

Chapter 16

“THOSE IN JUDEA, FLEE TO THE MOUNTAINS!”

*Does not Judea symbolize a place for Godliness?
Why flee to the mountains?*

“Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains.” Matthew 24:16

Jesus Christ was prophesied to speak in parables:

Psalms 78:2 “I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old.”

The Jews witnessed this in His time, just as we should in our time:

Matthew 13:34 “All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet, saying, I will open my mouth in parables; I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation of the world.”

However, Jesus expounded His parables to His Disciples:

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

While many people use illustrations and other expressions to make the listeners understand, Jesus spoke in parables in order to make His message incomprehensible. He did this in order to throw out from the range of comprehension “those on the outside.”

Mark 4:11 “...Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them that are without, all these things are done in parables: ¹²That seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand; lest at any time they should be converted, and their sins should be forgiven them.”

This alone already is beyond the grasp of many people. They may quote verses to refute the sad fact. “Is not God, love?”¹ Why does He disqualify many people when His wish is, “No man should perish?”² This demonstrates human wisdom and feeling standing on the way to God’s “thoughts and 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.”

Man’s understanding and feeling³ always challenge God’s omniscience. How many people really believe in the all-knowing God?

Jeremiah 16:17 “For mine eyes are upon all their ways: they are not hid from my face, neither is their iniquity hid from mine eyes.”

Act 15:18 “Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world.”

Proverbs 5:21 “For the ways of man are before the eyes of the LORD, and he pondereth all his goings.”

Colossians 2:3 “In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge.”

Isaiah 46:10 “Declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.”

¹ 1 John 4:8

² 2 Peter 3:9 “...is long-suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.”

³ The “fruits” of the Tree of knowledge of good and evil.

THE OMNISCIENCE OF GOD

Can man accept the omniscience of God, that He knows those who will be saved even before the creation of the world?

Revelation 13:8 "And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him, whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

Revelation 17:8 "...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..."

Man might be led into thinking that there is predestination. No! No one can deny that God gave man, His greatest creation, a free will to decide whatever he wants. Man is never a robot. However, God is a discerner of thoughts.⁴ On this basis does God exercise His prerogative of choice, not based on caprice but on the foreknowledge of man's own chosen course.

Man, therefore, plots his own destiny. It is on this knowledge that God says, "To those on the outside, these things shall be hidden from them." How many can accept this bitter truth?⁵ It is only by genuine belief, and total surrender to God's wisdom, might and mercy!

GOD'S INSTRUCTION FOR DIRECTION

With a parable, Jesus Christ gave the direction for His people to follow:

Matthew 24:16 "...let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains."

⁴ Psalms 44:21 "Shall not God search this out? For he knoweth the secrets of the heart."

Psalms 94:11 "The Lord knoweth the thoughts of man..."

Hebrews 4:13 "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest in his sight; but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do."

⁵ 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."

Man understands this to leave Judea, a place in southern Palestine, and escape to the mountains. Alternatively, he may try to spiritualize the word by saying, “man must leave his place of residence and find a suitable abode for his safety.” If that is all to the word of God, then how could it be “living bread?”

Who can explain this parable without divine revelation from the word of God? Nevertheless, true to what Jesus did to His disciples,⁶ the “word will never pass away” as promised. Our Lord will explain through His words and by this time, we know our Lord is the Holy Spirit.⁷

Judea is a place named after Judah, one of the twelve tribes of Israel, a favored tribe in the eyes of God:

Psalms 78:67 “Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: ⁶⁸But chose the tribe of Judah...”

Judges 1:2 “And the Lord said, Judah shall go up: Behold, I have delivered the land into his hand.”

Jesus Christ is of the tribe of Judah:

Hebrews 7:14 “For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Judah; of which tribe Moses spake...”

Revelation 5:4 “And 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 Judah, the Root of David, hath prevailed to open the book, and to loose the seven seals thereof.”

Juda, or *Judea*, therefore indicates closeness to God. Example, the Jews, whose title was derived from Juda, were God’s favored people. That is why He entrusted to them His word, the Holy Scriptures. Please underscore this.

⁶ Mark 4:34 “But without a parable spake he not unto them: and when they were alone, he expounded all things to his disciples.”

⁷ 2 Corinthians 3:17 “Now the Lord is that Spirit...”

"FLEE FROM JUDEA"

Our Lord, by example, physically demonstrated "fleeing Judea" when He was a child. "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king,"⁸ of all people, it was a "Judean" who wanted to kill the Messiah! Was not Herod a Jew or "Judean?"⁹

Later, as Jesus grew up, the "Judeans who were supposed God's chosen people hated and rejected Him."¹⁰ Who killed Jesus? Were they not "Judeans?" All this is history. The word of God stretches far beyond history, neither is it just a simple story. The word of God is spiritual bread that has "life" in it.

SPIRITUAL JUDEA

Spiritual Judea is a God-chosen source of righteousness, but it turned out to be a seed of hatred to real Godliness. This was seen during the time of Christ. Spiritual Judea was considered a wellspring of righteousness. Judaism, the established religion, degenerated into a paradigm for human standard of goodness!

