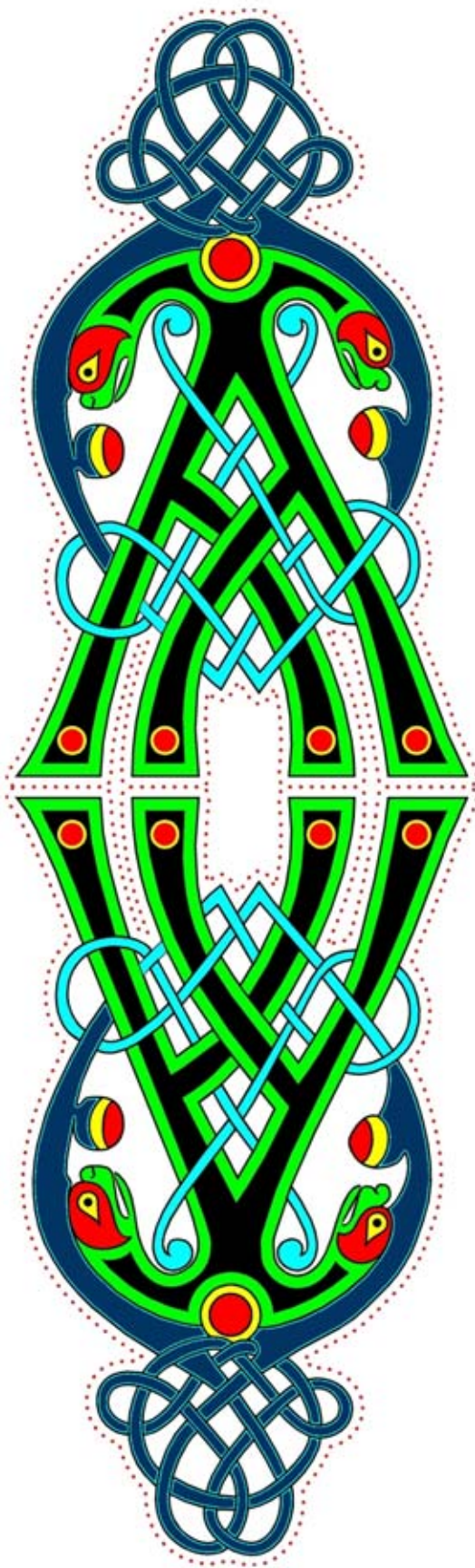
But blessed *are* your eyes for they see, and your ears for they hear; for assuredly, I say to you that many prophets and righteous *men* desired to see what you see, and did not see *it*, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear *it*.

Therefore hear the parable of the sower: When anyone hears the word of the kingdom, and does not understand *it*, then the wicked *one* comes and snatches away what was sown in his heart. This is he who received seed by the wayside.

But he who received the seed on stony places, this is he who hears the word and immediately receives it with joy; yet he has no root in himself, but endures only for a while. For when tribulation or persecution arises because of the word, immediately he stumbles.

Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares [distractions] of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

But he who received seed on the good ground is he who hears the word and understands *it*, who indeed bears fruit and produces: some a hundredfold, some sixty, some thirty."



Jesus Unveils the Will and the Power of God,
Available to Both Jew and Gentile

Matthew 15: 10 – 31



hen he [Jesus] had called the multitude to *himself*, he said to them, "Hear and understand: not what goes into the mouth defiles a man; but what comes out of the mouth, this defiles a man." Then his disciples came and said to him, "Do you know that the Pharisees were offended when they heard this saying?" But he answered and said, "Every plant which my heavenly Father has not planted will be uprooted. Let them alone. They are blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind leads the blind, both will fall into a ditch."

Then Peter [the Apostle] answered and said to him, "Explain this parable to us." So Jesus said, "Are you also still without understanding? Do you not yet understand that whatever enters the mouth goes into the stomach and is eliminated? But those things which proceed out of the mouth come from the heart, and they defile a man.

For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies. These are *the things* which defile a man, but to eat with unwashed hands does not defile a man." Then Jesus went out from there and departed to the region of Tyre and Sidon.

And behold, a woman of Canaan [a Gentile] came from that region and cried out to him, saying, "Have mercy on me, O Lord, Son of David! My daughter is severely demon-possessed." But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and urged him, saying, "Send her away, for she cries out after us." But he answered and said, "I was not sent except to the lost sheep of the house of Israel."


Then she came and worshipped him, saying, "Lord, help me!" But he answered and said, "It is not good to take the children's bread and throw *it* to the little dogs." And she said, "Yes, Lord, yet even the little dogs eat the crumbs which fall from their masters' table." **Then Jesus answered and said to her, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be to you as you desire." And her daughter was healed from that very hour.**

Jesus departed from there, skirted the Sea of Galilee, and went up on the mountain and sat down there. Then great multitudes came to him, having with them *the* lame, blind, mute, maimed, and many others; and they laid them down at Jesus' feet, and he healed them. **So the multitude marvelled when they saw *the* mute speaking, *the* maimed made whole, *the* lame walking, and *the* blind seeing; and they glorified the God of Israel.**

PERILOUS
TIMES

Paul is Given Apostolic Insight for the
Gentiles and for Timothy Regarding the
Culture of Our Last Days

Acts 17: 16 – 31 & II Timothy 2: 15 – 3: 9

ow while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was provoked within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. Therefore he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshippers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there.

Then certain Epicurean and Stoic philosophers encountered him. And some said, "What does this babbler want to say?" Others said, "He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods," because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus [Mar's Hill], saying, "May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean." For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing.


Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, "Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the one whom you worship without knowing, him I proclaim to you: God, who made the world and everything in it, since he is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands.

Nor is he worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, since he gives to all life, breath, and all things.

And he has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their pre-appointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for him and find him, though he is not far from each one of us; for in him we live and move and have our being, as also some of your own poets have said, 'For we are also his offspring.'

Therefore, since we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Divine Nature is like gold or silver or stone, something shaped by art and man's devising.

Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, because he has appointed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by the Man [Jesus of Nazareth] whom he has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising him from the dead." [Christ's crucifixion, death, burial and resurrection].


e diligent [Timothy] to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. But shun profane *and* idle babblings, for they will increase to more ungodliness. And their message will spread like cancer. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection [of believers] is already past; and they overthrow the faith of some.

Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

But in a great house there are not only vessels of gold and silver, but also of wood and clay, some for honour and some for dishonour. Therefore if anyone cleanses himself from the latter, he will be a vessel for honour, sanctified and useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.

Flee also youthful lusts; but pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart. But avoid foolish and ignorant disputes, knowing that they generate strife.


