

Chapter 10

THE TOWER OF BABEL AND THE “RELIGIOUS LANGUAGES”

*Did not people try to “reach God” before?
Are not people today doing the same thing?
Can they “understand” each other?*

The story goes, four generations or around 100 to 150 years after the Great Deluge, people spoke only one language. Very roughly, the population of the world was around 15,000 to 40,000 people. These came from the three sons of Noah: Shem, Ham, and Japheth. The three sons bore 7, 4, and 7 sons, respectively, with unrecorded number of daughters.

These early people settled in a plain land in Shinar, popularly known as Babylon. It was on this land that the people built the Tower of Babel in trying to reach God in heaven:

Genesis 11:1-9 “And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech. ²And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there. ³And they said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. ⁴And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth. ⁵And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. ⁶And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do. ⁷Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech. ⁸So the LORD

scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth: and they left off to build the city. ⁹Therefore is the name of it called Babel... ”

This is a familiar story that old folks use to tell children. This is also played on stage, put in films, and considered an epic. That is Bible history or a story to many people. God, however, says that His words are in parables (Ezekiel 20:49) that convey great spiritual message. Examples:

Ezekiel 19:2 “And say, what is thy mother? A lioness: she lay down among lions, she nourished her whelps among young lions. ³And she brought up one of her whelps: it became a young lion, and it learned to catch the prey; it devoured men.”

John 2:19-21 “Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. ²⁰Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? ²¹But he spake of the temple of his body.”

Revelation 10:9 “And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey.”

Let us remember that God gave us His words for a spiritual food. Just as the body in our physical life needs literal food, our soul in our spiritual life needs spiritual food:

Jeremiah 15:16 “Thy words were found, and I did eat them; and thy word was unto me the joy and rejoicing of mine heart:...”

Psalms 119:103 “How sweet are thy words unto my taste! yea, sweeter than honey to my mouth!”

Satan, tempting our Lord in the desert, tried to use the Word of God. He was, however, rebuked for thinking only of literal-physical things. There are two ways of looking at the word of God: *Spiritual* and *Literal-Physical*. It is God Who can give the great spiritual message of His words – not any man.

TOWER TO HEAVEN

The people in the story planned and labored building the tower to reach heaven. It was with human intelligence and capability that they tried to get to the "place" of God. Let us ask God if those people were doing the right thing: "Lord, could man possibly 'reach' you with his own ways?"

Isaiah 55:8 "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."

In the story, with "man's thoughts and ways," the people tried to reach heaven literally-physically. That is a glaring error in the eyes of everybody. This is an initial sign for the erroneous perception of man on things pertaining to God. Is it not foolishness to try "to reach God" literally-physically? Even in the eyes of men it is.

Genesis 11:4 "And they said...let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach unto heaven..."

Not only that, it is equally foolish in the eyes of men the "spiritual things" that pertain to God and His words.

1 Corinthians 2:14 "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

That chasm separates man from God. In those two views shall we take up the story of the building of the Tower of Babel.

THE SPIRITUAL TOWER

In the story, if the Natural Man sees the structure as a physical skyscraper, God actually refers to a spiritual tower. We, therefore, ask God what it is: "Lord, since the intention of the people was to reach you, what is a spiritual tower that would make them realize their plan?" God answers by saying, "the *strong tower* is My name:

Proverbs 18:10 "The name of the LORD is a strong tower: the righteous runneth into it, and is safe."

As if God is saying, “You should know that it is through My Name that man can be saved. I revealed this to My Disciples:”

Acts 4:12 “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”

We ask God: “Lord, what is this name that you are referring to?”

Philippians 2:10 “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; ¹¹And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord...”

Truly so, it is through *Jesus Christ* that man is saved:

Matthew 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Luke 2:11 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

The *Tower* to reach heaven therefore is through *Jesus Christ*, for He is the *spiritual tower*.

Psalms 18:2 “The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust; my buckler, and the horn of my salvation, and my high tower.”

God answered our question by saying; He is the spiritual “high tower” and His *Name* is the “strong tower.” He, however, warns us that many will come in His *Name* and shall deceive many:

Matthew 24:24 “For there shall arise...false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect.”

Matthew 24:5 “For many shall come in my name...and shall deceive many.”

Matthew 24:25 “Behold, I have told you before.”

We ask God: "Lord, how do we know the 'unauthorized architects and engineers' of the tower?" As if God is saying, "How many people in your time profess to be My servants who do not even agree as to Who I am? There are some who say I, the Son, am only a man and not God. Others say I am only a minor God. Many say I am only one of the three persons of God, plus many more variations in My identification. Am I really that mysterious to My Chosen Few?"

Hebrews 8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."

Matthew 16:15 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God."

John 11:27 "She (Martha) saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world."

"These people who profess to be My servants say the same thing that 'I am the Christ and the Son of the living God,' yet they cannot agree among themselves who really I Am. To them, I am a great mystery, incapable of clear identification. Is that what is written in My sacred book? From the beginning, I have been introducing Myself to My chosen people. This is one clue for you to watch. Watch for the 'kind of materials' the unauthorized architects and engineers' used, and the 'way' they build the *Spiritual Tower*. Remember, the spiritual tower is My *Name*, and My spiritual name is:

Revelation 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

"How much do you know about My *name*? Do you understand the great message of My words?"

BRICKS INSTEAD OF STONES

Man's thoughts and ways are used in making bricks. In the building of the Tower of Babel, bricks were used to the consternation of God. Spiritual bricks are the means of men in "building the way to reach" God. Many people have not even succeeded recognizing God that they cannot agree on the real message of the word. Men in understanding and interpreting the Word of God have devised different theories, methodology, and ways. He ended up wandering and wondering Who the "One God and one Lord" of the Bible is.

That is the reason why we hear people say, “The Bible is laden with mysteries. The Word of God is full of contradictions.” This is in spite of the long years and great efforts spent by theologians and Bible scholars. These are some contradictions in the Bible that people cannot reconcile:

1. The Bible is very explicit about unclean food in the Old Testament.

Leviticus 11:26 “The carcasses of every beast which divideth the hoof, and is not clovenfooted, nor cheweth the cud, are unclean unto you...”

Jesus Christ said:

Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”

Why did Jesus say that there is no more unclean food that enters the mouth?

Matthew 15:11 “Not that which goeth into the mouth defileth a man; but that which cometh out of the mouth, this defileth a man.”

2. There is an Old Testament law that states:

Leviticus 24:20 “Breach for breach, eye for eye, tooth for tooth: as he hath caused a blemish in a man, so shall it be done to him again.”

Why did Jesus preach the following, as if nullifying the law, when He said He did not come to destroy the it?¹

Matthew 5:44 “But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you.”

¹ Matthew 5:17 “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.”

STONES INSTEAD OF BRICKS

If the people building the Tower used bricks, which is man-made, and failed; is this not the equivalent of people today identifying the God of the Old and New Testaments with human wisdom, and still remain in the dark?