Emmanuel that means "God with us" in the person of Jesus Christ, who was to show the way, the Jews considered Him a religious rebel. When He expounded on genuine Godliness, through spirituality instead of religiosity, they condemned as a heretic.

He preached the very law that was in the hands of the religious leaders at that time. However, in the eyes of the Scribes, Pharisees, Sadducees, and the Elders of Israel, He was nullifying the law. However, He insisted, "He did not come to destroy the law, but to give fulfillment to them."¹¹ He was misunderstood, and they called Him "A Samaritan and having a devil."¹² They

⁸ Matthew 2:1

⁹ Matthew 2:13 "...the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him."

¹⁰ John 11:7 "Then after that saith he to his disciples, Let us go into Judea again. 8 His disciples say unto him, Master, the Jews of late sought to stone thee; and goest thou thither again?"

¹¹ Matthew 5:17

¹² John 8:48 "Then answered the Jews, and said unto him, Say we not well that thou art a Samaritan, and hast a devil?"

mocked and convicted Him as a mad man.¹³ They considered Him an enemy of God that is why they condemned and crucified Him on the cross.

This is spiritual Judea, supposed to represent spiritual Godliness, but it degenerated into “soulish” religious righteousness. This is spiritual Judea, supposed to present the divine and the heavenly, but advocated instead the worldly and the temporal. Supposed to promote the spiritual; but in place espoused the literal-physical. Supposed to preach pure Bible doctrines, but instead championed and taught human doctrines.

Everything about the word must happen. “Heaven and earth will pass away, but God’s words will never pass away.” If Jesus left spiritual Judea to show the way, where or what is spiritual Judea today to escape from?

God entrusted His words, the Holy Bible, to Christianity. In the eyes of God, does it really preach His standard of righteousness? How could *Christianity Today* do its intended role when denominations divided it, and each claims the truth?

Do people who represent *Christianity Today* truly accept the word of God with all its sharpness?¹⁴ Can the religious sects withstand the piercing power of the Word, screening the truth from falsehood, and thus, separating God’s doctrines from the human precepts?

Bible verses both support human and God’s doctrine. Satan started it all in the Garden of Eden when he tempted Eve using the very word of God. The Devil tried to repeat the feat on Jesus Christ in the desert. Satan quoted verses from the book of Psalms¹⁵ telling Him a stone will not hit His feet.¹⁶ Jesus Christ rebuked Satan for his wrong doctrine by taking the “letter” of the word.¹⁷

¹³ John 10:20 “And many of them said, He hath a devil, and is mad; why hear ye him?”

¹⁴ Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is quick, and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged 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.”

¹⁵ Psalms 91:11 “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

¹⁶ Matthew 4:6 “...it is written that God will give His angels charge concerning you, and on their hands they will bear you up, lest you strike your foot against a stone.”

¹⁷ 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.”

This would have made God a liar, taking the "letter" of the word, for Jesus' feet indeed literally touched stones. The prophecy about "a foot striking against stone," meant spiritually where man¹⁸ that symbolizes a "stone" did not affect our Lord in His spiritual walk. Never was our Lord distressed or affected by any man! How many people can distinguish *God's Doctrine* from *Human Doctrine*? Human doctrines contradict fundamental spiritual truths.

Now it is getting clearer why Jesus told His disciples "flee Judea!" Jesus showed the way Himself in fleeing from Judea, not only in His physical escape from Herod, but also in His spiritual flight from the established religious teachings of His time. This was revealed to Isaiah:

Isaiah 1:21-23 "How is the faithful city become an harlot! it was full of judgment; righteousness lodged in it; but now murderers. 22 Thy silver is become dross, thy wine mixed with water: 23 Thy princes are rebellious, and companions of thieves: every one loveth gifts, and followeth after rewards: they judge not the fatherless, neither doth the cause of the widow come unto them."

(The cause of the "fatherless and widows" was discussed in Chapter 15)

PERSECUTION OF "JESUS IN JUDEA"

Jesus Christ is the Word of God.¹⁹ As He was mocked and hated, so is the *Truth* in the Word also being discredited and hated by spiritual Judea. They crucified Jesus; so is the word of Truth condemned as strange and heretical.

Constantine the Great had a hand in shaping *Christianity Today*. Human precepts and religious traditions tarnish pure Christianity of the first century. This book concentrates in exposing the "black hand" of the enemy of God.²⁰

¹⁸ Matthew 3:9 "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to *our* father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham."

Satan citing:

Psalms 91:11 "For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone."

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

²⁰ Revelation 12:9 "And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him."

Two thousand years ago, a voice from heaven echoed a similar warning:

Revelation 17:4-6 “And the woman (church) was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: ⁵And 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.”

Revelation 18:4 “And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins...”

The “woman” is the mother of spiritual harlotry. God is directing His “chosen few” to come out from “her and her daughters.” She has many daughters of the same trait (doctrines): that is why God called her, “the mother of harlots.” God gives this warning to His people:

2 Corinthians 6:17 “Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; ¹⁸And I will receive you, and will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.”

The urgent warning is, “Flee Judea, and go to the mountains.”

