

Chapter 11

TWO WITNESSES TO THE TRUTH

*The testimony of one witness is not yet true.
God requires the testimony of two witnesses to establish the truth.*

Some verses stating the testimony of two or three witnesses is required to testify to the *Truth*.

Numbers 35:30 "Whoso killeth any person, the murderer shall be put to death by the mouth of witnesses: but one witness shall not testify against any person to cause him to die."

Deuteronomy 17:6 "At the mouth of two witnesses, or three witnesses, shall he that is worthy of death be put to death; but at the mouth of one witness he shall not be put to death."

Deuteronomy 19:15 "One witness shall not rise up against a man for any iniquity, or for any sin, in any sin that he sinneth: at the mouth of two witnesses, or at the mouth of three witnesses, shall the matter be established."

The Son Jesus and the Father as Two Witnesses:

John 5:31 "If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true. ³²There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true."

John 8:17 "It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸I am one that bear witness

of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me."

According to our Lord Jesus, His true identity requires two witnesses: His own testimony of Himself and the testimony of the Father. Jesus testifying of Himself, said:

John 5:31 "If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true."

This proves that to truly identify Jesus it needs His own testimony and that of the Father also. How many people realize this truth as demonstrated to Simon Peter in identifying Jesus?

Matthew 16:15-17 "He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? ¹⁶And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

The 1st witness is Jesus Himself as seen by Peter and heard Him speak. The 2nd witness is the *Father* revealing the clear identity of the Son. The people at Caesarea Philippi have seen and heard Jesus speak, but they did not recognize Him. This proves Jesus statement in John 5:31.

Matthew 16:13 "When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? ¹⁴And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets."

Jesus is the word of God.¹ How many people realize that to simply read the word about Jesus that is not yet His identity? This is the "letter" of the word about Him:

"Jesus is the child born in Bethlehem. He grew in Nazareth and began to preach in Galilee and in different places in Israel. He performed many miracles. Religious leaders, the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, Priests, and Elders hated him. He was condemned to death and crucified on the cross. On

¹ Revelation 19:13 "And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

the third day, He rose again from the dead. He showed Himself to His Disciples on several occasions. He ascended into heaven and promised to come back again."

This is comparable to the people at Caesarea Philippi who saw and heard Jesus speak. People have different perceptions of Jesus:

1. Some people say, "Jesus is only a man and not God," and the derivative, "Jesus is only a minor or mighty God for there is an Almighty God."
2. Still others say, "The name of the Father and the Holy Spirit is Jesus Christ," and the derivative, "Jesus is also the Father and the Holy Spirit is only a force of God."
3. Many people say, "Jesus is both God and man and is the 2nd person of the Trinity."

This is a perfect demonstration of the testimony of just one (1) witness! According to Jesus Himself, this is not yet His identity – not yet the *Truth*. The physical Jesus, as first witness to Himself is not enough to clearly identify Him. Thus, this warning:

2 Corinthians 11:4 "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him."

We are all witnesses to the fulfillment of this prophecy where people have different recognition of Jesus like the people at Caesarea Philippi. For the clear identification of the *physical* and *spiritual* Christ, it needs the "testimony of the 2nd witness." This is the revelation of the Father (Holy Spirit) to Simon Peter in:

Matthew 16:16 "And Simon Peter... said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

Here is the proof for having the testimony of the "two witnesses" regarding the identity of Jesus:

John 8:19 "Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also."

If somebody says, "I know Jesus, but at the same time declaring the infinite Father is incapable of clear identification with my finite mind," then his/her identification of Jesus is only the "testimony of the 1st witness." To recognize Jesus as Simon Peter did Him, review Chapter 5.

THE "TWO CHERUBIMS"

The "two cherubims" guarding the Ark of the Covenant:

Exodus 25:18-22 "And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold... in the two ends of the mercy seat. ¹⁹And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. ²⁰And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. ²¹And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. ²²And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony."

The Ark of the Testimony or Ark of the Covenant:

Hebrews 9:4 "...the ark of the covenant overlaid round about with gold, wherein was the golden pot that had manna, and Aaron's rod that budded, and the tables of the covenant; ⁵And over it the cherubims of glory shadowing the mercy seat...."

"Manna" was the bread from heaven given to the Israelites in the wilderness. "Aaron's rod that budded" manifested God's power on several instances. "Tables of the covenant" are the two tables of stones where the Ten Commandments are written with the finger of God (Exodus 3:18, 34:28, Deuteronomy 4:13, 10:4). In brief, the Ark of the Covenant contains the *Truth*, thus, symbolizing the presence of God.

The "two cherubims" guarding the Ark of the Covenant symbolize the "two witnesses" to the *Truth!* Jesus said, "I am the truth" (John 14:6), yet declaring

at the same time *"If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true."* (John 5:31) Jesus is the Word of God (Revelation 19:13). Clearly, the "letter of the word" does not yet present the truth for this is only "one witness." It requires the testimony of the "other witness" to establish the *Truth*. Jesus spoke of the Father as the "other witness" (John 5:32). Therefore, Simon Peter's true recognition of Jesus, declaring, *"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,"* should distinguish it from just anybody's similar declaration where God still remains a mystery: *"flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."*

Just as the physical Jesus is not yet the revelation of the real Christ so is the "letter of the word" that He represents² is not yet the revelation of the truth in the word. The physical Jesus is only "one witness" to His real identity, just as the "letter of the word" is only "one witness" to the *Truth*.