And a servant of the Lord must not quarrel but be gentle to all, able to teach, patient, in humility correcting those who are in opposition, if God perhaps will grant them repentance, so that they may know the truth, and *that* they may come to their senses *and escape* the snare of the devil, having been taken captive by him to *do* his will.

ut know this, *that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!*

For of this sort are those who creep into households and make captives of gullible women loaded down with sins, led away by various lusts, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres resisted Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, disapproved concerning the faith; but they will progress no further, for their folly will be manifest to all, as theirs also was.

Jesus Reveals the Times that Will Accompany
the End of This Age and Mark His Return

Matthew 24: 3 – 31

ow as he sat on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately, saying, "Tell us, when will these things be? And what *will be* the sign of your coming, and of the end of the age?" **And Jesus answered and said to them:** "Take heed that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many.

And you will hear of wars and rumours of wars. See that you are not troubled; for all *these things* must come to pass, but the end is not yet. **For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. And there will be famines, pestilences, and earthquakes in various places. All these *are* the beginning of sorrows.**

Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for my name's sake. **And then many will be offended, will betray one another, and will hate one another. Then many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.** And because lawlessness will abound, the love of many will grow cold. But he who endures to the end shall be saved.

And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.

Therefore when you see the 'abomination of desolation,' spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place" (whoever reads, let him understand),⁽¹⁾ then let those who are in Judea flee to the mountains. Let him who is on the housetop not go down to take anything out of his house. And let him who is in the field not go back to get his clothes.

But woe to those who are pregnant and to those who are nursing babies in those days! And pray that your flight may not be in winter or on the Sabbath. **For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.** And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened.

Then if anyone says to you, 'Look, here *is* the Christ!' or 'There!' do not believe *it*. **For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.**

See, I have told you beforehand. Therefore if they say to you, 'Look, he is in the desert!' do not go out; *or* 'Look, *he is* in the inner rooms!' do not believe *it*.

For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. For wherever the carcass is, there the eagles will be gathered together.

Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken.⁽²⁾

Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.

And he will send his angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together his elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."⁽³⁾

(1) The 'abomination of desolation' refers to an act of defiling God's temple in Jerusalem by setting up in it worship to another 'god' (in these latter days this will be the 'antichrist').


(2) This matches references in the Old Testament to the 'Day of the LORD' and his return to judge the world and set up the kingdom of righteousness.

(3) See I Thessalonians 4: 16 – 5: 3.




The Mystery of the Incarnation of God is
Revealed to Isaiah & Micah and to the
Gospel Writers Luke & John


Isaiah 7: 10 – 14, 9: 6 – 7 & 66: 10 – 16; Micah 5:
2 – 5a; Luke 24: 46 – 53; John 1: 1 – 23



or unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father [or Father of Eternity], Prince of Peace. Of the increase of *his* government and peace *there will be* no end, upon the throne of David and over his kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgement and justice from that time forward, even forever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this.




oreover the LORD spoke again to Ahaz, saying, "Ask a sign for yourself from the LORD your God; ask it either in the depth or in the height above." But Ahaz said, "I will not ask, nor will I test the LORD!" Then he said, "Hear now, O house of David! *Is it* a small thing for you to weary men, but will you weary my God also? Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a Son, and shall call his name Immanuel." [Heb. God-with-us].




ut you, Bethlehem Ephrathah, *though* you are little among the thousands of Judah, *yet* out of you shall come forth to me the one to be Ruler in Israel, whose goings forth *are* from of old, from everlasting."


Therefore he shall give them up, until the time *that* she who is in labour has given birth; then the remnant of his brethren shall return to the children of Israel. And he shall stand and feed *his flock* in the strength of the LORD, in the majesty of the name of the LORD his God; and they shall abide, **for now he shall be great to the ends of the earth; and this *one* shall be peace.**

"  rejoice with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you who love her; rejoice for joy with her, all you who mourn for her; that you may feed and be satisfied with the consolation of her bosom, that you may drink deeply and be delighted with the abundance of her glory." For thus says the LORD: **"Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream. Then you shall feed; on *her* sides shall you be carried, and be dandled on *her* knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so I will comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem."**

When you see *this*, your heart shall rejoice, and your bones shall flourish like grass; the hand of the LORD shall be known to his servants, and *his* indignation to his enemies. **For behold, the LORD will come [a second time] with fire and with his chariots, like a whirlwind, to render his anger with fury, and his rebuke with flames of fire. For by fire and by his sword the LORD will judge all flesh; and the slain of the LORD shall be many."**

hen he [the risen Jesus] said to them, "Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And you are witnesses of these things. Behold, I send the Promise of my Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high."

And he led them out as far as Bethany, and he lifted up his hands and blessed them. Now it came to pass, while he blessed them, that he was parted from them and carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him, and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, and were continually in the temple praising and blessing God. Amen.

n the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things were made through him, and without him nothing was made that was made.

In him was life, and the life was the light of men. And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name *was* John. This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that all through him might believe.

He was not that Light, but *was sent* to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming into the world. **He was in the world, and the world was made through him, and the world did not know him.**

He came to his own, and his own did not receive him. **But as many as received him, to them he gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in his name: who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.**

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and **we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.** John bore witness of him and cried out, saying, "This was he of whom I said, 'He who comes after me is preferred before me, for he was before me.'"

And of his fullness we have all received, and grace for grace. For the law was given through Moses, *but* grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has declared *him*.

Now this is the testimony of John, when the Jews sent priests and Levites from Jerusalem to ask him, "Who are you?" He confessed, and did not deny, but confessed, "I am not the Christ."

And they asked him, "What then? Are you Elijah?" He said, "I am not." "Are you the Prophet?" And he answered, "No."

Then they said to him, "Who are you, that we may give an answer to those who sent us? What do you say about yourself?"

He said: "*I am 'The voice of one crying in the wilderness: 'Make straight the way of the LORD,' as the prophet Isaiah said.*"