Genesis 11:3 "And they said one to another...let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar."

With fire, the people heated the bricks. One reference for fire is the Holy Spirit. It is not uncommon to hear people, say, "I feel the Holy Spirit in me." Unwittingly, their zeal is only the fruit of *emotion* coming from the heart. The heart is the most deceitful of all things.

Jeremiah 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?"

This is the counterfeit Holy Spirit. Can the Holy Spirit be in man when he does something contrary to what God wants? God preferred *stones* to bricks. Stones are natural materials that God created without any human intervention. So also, God wants us to use 'natural' or God-given ways in building of the spiritual *Tower* "to reach" Him.

SLIME INSTEAD OF MORTAR

Genesis 11:3 "And they said one to another...let us make brick, and burn them thoroughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar."

Mortar is a mixture of lime, a white substance obtained by the action of heat on limestone. Together with other material containing calcium carbonate and water, this is the natural substance used in joining stones. *Slime* is sticky substance such as animal dung, muck, and other waste materials used as substitute for mortar.

Let us ask *God*: "Lord, were the people right in using slime instead of mortar?" As if God is saying, "Remember, the spiritual Tower is the means to reach Me and My words. Like spiritual bricks, spiritual slime in "building the tower" is an abomination in My sight. I hate anything filthy. If the people building the Tower of Babel failed, do you think people today succeed in 'reaching Me?' In their perception, they do reach Me. That is what I saw in the religious people during My physical sojourn on earth. The Jews thought they knew the God of their father Abraham. I told them that is not so."

John 8:54 “Jesus answered...my honour is nothing: it is my Father that honoureth me; of whom ye say, that he is your God... ⁵⁵yet ye have not known him...”

“Do people in your time under the religious leaders, the “architects of the modern Tower of Babel,” really recognize Me? Am I not a great mystery to them as heard from their lips? Justifying this, do they not give different plausible excuses for their spiritual blindness, by saying: ‘Our finite mind is incapable to comprehend the identity of the infinite God?’ Then they support this with My words.”

Isaiah 55:8 “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. ⁹For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

“Is this the truth? Did I not promise those who come to Me with their whole heart “to be given a heart to know Me?”² Did I not make true this promise in the Old Testament ³ and also in the New Testament ⁴? Now it is understandable why people in the plain of Shinar did not reach heaven. People today are deceived into believing that they can “reach Me” with their human precepts and religious traditions all but fruits of human wisdom. The Jews during My earthly sojourn used human reasoning, just as the people at the plain of Shinar used slime – thing that I abhor:

Colossians 2:8 “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy...after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ.”

1 Corinthians 1:19-21 “...I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the

² Jeremiah 24:7 “And I will *give them an heart to know me*, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall *return unto me with their whole heart*.”

³ Jeremiah 31:31-34 “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant...³³ ...After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. ³⁴ And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for *they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them*, saith the LORD...”

⁴ Hebrews 8:11 “And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.”

prudent...where is the scribe? the world by wisdom knew not God..."

The Jews under their religious leaders were not aware that they were applying *Theology* in their quest for things about God. Theology is a term compounded of two Greek words, Theo (God) and logos (rational utterance), and it might be taken to mean something like "rational utterance, or discourse about God." Divine wisdom comes from God alone:

Matthew 11:25 "At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast hid these things from the wise and prudent, and hast revealed them unto babes."

Proverbs 3:5 "Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding."

Spiritual slime is *Theology* that man invented in building the spiritual Tower trying to reach heaven. The Teachers of the Law who were looked up as Godly messengers were not aware of the condemned orthodox religious beliefs and practices. They ended up not even recognizing God.

Are not religious people today equally ignorant of the Father and the Son? While professing they are one, theology teaches that the Father and the Son are one in love, in purpose, in power, in omniscience, in omnipotence, but still remaining in the dark as to the clear identity of the one true God of the Old and New Testament. What is His name? How could the following be reconciled that constitute the "strong and high Tower" so as to reach God?

John 10:30 "I and my Father are one."

John 14:9 "Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Show us the Father?"

Colossians 1:15 "Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature:"

1 Corinthians 8:6 "But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things...and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things..."

Deuteronomy 6:4 “Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD:”

God does not direct His statement to all people for many would not understand it. Only to spiritual *Israel*, the real believers.⁵

DIFFERENT LANGUAGES

Let us ask God whether this act of the people in the plain of Shinar or Babylon was pleasing to Him:

Genesis 11:5-7 “And the LORD came down to see the city and the tower, which the children of men builded. ⁶And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one, and they have all one language; ⁷...let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another’s speech.”

(Note: The use of the pronoun “we” indicating the “plurality of God” in the phrase *let us*, is discussed in Chapter 5.)

If we will notice, it was in the building of the *Tower* that caused God to confound the language of men. Taking the Bible literally, this simply refers to the different languages and dialects that people of the world speak today: English, Chinese, German, French, Russian, Arabic, Hindu, etc. This however is social in character. God is speaking “spiritual thing.” (1 Corinthians 2:14) Let us now ask God the result of what He did in confounding the language of men. “Lord, in what way did you confound the language of men?”

Luke 12:51 “Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:”

Jesus was not referring to political, economic, and social differences among the people. The Jews “spoke different languages” pertaining to Jesus and therefore could not understand each other.

John 7:43 “So there was a division among the people because of him.”

⁵ Galatians 3:28 “There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ And if ye *be* Christ’s, then are ye Abraham’s seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

John 9:16 "Therefore said some of the Pharisees, This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the sabbath day. Others said, How can a man that is a sinner do such miracles? And there was a division among them."

Acts 23: 8 "For the Sadducees say that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit: but the Pharisees confess both."

Literally, those people spoke the same Hebrew language. Spiritually, however, they could not understand each other when the subject is about Jesus Christ and eternal life. The sects of the Pharisees and Sadducees were never one in "language" on the subject of eternal life. These people did not recognize Jesus Christ. So they did not understand what He was saying. They were not one in understanding the Laws of God given to them? Never therefore could they "reach heaven?"

2 Corinthians 4:3 "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost:"

Jesus Christ called them, "blind guides:"

Luke 6:39 "And he spake a parable unto them, Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?"

Compare these people with Christ's Disciples who were converted "like little children."⁶ Was there division among them regarding the Messiah?⁷ Were Jesus and the Father a great mystery to them?⁸ Were they ignorant of the word of our Lord that was expressed in parables?⁹

⁶ Matthew 18:3 "And said, Verily I say unto you, Except ye be converted, and become as little children, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."

⁷ Acts 2:1 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place."

⁸ Hebrews 8:11 "And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest."

⁹ Mark 4:34 "But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples."

CONFOUNDING OF LANGUAGES TODAY

Since God was not talking of political, economic, scientific or social matters, but rather of spiritual things, how is confounding the languages of men fulfilled in our time? We are witnesses to what people are doing to reach God in our time. They are no different from the people of Shinar or Babylon in building their own tower of Babel, as the Jews were with their sects.