According to Jesus, the "other witness" is the Father (John 5:32). The Father promised Himself to be the inheritance in His testament³ to the priests who are the real believers.⁴ At the fulfillment of the Testament, true to His promise, the Father gave Himself as inheritance to the Disciples of Christ at Pentecost – no longer in His frightening form⁵ for He took the characteristics of a dove.⁶ The Father is the Holy Spirit, now witnessing for the *Truth* aside from the "letter of the word!"

John 16:13 "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth..."

² Psalms 40:7 "Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me."

Hebrews 10:7 "Then said I, Lo, I come (in the volume of the book it is written of me), to do thy will, O God."

³ Ezekiel 44:28 "And it shall be unto them for an inheritance: I am their inheritance..."

⁴ 1 Peter 2:5 "Ye also...are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ."

Revelation 1:6 "And hath made us... priests unto God and his Father..."

⁵ Exodus 20:18 "And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off."

¹⁹ And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die."

⁶ Acts 2:1-4 "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place. ² And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. ³ And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. ⁴ And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost..."

John 14:26 "But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost...he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."

"*Whatsoever I have said unto you*" refers to the "letter of the word," as one witness. "*Bring all things to your remembrance*" refers to the spiritual revelation of the Holy Spirit, as "other witness" on the true message of the word. The "testimony" of the Holy Spirit is actually a presentation of evidence or "demonstration" taken from the "letter of the word." Now the following is getting clearer:

2 Corinthians 3:16 "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."

The "letter" of the word or the literal meaning refers to the "testimony of the 1st witness" only. That is why it does not yet represent the truth. The "spirit" refers to the "testimony of the 2nd witness" that completes the real message. Here is God's way of revealing the testimony of the second witness:

1 Corinthians 2:12 "Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God...¹³Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual."

ILLUSTRATIONS FOR THE "TESTIMONY OF TWO WITNESSES"

ILLUSTRATION 1 – "DESTROY THIS TEMPLE"

Who have not heard Jesus' saying, "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up?" The Jews who simply relied on the "testimony of the 1st witness," or the "letter" of the word concluded:

John 2:20 "Then said the Jews, Forty and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days?"

However, Christ's Disciples waited for the "testimony of the 2nd witness." He demonstrated this at His death and resurrection:

John 2:21 "But he spake of the temple of his body.²²When therefore he was risen from the dead, his disciples

remembered that he had said this unto them; and they believed the scripture, and the word which Jesus had said."

ILLUSTRATION 2 – "YE SHALL NOT SURELY DIE"

God warned Adam and Eve on "eating the fruits of the Tree of knowledge of good and evil."

Genesis 2:16 "And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: ¹⁷But 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."

The Serpent's temptation:

Genesis 3:4 "And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die."

Taking the "letter of the word," the serpent or the Devil was telling the "truth!" Adam and Eve did not die "on the day they ate the forbidden fruits." Adam died when he was 930 years old (Genesis 5:5). However, God will never tell a lie. Satan is the *liar* who takes the word of God to the "letter."

First Reference – literal death or death of the body:

True to what God said, Adam and Eve "died in the day" they ate the forbidden fruits. One day to God is 1,000 years to man, and Adam died 70 years short of "one day."

2 Peter 3:8 "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."

Second Reference – spiritual death from the separation from the Tree of Life

Eve believed the serpent that she would not die (literally) "in the day;" and together with Adam ate the forbidden fruits. However, thereafter they ceased to have access to the Tree of Life and that meant "spiritual death" to them.

Genesis 3:22-24 "And the LORD God said... lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever: ²³Therefore the LORD God sent him forth from the garden of Eden... ²⁴So he drove out the man; and he

placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life."

Have we noticed the Cherubims guarding the Tree of Life? The Tree of Life symbolizes the Holy Spirit, God, and the Truth. Now the Two Cherubims in Exodus 25:18-22 and Hebrews 9:4-5 point to the Two Witnesses testifying to the *Truth!*

ILLUSTRATION 3 – FASTING

Who have not heard Jesus fasting for 40 days and 40 nights? Satan and the Natural Man (1 Corinthians 2:14) simply rely on the "testimony of the 1st witness," that is the "letter" of the word/ story, and see fasting as literal hunger for bread/ sandwich/ hamburger. Thus Satan said,

Matthew 4:3 "... command that these stones be made bread."

Jesus said in John 5:31 that the testimony of just one witness is not yet true. Jesus revealed the "testimony of the 2nd witness," by saying:

Matthew 4:4 "...Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Our Lord therefore emphasized the real message of His fasting to mean, "Hunger for *Truth* in the word." This is the "Living bread!"

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..."

Amos 8:11 "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord GOD, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of hearing the words of the LORD: ¹²And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it."

God provides "food to the hungry"⁷ as our Lord taught His disciples in (Matthew 6:11).⁸ Look how God expounds what *fasting* is:

⁷ Matthew 5:6 "Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."