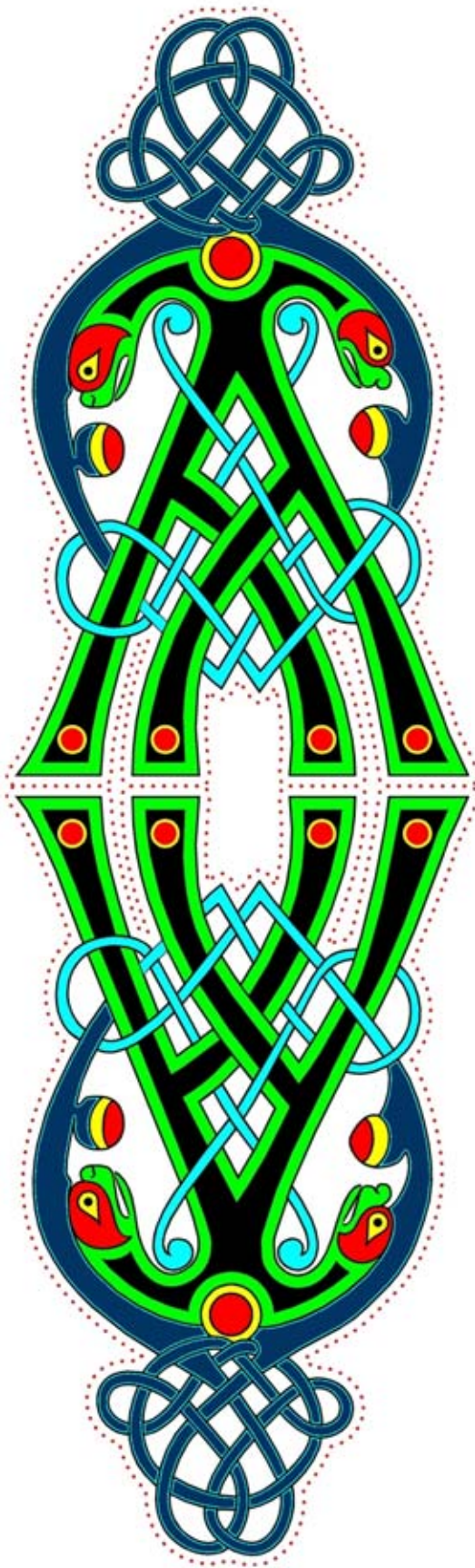
The Salvation & New Life Purchased by
Christ's Death and Resurrection is Explained
Through the Apostle Paul

Romans 5: 19 – 6: 11



or as by one man's disobedience [Adam's] many were made sinners, **so also by one man's obedience [Christ's] many will be made righteous.** Moreover the law entered that the offence might abound. **But where sin abounded, grace abounded much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin that grace may abound? Certainly not! How shall we who died to sin live any longer in it? Or do you not know that as many of us as were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death?

Therefore we were buried with him through baptism into death, **that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.** For if we have been united together in the likeness of his death, **certainly we also shall be *in the likeness of his resurrection,*** knowing this, that our old man was crucified with *him*, that the body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves of sin. For he who has died has been freed from sin. **Now if we died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more.** Death no longer has dominion over him. For *the death* that he died, he died to sin once for all; but *the life* that he lives, he lives to God. **Likewise you also, reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.**



Our Contribution to Redemption (None) is
Displayed by the Apostles Paul & John

I Corinthians 1: 18 – 29; II Corinthians 5: 14 – 21;
Ephesians 2: 4 – 16; I John 4: 2 – 10



or the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. For it is written: "I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent." Where *is* the wise? Where *is* the scribe? Where *is* the disputer of this age? **Has not God made foolish the wisdom of this world? For since, in the wisdom of God, the world through wisdom did not know God, it pleased God through the foolishness of the message preached to save those who believe.**

For Jews request a sign, and Greeks [Gentiles] seek after wisdom; but we preach Christ crucified, to the Jews a stumbling block and to the Greeks foolishness, but to those who are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men, and the weakness of God is stronger than men.

For you see your calling, brethren, that not many wise according to the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, *are called*. But God has chosen the foolish things of the world to put to shame the wise, and God has chosen the weak things of the world to put to shame the things which are mighty; and the base things of the world and the things which are despised God has chosen, and the things which are not, to bring to nothing the things that are, that no flesh should glory in his presence.



or the love of Christ compels us, because we judge thus: that if one [Jesus Christ] died for all [Believers], then all died; and he died for all, that those who live should live no longer for themselves, but for him who died for them and rose again. Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh. Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know *him thus* no longer.

Therefore, *if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.*

Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.

Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: *we implore you on Christ's behalf, be reconciled to God. For he made him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in him.*




ut God, who is rich in mercy, because of his great love with which he loved us, **even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,** that in the ages to come he might show the exceeding riches of his grace in *his* kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

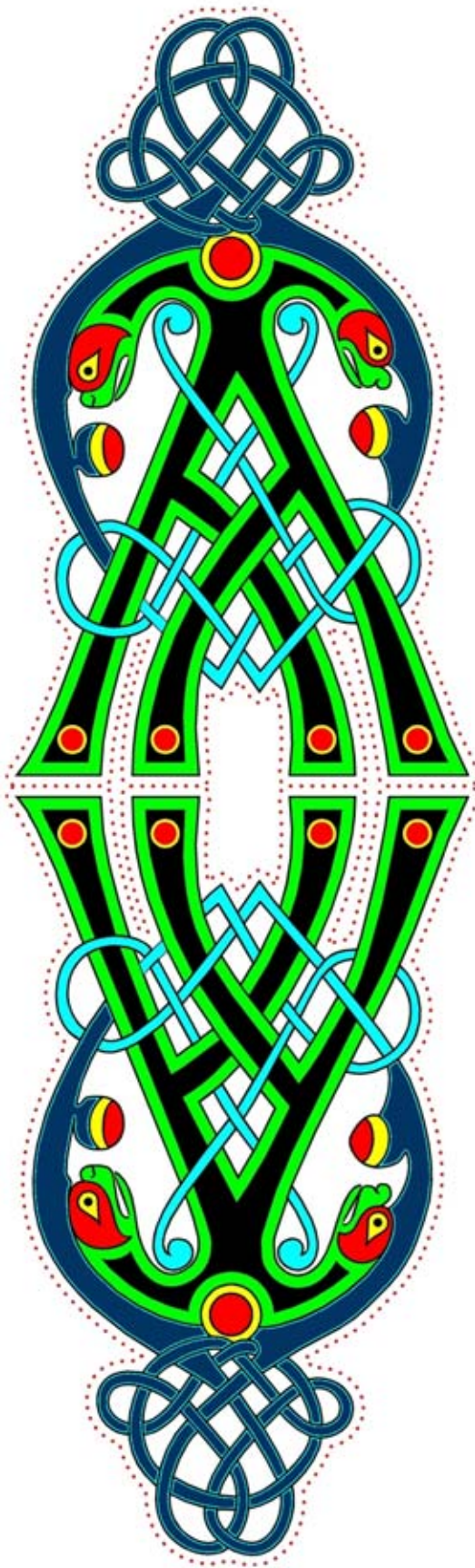
For **by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.** For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand that we should walk in them.

Therefore remember that you, once Gentiles in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands—that at that time you were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

But now in Christ Jesus **you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.**

For he himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments *contained* in ordinances, so as to create in himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, and that he might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity.

y this you know the Spirit of God: **every spirit that confesses that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is of God**, and every spirit that does not confess that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is not of God. And this is the *spirit* of the Antichrist, which you have heard was coming, and is now already in the world. You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world. They are of the world. Therefore they speak *as* of the world, and the world hears them. We are of God. **He who knows God hears us; he who is not of God does not hear us. By this we know the spirit of truth and the spirit of error.** Beloved, let us love one another, for love is of God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. He who does not love does not know God, for God is love. **In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.**



The Ultimate Fate of Believers in Christ is
Revealed through the Apostle Paul

I Corinthians 15: 47 – 57; I Thessalonians 4: 13 – 5: 4



he first man *was* of the earth, *made* of dust; the second man *is* the Lord from heaven. As *was* the *man* of dust, so also *are* those *who are made* of dust; and as *is* the heavenly *man*, so also *are* those *who are* heavenly. And as we have borne the image of the *man* of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly *man*.

Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does corruption inherit incorruption. **Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep [die], but we shall all be changed—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." "O Death, where *is* your sting? O Hades, where *is* your victory?"

The sting of death *is* sin, and the strength of sin *is* the law. **But thanks *be* to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.**



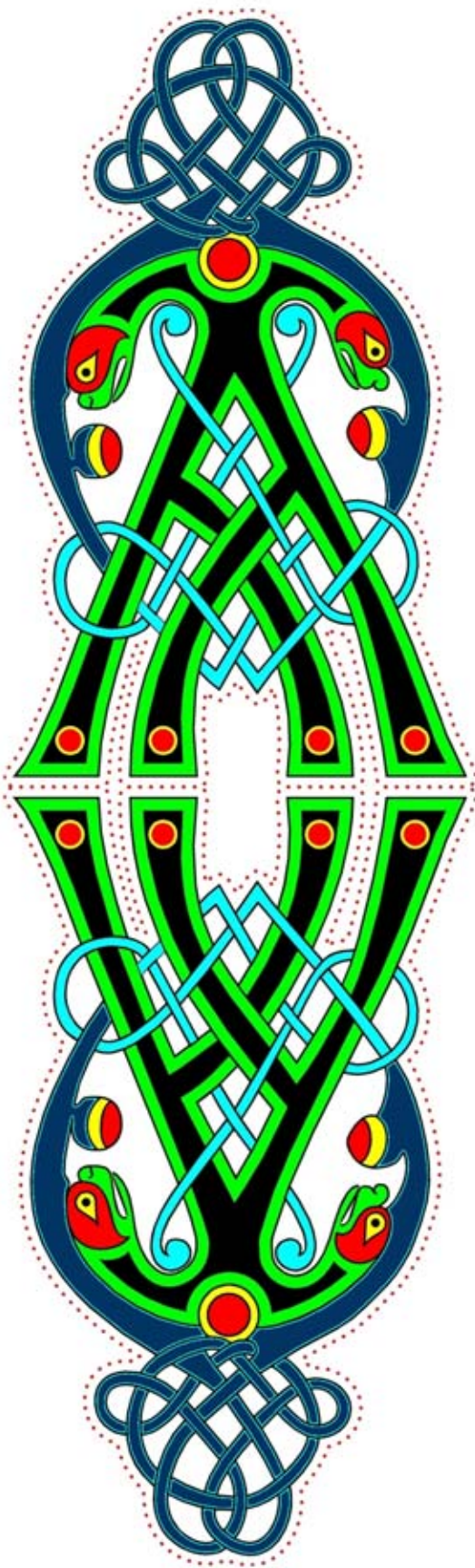
ut I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep [died], lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with him those who sleep in Jesus.

For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive *and* remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. **For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**

Then *we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.* Therefore comfort one another with these words.

But concerning the times and the seasons, brethren, you have no need that I should write to you. For you yourselves know perfectly that the Day of the Lord so comes as a thief in the night [unexpected].

For when they say, "Peace and safety!" then sudden destruction comes upon them, as labour pains upon a pregnant woman. And they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief.



Jesus Christ is Exalted in Hebrews and by John
As the Singular Means of Being
Reconciled to God

Hebrews 9: 11 – 28; Hebrews 10: 4 – 22;
Hebrews 13: 8 – 12; I John 5: 9 – 13




ut Christ came *as* High Priest of the good things to come, with the greater and more perfect tabernacle not made with hands, that is, not of this creation. **Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with his own blood he entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.** For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, [the Jewish sacrificial system] how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?

And for this reason **he is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.** For where there *is* a testament, there must also of necessity be the death of the testator. For a testament *is* in force after men are dead, since it has no power at all while the testator lives. Therefore not even the first *covenant* was dedicated without blood. For when Moses had spoken every precept to all the people according to the law, he took the blood of calves and goats, with water, scarlet wool, and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, saying, "This *is* the blood of the covenant which God has commanded you." Then likewise he sprinkled with blood both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry.

And according to the law almost all things are purified with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no remission. Therefore *it was* necessary that the copies of the things in the heavens should be purified with these, but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these.

For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, *which are* copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us; not that he should offer himself often, as the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood of another—he then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; **but now, once at the end of the ages, he has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**

And **as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgement, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.** To those who eagerly wait for him he will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation.

 **S**or *it is* not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins. Therefore, when he came into the world, he said: "Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you have prepared for me. In burnt offerings and *sacrifices* for sin you had no pleasure. Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—in the volume of the book it is written of me—to do your will, O God.'"

Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and *offerings* for sin you did not desire, nor had pleasure *in them*" (which are offered according to the law), then he said, "Behold, I have come to do your will, O God." He takes away the first that he may establish the second. **By that will we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all.**

And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, from that time waiting till his enemies are made his footstool. **For by one offering he has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.** But the Holy Spirit also witnesses to us; for after he had said before, "This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, says the LORD: I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds I will write them," *then he adds*, "Their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more." Now where there is remission of these, *there is* no longer an offering for sin.

Therefore, brethren, **having boldness to enter the Holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way which he consecrated for us, through the veil, that is, his flesh,** and *having* a High Priest over the house of God, let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience and our bodies washed with pure water.

Jesus Christ *is the same yesterday, today, and forever.* Do not be carried about with various and strange doctrines. For *it is good* that the heart be established by grace, not with foods which have not profited those who have been occupied with them. We have an altar from which those who serve the tabernacle have no right to eat. For the bodies of those animals, whose blood is brought into the sanctuary by the high priest for sin, are burned outside the camp. *Therefore Jesus also, that he might sanctify the people with his own blood, suffered outside the gate.*

If we receive the witness of men, the witness of God is greater; for this is the witness of God which he has testified of his Son. He who believes in the Son of God has the witness in himself; he who does not believe God has made him a liar, because he has not believed the testimony that God has given of his Son. And this is the testimony: that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.

He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may *continue to* believe in the name of the Son of God.





OLORD, you have searched me and known *me*. You know my sitting down and my rising up; you understand my thought afar off.

You comprehend my path and my lying down, and are acquainted with all my ways. For *there is* not a word on my tongue, *but* behold, O LORD, you know it altogether.

You have hedged me behind and before, and laid your hand upon me. *Such* knowledge is too wonderful for me; it is high, I cannot *attain* it.

Where can I go from your Spirit? Or where can I flee from your presence?

If I ascend into heaven, you *are* there; if I make my bed in hell, behold, you *are there*.

If I take the wings of the morning, *and* dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me.