THE SPIRITUAL MOUNTAIN

As stated earlier, when Jesus said, “Let them which be in Judea flee into the mountains,” the Natural Man must be thinking of literal escape to literal mountains. How could human wisdom explain this parable?

God explained spiritual Judea. Now, God must explain Spiritual Mountain. God spoke first of a “mountain” when His people were still in Egypt under slavery. God gave this sign and instruction:

Exodus 3:12 "And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a token unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God upon this mountain."

Finally, Pharaoh allowed the Israelites to leave Egypt and called Moses, saying:

Exodus 12:31 "...Rise up and get you forth from among my people, both ye and the children of Israel; and go, serve the Lord, as ye have said."

God referred to a "mountain" indicating close relationship with His people:

Isaiah 25:6-8 "And in this mountain shall the Lord of hosts make unto all people a feast of fat things... ⁷And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations. ⁸He will swallow up death in victory; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from off all faces..."

Literally, people reading the Bible see the meeting of God and His people in a physical mountain:

Ezekiel 20:40 "For in mine holy mountain, in the mountain of the height of Israel, saith the Lord God, there shall all the house of Israel, all of them in the land, serve me: there will I accept them, and there will I require your offerings, and the firstfruits of your oblations, with all your holy things. ⁴¹I will accept you with your sweet savor, when I bring you out from the people..."

Very clearly, God referred to *Jerusalem* and His *Holy Mountain* as the seat of unity with His people:

Zechariah 8:3 "Thus saith the Lord; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem, and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the Lord of hosts, The Holy Mountain."

The word of God is now leading us to the spiritual meaning of *Mountain* indicating some relationship with God in prayer and worship.

MAN'S CONCEPT OF WORSHIP AND PRAYER

Man's concept of prayer and worship is supplication for material, physical, and spiritual things; and praise, and thanksgiving to God. All religions are one in this respect. They are one in praying with the lips and deeply felt in the heart to establish relationship with God.

Many people pray with their eyes by looking at some objects of worship. All pray with their mind to think and feel what to say or hear from fellow worshippers. They pray with the ears from sound associated with worship from musical instruments and hymns. This, briefly, is man's notion of prayer and worship for establishing relationship with God.

We also find God's people in the Old Testament following that concept. In other words, man's way of prayer and worship is sensual, mental, and emotional. It is a form of worship with the body and the soul. This is demonstrated with the “letter”²¹ of the word in:

Psalms 5:1 “Give ear to my words, O Lord; consider my meditation. ²Hearken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.”

Psalms 19:14 “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in thy sight, O Lord, my strength, and my redeemer.”

(There are many more verses demonstrating sensual, mental, and emotional worship and prayer.)

All these were clear to the understanding of the Israelites and to *Christianity Today*, practiced before and now. In the future, they are also looking at the same pattern based on the following:

Isaiah 27:13 “And it shall come to pass in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown, and they shall come...and shall worship the Lord in the holy mount at Jerusalem.”

²¹ 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.”

One reason why "God was manifest in the flesh"²² was, aside from fulfilling His testament with death, also to demonstrate the spiritual way of worship and prayer to His chosen. Thus, we have seen how Jesus expounded on the real meaning of spiritual Sabbath,²³ and clean and unclean food,²⁴ among others. Now Jesus Christ explained real worship to the Samaritan woman whom He met by the well of Jacob:

John 4:7-19 "There cometh a woman of Samaria to draw water: Jesus saith unto her, Give me to drink... ⁹Then saith the woman ...How is it that thou, being a Jew, askest drink of me, which am a woman of Samaria? for the Jews have no dealings with the Samaritans. ¹⁰Jesus answered and said unto her, If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water. ¹¹The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep: from whence then hast thou that living water? ¹²Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children...? ¹³Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: ¹⁴But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. ¹⁵The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw. ¹⁶Jesus saith unto her, Go, call thy husband, and come hither. ¹⁷The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: ¹⁸For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. ¹⁹The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet."

John 4:20-24 "Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship. ²¹Jesus saith unto her, Woman, believe me, the

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

²³ Hebrew 4 and Matthew 11:28-31, where "man's labor" refers to man's personal capability to obtain salvation, and "Sabbath rest" relates to our Lord's offer for "rest and peace in salvation."

²⁴ Matthew 15:10-11 and Acts 10:9-35 where clean and unclean animals refer to people, to the "chosen" and to the "called" or outsiders.

hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. ²²Ye worship ye know not what: we know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. ²³But the hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. ²⁴God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

John 4:25 “The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. ²⁶Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.”²⁵

The following points are gathered from our Lord’s conversation with the Samaritan woman:

1. Jesus, a Jew, was not supposed to talk to Samaritans because they were considered “enemies or unclean.” The Samaritans were the descendants of some tribes of Israel in their intermarriage with the neighboring countries. The Jews therefore considered them “unclean.”²⁶ However, Jesus nullified this belief when He showed the spiritual way.²⁷
2. Jesus revealed the meaning of true worship to the Samaritan woman and not to the Jews because they rejected him. The Samaritan woman symbolized the Gentile Church. This is a good illustration of “Flee from Judea.”
3. Jesus demonstrated His spiritual language²⁸ when He told the woman, “If thou knewest the gift of God, and who it is that saith to thee, Give me