We can see how people today also try to reach God, using "spiritual bricks and slime, instead of spiritual stones and mortar." Different religions, and denominations composing each of them, have their respective concept of building the spiritual Tower. This is the "life" we find in the words of God in the Holy Bible. God is alive through His words! Thus:

Hebrews 4:12 "For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any twoedged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart."

Is not eternal life in heaven, nirvana, Valhalla, kingdom come, paradise, celestial kingdom, Elysium, where the Supreme Being, the Creator, the Almighty dwells? Do people speak the same language and understand each other in reaching it?

SALVATION AND ETERNAL LIFE

Every religion has its concepts and distinct ways to eternal life. Even in Christianity where the Holy Bible is used as basis for salvation, there is no "common language." Hundreds of Christian denominations have their "individual language" in interpreting the sacred book. Thus, no harmony but division is found in this popular religion. Confounding the language of the people of Shinar in building the Tower of Babel, finds its equivalent in:

Luke 12:51 "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:"

All Christian denominations preach salvation through Jesus Christ. This is based on the following:

Acts 4:12 "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved."

And this *Name* refers to only one; no other else:

Matthew 1:21 “And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins.”

Philippians 2:10 “That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth;”

Christian sects, however, have different perceptions of Jesus and God under the different doctrines: Arian doctrine, Jehovah doctrine, Sabellian or Oneness doctrine, Trinity doctrine, among others. The basis of their teachings about God and eternal life is the Holy Bible, yet no harmony in their doctrines is found among them. Their perception of the message of the Holy Bible is diverse. Among the hundreds of doctrines of salvation being preached by the different denominations are the following:

1. Some sects preached membership in the denomination as the only way to salvation. Bible verses are cited in support of this doctrine.
2. A big and old religious sect preaches salvation through the so-called seven sacraments which she has formulated. These are administered by authorized persons of the sect. Again, Bible verses are given in support for each of the sacraments.
3. Many denominations preach “accepting Jesus Christ as Lord and savior” as the passport to eternal life. Bible verses are given in support.
4. A variation to the previous “way” to salvation is the “acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and savior” plus the ability to speak strange words and sentences, not studied before, they call “speaking in tongues” as gateway to the kingdom of God. Again Bible verses are cited in support of the doctrine.
5. Still others advocate “belief in Jesus Christ” as the means to attain eternal life. Bible verses like the following are cited in support of these doctrines:

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Romans 10:9 "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved."

6. Just believe and calling the *Name* of Jesus Christ as the way to salvation.

Romans 10:13 "For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved."

John 3:18 "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

7. Believing in the Father who sent Jesus Christ, as the key to salvation:

John 5:24 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."

8. The popular verse that has caught the imagination of hundreds of millions of people that is now being used as passport to see the kingdom of God:

John 3:3 "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

9. Some sects advocate literal obedience to the Old Testament law on clean and unclean food, the literal Sabbath, and other rituals as the means of salvation.
10. Still others preach salvation by obedience to some or all of the Ten Commandments.
11. Many preach salvation by citing the two great commandments of "loving God" and "love of fellowmen with some charitable works."
12. Salvation is made easy by the loosely understood verse like the following:

Acts 16:30 "...Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"³¹ And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

13. And now a fancy doctrine that is catching the attention of many, "Salvation to all people through the precious blood of Jesus," emphasizing *all* in the following, support it with "For God is love" (1 John 4:8).

1 John 2:2 "And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."

1 Timothy 2:6 "Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."

John 12:32 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

Luke 3:6 "And all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

Plus "1001" and more ways of salvation that people of the 21st century are bombarded with by many religious denominations that make up the Christian religion today. These are the "different languages" that the builders of the Tower of Babel "speak" in our time.

Other religions of the world, aside from Christianity, and the hundreds of denominations within each religion, each "speaks a language different from the others." That is how we see "life in the Word" that God uttered many years ago:

Genesis 11:7 "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech."

ONE LANGUAGE

Genesis 11:1 "And the whole earth was of one language, and of one speech.² And it came to pass, as they journeyed from the east, that they found a plain in the land of Shinar; and they dwelt there."

Before the people at Shinar thought of building the Tower of Babel, they spoke only one language. God did not interfere nor bother them in their "walk." It was in trying "to reach" Him that their language was confounded. It

can be clearly inferred that this refers to the language on *morality* of which all people “speak.” Conceivably, there is no individual and group of people around the world who do not have a *Moral Code*. This is the norm that regulates the relationship among people.

This standard for the common good is the single or “one language” that people speak. People are rated based on this standard. Thus, one may be righteous or unrighteous, good or bad, benevolent or stingy based on this common code of morality. God never disturbed the people, for this was good, as it is today, for their physical well-being. Without this, there would be chaos in their relationship.

It was when this “one language” was used to “reach God” that He confounded their language. To “reach” God is *spirituality*. To “reach” fellow beings is *morality*. Regrettably, people make the two synonymous. How many people see the line separating the two? It is God alone, through His word that is the authority to draw the line separating *spirituality* from *morality* that is akin to *Religiosity*.

BABYLON AND ROME

Babylon is the Greek form of “Babel.” Hammurabi became ruler in the 18th century B.C., reaching its height of power under Nebuchadnezzar II (605-562 B.C.); and conquered by Cyrus of Persia in 539 B.C.; famous for hanging gardens, temples, and palaces. Although remaining as an inhabited site, Babylon declined still further in importance under the Parthians (125 B.C.). Babylon is often mentioned in prophecies:

Isaiah 14:22 “For I will rise up against them, saith the LORD of hosts, and cut off from Babylon the name, and remnant, and son, and nephew, saith the LORD.”

Conceivably it is in Babylon, the other name for Babel, where God saw the application of “man’s thoughts and ways in trying to reach Him” that made it the symbol for anything opposed to His will. God condemns human ways in spiritual matters:

1 Corinthians 1:19 “...I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent. ²⁰Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?”

This is the reference to Babylon in the New Testament:

Revelation 14:8 “And there followed another angel, saying, Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication.”¹⁰

Revelation 17:5 “And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus...”

It should be noted in the beginning God referred to Babylon as a *City*; later, alluding to a *woman*. This *City* is identified as “sitting on seven mountains.”

Revelation 17:18 “And the woman which thou sawest is that great city, which reigneth over the kings of the earth.”

Revelation 17:9 “And here is the mind which hath wisdom. The...seven mountains, on which the woman sitteth.”

There is only one city in the world that is known to “sit on seven hills (mountains).” This is Rome. The imperial city of the Roman Empire, and one of the best-known cities of the world, was founded on the Tiber River in 753 B.C. It soon spread out until it covered seven hills, which were: Capitoline, Palatine, Aventine, Caelian, Esquiline, Viminal, and Quirinal.