Isaiah 58:6 "Is not this the fast that I have chosen? to loose the bands of wickedness, to undo the heavy burdens, and to let the oppressed go free [John 8:32] and that ye break every yoke [Jeremiah 23:29]? ⁷Is it not to deal thy bread to the hungry [Jeremiah 15:16], and that thou bring the poor [Matthew 5:3] that are cast out to thy house [Matthew 25:35]? when thou seest the naked [Matthew 25:36], that thou cover him [Isaiah 61:10]...?"

These are the verses referred to:

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

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..."

Matthew 5:3 "Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

Matthew 25:35 "...I was a stranger, and ye took me in."

Matthew 25:36 "Naked, and ye clothed me..."

Isaiah 61:10 "...my soul shall be joyful in my God; for he hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness..."

To follow man's understanding of fasting of not taking literal food, what spiritual benefit would that give except to satisfy the emotion? This is only for the person to have something to boast about and to exalt! Did not our Lord say He does not need sacrifices?

Matthew 12:7 "But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice..."

ILLUSTRATION 4 – THE POWER OF FAITH AS BIG AS A MUSTARD SEED

Zacchaeus and the sycamore tree:

⁸ Matthew 6:11 "Give us this day our daily bread."

Luke 17:6 "And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it should obey you."

Perhaps the Natural Man (1 Corinthians 2:14) knowing that this cannot be literal will spiritualize it. If we have faith in God, and believe that He is merciful, whatever problems in life we have, He will help us solve them.

What message does the "letter" as first witness give? Nothing! Thus, the "testimony" of the second witness⁹ is urgently needed. The sycamore tree symbolizes man as in "By their fruits ye shall know them." (Matthew 7:15-20) In the following, the tree gives a great message:

Luke 19:4 "And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way. ⁵And when Jesus came to the place, he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zacchaeus, make haste, and come down; for to day I must abide at thy house."

The "testimony" of the "1st witness" is just a story. The "2nd witness' testimony" gives meaning to incident. If the sycamore tree symbolizes man, Zacchaeus is on "top of man to see" or recognize Jesus. Jesus told him to come down from the tree, or for him not to depend on man. The sycamore tree may either refer to another man or to Zacchaeus own personal capability "to see" or recognize Jesus. Christ coming to Zacchaeus' house means "coming to his life."

Since faith is a gift of God¹⁰ and a fruit of the Spirit,¹¹ this is acquired by a person only after having been "converted into a little child." Humility is the antidote to pride, which is the cause of the downfall of Lucifer and Eve. Faith as big as a "mustard seed" therefore is not something to boast about to other people for it is only God who can see it.

The sycamore tree planted in the sea:

⁹ 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.*"

¹⁰ Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through *faith*, and that not of yourselves: it is the *gift of God.*"

¹¹ Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, *faith*, ²³ Meekness, temperance..."

Literally, a “sycamine tree plucked up by the root, and planted in the sea” is but the testimony of the first witness. The second witness testifies to the spiritual message. A person having faith that only God can see have himself “planted in the sea” where sea symbolizes the way of the Lord:

Psalms 77:19 “Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known.”

We have seen this “power of faith” in Christ’s Apostles and Disciples! For having faith as big as mustard seeds, they have “planted themselves on the way of the Lord, and followed His footsteps.”

ILLUSTRATION 5 – A FIG TREE WITHOUT FRUITS

Here is another illustration of the “power of faith.”

Matthew 21:18-20 “...he returned into the city, he hungered. ¹⁹And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away. ²⁰And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!”

To simply rely on the “letter” as one witness, “he returned into the city, he hungered,” Jesus was hungry as in His fasting. Wanting to have something to eat and finding the fig tree full of leaves without fruits, His curse made it withered away. Fig tree symbolizes a chosen of God, the fact that it refuses to be “king” of the trees:¹²

Judges 9:10 “And the trees said to the fig tree, Come thou, and reign over us. ¹¹But the fig tree said unto them, Should I forsake my sweetness, and my good fruit, and go to be promoted over the trees?”

Here a fig tree symbolizes a real believer, its roots for the *Truth* (Isaiah 11:1), the leaves for *Faith*, and the fruits for *Works*. Now Jesus reveals the significance of the curse. Is it enough to have *Faith* and know the *Truth* without the important fruits for *Works*? “Works” refer to the fruit of the Spirit¹³ that our Lord wanted “to eat.” With this great revelation of the

¹² Fig tree, olive tree, and vine refusing to be “king” of the trees is discussed in Chapter 9.

¹³ Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.”

testimony of the *Two Witnesses*, the real message of the following is put to light:

James 2:17 "Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone."

ILLUSTRATION 6 – COMMANDING A MOUNTAIN TO GO TO THE SEA

Matthew 21:21 "Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done."

Relying on human understanding, this parable of the power of faith as big as a mustard seed will lead to God's power of solving problems in life be they, emotional, physical, or financial. However, opinion contradicts our Lord's statement in the following:

John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth;¹⁴ the flesh profiteth nothing.¹⁵ the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit,¹⁶ and they are life."¹⁷

As it is written, it is our Lord who should explain everything He says that are in parables:

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

Mountain symbolizes man.¹⁸ Hills symbolize lambs¹⁹ or the chosen of God. Truly so, by the power of faith, the real believers can "command themselves to be cast into the sea," where "sea" stands for the following:

¹⁴ It is the Holy Spirit that gives "life" to the "letter" of the word.