²⁵ Isaiah 52:6 [Father God speaking] “Therefore *my people shall know my name*: therefore they shall know in that day that *I am he* that doth speak: behold, *it is I.*”

²⁶ Ezra 4:1-5 “Now when the adversaries of Judah and Benjamin heard that the children of the captivity builded the temple unto the Lord God of Israel; ² then they came to Zerubbabel, and to the chief of the fathers, and said unto them, Let us build with you: for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him since the days of Esarhaddon king of Assur, which brought us up hither. ³ But Zerubbabel, and Jeshua, and the rest of the chief of the fathers of Israel, said unto them, Ye have nothing to do with us to build a house unto our God; but we ourselves together will build unto the Lord the God of Israel... ⁴ then the people of the land weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, ⁵ and hired counselors against them, to frustrate their purpose...”

²⁷ Colossians 3:11 “...there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond nor free: but Christ is all and in all.”

²⁸ John 6:63 “...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit...”

to drink; thou wouldest have asked of him, and he would have given thee living water."

However, look how the Natural Man sees the "letter" of the word instead of the spiritual message: "The woman saith unto him, Sir, thou hast nothing to draw with, and the well is deep. From whence then hast thou that living water? Art thou greater than our father Jacob, which gave us the well, and drank thereof himself, and his children, and his cattle?" The woman was thinking of literal water. Jesus was referring to "spiritual water."

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

John 7:37-39 "...Jesus stood... saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. ³⁸He 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...)

"Water" as Jesus referred to in the "well of Jacob" are the two witnesses to the *Truth*:

- a. "Water" for the "*letter*" of the word, and
 - b. "Water" for the spiritual revelation of the *Holy Spirit* on the "letter" of the word.²⁹
4. The Natural Man must be looking at the Samaritan woman as a notorious adulterer when she was exposed having five husbands – so also does the woman. Let us remember our Lord is speaking "spiritual things."³⁰ Who does not commit adultery (spiritual) where God is the "husband" and the people, both physical male and female,³¹ are supposed to be the wife, and "seed" of the God³² is the *Truth* in His

²⁹ 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.*"

³⁰ John 6:63 "It is the spirit that quickeneth...the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

³¹ Galatians 3:28 "There is neither Jew nor Greek... there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus."

³² Luke 8:11 "...The seed is the word of God."

word? Strange "seeds" are word of God coming only from the understanding or interpretation of man. These are religious traditions, human precepts, and doctrines.

Isaiah 54:5 "For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name..."

Then we are all guilty of "spiritual adulterous" Samaritan woman!

5. How can we understand "spiritual things" without God giving us *spiritual discernment*? How can we have spiritual discernment with the Holy Spirit living in us? Spiritual discernment is not the dictate of the intellect, senses, and feeling, but God's revelation 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."

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..."

Our Lord spoke of "worship God in spirit and in truth."

John 4:24 "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth."

6. Literally, let us take note that this is the well of Jacob from which all, both Jews and Samaritans, draw water. How does it become a "living water" that our Lord told the Samaritan woman? By God's revelation, the well is the Holy Bible, and the water is the word of God. Both Jews and Samaritan drawing water from the well, or taking the word of God on their own understanding, does not give eternal life.

However, when our Lord draws water from the well, it becomes "living water." Very clear, this is message of the following that "many" people do *not* seem to see:

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

7. The foregoing perfectly jibes with the following:

John 7:37-39 "...Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink.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...)

The "living water" refers to the *Holy Spirit*, which was promised long ago as inheritance to the real believers in Psalms 16:5, and Ezekiel 44:28.³³ God promised this "inheritance," the Holy Ghost, to the "priests and Levites."

Ezekiel 44:15 "But the priests ... that kept the charge of my sanctuary... they shall come near to me to minister unto me, and they shall stand before me to offer unto me... saith the Lord GOD."

The "priests" are the "chosen few!"

1 Peter 2:5 "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, (not physical) acceptable to God..."

Revelation 1:6 "And hath made...priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen."

Jesus spoke of "a spring of living water," similar to what God revealed to Isaiah:

Isaiah 58:11 "And the LORD shall guide thee continually, and satisfy thy soul in drought, and make fat thy bones: and thou shalt be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters fail not."

³³ Psalms 16:5 "The LORD is the portion of mine inheritance and of my cup: thou maintainest my lot."

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

The word of God is symbolized by water³⁴ so is the Holy Ghost³⁵ and these are the *Two Witnesses* to the truth. Truth like a spring of water can never be depleted. Our Lord also referred to it in the book of Revelation:

Revelation 22:1 “And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb.”

To take the word of God in the Holy Bible literally, it is limited to the number of pages contained therein. However, God revealed that the *Spiritual Message*, the literal word plus the Holy Spirit’s revelation, has no end. The Word that gives life, the Spirit of the Word,³⁶ truly is inexhaustible as a “spring of living water.” John the apostle received this great revelation earlier, when he wrote:

John 21:25 “And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written. Amen.”