If I say, "Surely the darkness shall fall on me,"
even the night shall be light about me; indeed, the
darkness shall not hide from you, but the night
shines as the day; the darkness and the light *are*
both alike *to you*.

For you formed my inward parts; you covered me
in my mother's womb. I will praise you, for I am
fearfully *and* wonderfully made; marvellous are
your works, and *that* my soul knows very well.

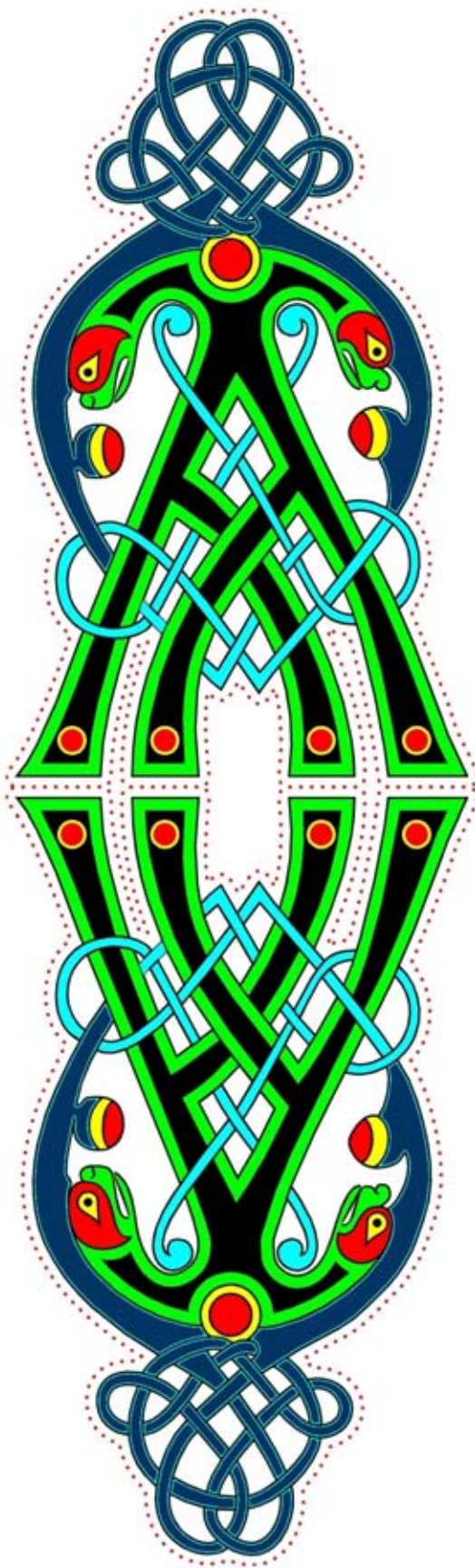
My frame was not hidden from you, when I was
made in secret, *and* skilfully wrought in the
lowest parts of the earth.

Your eyes saw my substance, being yet unformed.
And in your book they all were written, the days
fashioned for me, when *as yet there were* none of
them.

How precious also are your thoughts to me, O God!
How great is the sum of them! *If* I should count
them, they would be more in number than the
sand; when I awake, I am still with you.








The Apostle John is Given a Vision that
Unveils Jesus Christ as The Almighty, as the
Lamb, and as Judge, King & Lord Over All

Revelation 1: 1 – 8; Revelation 1: 9 – 18; Revelation
4: 1 – 3; Revelation 5: 1 – 14; Revelation 7: 9 – 17;
Revelation 14: 1 – 7; Revelation 19: 5 – 21;
Revelation 21: 3 – 8; Revelation 21: 19 – 22: 20




he Revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show his servants—things which must shortly [quickly] take place. And he sent and signified *it* by his angel to his servant John, who bore witness to the word of God, and to the testimony of Jesus Christ, to all things that he saw. Blessed *is* he who reads and those who hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written in it; for the time *is* near.

John, to the seven churches which are in Asia: Grace to you and peace from him who is and who was and who is to come, and from the seven Spirits [or sevenfold Spirit] who are before his throne, and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To him who loved us and washed us from our sins in his own blood, and has made us kings and priests [or a kingdom of priests] to his God and Father, to him *be* glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.

Behold, he is coming with clouds, and every eye will see him, even they who pierced him. And all the tribes of the earth will mourn because of him. Even so, Amen.

"I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the* Beginning and *the* End," says the Lord, "who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty."

 [John] was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

Then I turned to see the voice that spoke with me. And having turned I saw seven golden lamp-stands, and in the midst of the seven lamp-stands *one* like the Son of Man, clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band.

His head and hair *were* white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes like a flame of fire; his feet *were* like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace, and his voice as the sound of many waters; he had in his right hand seven stars, out of his mouth went a sharp two-edged sword, and his countenance *was* like the sun shining in its strength.

And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying to me, "Do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I *am* he who lives, and was dead, and behold, I am alive forevermore. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of Death."

After these things I looked, and behold, a door *standing* open in heaven. And the first voice which I heard *was* like a trumpet speaking with me, saying, "Come up here, and I will show you things which must take place after this."

Immediately I was in the Spirit; and behold, a throne set in heaven, and *One* sat on the throne. And he who sat there was like a jasper and a sardius stone in appearance; and *there was* a rainbow around the throne, in appearance like an emerald.

And I saw in the right *hand* of him who sat on the throne a scroll [the title deed to the earth?] written inside and on the back, sealed with seven seals. Then I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, "Who is worthy to open the scroll and to loose its seals?" And no one in heaven or on the earth or under the earth was able to open the scroll, or to look at it. So I wept much, because no one was found worthy to open and read the scroll, or to look at it. But one of the elders said to me, "Do not weep. Behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David, has prevailed to open the scroll and to loose its seven seals." And I looked, and behold, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as though it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, [perfect power and perfect knowledge] which are the seven Spirits of God sent out into all the earth.

Then he came and took the scroll out of the right hand of him who sat on the throne. Now when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each having a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. And they sang a new song, saying: "You are worthy to take the scroll, and to open its seals; for you were slain, and have redeemed us to God by your blood out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation, and have made us kings and priests [or a kingdom of priests] to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne, the living creatures, and the elders; and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice: "Worthy is the Lamb who was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom, and strength and honour and glory and blessing!"

And every creature which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and such as are in the sea, and all that are in them, I heard saying: "Blessing and honour and glory and power *be* to him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, forever and ever!" Then the four living creatures said, "Amen!" And the twenty-four elders fell down and worshipped him who lives forever and ever.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands, and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "*Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!*" All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshipped God, saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, thanksgiving and honour and power and might, *be to our God forever and ever. Amen.*"

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?" And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "*These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.* Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve him day and night in his temple. And he who sits on the throne will dwell among them.