¹⁵ Does the "flesh" or the body profit from the word of God? Have we seen this in the Apostles and Disciples of Christ?

¹⁶ Is the message of the words of Jesus Christ literal or spiritual?

¹⁷ What kind of life does the word of our Lord give? Physical life or Spiritual life?

¹⁸ Ezekiel 36:1 "Also, thou son of man, prophesy unto the mountains of Israel, and say, Ye mountains of Israel, hear the word of the LORD."

Psalms 77:19 "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known."

Jesus Christ demonstrated this in the life of Paul, Peter, John, and the other Apostles.

The truth about *Faith*:

1. Faith is a gift of God:

Ephesians 2:8 "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is a gift of God."

2. Faith is a fruit of the Holy Spirit:

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith."

3. Faith is proportional to spiritual humility

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."

2 Timothy 3:15 "And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus."

4. Since *faith* comes from God, no one should boast about it. Therefore, it is *small* as a *mustard seed* that only God could see. It is however round and solid indicating authenticity. Thus, the *power* that goes with it, *moving a mountain* to the sea.
5. *Mountain* to God has its distinct meaning apart from the literal-physical as perceived by the Natural Man.

Judges 9:36 "...Thou seest the shadow of the mountains as if they were men."

¹⁹ Psalms 114:4 "The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs."

Psalms 114:4 "The mountains skipped like rams, and the little hills like lambs."

6. By virtue of *true spiritual humility*, Peter, Paul, James and the other Apostles must have been gifted with *faith* as big as *mustard seeds*. Therefore, they had the power to move *mountains* that refer to *them* following the "path of the Lord."
7. Again, God's words are beyond the realm of human perception without His explanation of them. If *sea* to the Natural Man refers to a large body of water, *sea* to God is something else.

Psalms 77:19 "Thy way is in the sea, and thy path in the great waters, and thy footsteps are not known."

8. Truly so, Paul, Peter, James and the other Apostles were "moved to the sea" by the power of faith, and God was greatly glorified. But all these things are foolishness to the Natural Man.

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."

Is not the foregoing a clear demonstration of how the "two witnesses," referring to the "letter of the word" and the "revelation of the Holy Spirit" on the word benefit the *soul* instead of the *body*?

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."

God's explanation of His words is "demonstration" revealed from the very word.

ILLUSTRATION 7 – HATING RELATIVES TO BE WORTHY AS A DISCIPLE

Luke 14:26 "If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple."

To rely on the "1st witness," as Jesus said of Himself representing the "letter" of the word,²⁰ this is not yet the truth.²¹ How could it be when it directly contravenes the law on love and respect for parents! This therefore needs the "testimony of the 2nd witness." The second witness is the revelation of God through His words. Thus,

Deuteronomy 13:6 "If thy brother, the son of thy mother, or thy son, or thy daughter, or the wife of thy bosom, or thy friend, which is as thine own soul..."

How far is the *Soul* to refer to relatives using human wisdom! However, this explains the meaning of hating, "*father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters.*" In like manner, to take the *Soul* literally, how could one hate it when it is to be valued it being the component that God wants to save? However, *Soul* as used here refers to its attributes of the *intellect* and *feeling* that God forbids to use them in spiritual matters.

1 Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

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

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

"Soulishness" therefore is what is meant by, "*hating father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters and own life.*" And this is what Paul intended to mean when he said:

1 Corinthians 15:31 "...I die daily."

Romans 6:6 "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

²⁰ John 1:14 "And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us..."

²¹ John 5:31 "If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true."

ILLUSTRATION 8 – JESUS' INVITATION, "TAKE MY YOKE"

Matthew 11:28 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

Before, this is what we believed, as the Natural Man's familiar understanding and heard from preachers. The heavy burden and yoke refer to financial, emotional, and physical problems that a person bears, and now wanting to solve. That concept attracts many people that preachers call "gospel of Jesus Christ." Now this is God's revelation from His words:

Since the Word is Jesus Christ (John 1:14), therefore the "letter" corresponds to "physical Jesus." Before, we were attracted to "physical Jesus" as we were with the "letter of the word." But Jesus Himself said:

John 5:31 "If I bear witness of myself, my witness is not true."

Hence, it is not enough to know the *Physical Jesus*²² or to understand the "letter" of the word. We need to know the *Spiritual Jesus*²³ or the "spirit" of the word that needs the testimony of the second witness.²⁴

John 5:32 "There is another that beareth witness of me; and I know that the witness which he witnesseth of me is true."

²² Different perceptions of *Physical Jesus*:

- a. Some say Jesus is only a man and not God, and the derivative Jesus is only mighty God for there is a Supreme or Almighty God.
- b. Others say Jesus is also the Father and the Holy Spirit, and the derivative Jesus is also the Father and the Holy Spirit is only a force of God.
- c. Many say Jesus is both God and man, and He is the 2nd person of the Trinity.

²³ The *Spiritual Jesus* was identified by Simon Peter "not with his flesh and blood."

Matthew 16:16 "And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

²⁴ 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.*"

John 8:17 "It is also written in your law, that the testimony of two men is true. ¹⁸I am one that bear witness of myself, and the Father that sent me beareth witness of me."