Taking this literally, it could be just the “doctrine” of Satan in tempting our Lord in the desert (Matthew 4:6) “the foot of Jesus not being hit by a stone.”³⁷ The Devil wants to picture our Lord as a liar! Unknown to him, a “stone” refers to man. Truly so, Jesus’ spiritual walk was never affected by any man. How deceptive the Old Serpent is taking only the “letter” of the word!

How blessed are we to be given a glimpse of this “spring of living water” that refers to the *Spiritual Word* that knows no end for it represents the Spirit God Himself!

Spiritual Worship

Looking at images and statues is sensual (of the senses) worship. Beautiful words expressed in prayer are the product of the mind

³⁴ Ephesians 5:26

³⁵ John 7:37-39

³⁶ 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.”

³⁷ Psalms 91:11 “For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. ¹² They shall bear thee up in *their* hands, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.”

appealing to the feeling. We read Jesus Christ is praying to the Father. This is only the "letter" of the word. With this form of prayer, no one can follow this command:

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

Who can follow this command to the "letter" of the word? One needs to sleep, work, rest, etc.

Prayer and worship is relationship, rapport, and a close bond with God. Jesus Christ in His role as "Son" showed the example of "true and spiritual worship." He showed this in His "spiritual life" how He humbled Himself before the Father, in total submission. In His "physical life," Jesus lived like a normal human being, working as a carpenter, and following the norms consistent with His relationship with the Father.

Without His guidance and endowment of strength to the chosen, no one can certainly do this. No one can "worship God in spirit and in truth." That is why we only depend on His mercy, and this He grants based on our humility. Now He reveals the real meaning of:

Romans 9:15 "For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion."

Matthew 9:13 "But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance."

Look how the Word leads us to the meaning of spiritual worship! Prayer and worship is "direct" communication to God. Prayer without ceasing, therefore, is the unremitting relationship with God. This is the truth. Therefore, spiritual worship leads us to the following truth:

Galatians 5:16 "This I say, Walk in the Spirit..."

Galatians 5:25 "If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."

To "walk in the Spirit" is to live according to the truth in Word of God. To "live in the Spirit" is to walk by the Word of God. Living by the Word

sustains a continuous relationship with God, for “the Word is God.”³⁸
The chosen few follow this truth in spiritual worship!

Where now is prayer and worship that the Natural Man understands and does? All religions follow this kind. How can the Natural Man pray “in Spirit” without the Truth? Therefore, the command, “Pray without ceasing” is given another meaning using philosophy. God through His words distinguishes the two classes of people:

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.”

The Spiritual Man:

1 Corinthians 2:15 “But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man. ¹⁶For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.”

“The hour cometh, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”

The Natural Man prays with the senses, intellect, and feeling. The Spiritual Man “worship God in spirit and truth.” Jesus Christ put it this way:

Matthew 6:5-7 “And when thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, that they may be seen of men. Verily I say unto you, They have their reward. ⁶But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly. ⁷But when ye pray, use not

³⁸ John 1:1 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”

vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking."

- a. "Be not ye therefore like unto *them*." Our Lord was referring to the "hypocrites."³⁹ They were the Scribes and Pharisees who were noted for their ostentatious worship and beautiful prayers. They worship after the concept of what the Natural Man understands.
- b. "Nor pray as the heathen do." The heathen were known for their repetitious prayers. Jesus Christ deemphasized physical expression of worship. At this point, He was already advocating "spiritual worship." As the "letter" is set aside in favor of the "spirit" of the word, so is sensual, mental, and emotional relationship with God, relegated to the background in favor of the spiritual. This is what He means by, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and shut the door."
- c. In the process, only God knows, not for the people to see and thus reap admiration. Now the following presents a much deeper dimension:

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."

Man's notion of prayer is supplication for physical and material needs, and asking relief for some emotional troubles. Can many people accept the following?

Matthew 6:8 "Be not ye therefore like unto them: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of before ye ask him."

- a. What is Jesus advocating here? To ask the Father for the "things needed?" He said, "Your Father knoweth before ye ask him." He was clearly trying to downplay supplication for material needs. Do many people see this as a prelude to "spiritual worship" which is a continuous spiritual bond with God more than physical as the general notion?

³⁹ Matthew 23:2-28

- b. Where is the popular concept of prayer where people regard God like a genie who command Him to do many things for the physical benefit of the worshipper? Did not Jesus tell His Disciples about what many people perhaps to not want to hear?

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.”

8. “Am he.” This was discussed in Chapter 5 where God was identifying Himself through His words. Truly so, Jesus proved what He said in:

John 8:19 “Then said they unto him, Where is thy Father? Jesus answered, Ye neither know me, nor my Father: if ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also.”

It was by divine revelation that Simon Peter clearly recognized our Lord Jesus performing His two roles:

- a. As “*Christ*,” Jesus was performing the role of the *Father*:
- 1) Jesus took the role of the Father the “only Savior” in Isaiah 43:11.⁴⁰
 - 2) Jesus accepted worship.⁴¹
 - 3) Jesus took the title of Rabbi,⁴² Master,⁴³ and Teacher.⁴⁴
 - 4) Plus many more as the chosen is given more revelations from the word.
- b. As “*Son* of the living God,” Jesus was performing the role of the chosen, as the eldest Son, who showed the way by example:
- 1) Like the chosen, Jesus could not do anything on His own.⁴⁵

⁴⁰ Isaiah 43:11 (Father God speaking) “I, *even I*, *am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour.”