Today, the *Arch of Constantine* is still visible that reminds us of the great event in 316 A.D. when Constantine I proclaimed *Christianity*, actually the Roman Catholic Church, the official religion of the Roman Empire. His sincerity, however, in making Christianity as the official religion of the empire is put to a test when he embraced it only on his deathbed. Here is the relevant event in the life of Constantine as recorded in history (Encyclopedia Americana, volume 7, page 555, 1967 edition.):

“During one of Constantine’s campaign against his enemies, he saw a flaming cross in the heavens beneath the sun, bearing the Latin inscription *in hoc signor vinces* (in this [sign] thou wilt conquer) or, according to other sources, in Greek, *en touto nika*. Constantine’s conversion to Christianity apparently dates from this time, and he adopted a

¹⁰ If the word is taken to the “letter” it would seem God is talking nonsense. How could a city be a woman and indulge in fornication? Thus, the “letter killeth” (2 Corinthians 3:6).

monogram consisting of a P (Greek rho) between the upper arms of an X (Greek chi), the initial letters of Christ in Greek, which was placed on the labarum."

"In 325 A.D., Constantine became sole emperor of East and West. In the same year he summoned a council at Nicaea (now Iznik, Turkey) in an effort to bring the followers of Arius and Athanasius to agreement on a common creed. Arius and his followers believed that Jesus Christ is only a man, and never a God; while Athanasius advocated the Trinity Doctrine. Athanasius and his followers prevailed; and this doctrine was adopted by the Christian world ever since."

"In 326 A.D., Constantine undertook to transfer the capital of the empire from Rome, which had steadily declined in importance, politically and economically, to a new city on the site of Byzantium on the Bosphorus. On May 11, 330, the new capital, rebuilt, enlarged and renamed Constantinopolis for the emperor was dedicated with half-Christian, half-pagan ceremonies."

"In religious matters, since he himself was not baptized until he lay on his deathbed, Constantine was probably attracted to Christianity, whose advance had been so remarkable, as much by the political use he could make of it to restore unity to the empire, as by personal conviction."

"Moreover, it is probable that he believed that all the monotheists in the empire could be brought eventually to worship a single God in which would be combined the Father-God of the Christians with the Sun-God of the followers of Mithras. The traditional Roman paganism, of which, as pontifex maximus, he remained head, continued to be tolerated."

Christendom, more specifically the Roman Catholic Church, the religion sponsored by Constantine, since then had dominated the "civilized world." Her teachings and doctrines were basically founded on religious traditions formulated by the leaders, composing the so-called Magisterium. To spread her prominence and make it catholic or universal, diplomatic ties were established to different countries. Because the Holy Bible is only used as reference, rather than the sole authority on matters of faith, its use therefore, for centuries, was made exclusive to the leaders. Thus, in the middle Ages, reading the Bible and rejecting the teachings of the Roman Catholic Church

was considered a crime. The Inquisition was initiated primarily to punish the "heretics." Many people wish to forget this dark spot in the history of mankind for reason of "Christian charity."

How pertinent is the revelation of Jesus Christ to John the apostle as he was exiled in the island of Patmos, to actual events that transpired over several centuries of Christendom:

Revelation 17:5 "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH. ⁶And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration."

The following excerpts from history books may find relevance to the "prophecy." Babylon, a city sitting on seven mountains, now is used in a feminine gender, undoubtedly referring to a Church or Sect.

THE INQUISITION

The Inquisition is one form of dispensing justice in ancient Roman law and in the Papal Canon Law where the "great part was played by fama; that is, by report, not in the loose sense of "common rumor," but as the testimony of two or three knowledgeable and trustworthy witnesses. When such a fama reached the ears of judicial authorities, the man was infamatus (or *difamatus*) of the offenses in question. The judge then became his accuser; "You are difamatus of such and such an offense; therefore you must appear before me and clear yourself on oath, and if possible by the oath also of a specified number of competent witnesses."

Thus an inquiry (*Inquisitio*) is set up and the burden of proof is now laid upon the defendant. Some brief notes on the application of the Inquisition (Encyclopedia Americana, volume 15, page 147-147d, 1967 edition):

"Pope Innocent III, in 1199, formally condemned heresy as the most unpardonable of treasons, 'since it is far more grievous to sin against the eternal than against an earthly majesty.' It was upon this basis that St. Thomas Aquinas bent his genius to build the theory which his faithful followers have held down to the present day. 'If false coiners or other felons are justly committed to death without delay by worldly princes, much more may heretics, from the moment they are convicted, be not only excommunicated, but slain

justly out of hand. (Summa Theologica, 2a 2ae, Quest, xi, art. iii)."

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"The Roman Church – Ecclesia Romana as it was commonly called in the Middle Ages – claimed then, and has never since renounced, the philosophical title of *Societas Perfecta*: in its own right, with powers of legislation over all its subjects and the sanction of punishment over the disobedient, even to the extreme penalty of death."

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"While before, the Christians were persecuted by the pagans, the tables were reversed, and Christianity was victorious under Constantine I. The state made itself responsible for government in the church. Heretical priests were punished. Paganism was condemned as superstition and the pagan temples were disestablished and plundered."

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"St. Augustine, who at first had pleaded for tolerance of the Donatists, emphatically revoked this in the course of time, appealing to what seemed practical experience, since confiscation of property and other similar penalties are efficacious in calling men's attention to the orthodox faith."

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"The hierarchy was puzzled; popes and councils had no clear-cut polity. It is not until, 1209 that we find a council definitely basing itself upon the plain claim of 'Death for the Heretics' as a maxim both of Canon Law and of State Law."

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"The Waldensians, or Vaudois, were a sort of Bible-Christians founded about 1180 by Peter Waldo, a rich merchant of Lyons, who gave his money to the poor and embarked upon a missionary career founded upon the translation and popular exposition of Scripture in the native tongue. The heretics were often described as obscure and

unwarlike. They showed that astounding tenacity of memory which has often been observed in illiterate folk. More than one Inquisitor testifies to their enormous superiority in the knowledge of the Scriptures over the parish clergy. Sacconi writes in about 1250: 'I have heard and seen a certain ignorant rustic who recited Job, word for word, and many who knew perfectly the whole New Testament.' He contrasts this with the 'negligence of Catholic teachers.'"

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"Bernard Gui (1300) warns Inquisitors that 'it is not expedient to dispute concerning the Faith against such astute heretics in the presence of lay folk.'" St. Louis, in many ways a most noble character, warned his knights against disputing with an unbeliever; let him rather 'thrust his sword into the man's belly, as far as it will go.'"

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"In about 1230, a certain weaver at Toulouse would say publicly: 'Sirs, hear me! I am no heretic, for I have a wife, and lie with her and beget children, and I eat flesh and swear, am a faithful Christian.'"

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"The Catholics at one moment tore out their prisoners' eyes and cut off their noses, claiming just right of reprisals. When the Catharist city of Libeziers was stormed (1209) by Simon de Montfort's Crusaders, Innocent's cardinal legate reported to the pope that 'our men, sparing neither rank nor sex nor age, slew about 20,000 souls' and pillage the whole city. The contemporary papal chronicle puts it more tersely: 'almost all were slain.' Innocent, without a word to hint that his Crusaders had had done more than their strict duty, wrote now to congratulate them on the remission of past sins and the accession of worldly wealth which they will have earned through their obedience to the vicar of Christ."