From the words of our Lord therefore, the "letters of the word" that are expressed in parables (Ezekiel 20:49, Psalms 78:2) need "another witness" to reveal the *Truth*, just as it needs the "testimony or revelation of the Father" for Simon Peter to recognize the *real Christ*.

So let our Lord guide us with the revelation of His words to get the true message (Mark 4:34). First, since our Lord Jesus showed the Way (John 14:6) by example²⁵ as model,²⁶ He knows the difficulty of carrying this "heavy burden" when He saw the "cross" before Him! Is not "yoke" a thing carried on the shoulder, as the "cross?"

Matthew 26:36-39 "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and ...began to be sorrowful and very heavy. ³⁸Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. ³⁹And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt."

After humbling Himself before the Father, He carried the *cross* (yoke) which, to the soldiers was too heavy that they called Simon of Cyrene help Him carry it (Matthew 27:32). In truth however the "cross or burden is light," as He admonished the women who were following Him. Full of compassion they cried, but Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children." (Luke 23:28). The heavy *cross* was light to our Lord and He demonstrated it! Who could believe this, but it is true. Thus Christ's invitation:

Luke 14:27 "And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple."

Could the *cross/yoke* refer to "financial, emotional, and physical problems that a person carries?" God is speaking spiritual things. The "yoke" refers to

²⁵ 1 Peter 2:21 "For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps."

²⁶ 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."

the *Truth* of salvation, that without humbling oneself like Him, it is too heavy to carry. Otherwise, He would not have said:

Matthew 7:13 "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: ¹⁴Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Modern apostles of Christ preach easy way of salvation! However, Jesus gave this warning:

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves."

To many whose eyes have not been opened yet, the "heavy burden" is the *Truth* and this refers to the *testament* of salvation²⁷ made by "Father God"²⁸ that requires the death of the maker.²⁹

To "carry" this *Truth*, "Father God" manifested Himself in the flesh³⁰. If Jesus Christ³¹ is the Father in the flesh is "easy to carry", then our Lord need not have offered this invitation.

Only a "few" realize the "heavy burden of this plan of salvation" of the Father. Intellect and feeling, the "forbidden fruits of the tree of knowledge of good and evil, make it "easy" justifying the broadening of the way to eternal life. Details of this is discussed in Chapter 13: THE SPIRITUAL SIN OF EVE.

²⁷ Genesis 17:7 "And I (Father God speaking) will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be a God unto thee, and to thy seed after thee."

²⁸ 1 Corinthians 8:6 "But to us *there is but one God, the Father*, of whom *are* all things..."

²⁹ Hebrew 9:16 "For where a testament *is*, there must also of necessity be the *death of the testator*."

³⁰ 1 Timothy 3:16 [KJV] "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh..."

³¹ Philippians 2:6-8 "Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: ⁷ But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: ⁸ And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross."

Unknown to many, this “heavy yoke” is the very foundation of *Love! To Know* “The Lord our God is one Lord” (Mark 12:29) comes before *Loving Him* (Mark 12:30). Nevertheless, the “adults whose eyes are close” presume all these things are easy. Pride is in their hearts taking upon them the competence of understanding the word of God.

Learning from our Lord to be “meek and lowly in heart,” the “poor in spirit”³² as “babes,”³³ come to our Lord wanting to lighten their burden for salvation.

Mathew 11:28-30 “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light.”

We have accepted the invitation of our Lord and now attesting that, indeed, “the yoke is easy and the burden light” with His guide and help. Who can claim the benefit from the following?

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

Further proving that the meaning we get for “yoke” is the *Truth* is how Paul spoke of it:

Philippians 4:3 “And I entreat thee also, true yokefellow, help those women which laboured with me in the gospel... whose names are in the book of life.”

2 Corinthians 6:14 “Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?...”

³² Matthew 5:3-6 “Blessed *are* the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ⁴ Blessed *are* they that mourn: for they shall be comforted. ⁵ Blessed *are* the meek: for they shall inherit the earth. ⁶ Blessed *are* they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

³³ Mathew 18:2 “And Jesus called a little child unto him, and set him in the midst of them, 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. ⁴ Whosoever therefore shall humble himself as this little child, the same is greatest in the kingdom of heaven.”

"Some people who are aspiring for eternal life on realizing the "heavy *Truth*" just ignore it. This exposes their lack of *Trust* in the Lord (1 John 2:27, James 1:5-8).

They trust men more than they trust God:

Jeremiah 17:5 "Thus saith the LORD; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm... ⁶For he shall be like the heath in the desert, and shall not see when good cometh; but shall inhabit the parched places in the wilderness, in a salt land and not inhabited."

Let us realize that nobody can carry this heavy burden of *Truth* through man's own "*Labour*" or capability:

1 Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

1 Corinthians 1:19-21 "For it is written, 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?²¹For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God..."

Clearly recognizing Jesus and God is but one example of this "heavy burden." How about the "will of God" or the great message of His words that God alone can decipher? Can we truly *love God* without Him explaining His words and *demonstrating* how to follow them? Can we follow His will without Him *guiding* and *giving us strength*? Our only role is to humble ourselves like "little children!" We have to be "lowly in heart and meek" as our Lord Jesus conducted Himself before the Father. This is the demonstration He showed for the chosen to follow.