They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat; *for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to living fountains of waters. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.*"



hen I looked, and behold, a Lamb standing on Mount Zion, and with him one hundred *and* forty-four thousand, having his Father's name written on their foreheads. And I heard a voice from heaven, like the voice of many waters, and like the voice of loud thunder. And I heard the sound of harpists playing their harps.

They sang as it were a new song before the throne, before the four living creatures, and the elders; and no one could learn that song except the hundred *and* forty-four thousand who were redeemed from the earth. These are the ones who were not defiled with women, for they are virgins. *These are the ones who follow the Lamb wherever he goes. These were redeemed from among men, being first-fruits to God and to the Lamb.* And in their mouth was found no deceit, for they are without fault before the throne of God.

Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people—saying with a loud voice, "*Fear God and give glory to him, for the hour of his judgement has come; and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and springs of water.*"



hen a voice came from the throne, saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants and those who fear him, both small and great!" And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of mighty thunderings, saying, "**Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his wife [the true Church] has made herself ready.**" And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.

Then he said to me, "Write: 'Blessed *are* those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb!'" And he said to me, "These are the true sayings of God." And I fell at his feet to worship him. But he said to me, "See *that you do not do that! I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren who have the testimony of Jesus. Worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.*"

Now I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse. And he who sat on him *was* called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war. His eyes *were* like a flame of fire, and on his head *were* many crowns. He had a name written that no one knew except himself. He *was* clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his name is called The Word of God. [A title of Jesus Christ].

And the armies in heaven, clothed in fine linen, white and clean, followed him on white horses. Now out of his mouth goes a sharp sword, that with it he should strike the nations. And he himself will rule them with a rod of iron. He himself treads the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And he has on *his* robe and on his thigh a name written:

KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS.

Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all *people*, free and slave, both small and great."

And I saw the beast [the antichrist], the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against him who sat on the horse and against his army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshipped his image. **These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword [the Word of God] which proceeded from the mouth of him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh.**

And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people. God himself will be with them *and be* their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

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

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

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



he foundations of the wall of the city [the New Jerusalem] *were* adorned with all kinds of precious stones: the first foundation *was* jasper, the second sapphire, the third chalcedony, the fourth emerald, the fifth sardonyx, the sixth sardius, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst. The twelve gates *were* twelve pearls: each individual gate was of one pearl. And the street of the city *was* pure gold, like transparent glass. **But I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.** And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. **But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.**

And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations.

And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him. They shall see his face, and his name *shall be* on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.

Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show his servants the things which must shortly take place. "**Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed is he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book.**"

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God."

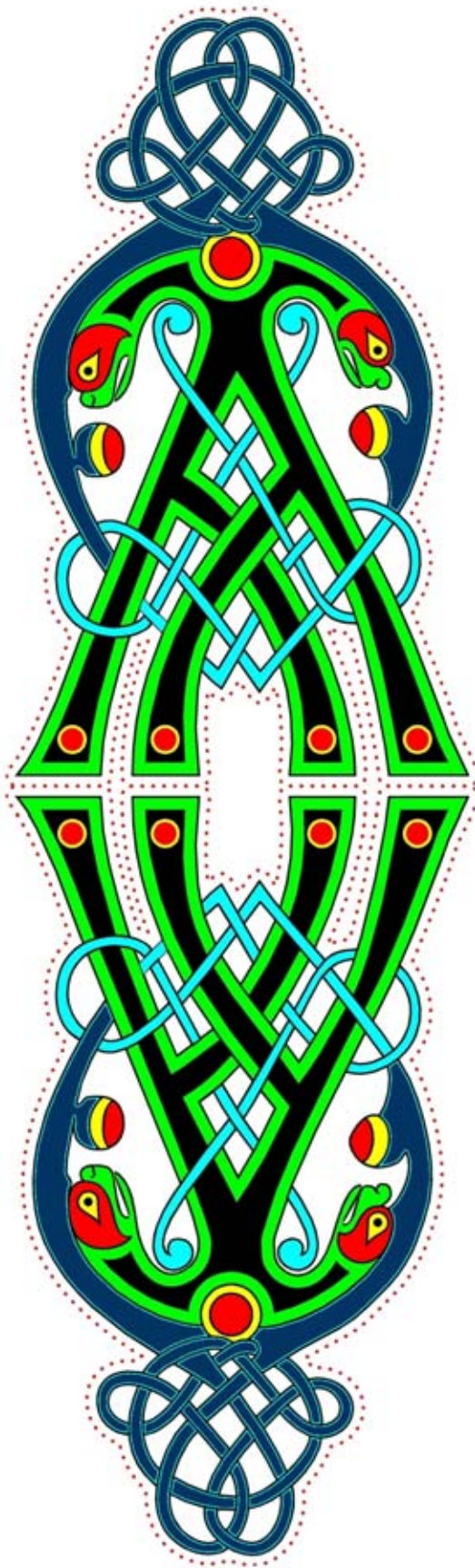
And he said to me, "Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still."

" **A**nd behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward *is* with me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*"

Blessed *are* those who do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter through the gates into the city. But outside *are* dogs and sorcerers and sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and whoever loves and practises a lie.

" **I**, Jesus, have sent my angel to testify to you these things *in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.*" And the Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let him who hears say, "Come!" And let him who thirsts come. Whoever desires, let him take the water of life freely.


For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the Book of Life, from the holy city, and *from* the things which are written in this book. *He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming quickly."* Amen. Even so, come, Lord Jesus!




The Apostle John is Told to Write Christ's
Appraisal of His Seven Churches in Asia

(Illustrating Perhaps All Churches that are:
Loveless, Persecuted, Compromising, Corrupt,
Dead, Faithful or Lukewarm!)

Revelation 1: 10 & 11; Revelation 2: 1 – 5; 8 – 10;
12 – 16; 18 – 23; Revelation 3: 1 – 5; 14 – 22

 [John] was in the Spirit on the Lord's Day, and I heard behind me a loud voice, as of a trumpet, saying, "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last," and, "What you see, write in a book and send *it* to the seven churches which are in Asia: to Ephesus, to Smyrna, to Pergamos, to Thyatira, to Sardis, to Philadelphia, and to Laodicea."

 To the angel [pastor or elder] of the church of Ephesus write, 'These things says he who holds the seven stars in his right hand, who walks in the midst of the seven golden lamp-stands: "I know your works, your labour, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil. And you have tested those who say they are apostles and are not, and have found them liars; and you have persevered and have patience, and have laboured for my name's sake and have not become weary."

Nevertheless I have *this* against you, that you have left your first love [the Lord himself]. Remember therefore from where you have fallen; repent and do the first works, or else I will come to you quickly and remove your lamp-stand from its place—unless you repent."⁽¹⁾

(1) The Ephesus church had many excellent qualities, yet it had become legalistic and mechanical in its orthodoxy (that is loveless) – and the Lord warned it to revive its passion for him or 'die'.