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"In Bernard Gui's Register (between 1249 and 1258), among 200 suspects, there is not a single acquittal. In his whole

lifetime he convicted 930, of whom 42 were burned. Of the rest, 307 were condemned to prison; and all 930 were liable to total confiscation of their goods."

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"St. Clement approached Edward II with a bribe and a threat: Obey, and we give you plenary absolution for past sins; disobey, and you fall under excommunication."

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"In 1430, Joan of Arc was condemned for witchcraft (her real crime being her noble patriotism) by a judge who was a tool of the English conquerors."

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"Queen Isabella of Castile, 'The Catholic,' obtained the formal foundation of the Inquisition from Pope Sixtus IV. It began operations in 1480; her husband, 'Ferdinand the Catholic,' joined her whole-heartedly; and gradually the institution struck root throughout the peninsula. The two sovereigns, from the first, used it as the foundation of their political despotism. Thenceforward, from century to century until 1834, it was the most characteristic of Spanish institutions."

"Its methods were medieval, 'writ large.' Church and State were here in complete fundamental accord; kings and popes might quarrel over details, but those were the quarrels of lovers."

"Confiscations of properties, beyond even the medieval scale, ensured enormous revenues which supported both royal splendor and the Roman religion to an extent never surpassed in history...In fact, he points out, men were often prosecuted after their death – even 20 or 30 years later."

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"At the first Auto de Fe (Seville, 1481), six persons (men and women) were burned. Within the next eight months, 292 more were burned, 98 imprisoned for life; and many more

were torn from their graves in order to justify confiscation of their property."

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"Under Philip II (1569) the principles of the Inquisition were transplanted to Mexico, where 879 trials took place in the next quarter of a century...In Portugal a little later (1651-1673) the records show 184 burned alive, 59 burned in effigy with confiscation, and 4,793 penanced. As many as 1,500 'penitents' were paraded on one single occasion."

"The 18th century showed gradual decay of the Inquisition, but only in proportion to the decay of the whole country, which is calculated to have lost 50 per cent of its population since the days of Ferdinand and Isabella."

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"The Inquisition is peculiarly the weapon and peculiarly the work of the Popes...No other institution, no doctrine, no ceremony is so distinctly the individual creation of the Papacy, except the Dispensing Power...It was the negation not only of religious liberty, which is the mainspring of civil, but equally of civil liberty, because a government armed with the machinery of the Inquisition is necessarily absolute." (Encyclopedia Americana, Volume 15, Page 147-147d, 1967 Edition)

MATCHING HISTORY WITH PROPHECY

That is a glimpse of history where the oldest and dominant Christian sect acquired power by "fornicating" with heads of state.

Revelation 17:1 "...Come hither; I will show unto thee the judgment of the great whore that sitteth upon many waters: ²With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication."

In order to promote "Christianity," the oldest sect abused this power to the extent of physically forcing people to embrace her tenets. Those who found the Sacred Scriptures to be the sole authority on spiritual matters welcomed death than to renounce the Truth and to embrace unscriptural teachings.

Thus, over centuries great amount of blood was shed “in her hands” in conjugality with civil authorities.

Revelation 17:6 “And I saw the woman drunken with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the martyrs of Jesus: and when I saw her, I wondered with great admiration.”

What probably made John, the witness, “to wonder with great admiration?” Perhaps, it is the earthly prosperity that this sect enjoys: material wealth with her beautiful churches and cathedrals not citing corporate financial interests, political influence, admiration of the people, and the exaltation of the leaders. Jesus Christ saw this before in the sect of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

John 12:43 “For they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.”

Through diplomatic relations maintained among nations, the “woman” truly “sits on many waters:”

Revelation 17:15 “And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues.”

BRIDE OF CHRIST AND BABYLON

The foregoing matching of prophecy with history is what people see in the word of God. Beyond this, however, God has something more to His words. Since He is speaking His unique *Spiritual Language*, it is only He who can explain the meaning of His words:

1 Corinthians 2:13 “Which things also we speak, not in the words which man’s wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.”

We have many questions to ask God:

1. “Lord, why do you consider Babylon, a literal place, to be a spiritual woman?” As if God is saying, “Consider the following verses and find out how I symbolize cities for women:”

For the Bride of Christ:

Revelation 21:9-11 "...Come hither, I will show thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. ¹⁰And he...showed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, ¹¹Having the glory of God: and her light was like unto a stone most precious..."

For the Adulterous woman:

Revelation 18:9 "And the kings of the earth...have committed fornication and lived deliciously with her...¹⁰...Alas, alas that great city Babylon..."

Revelation 17:5 "And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

2. "Lord, who are these spiritual women?" As if God is saying, "You must remember that I am the spiritual *Husband*, while My chosen are My *Spiritual Wife*. If you apply your *literal language*, a literal male can never be a spiritual woman. But I am speaking spiritual things."

Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek..., there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

Jeremiah 3:14 "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family..."

Isaiah 54:5 "For thy Maker is thine husband..."

"As spiritual *Husband*, I am planting My seeds to My *Wife* and My seed is the truth in the word."

Luke 8:11 "Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God."

"Not all people, though, are faithful to Me. Only a few of them are. The great majority accept "seeds" other than My words. That is why I call them "adulterous" both in the Old and New Testament."

IN THE OLD TESTAMENT

Jeremiah 3:8 “And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce...”

IN THE NEW TESTAMENT

Mark 8:38 “Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed...”

From the word of God, therefore, we find “who” these spiritual women are: The Bride of the Lamb is the faithful Church who only accepts Christ’s elucidation of His word.

Mark 4:34 “But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.”

The “Adulterous Woman and her daughters” are the Churches thriving from doctrines elucidated by their respective leaders. From this, God reveals why He calls “Mystery, Babylon the great, the source of the “abominations of the earth.” It is very easy to understand and accept that, everything contrary to the Word of God is an abomination to Him.

3. Again asking God, “Lord, many people claim the truth. We are confused! What is really the truth?” As if God is saying, “Don’t you know that I am the Truth? Remember I am represented by My words that are written in the Holy Bible. Not anything that does not conform to My words is truth. People are deceived into believing doctrines supported by Bible verses are truth. They are tempted to use their intellect and feeling in understanding My words. ”
4. Continuing, God says, “May I remind you that ‘flesh and blood’ cannot explain My words, neither can it identify Me. People are tempted to rely on human wisdom and therefore they present many truths to the people. This results in spiritual adultery. What is written do not contradict the Truth. However these are rejected by many people because they are contrary to the dictate of the intellect, feeling, and senses. One good example is at My baptism, where many people ‘see’ not one but three distinct persons in Me.”

Matthew 3:16 "And Jesus, when he was baptized, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: ¹⁷And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

"Because of this, people are at a loss as to how I am "one Lord and one God."