⁴¹ Matthew 4:10 “Then saith Jesus unto him...for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

⁴² Matthew 23:8 “But be not ye called *Rabbi*: for one is your *Master*, *even Christ*; and all ye are brethren.”

⁴³ John 8:4 “They say unto him, *Master* this woman was taken in adultery, in the very act.”

⁴⁴ John 3:2 “The same came to Jesus by night, and said unto him, *Rabbi* we know that thou art a *teacher* come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him.”

- 2) Like the chosen, Jesus is not learned as they are.⁴⁶
- 3) Like the chosen, Jesus prayed to the Father.⁴⁷
- 4) Like the chosen, Jesus felt being forsaken by the Father.⁴⁸
- 5) Like the chosen, Jesus was subjected to temptation by the Devil.⁴⁹
- 6) Like the chosen, Jesus was overwhelmed by His emotion.⁵⁰
- 7) Like the chosen, Jesus did not admit He is good.⁵¹
- 8) Like the chosen, Jesus told Magdalene He has God.⁵²

No wonder when Jesus told the soldiers arresting Him, saying, "*I am He,*" they fell to ground feeling the power of the *Truth* regarding His identity!

John 18:3-6 "Judas then, having received a band of men and officers from the chief priests and Pharisees, cometh thither with lanterns and torches and weapons. ⁴Jesus... said unto them, Whom seek ye?⁵They answered him, Jesus of Nazareth. Jesus saith unto them, I am he. And Judas also, which betrayed him, stood with them. ⁶As soon then

⁴⁶ John 5:19 "...Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, The Son can do nothing of himself..."

⁴⁶ Matthew 24:36 "But of that day and hour knoweth no *man*, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only."

⁴⁷ Mark 14:32 "And they came to a place which was named Gethsemane: and he saith to his disciples, Sit ye here, while I shall pray."

Luke 23:34 "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots."

⁴⁸ Matthew 27:46 "And about the ninth hour Jesus cried with a loud voice, saying, Eli, Eli, lama sabachthani? that is to say, My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

⁴⁹ Matthew 4:1 "Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil."

⁵⁰ Matthew 26:39 "And 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*."

⁵¹ Luke 18:18 "And a certain ruler asked him, saying, Good Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life? ¹⁹ And Jesus said unto him, Why callest thou me good? none *is* good, save one, *that is*, God."

⁵² John 20:17 "Jesus saith unto her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father: but go to my brethren, and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and *to* my God, and your God."

as he had said unto them, I am he, they went backward, and fell to the ground.”

Can we relate the foregoing to the following?

Isaiah 52:6 “Therefore my people shall know my name: therefore they shall know in that day that I am he that doth speak: behold, it is I.”

THE APOSTLES' PRAYER

Jesus Christ taught His Apostles the following prayer:

Matthew 6:9-13 “After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. ¹⁰Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. ¹¹Give us this day our daily bread. ¹²And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. ¹³And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.”

1. “Our Father” – Who can call God “our Father?” Of course not everybody. Only the members of His “household.”⁵³ Who are the members of the “household of God?”⁵⁴ Only those who could recognize their God.⁵⁵ Do people recognize God when at the same time declaring He is a mystery?
2. “Hallowed be thy name” – God revealed those who can lift up the name of the Father. What is the name of the Father.⁵⁶ What is the name of God?⁵⁷ (Chapter 5 discussed this in detail)

⁵³ Ephesians 2:19 “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow citizens with the saints, and of the *household of God.*”

⁵⁴ Romans 8:15 “For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, *Abba, Father.*”

Romans 8:14 “For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are sons of God.”

Galatians 4:6 “And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of his son into your hearts, *crying, Abba, Father.*”

⁵⁵ Hebrews 8:11 “And they shall not teach every man his neighbor, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest.” (The beneficiaries to the New Testament: Jeremiah 31:34)

⁵⁶ 1 Corinthians 8:6 “But to us there is but one God, the Father...” (This is discussed in Chapter 5)

3. "Which art in heaven, thy kingdom come." – Where is heaven? (To be discussed in Volume 2) Who are blessed "to be in God's kingdom?" The chosen discern heaven spiritually, and not sensually. The following are the shadows of the reality of heaven:

Luke 17:20 "And he was demanded of the Pharisees, when the kingdom of God should come, he answered them and said, ²¹The kingdom of God cometh not with observation: neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you."

Romans 14:17 "For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."

4. "Thy will be done." – The "will of God" is discerned only after recognizing Him and speaks His language.

John 14:23 "Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: And my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him."

5. "Give us this day our daily bread." – This cannot refer to literal bread⁵⁸ If so, then it will run counter to:

2 Thessalonians 3:10 "For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat."

Proverbs 6:6-11 "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. ⁷Which having no guide, overseer, or ruler, ⁸Provideth her meat in the summer, and gathereth

⁵⁷ Isaiah 52:6 "Therefore my people shall *know my name*: therefore they shall know in that day that *I am he* that doth speak: behold, *it is I*." (This is discussed in Chapter 5)

Isaiah 45:23 "I have sworn by myself...That unto me every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear."