" **A**nd to the angel of the church in Smyrna write, 'These things says the First and the Last, who was dead, and came to life: "I know your works, tribulation, and poverty (but you are rich); and I know the blasphemy of those who say they are Jews and are not, but *are* a synagogue of Satan. Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw *some* of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.'"⁽¹⁾

(1) The Lord had no word of condemnation for the Smyrna church – it was persecuted but remained faithful (and the church is purified since no false 'believers' will remain part of a persecuted church).

" **A**nd to the angel of the church in Pergamos write, 'These things says he who has the sharp two-edged sword: "I know your works, and where you dwell, where Satan's throne *is*. And you hold fast to my name, and did not deny my faith even in the days in which Antipas *was* my faithful martyr, who was killed among you, where Satan dwells. **But I have a few things against you, because you have there those who hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to put a stumbling block before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed to idols, and to commit sexual immorality. Thus you also have those who hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate. Repent, or else I will come to you quickly and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth."**

(1) The Pergamos church had compromised with the world and allowed impurity to be tolerated – and the Lord hated it!

" **A**nd to the angel of the church in Thyatira write, 'These things says the Son of God, who has eyes like a flame of fire, and his feet like fine brass: "I know your works, love, service, faith, and your patience; and *as for your works, the last are more than the first. Nevertheless I have a few things against you, because you allow that woman Jezebel, who calls herself a prophetess, to teach and seduce my servants to commit sexual immorality and eat things sacrificed to idols. And I gave her time to repent of her sexual immorality, and she did not repent. Indeed I will cast her into a sickbed, and those who commit adultery with her into great tribulation, unless they repent of their deeds. I will kill her children with death, and all the churches shall know that I am he who searches the minds and hearts. And I will give to each one of you according to your works.*"⁽¹⁾

(1) The Thyatira church had some commendable qualities, yet had become corrupted by allowing immorality and idolatry to be tolerated, and the Lord's judgment was severe.

" **A**nd to the angel of the church in Sardis write, 'These things says he who has the seven Spirits of God and the seven stars: "I know your works, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God. Remember therefore how you have received and heard; hold fast and repent.

Therefore if you will not watch, I will come upon you as a thief, and you will not know what hour I will come upon you. **You have a few names even in Sardis who have not defiled their garments; and they shall walk with me in white, for they are worthy.** He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from the Book of Life; but I will confess his name before my Father and before his angels."⁽¹⁾

(1) The Sardis church was spiritually 'dead' – apart from a few faithful members whom the Lord knew and commended.

" And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says he who is holy, he who is true, "He who has the key of David, he who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens: **I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept my word, and have not denied my name.** Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie—indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. **Because you have kept my command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.**"⁽¹⁾

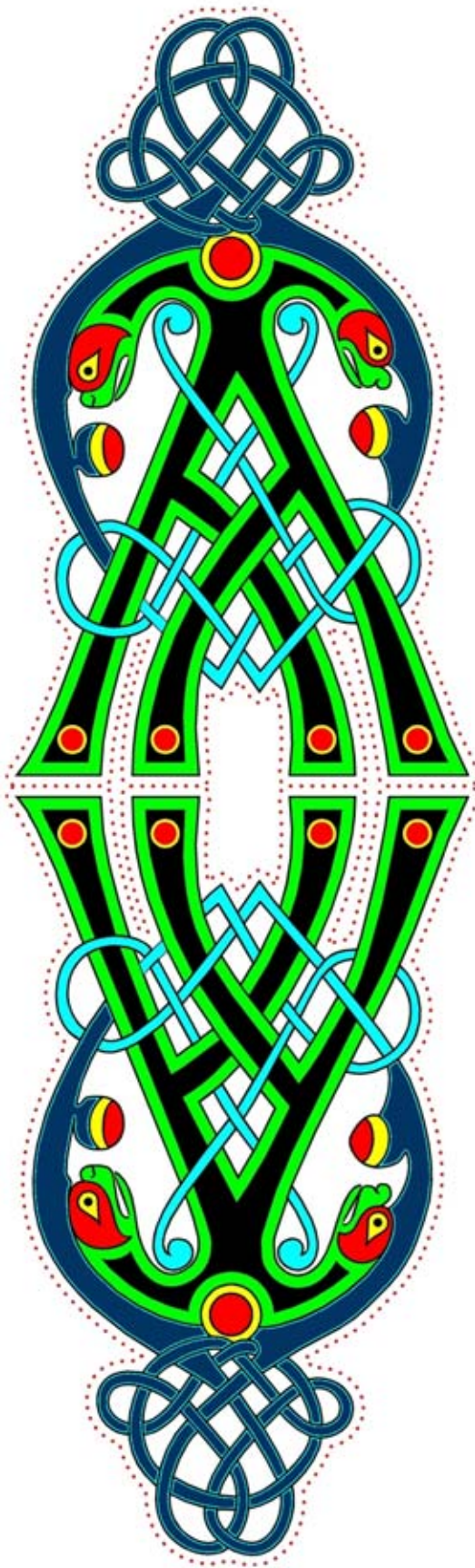
(1) The church at Philadelphia remained faithful to the Lord and to his word, and he had only commendation for them.

" **A**nd to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot.

So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of my mouth. Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' —and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked—I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, *that* the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see.

As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent. Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and dine with him, and he with me. **To him who overcomes I will grant to sit with me on my throne, as I also overcame and sat down with my Father on his throne. He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches.**"⁽¹⁾

(1) Here is the 'lukewarm', rich and complacent church that the Lord sees completely oppositely to how it sees itself. Nevertheless, he offers the open door of reconciliation to those who return to him with their initial zeal.



All of Us Will Be Judged For the Things Done
in the Body (Our Lives in the World)

(We are Told by Jesus and His Apostles that
He Will Be the Judge!)

Matthew 7: 13 – 23; Matthew 25: 31 – 26: 2;
John 5: 18 – 30; Romans 14: 6 – 10;
II Corinthians 5: 1 – 11; Revelation 20: 7 – 15;
Revelation 21: 23 – 22: 13



Enter by the narrow gate; for wide *is* the gate and broad *is* the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. **Because narrow *is* the gate and difficult *is* the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.**

Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thorn-bushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit.

A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor *can* a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.

Not everyone who says to me [Christ], 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of my Father in heaven. **Many will say to me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in your name, cast out demons in your name, and done many wonders in your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you who practise lawlessness!'"**

" When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate them one from another, as a shepherd divides *his* sheep from the goats. And he will set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, you blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: for I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I *was* naked and you clothed me; I was sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.'

Then the righteous will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed *you*, or thirsty and give *you* drink? When did we see you a stranger and take *you* in, or naked and clothe *you*? Or when did we see you sick, or in prison, and come to you?'

And the King will answer and say to them, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did *it* to one of the least of these my brethren, you did *it* to me.'

Then he will also say to those on the left hand, 'Depart from me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels: for I was hungry and you gave me no food; I was thirsty and you gave me no drink; I was a stranger and you did not take me in, naked and you did not clothe me, sick and in prison and you did not visit me.'