From this explanation of God through His words as to what constitutes *faithfulness* and *spiritual adultery*, we can now identify the "Bride of the Lamb" and "Mystery, Babylon the *great mother of harlots*." The former represents the pure, unadulterated, perfect Church modeled by Christ Himself in His human manifestation, while the latter, the counterfeit Church and other Churches adopting some of her doctrines, each professing the true one.

"BABYLON, MOTHER OF HARLOTS"

God demonstrates how true His words are all the time. The prophets of the Old Testament already saw spiritual adultery in the counterfeit "Church," a shadow of "Mystery Babylon:"

Ezekiel 34:2-6 "Son of man, prophesy against the shepherds of Israel, prophesy, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD unto the shepherds; Woe be to the shepherds of Israel that do feed themselves! should not the shepherds feed the flocks?³Ye eat the fat, and ye clothe you with the wool, ye kill them that are fed: but ye feed not the flock. ⁴The diseased have ye not strengthened, neither have ye healed that which was sick, neither have ye bound up that which was broken, neither have ye brought again that which was driven away, neither have ye sought that which was lost; but with force and with cruelty have ye ruled them. ⁵And they were scattered, because there is no shepherd: and they became meat to all the beasts of the field, when they were scattered. ⁶My sheep wandered through all the mountains, and upon every high hill: yea, my flock was scattered upon all the face of the earth, and none did search or seek after them."

It is very easy to understand what God meant if we are to consider His *Spiritual Language*. The shepherds of Israel were the known servants of God who were supposed to feed the people with truth coming from Him. But

instead of doing this, they took advantage of them. The people, therefore, became prey to the "beasts of the field."¹¹ The *beasts* are the enemies of God. The *field* is the world (Matthew 13:38).

During the time of Christ, "Mystery Babylon" was again foreshadowed in the sects of the Pharisees and Sadducees. The Teachers of the Law preached the Word of God, but their teachings were based from their own understanding instead of on the explanation of Jesus.

Jesus saw how the religious leaders adulterated the Word with religious traditions, which were thought to be part of the word. Since these are the fruits of the intellect and feeling, they appealed to the leaders as much as they were with the laity.

CHRIST'S CONDEMNATION

Let us look at the denunciation of Jesus Christ against the religious leaders, and see how they apply in our time:

1. Jesus Christ saw the religious leaders were called "*Father*" by the people. He rebuked them:

Matthew 23:9 "And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is your Father, which is in heaven."

Are not the leaders of some religious sects also called "Father" in our time? They justify the use of this title through philosophy. They may cite its acceptability in social, political and scientific fields. However, God refers to spiritual matters. The oldest and largest religious sect pioneered on this unscriptural practice of adulterating the words of God. Minor sects followed the practice. Can we discern "Mother-daughter spiritual harlotry?"

2. Jesus Christ saw how the laity exalted their religious leaders. They addressed them "Rabbi" or Teacher. The leaders took advantage of this. Christ rebuked them:

¹¹ Revelation 13:11 "And I beheld another beast coming up out of the earth; and he had two horns like a lamb, and he spake as a dragon."

Revelation 17:8 "The beast that thou sawest was, and is not; and shall ascend out of the bottomless pit, and go into perdition: and they that dwell on the earth shall wonder, whose names were not written in the book of life from the foundation of the world, when they behold the beast that was, and is not, and yet is."

Matthew 23:6-8 “And they love the first couch at feasts, and the chief seats in the synagogues,⁷ and greetings in the market-places, and to be called, Rabbi! Rabbi! by men.⁸ But you must not be called Rabbi, for one is your teacher, Christ, and you are all brothers.”

Of course, no one among the religious leaders today will permit people to call them Rabbi, except the religion of Judaism. Judaism does not accept the New Testament of the Bible. Traditional Christianity subscribes to the whole Bible. Jesus Christ emphasized equality among the real believers: “All ye are brethren and he that is greatest among you shall be your servant.” Again, the oldest and biggest religious sect pioneered on the use of equivalent titles: Pastor, Minister, Head, Chief, Leader, Master, Teacher, Reverend, Monsignor, Most Reverend, and His Holiness. Other religious sects followed the practice. Mother-daughter “spiritual harlotry” is clearly perceptible. John the Baptist, before Jesus Christ enunciated this basic principle of spiritual humility, said:

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

Only God should be exalted. His name is *Reverend*:

Psalms 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever...reverend is his name.”

Only God is holy. Not even Jesus Christ, the Father in the flesh, in His role as “Son of God,” in order to show the way to spiritual humility did not admit He is good:

Luke 18:18 “And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ¹⁹And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.”

Look now, who pioneered in the use of these exalted title of Rev., Holy, Most Holy, Your Eminence prefixed to the names of the leaders? Other religious denominations followed the unscriptural practice. Only God deserves that distinct honor:

Psalms 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name.”

3. *Nicolaitanism*, a system practiced by people who call themselves “Jews” but are not in the eyes of Christ:

Revelation 2:9 “I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not...”

Revelation 2:15 “So hast thou also them that hold the doctrine of the Nicolaitans, which thing I hate.”

The word *nicolaitans* comes from *me.*, Ofr. Nicolas; L. Nicolaus; Gr. Nikolos <nike, victory + laos, the people. Thus, victory over the people. The exaltation of the leaders and the exercise of power and authority, under the guise of discipline, over the laity is what Christ hates.

This is the reverse of what Jesus showed by example. Traditional Christianity cannot distinguish *title* from *function*. Christ, the sole authority, appoints apostles, evangelists, prophets, pastors and teachers.¹² It is Jesus Christ, in His Holy Spirit manifestation who is with His Disciples until the end of the world, that endows divine knowledge and wisdom – not any man.¹³

True Christ's apostles perform the *function* (acting as speaker system) are not even aware of the work, that they can never appropriate the honor and glory for the *title*. The author of this book is performing some of the *functions*. Avoidance of the honor attached to the *titles* is the primary reason for his obscurity and anonymity.

Bishop

This title is common to some leaders of Christian denominations. This is found in:

1 Timothy 3:1 “This is a true saying, If a man desire the office of a bishop, he desireth a good work.” (*2 Timothy 4:22, Titus 1:7, 3:15*)

¹² Ephesians 4:11 “And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers.”

¹³ 1 John 2:27 “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you: but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie...”

God revealed to Peter the meaning of "bishop" in:

1 Peter 2:25 "For ye were as sheep going astray; but are now returned unto the Shepherd and Bishop of your souls."

Very clear, "bishop" is not a title but an injunction to "rule over the soul" whose attributes are the intellect, feeling, and senses. This is in line with what Paul said.

1 Corinthians 15:31 "...I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily."

Christ's expose' of deceptions and His exhortation is fully appreciated by the real believers:

Revelation 2:2 "I know thy works, and thy labour, and thy patience, and how thou canst not bear them which are evil: and thou hast tried them which say they are apostles, and are not, and hast found them liars."

Unscriptural teachings and practices are "adulteration" to the Word of God. These are abominations to the Lord:

Deuteronomy 4:2 "Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you."