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; 11 And that every tongue should confess that *Jesus Christ* is Lord..."

⁵⁸ 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: for I am called by thy name, O Lord God of hosts."

her food in the harvest. ⁹How long wilt thou sleep, O sluggard? when wilt thou arise out of thy sleep? ¹⁰Yet a little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to sleep: ¹¹So shall thy poverty come as one that travelleth, and thy want as an armed man.”

God values the fruits of labor. Jesus Christ worked as a carpenter to provide for his material needs. Paul followed the example of Jesus,⁵⁹ and worked as a tentmaker.⁶⁰ They did not ask the Father for physical miracles for the provision of their material needs.

Satan in tempting the Lord when He fasted in the desert thought of physical bread. But the “word of God is spirit.” Christ answered him, “Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.” “Daily bread,” therefore, refers to spiritual nourishment that makes the *real Christian* grow in stature as the “eldest Son of God.”⁶¹

6. “And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.” – This can never be literal-physical. Otherwise, we have to forgive all our financial debtors. What is our debt to God? Who are our debtors? What is their debt to us?

Our debts to God are our sins. Sins are the transgressions of the law.⁶² We are forgiven for our debts and made “clean,” but not in the Natural Man’s concept of forgiveness. Many think that forgiveness is obtained by feeling sorry for the sins committed, to the point of crying and

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

⁶⁰ Acts 20:34 “Yea, ye yourselves know, that these hands have ministered unto my necessities, and to them that were with me. ³⁵ I have showed you all things, how that so laboring ye ought to support the weak, and to remember the words of the Lord Jesus, how he said, It is more blessed to give than to receive.”

Acts 18:3 “And because he (Paul) was of the same craft...for by their occupation they were tentmakers.”

⁶¹ Romans 8:29 “...to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.”

Ephesians 4:13 “Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ.”

⁶² 1 John 3:4

performing self-sacrifice. Jesus Christ states real forgiveness and spiritual cleansing in:

John 15:3 "Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. ⁴Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me."

Love of God begins by truly humbling ourselves as our Lord said in Matthew 18:3. From there He starts revealing the great mystery of His words. It is only then can we truly love God, with His guidance. Self-discipline and mind conditioning will not accomplish love of God.

In this sense, forgiveness of sins is still through the kindness and mercy of God.⁶³ In like manner, we forgive the sins of our "debtors" with the same kind of forgiveness we obtained from God. It is the word of God, in the real believer, that forgives the "debtor" of His sins."⁶⁴

7. "And lead us not into temptation." This is not taken literally; otherwise, God is the tempter. Rather, we ask God not to allow the tempter beyond we can bear.
8. "But deliver us from evil." – It is the power of *Truth* in the word that delivers us from evil:

Ephesians 6:16 "Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. ¹⁷And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God."

9. "For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen." How easy to say God has all the power when oftentimes we depend on people for "divine knowledge and wisdom."⁶⁵ Can we say, "For thine is the glory," when at times, unwittingly, we share in His glory

⁶³ Titus 3:5 "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost."

⁶⁴ John 20:23 "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; *and* whose soever *sins* ye retain, they are retained."

⁶⁵ 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..."

and honor? Is not our Lord the great, “I am?” How many times have we said, “I am” only to lift up our ego?

10. Very clearly memorizing and reciting the “Lord’s Prayer” or the “Apostles’ Prayer” is never the kind of “spiritual worship” that our Lord told the Samaritan woman.

THE ESSENCE OF SPIRITUAL WORSHIP

One aspect of prayer is supplication. What shall we ask God: material-physical things? But Jesus said, “Your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him.” (Matthew 6:8) Man uses the word of God for his material and physical benefit. But Jesus said:

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.”

What shall we ask God? To show us the kind of humility He Himself showed by example in His human manifestation.⁶⁶ This is the character of a “babe” that Jesus in His second role as “Son” showed by example. For it is on this basis that He gave this promise:

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

The sincerest basis of praise is thanksgiving. What other blessings can surpass the great spiritual miracles in the life of a real Christian? Is there a substitute for real and clear recognition of God? Can anything be better than truly understand the great message of His word? This “kind of food” sustains the real Christian to eternal life.

Can the true worshipper think greater than the guidance and strength coming from God making him a victor over his spiritual enemies? Cannot the real Christian prostrate himself before God in gratitude for the physical-material blessings; He gave “in addition” after having sought first the kingdom of God and His righteousness?⁶⁷ No wonder we find the chosen in this state of relationship with God:

⁶⁶ John 5:30 “I can of mine own self do nothing.”

John 6:38 “I came...not to do mine will, but the will of him that sent me.”

⁶⁷ Matthew 6:33 “But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things *shall be added* unto you.”

*"Amen: Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honor, and power, and might, be unto our God for ever and ever. Amen."*⁶⁸

*"Great and marvelous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? For thou only art holy..."*⁶⁹

THE FINAL SIGN

Our Lord was asked by His apostles about the sign He would give "for His coming and the end of the world."⁷⁰ He said, among other things, "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."⁷¹

We are witnessing today how "the gospel of the kingdom" is being preached in many nations. It is a gospel of variances and controversies among religious sects that compose *Christianity Today*.