Then they also will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison, and did not minister to you?'

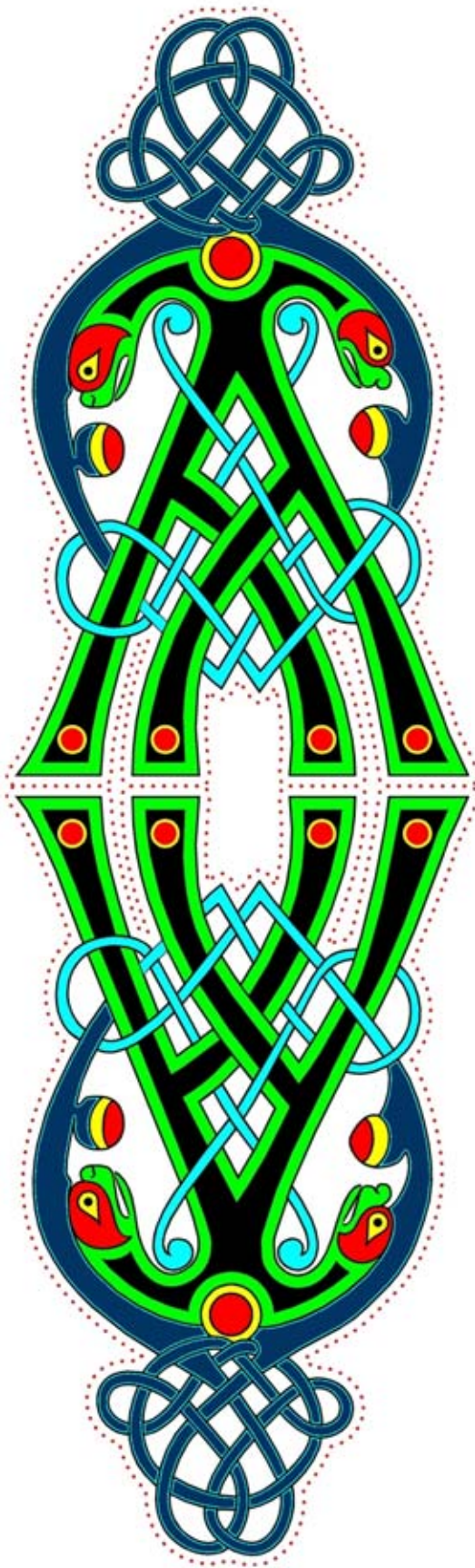
Then he will answer them, saying, 'Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did not do *it* to one of the least of these, you did not do *it* to me.' And these will go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."


Now it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, *that* he said to his disciples, "You know that after two days is the Passover, and the Son of Man will be delivered up to be crucified."




hen Jesus answered and said to them, "Most assuredly, I say to you, the Son can do nothing of himself, but what he sees the Father do; for whatever he does, the Son also does in like manner. For the Father loves the Son, and shows him all things that he himself does; and he will show him greater works than these, that you may marvel. For as the Father raises the dead and gives life to *them*, even so the Son gives life to whom he will. **For the Father judges no one, but has committed all judgement to the Son, that all should honour the Son just as they honour the Father. He who does not honour the Son does not honour the Father who sent him. Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears my word and believes in him who sent me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgement, but has passed from death into life.**

Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. **For as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son to have life in himself, and has given him authority to execute judgement also, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear his voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation. I can of myself do nothing. As I hear, I judge; and my judgement is righteous, because I do not seek my own will but the will of the Father who sent me."**




 e who observes the day, observes *it* to the Lord; and he who does not observe the day, to the Lord he does not observe *it*. He who eats, eats to the Lord, for he gives God thanks; and he who does not eat, to the Lord he does not eat, and gives God thanks. For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord's. **For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that he might be Lord of both the dead and the living.** But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? **For we shall all stand before the judgement seat of Christ. For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God."** So then each of us shall give account of himself to God.

 or we know that if our earthly house, *this* tent, [Paul's body] is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in *this* tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life.

Now he who has prepared us for this very thing *is* God, who also has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. So *we are* always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord. For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord. Therefore we make it our aim, whether present or absent, to be well pleasing to him.

For we must all appear before the judgement seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things *done* in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. Knowing, therefore, the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are well known to God, and I also trust are well known in your consciences.

ow when the thousand years [Christ's millennial kingdom on Earth] have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number *is* as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet *are*. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Then I saw a great white throne and him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.**



The city [New Jerusalem] had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb [Christ] is its light. And the nations of those who are saved shall walk in its light, and the kings of the earth bring their glory and honour into it. Its gates shall not be shut at all by day (there shall be no night there). And they shall bring the glory and the honour of the nations into it. **But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in the Lamb's Book of Life. And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb.**

In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, *was* the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each *tree* yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree *were* for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and his servants shall serve him. They shall see his face, and his name *shall be* on their foreheads. There shall be no night there: they need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever. Then he said to me, "These words *are* faithful and true." And the Lord God of the holy prophets sent his angel to show his servants the things which must shortly take place. "Behold, I am coming quickly! Blessed *is* he who keeps the words of the prophecy of this book."

Now I, John, saw and heard these things. And when I heard and saw, I fell down to worship before the feet of the angel who showed me these things. Then he said to me, "See *that you do not do that*. For I am your fellow servant, and of your brethren the prophets, and of those who keep the words of this book. Worship God." And he said to me, "**Do not seal the words of the prophecy of this book, for the time is at hand. He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.**" "And behold, I am coming quickly, and my reward *is* with me, to give to every one according to his work. I am the Alpha and the Omega, *the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last.*"





By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
and all the host of them by the breath of his
mouth.

He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;
he lays up the deep in storehouses.

Let all the earth fear the LORD; let all the
inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him.

For he spoke, and it was *done*; he commanded, and
it stood fast.

The LORD brings the counsel of the nations to
nothing; he makes the plans of the peoples of no
effect.

The counsel of the LORD stands forever, the plans
of his heart to all generations.

Blessed *is* the nation whose God *is* the LORD, the
people he has chosen as his own inheritance.





The LORD looks from heaven; he sees all the sons of men.

From the place of his dwelling he looks on all the inhabitants of the earth; he fashions their hearts individually; he considers all their works.

No king *is* saved by the multitude of an army; a mighty man is not delivered by great strength. A horse *is* a vain hope for safety; neither shall it deliver *any* by its great strength.

Behold, the eye of the LORD *is* on those who fear him, on those who hope in his mercy, to deliver their soul from death, and to keep them alive in famine.

Our soul waits for the LORD; he *is* our help and our shield. For our heart shall rejoice in him, because we have trusted in his holy name.

Let your mercy, O LORD, be upon us, just as we hope in you.





WWW.WITNESSOFTHELIGHT.ORG