Proverbs 30:6 "Add thou not unto his words, lest he reprove thee, and thou be found a liar."

Revelation 22:18 "...If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: ¹⁹And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life..."

4. Jesus Christ saw how the Jews, thinking that they were following the Law, embraced religious traditions.

Mark 7:8 "For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men... ⁹And he said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition."

The religious sects during the time of Christ were a shadow of “Mystery, Babylon.” Look how religious sects in our time also follow religious traditions without being aware of them.

The oldest and largest religious sect pioneered in establishing Seminaries and Bible schools for the training of priests, pastors, evangelists, and teachers in the word of God. This is patterned after other forms of learning like Medicine, Engineering, Law, and other social and physical science courses. God, however, sets the line distinguishing *spiritual life* from the *physical life*.

Nowhere in the Bible can we find servants of God ever training other people to become fellow servants of God. It is God from the Old to the New Testament that performs this “miracle” of endowing knowledge and wisdom to His chosen servants.

1 John 2:27 “But the anointing which ye have received of him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teacheth you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie...”

This was demonstrated in the case of Paul, an apostle appointed by Jesus Christ when He was no longer physically present on earth:

Galatians 1:1 “Paul, an apostle, not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ...”

Galatians 1:11 “But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is not after man.¹² For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

It is a patent deviation from the truth as stated in the following:

James 1:5 “If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not; and it shall be given him. ⁶But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. ⁷For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord. ⁸A double minded man is unstable in all his ways.”

"Confounding of languages" divided *Christianity Today*. The 1001 Christian denominations in our time have the Holy Bible as authority. Yet they cannot understand each other on matters pertaining to God and His words. This is a clear shadow of the builders of the Tower of Babel! And we are only talking of the *Christian* religion. How about other religions of the world? Do they also speak the same language on matters pertaining to God, spiritual salvation, and eternal life?

5. The oldest religious sect pioneered in building chapels, churches, and cathedrals teaching that these are sacred sanctuaries of God. They support the doctrine with the building of the "house of God" by Solomon, as directed by God Himself. However it is written,

Acts 7:47 "But Solomon built him a house. ⁴⁸Howbeit the most High dwelleth not in temples made with hands..."

What are these chapels, churches, and cathedrals in our time? Are they not vehicles for the religious leaders to be looked up and exalted?

6. Jesus Christ, showing the Way as model, and followed by the Apostles, never built "houses for God!" Rather they built spiritual and never physical "temple of God."

1 Corinthians 3:16 "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?"

Christ taught His disciples to fashion the real Christian after the image of the "eldest Son of God."

Romans 8:29 "For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren."

7. "The shepherds did not feed My sheep." During the time of Christ, the "shepherds" or the Teachers of the Law thought they were feeding the people with the word of God. What they fed to them was only the *moral* aspect of the Law. Jesus found them cleaning only the "outside of the cup and platter." They were righteous in the eyes of men, but "hypocrites" in the eyes of Christ because they "cannot see" the "inside of the cup and platter" which *spirituality*.

Matthew 23:25 "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye make clean the outside of the cup and of the platter, but within they are full of extortion and excess."

²⁶Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

The Scribes and Pharisees mistook *spirituality* with *religiosity*. The former is the "spirit" while the latter is the "letter" of the word.

2 Corinthians 3:6 "Who also hath made us able ministers of the new testament; not of the letter, but of the spirit: for the letter killeth, but the spirit giveth life."

Religiosity is the result of human interpretation of the word that is why there is diversity. *Spirituality* is the product of our Lord's interpretation of His words by "demonstration."

THE SPIRITUAL TOWER

The real believer is the living spiritual house of God. God, in His human manifestation in the person of Jesus Christ, showed the Way by example. He emphasized the *spiritual* with the cleansing of the *inside of the cup and platter* that pertains to *Spiritual Life*. Religions accentuate the *moral* and ethical aspects of *Physical Life*, laced with preaching about eternal life, thinking that this is *spirituality*. Unknown to many people, this is only cleansing the *outside of the cup*. Jesus Christ did not discount though the physical aspect of life. He showed this in His human manifestation that Paul duplicated.

1 Corinthians 11:1 "Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ."

Jesus Christ was a model carpenter of Nazareth (Mark 6:3), while Paul was a zealous and devoted tent-maker (Acts 18:3). Jesus Christ set the line distinguishing the physical from the spiritual. Common sense and prudence, coupled with the laws of civil authorities govern the "physical." Truth from the spiritual word of God rules the "spiritual life" of a real Christian. Christ set the line separating the two in:

Luke 20:25 "And he said unto them, Render therefore unto Caesar the things which be Caesar's, and unto God the things which be God's."

Many people see only the surface of the message. The edict goes beyond the political and spiritual. Perfection of the two kinds of life is set forth where *Physical Life* is composed of the *body* and the *soul*, and *Spiritual Life* consists of the *Spirit* of God and the *soul*.

1 Thessalonians 5:23 "And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."

Illustration distinguishing the spiritual from the physical: The crime of literal-physical theft is governed by the penal laws of the government. The thief suffers the penalty imposed by law. The sin of spiritual theft, on the other hand, is enunciated by Christ in the following:

John 10:1 "Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door... is a thief and a robber."

The spiritual door:

John 10:9 "(Jesus said,) I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved..."

Truth as spiritual door:

John 14:6 "Jesus saith... I am...the truth..."

Revelation 19:13 "And he (Jesus) was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

Jesus Christ spoke of spiritual freedom:

John 8:32 "And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free."

Spiritual theft, therefore, is anything that is not of the truth. For spiritual thievery, the "sinner" suffers spiritual bondage (imprisonment) and the penalty of the 2nd death (Revelation 21:8) if no repentance is made.¹⁴

Is it truth to be called *good* in spiritual matters? By way of example, Jesus in His role as "Son" did not admit He is good.

¹⁴ Revelation 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

Luke 18:18 “And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none is good, save one, that is, God.”

We are reminded of the following:

Luke 18:10-12 “Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, that I am not as other men are, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²I fast twice in the week, I give tithes of all that I possess.”

Luke 18:13 “And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.”

Is it truth to be addressed Holy? Only God is holy.

Psalms 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy...is his name.”

Is it truth to be addressed Reverend? Only the name of God is to be revered.

Psalms 111:9 “He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: ...reverend is his name”

Is it not spiritual robbery to share in the honor that only belongs to God? In spiritual matters, all honor and respect belong to God alone. God is no respecter of person. The truth is it is a sin to respect a person in spiritual matters! Who can accept this without using philosophy?

James 2:9 “But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.”

This should be distinguished from what Peter and Paul wrote, that pertains to *Physical Life*:

1 Peter 2:13 “Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king, as supreme;

¹⁴Or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well.”

Romans 13:1-7 “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers... ²whosoever therefore resisteth the power, resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. ³For rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same: ⁴For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil. ⁵Wherefore ye must needs be subject, not only for wrath, but also for conscience sake. ⁶For this cause pay ye tribute also: for they are God’s ministers, attending continually upon this very thing. ⁷Render therefore to all their dues: tribute to whom tribute is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honour to whom honour.”