With man's capability and human wisdom, the Natural Man attempted to have a common doctrine for each Christian sect. Each claims the truth. While there is visible physical and a material success, it is however a total spiritual failure! Their "spiritual foundation" is caving in by the power of truth in the Word.

The prophecy for the final sign is about to be fulfilled. We are all witnesses to this religious episode. The truth has been revealed! Which of the gospels spread by the "1001" religious sects is the true gospel?

Through the Word of God spoken in parables, Jesus, the Spirit, explains the answer to the query:

⁶⁸ Revelation 7:12

⁶⁹ Revelation 15:3-4

⁷⁰ Matthew 24:3 "And as he sat upon the mount of Olives, the disciples came unto him privately, saying, Tell us, when shall these things be?" and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world?"

⁷¹ Matthew 24:14 "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come."

Matthew 10:20-23 "For it is not ye that speak, but the Spirit of your Father which speaketh in you. ²¹And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death. ²²And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved. ²³But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another: for verily I say unto you, Ye shall not have gone over the cities of Israel, till the Son of man be come."

Jesus Christ have come already! He is the Holy Spirit.⁷²

2 Corinthians 3:17 "Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."

Just as the Jews were and are still waiting for the promised Messiah when He was right in front of them, so is *Christianity Today* waiting for the second coming of Christ when the Holy Spirit is here manifesting His power to the real believers!

Is not Jesus Christ the only Lord?

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

Is not the Spirit the Holy Ghost?

John 7:39 (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for the Holy Ghost was not yet given; because that Jesus was not yet glorified.)

1. Is the event in the life of our Lord and His apostles just a simple story that happened literally during that time? If so, where is the promise, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away?"

⁷² Isaiah 28:10 "For precept *must be* upon precept, precept upon precept; *line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little.* ¹¹ For with stammering lips and *another tongue will he speak to this people.* ¹² To whom he said, This *is* the rest *wherewith* ye may cause the weary to rest; and this *is* the refreshing: *yet they would not hear.*"

2. Is not the word of God alive through the message it gives at any given time? Real believers perceived the living God through the "life" in His Word. After all, is not God the Word?⁷³
3. "And the brother shall deliver up the brother to death, and the father the child: and the children shall rise up against their parents, and cause them to be put to death." We do not read this happened during the time of Christ. Spiritually, it did happen! After all, "the word is spirit."⁷⁴
4. Our Lord spoke of division in the family because of Him.⁷⁵ Will this not happen when any member of the family embrace the truth? Do not members of the family "cause the spiritual death" of the others because of spiritual blindness and ignorance?
5. "Ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake." Is it with the literal name *Jesus Christ* that people hated apostles? No! It is with His *Spiritual Name*.⁷⁶
6. Today, all Christian sects preach the literal name of Jesus Christ?⁷⁷ Therefore, people will not hate real believers with the literal name of our Lord. It is with His *Spiritual Name*!
7. The Word, the *Truth*, is the spiritual name of our Lord! It is with the *Truth* that all men will hate real Christians, as the Jews hated Jesus and His disciples. This is happening today. In fact, the moment people hear the truth, but cannot accept it, they will find ways to put it down discredit it, "kill" it!
8. "But when they persecute you in this city, flee ye into another." This can happen literally. However, more than the literal, the Disciples did it spiritually by sharing the word to individual persons.

⁷³ John 1:1 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

⁷⁴ 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.*"

⁷⁵ Luke 12:51-53 "Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division:

⁵² for from henceforth there shall be five in one house divided, three against two, and two against three.

⁵³ The father shall be divided against the son, and the son against the father..."

⁷⁶ Revelation 19:13 "And he *was* clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God."

⁷⁷ Matthew 24:5 "For many shall come in my name..."

Matthew 10:12-15 “And when ye come into a house, salute it. ¹³And if the house be worthy, let your peace come upon it: but if it be not worthy, let your peace return to you. ¹⁴And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words, when ye depart out of that house or city, shake off the dust of your feet. ¹⁵Verily I say unto you, it shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city.”

“Dust” symbolizes people. “Shaking off the dust from the feet” therefore means to leave forget whatever resistance, ridicule, and derision received after sharing the truth.

“THOSE IN JUDEA, FLEE TO THE MOUNTAIN”

In response to God’s command, the real Christian will simply say:

“Yes, Lord, right now I will be leaving Judea⁷⁸ and at this moment, I am fleeing to the mountain.⁷⁹ Amen.”

Psalms 56:10-13 “In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word. ¹¹In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me. ¹²Thy vows are upon me, O God: I will render praises unto thee. ¹³For thou hast delivered my soul from death: wilt thou not deliver my feet from falling, that I may walk before God in the light of the living?”

The greetings of Paul to the Christians of Corinth may be appropriate to end Volume 1 of this book:

1 Corinthians 16:22 “If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.”



⁷⁸ Organized Christian sect

⁷⁹ God’s way of spiritual worship according to the truth