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

Jesus carried His cross. They nailed Him there and died on it. As we carry the *Truth*, we have to be "nailed and crucified" as Jesus was. Never could this be literal, but with the spiritual language of God:

Galatians 2:20 "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

If Jesus died literally on the cross, we have to "die daily" (1 Corinthians 15:31) that the "old man" in us would die with Him:

Romans 6:6 "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin."

Christ's Apostles realized the impossibility of attaining eternal life:

Luke 18:26-30 "And they that heard it said, Who then can be saved? ²⁷And he said, The things which are impossible with men are possible with God. ²⁸Then Peter said, Lo, we have left all, and followed thee. ²⁹And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, There is no man that hath left house, or parents, or brethren, or wife, or children, for the kingdom of God's sake, ³⁰Who shall not receive manifold more in this present time, and in the world to come life everlasting."

To take the "letter of the word" is full of contradictions. However, God explains what is to be left and hated is "souliness" that refers to "intellectualism and emotionalism" in spiritual matters where God condemns all these.

1 Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise."

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

The chosen few give this testimony, "Truly, we have found rest unto our *souls* as promised. Can the reader of these God's great revelation of His word feel the author's spiritual joy at this moment?

Matthew 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. ²⁹Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in

heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. ³⁰For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light."

ILLUSTRATION 9 – SUN AND MOON STOOD STILL!

The "two witnesses" as they testify in the Old Testament:

Look at the folly of human wisdom! Only recently did the Pope apologize to a group of scientists gathered at a university in Rome. This refers to the preaching, for many centuries, that the sun is moving and the earth is fixed on its foundation after reading:

Psalms 102:25 "Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands."

Isaiah 48:13 "Mine hand also hath laid the foundation of the earth, and my right hand hath spanned the heavens..."

How pitiful indeed for renown authorities of the word to be proven phony by science! God confirms the inadequacy of human competence, and exposes man's encroachment on very sacred matters as interpreting His words.

Here is another classic "phenomenon" that many prominent scientists keep on questioning the veracity of the word of God.

Joshua 10:12-14 "Then spake Joshua to the LORD in the day when the LORD delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel... Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon. ¹³And the sun stood still, and the moon stayed, until the people had avenged themselves upon their enemies... So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and hasted not to go down about a whole day. ¹⁴And there was no day like that before it or after it, that the LORD hearkened unto the voice of a man: for the LORD fought for Israel."

However, to the "babes" God through His words reveals the spiritual equivalent of the following. The sun symbolizes God, from where the light originates:

Psalms 84:11 "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory..."

Moon symbolizes the chosen, both physical male and female gender. God considers them as His wife,³⁴ the Bride of Christ.

Songs 6:10 "Who is she that looketh forth as the morning, fair as the moon..."

Jeremiah 3:14 "Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you..."

Revelation 21:9 "...talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife."

The principal characters in the book of Songs are God and His bride, the chosen. Just as the moon does not have light of its own but only reflects the light of the sun, so are the chosen only reflect the spiritual radiance from God. Jesus Christ said:

John 8:12 "...I am the light of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life."

And, to His Disciples He said:

Matthew 5:14 "Ye are the light of the world... ¹⁶Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Just as "God never change" (Malachi 3:6) and "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever" (Hebrews 13:8), so is the *sun* immovable. God is immutable!

In the story, God delivered His chosen people from the Amorites. It was here that Joshua prayed to God to stop the movement of the *moon*. This is to continue receiving light and heat from the *sun* in their sight. Later however, the "moon" began to move again and the Israelites saw this.

The victory of Joshua and the Israelites over the Amorites has the following spiritual equivalent. This is the victory of the real Christians over their spiritual enemies:

³⁴ Isaiah 54:5 "For thy Maker *is* thine husband; the LORD of hosts *is* his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called."

Ephesians 6:12 "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places."

Paul, formerly a member of the sect of the Pharisee, used to persecute our Lord and His Disciples. When our Lord introduced Himself and he recognized Him as his Lord whom he did not know, to Paul that was a great spiritual victory over satanic deceptions, erroneous teachings from Gamaliel (Acts 22:3) and the Scribes, and unsound influence from his fellow Pharisees.

Like Joshua, Paul must have prayed to God to "stop the moon" for the continuous focus of the "light from the Lord" to him, he being symbolized by the moon. However as the "moon began to move" again, so did Paul found himself trying to subdue his "enemy" which is his own "old self."

Romans 7:15-19 "...for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I... ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do."

In the Old Testament, we find David subduing Goliath. How he wished that great triumph over evil be always with him. However, as the "moon" began moving, the "sun" hid its light and heat from it is lost. This was also when David saw Bathsheba,³⁵ took her as concubine, and even engineered the death of her husband, Uriah.³⁶

Real Christians feel this in their life – victory over the "flesh" and spiritual enemies (Revelation 12:9). How they also wish the "light from God" to always focus on their life, but as the "moon moves," so is the fight against the sinful "old human nature."

³⁵ 2 Samuel 11:2-5 "And it came to pass in an evening tide, that David arose from off his bed, and walked upon the roof of the king's house: and from the roof he saw a woman washing herself; and the woman was very beautiful to look upon. ³ And David sent and enquired after the woman. And one said, Is not this Bathsheba... the wife of Uriah the Hittite? ⁴ And David sent messengers, and took her; and she came in unto him, and he lay with her...and she returned unto her house. ⁵ And the woman conceived, and sent and told David, and said, I am with child."