In the application of the Ten Commandments, many people think only of the literal-physical. No wonder, the Rich Young Ruler who claimed to have followed them did not merit being a follower of Christ. Jesus Christ rebuked the Scribes and Pharisees for cleaning only the “outside of the cup” with the *letter* of the law.

Anything contrary to the standard of God is an abomination to Him. This is “not passing through the door.” It is only God Who can set the standard of good and evil in spiritual matters. Who can see the unscriptural beliefs and practices without God opening our “eyes?” Who can understand the great spiritual message of the Word unless God opens our “ears?” However, many people do not appreciate the spiritual miracles. They like the *letter* of the word that benefit the “flesh,” more than the spirit that benefit the soul.

John 6:63 “It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing; the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.”

MORALITY AND THE TREE OF KNOWLEDGE

People believe that morality through *religiosity* is the vehicle to eternal life. Unknown to many people, human wisdom coupled with emotion are the bases for the standards of morality in the different religions, and

denominations within each creed. These are the “fruits of the Tree of Knowledge” that people are “eating,” unaware of the sin of Eve. Man’s standard of good and evil, can never find conformity with the Standard of God. No wonder God told Adam and Eve (Details discussed in Chapter 13: SPIRITUAL SIN OF EVE):

Genesis 2:17 “But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

However, the Natural Man is spiritually blind in not seeing the Way of God. He thinks anything moral is already acceptable to God, not knowing that this is only “cleanliness on the outside of the cup.” God therefore, gave this warning:

Proverbs 16:25 “There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”

Proverbs 28:9 “He that turneth away his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination.”

Man thinks that sincerity is all to Godliness. God refutes this.

Romans 10:2 “For I bear them record that they have a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge. ³For they being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.”

God limits the use of the intellect in man’s *Spiritual Life*, although he is free to use it in his *Physical Life*. This is what Christ told His disciples:

Matthew 6:8 “...your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.”

Christ was referring to the intellect and physical strength God endowed him that is necessary for *Physical Life*. Thus, man is free to use his God-given intelligence in political, social, economic and scientific undertaking. He can set his standards on these matters for his benefits. Honor and respect in these fields should be conferred when due. This is equivalent to Adam’s use of the intellect in giving names to the animals. He used his intellect without “eating the forbidden fruits of knowledge.”

Spirituality is the sole domain of God. It involves cleanliness of the "inside." *Morality* the fruit of *religiosity*, man's sphere on the other hand encompasses cleanliness on the "outside." Spiritual truth sets the line separating the two. Real Christians live in a world of spirituality where they could see their *Physical Life* and *Spiritual Life* walking hand-in-hand as Jesus showed the Way by example. This is the Way to eternal life. This is the spiritual *Tower* that should be built according to the specification of God, with "materials" provided, and "construction" supervised by Him.

To summarize, *morality* is the socio-political standard of righteousness. It is responsible for the peaceful and worthy relationship among people, and founded on the virtues of honesty, sincerity, justice, and forthrightness.

Morality is religions' standard of Godliness. It is the product of man's understanding and interpretation of the word of God. Because it is the product of the intellect and feeling, diversity of religious beliefs is the result. Thus, people have varied concepts of reaching the kingdom of God. The sects of the Pharisees and Sadducees typify this during the time of Christ. They had a common basis, the word of God handed down to Moses. Yet they could not see eye-to-eye on religious matters.

Today, man invented many religions. Denominations divide every religion and there is no harmony among them. They do not speak the same "language." The "curse in Babel" has not passed away.

Spirituality is God's standard of righteousness and He reveals them with explanation of His words. He speaks a unique language – the spiritual tongue. God expresses His words in parables written in a "book sealed with seven seals." Not even the prophets or the apostles can decipher this language or "open the book." Only the Lamb of God can break the seals of the book.

Revelation 5:1-5 "And I saw in the right hand of him that sat on the throne a book...sealed with seven seals. ²And I saw a strong angel proclaiming with a loud voice, Who is worthy to open the book, and to loose the seals thereof? ³And no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth, was able to open the book, neither to look thereon. ⁴And I wept much, because no man was found worthy to open and to read the book, neither to look thereon. ⁵And one of the elders saith unto me, Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof."

It is Jesus Christ alone, the Lion of the tribe of Juda, Who is worthy to break the seals and open the book! Does not this book refer to the Holy Bible? Jesus Christ demonstrated “opening” the book.¹⁵

CONFESSION OF THE AUTHOR

I must confess, before, I used to read the Bible casually like many people. This is where I learned some aphorisms and their moral lessons – knowledge that helped shape my values in life, and my interaction with other people. That is how the Bible found its place in my little library. Occasionally, I also used some verses to defend the doctrines of my sect.

The Bible, however, provoked doubts in my mind when I heard preachers of the word of God clashing in their teachings. I was thinking, how could people profess hearing the “voice of the Shepherd” in, “My sheep know my voice (John 10:3),” when they cannot agree on what they hear? There are 1001 religious sects composing *Christianity today*. Each denomination claims to have heard “the voice of the Shepherd.” Equal in number are the different ways of attaining salvation being preached by them. Each has its own way of attaining eternal life! I thought of the “confounding of languages” in the building of the *Tower of Babel*.

I realized that the cause of division is the individual interpretation of the Bible, the use of the intellect, by the leaders of the different religious denominations. The human factor stands on the way to the unity of *Faith*. With this insight, I began to doubt the teachings of my denomination. This challenged me to read the Holy Bible more earnestly. Since then, because the human factor is the cause, I tried very much to get rid of it, later realizing this is Paul’s:

1 Corinthians 15:31 “...in Christ Jesus our Lord, I die daily.”

CONCLUSION

God confounded the language of the builders of the Tower of Babel to teach people a lesson. It is not through the different “religious languages,” or man’s thoughts and ways that the spiritual Tower is built to reach God. Rather, it is with God’s plan, specification, and provision of materials, and supervision that man’s aspiration of reaching heaven can be attained. Perhaps, one would ask, “What then is the role of man in its construction?” It is simple.

¹⁵ Mark 4:34 “But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.”

"Emmanuel" that means "God with us." Jesus in His role as "Son" showed the example. It is His *humility*, His total submission to the will of the Father! Did anything come from Jesus in his personal capacity?

John 5:19 "Then answered Jesus and said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself..."

John 5:30 "I can of mine own self do nothing...I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me."

I made this Confession in the belief that I may share the great treasure I found in reading the Holy Bible. Now I realize the joy of passing on the "living bread" not only to my close friends, but also to all who are spiritually hungry, and thirsty of the "living water." I do not reveal my identity in order to avoid imputing any ulterior motive to this modest work. In addition, since people are fond of looking up at people, my obscurity will force them to look up at God instead. That is God's way of building the *Spiritual Tower* to reach Him!