³⁶ 2 Samuel 11:15 "And he wrote in the letter, saying, Set ye Uriah in the forefront of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may be smitten, and die."

ILLUSTRATION 10 – HEZEKIAH AND SHADOW TEN DEGREES BACKWARD

Here is one incident in the life of Hezekiah. The “letter” of the word simply tells a story.³⁷ With the “spirit,” the “letter” of the word becomes a “living bread” to the real believers:

2 Kings 20:1-11 “In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah... said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die...²Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, ³I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. ⁵...Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. ⁶And I will add unto thy days fifteen years; and I will deliver thee and this city out of the hand of the king of Assyria... ⁷And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered. ⁸And Hezekiah said unto Isaiah, What shall be the sign that the LORD will heal me...the third day? ⁹And Isaiah said, This sign shalt thou have of the LORD, that the LORD will do the thing that he hath spoken: shall the shadow go forward ten degrees, or go back ten degrees? ¹⁰And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees. ¹¹And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward...”

“Sick unto death”

Spiritually, the ailment of Hezekiah must have referred to the *Soul* as David spoke of it. Jesus Christ also emphasized the “spiritual” nature of His words not profiting the *Body*:

Psalms 41:4 “I said, LORD, be merciful unto me: heal my soul; for I have sinned against thee.”

³⁷ 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.*”

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."

The downfall of Lucifer was pride or "soulishness;" so was King Saul's extreme envy of David. Therefore, the sickness of Hezekiah leads to the death of his soul.

Ezekiel 18:20 "The soul that sinneth, it shall die..."

Is this not *pride* for Hezekiah to claim the following?

2 Kings 20:3 "I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight."

Did not Jesus illustrate the pitfall for pride in a Pharisee?

Luke 18:9-13 "And he spake this parable...which trusted in themselves that they were righteous...¹⁰Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a Pharisee, and the other a publican. The 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. ¹³And 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."

Luke 18:14 "I 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."

Matthew 5:20 "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven."

Look! Not even our Lord Jesus accepted He is good if only to show the example for real spiritual humility.

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."

Goodness and righteousness should be distinguished as they relate to *spirituality* and *morality*. Spirituality pertains to "cleanliness in the inside of the cup and platter," while morality to "cleanliness on the outside."

Matthew 23:26 "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

Hezekiah's self-righteousness could be compared to that of Job:

Job 33:9 "I am clean without transgression, I am innocent; neither is there iniquity in me."

True, God spoke of Job's righteousness before Satan:

Job 1:1 "There was a man... whose name was Job; and that man was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil."

Job 1:6-8 "Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them. ⁷And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it. ⁸And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?"

However, God must be referring to Job's righteousness' "cleanliness on the outside of the cup and platter" and never of the "inside." Otherwise, it would contradict Jesus Christ not admitting He is good.

No wonder Job and Hezekiah have the same "literal" kind of disease, that of boils:

Job 2:7 "So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown."

2 Kings 20:7 "And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil..."

"Hezekiah wept"

When God told Hezekiah, "*set thine house in order*" "...*he wept sore.*" To God this is *repentance* and not simple remorse. Repentance is *spiritual* while remorse is *emotional*. Repentance is total submission to God. Remorse is just being sorry for the sins committed. Thus, God said:

2 Kings 20:5-7 "I have seen thy tears: behold, I will heal thee: on the third day thou shalt go up unto the house of the LORD. ⁶And I will add unto thy days fifteen years... ⁷And Isaiah said, Take a lump of figs. And they took and laid it on the boil, and he recovered."

"A lump of figs"

A fig tree symbolizes a chosen of God (Judges 9:10-11). A "lump of its fruits" represents the fruit of the Spirit:

Galatians 5:22 "But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³meekness, temperance..."

Truly, the fruit of the Spirit is cure for pride. Hezekiah's 15 years extension of his life does not necessarily mean length of time, but the period required to attain spiritual perfection.

"Shadow of the sun brought ten degrees backward"

God through His words gives the spiritual equivalent of the following: Sun symbolizes God the source of "light." It is fixed as "God never change," and "Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever."

Psalms 84:11 "For the LORD God is a sun and shield: the LORD will give grace and glory..."

Earth symbolizes the people. As an inanimate object, it has neither ears to listen nor emotion to feel:

Jeremiah 22:29 "O earth, earth, earth, hear the word of the LORD."

Psalms 33:8 "Let all the earth fear the LORD: let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him."

Hezekiah saw himself like the earth turning on its axis. The shadow refers to the sun's shade. Before the invention of the clock and hourglass, people erect a pole for its shadow to indicate passage of time. As the sun past 12 pm, its shadow on the pole gets longer and light and heat diminish in degree.

Hezekiah wanted the shadow to "turn 10 degrees backward" in order to recover the "intensity of light and heat." Since the sun symbolizes God, so is the "spiritual light" and "heat from the Holy Spirit." Because the earth symbolizes man, Hezekiah wanted himself to be closely attuned to God always.

With the "brightness" of the sun at 12 o'clock noon casting no shadow at all, Hezekiah's self-righteousness is exposed. He wept and received the blessing of the Lord.

2 Kings 20:10 "And Hezekiah answered, It is a light thing for the shadow to go down ten degrees: nay, but let the shadow return backward ten degrees." 11 "And Isaiah the prophet cried unto the LORD: and he brought the shadow ten degrees backward..."

Hezekiah's life extension for another 15 years does not necessarily mean the length of time for him to "put his house in order." Finally, God took Hezekiah to His kingdom. What a lesson this is to real believers who find themselves in the same condition as Hezekiah was!

"And the Word was God"

The "testimony of the two witnesses" for the *Truth* has no end, neither has a beginning. Who can accept the testimony of the "letter" to be true when it is full of contradictions?

Example 1 – How could faithfulness to the spouse not sufficient fulfillment of the commandment, "Thou shalt not commit adultery?" The "letter" is only "one witness" to the truth. Following the commandment to the "letter" only "cleanses the outside of the cup."

Matthew 23:26 "Thou blind Pharisee, cleanse first that which is within the cup and platter, that the outside of them may be clean also."

Our Lord requires “cleanliness in the inside” at the same time. Who can expound on this but God alone through His words? God is speaking in parables. Here is His word on marriage, the 2nd witness:

Jeremiah 13:14 “Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you...”

Isaiah 54:5 “For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts...”

God is the spiritual “husband” and His chosen are the spiritual “wife,” with no distinction to gender.

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

The “letter” serves as one witness to the truth. The testimony of one witness, according to Jesus in John 5:31, is still lacking. The second witness for the sin of adultery therefore is the foregoing revelation of God on spiritual marriage. As spiritual “husband,” God implants His “seeds” unto the “wife” to bear “children.” His “seeds” is the *Truth* in the word (Luke 8:11). The spiritual “children” is the “fruit of the Spirit.”

*Galatians 5:22 “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,
23Meekness, temperance...”*

Satan is the “other spiritual male” who strives to implant his “seeds” unto the “wife of God.” The “seeds of Satan” are the deception and falsehood in the word, through philosophy and human wisdom.

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

1 Corinthians 1:19-21 “For it is written, 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? 21For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God...”

Christ saw this in the Scribes and Pharisees who were limited to the "letter" of the law. Counterfeit fruits of "love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance" thereupon results from spiritual adultery. Counterfeit fruits are the products of self-discipline, mind conditioning, personal capability and emotionalism (Jeremiah 17:9). Apart from Christ, the chosen can do nothing in spiritual matters:

John 15:5 "I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing."

The criterion for exposing the false prophets and apostles is the kind of fruits or "children" resulting from the kind of "seeds."

Matthew 7:15 "Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. ¹⁶Ye shall know them by their fruits."

Real "fruits" are the product of the *Truth* in the word testified by "two witnesses." Counterfeit fruits are the product of only "one witness" born out of 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."

ILLUSTRATION 11 – WASHING OF FEET

John 13:4-10 "He riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself. ⁵After that he poureth water into a basin, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded. ⁶Then cometh he to Simon Peter: and Peter saith unto him, Lord, dost thou wash my feet? ⁷Jesus answered and said unto him, What I do thou knowest not now; but thou shalt know hereafter. ⁸Peter saith unto him, Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me. ⁹Simon Peter saith unto him, Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head. ¹⁰Jesus saith to him, He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit: and ye are clean..."

This practice is replicated in the churches as ritual. On the surface is a show of humility of the washer of the feet (priest, pastor, minister). That is only the “testimony of the 1st witness,” and the contrary to:

Colossians 2:18 “Let no man beguile you ... in a voluntary humility ... vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind.”

The “testimony of the 2nd witness” regarding water is the *word of God* and the *Holy Ghost*:

Ephesians 5:26 “That he might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word.”

John 7:38 “He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.³⁹ (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given....)”

Are not the “feet,” the parts that have “direct contact with dust?” “Dust” symbolizes man.³⁸ God condemns man’s worldliness in the following:

Galatians 5:19-21 “Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,²⁰ Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,²¹ Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.”

So is man’s “intellectualism.”

1 Corinthians 1:19-21 “For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.²⁰ Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?²¹ For after that

³⁸ Genesis 3:19 “...till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

Genesis 18:27 “And Abraham answered and said, Behold now, I have taken upon me to speak unto the Lord, which am but dust and ashes.”

in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God...

1 Corinthians 3:18 "Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise. ¹⁹For the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God. For it is written, He taketh the wise in their own craftiness."

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

And man's "emotionalism."

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

Romans 7:15-25 "For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. ¹⁶If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. ¹⁷Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ¹⁸For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. ¹⁹For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. ²⁰Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. ²¹I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. ²²For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: ²³But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? ²⁵I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin."

From the "testimony of the 2nd witness", we can now understand what our Lord meant when He told His Disciples to "shake off the dust from the feet when somebody refuses to hear the truth."

Mark 6:11 "And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them."

Jesus only "washed the feet" and says, "He that is washed needeth not save to wash his feet, but is clean every whit," for this refers to the cleansing of worldliness and souliness in the chosen. After cleansing with "water," Jesus "wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded." It necessitated drying the feet so that "dust" would not easily stick.

John 15:3 "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you."

