

# SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS!

## DO YOU WANT TO BE ABRAHAM'S SEED? THE GENTILE'S JOURNEY INTO THE NEW COVENANT: -

**NOTE: -** All Bible texts are from the King James Version; and the compilers have supplied all emphasis throughout this booklet.

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### LET US FIRST CONSIDER – “WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST?” – Matthew 22:42: -

Our personal answer to Jesus' question above, is the most important question that confronts every individual person in this world. What we believe about, and how we personally relate to our Lord Jesus Christ IS the salvation issue.

Many Evangelical Christians believe that they have an intellectual monopoly on a “*Christ centred message and gospel*”, while non-Evangelical Christians are often accused by them, of having a dry, Christless message, and are also accused of majoring on other Bible subjects apart from Jesus Christ and His saving mission.

This common Evangelical mindset, while it may sound attractive on the surface, often when compared with what the Scriptures actually teach concerning Christ and His saving mission, is found to be based upon a superficial view of Jesus Christ's gospel mission. We must look at **ALL** of Scripture for developing a solid faith. The emphasis given by Paul to Timothy, was to make sure he established himself in the only Scripture which was available to him at the time when 2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy was written – the Old Testament writings that he had known from a child.

2<sup>nd</sup> Timothy 3:15 – 17: - “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. **All scripture** is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.”

So in this first SECTION of this Booklet, we shall share a number of clear New Testament passages, which will give the reader a more complete understanding of the Biblical Christ and of His saving work. Evangelicals do **NOT** have a Biblical monopoly upon Jesus Christ and of His saving work.

- Jesus Christ was manifested to take away our sins and also He was manifested to destroy the works of the Devil which are sin.

John 1:29: - “The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, **Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world.**”

1st John 3:4 & 5: - “**Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.** And ye know that **he was manifested to take away our sins**; and in him is no sin.”

1st John 3:8: - “He that committeth sin is of the devil; **for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.**”

**NOTE**: - The works that the Devil did from the beginning in context are sin. In the context of 1st John 3:4, where John twice repeated the truth that sin is the transgression of God’s Law, we find that Jesus specifically commented upon the Devil’s sinning from the beginning, in the following well known text.

John 8:44: - “Ye are of *your* father **the devil**, and the lusts of your father ye will do. **He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth**, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: **for he is a liar, and the father of it.**”



The Devil was the first being to transgress God’s Heavenly Law of Commandments, because Jesus charged him with violating the 6<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Commandments – that is, he was a murderer and a liar from the beginning of his rebellion against God – See Exodus 20:13 & 16. This inspired evidence from John’s writings concerning the Devil’s works from the beginning, reinforces the truth that sin is indeed the transgression of God’s Law. Jesus Himself was manifested to destroy the Devil’s works of sin! The Law was in place in Heaven, because the war with Satan, who was the original transgressor of the Law, started **IN** Heaven, “... for where no law is, *there is* no transgression” – Romans 4:15. [**See also** Romans 5:13.]

The apostle Paul taught that Jesus Christ appeared in this world, to put away sin by His own sacrifice.

Hebrews 9:26: - “For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world **hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself.**”

In fact, Mary’s first-born son was to be called JESUS, because He would save His people from their sins.

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

***What think ye of Christ being manifested to take away our sins and to destroy the works of the Devil?***

- The apostle Paul in his opening salutation to the Galatians gives us the reason why Christ gave Himself for our sins. It was so that He could deliver us from this present evil world, according to God, the Father’s will.

Galatians 1:3 & 4: - “Grace be to you and peace from God the Father, and **from our Lord Jesus Christ, who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father:**”

The following passage gives us the most complete definition of God’s saving grace in the New Testament, and it also links together God’s saving grace with Christ’s giving of Himself for our sins.

Titus 2:11 – 14: - “**For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.**”

**NOTE**: - God’s saving grace is a teaching power, that initially teaches believers two things: -

1.] To deny ungodliness and worldly lusts; and,

2.] To live sober, righteous and godly lives in this present world.

☞ **God's saving grace is a teaching power for righteous living, in this present world.**

Also, by grace, we are to look forward to **the blessed hope** of the glorious appearing of our Great God and Saviour Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, so as to redeem us from all iniquity, and to purify unto Himself a peculiar people, who are zealous of good works.

### ***What think ye of Christ in giving Himself for our sins?***

- The blessings of the gospel were to come through Abraham's Promised Seed – Jesus Christ.

The faithful Patriarch Abraham had the gospel preached to him by God Himself, in the promise that in his seed [that is, in his promised descendant], all the families or nations of the earth were to be blessed. Abraham's Promised Seed is Christ. So this long established promise was the gospel promise of the coming Messiah – Jesus Christ.

Genesis 12:3: - "And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and **in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.**"

Galatians 3:8 & 16: - "And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the heathen through faith, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.** ... Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, **And to thy seed, which is Christ.**"

The apostle Peter repeated this gospel promise concerning Christ as Abraham's Promised Seed, and the blessing He brings to all the kindreds of the earth. Jesus Christ blesses us in turning us away from our iniquities.

Acts 3:25 & 26: - "Ye are the children of the prophets, and of the covenant which God made with our fathers, **saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.** Unto you first **God, having raised up his Son Jesus, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.**"

***What think ye of Christ, Abraham's Promised Seed blessing us in turning us away from our iniquities?***

- The apostle Paul taught that God the Father sent His Son in the likeness of our sinful flesh, so as to condemn sin in the flesh, that the righteousness of the Law could be **fulfilled in us**, if we **walk** after the Spirit and not after the flesh.

Romans 8:3 & 4: - "For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, **God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us**, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit."

- We are justified by faith in Jesus Christ, without the deeds of the Law. Yet, the apostle Paul warned us, that if while we are seeking to be justified by Christ, we are found to be sinners, Christ is **NOT** the minister of sin.

Galatians 2:16 – 18: - "Knowing that a man is not justified by the works of the law, but by the faith of Jesus Christ, even **we have believed in Jesus Christ, that we might be justified by the faith of Christ, and not by the works of the law**: for by the works of the law shall no flesh be justified. But **if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid**. For if I build again the things which I destroyed, **I make myself a transgressor**."

- Christ upon the tree [that is, upon the cross] bore our sins in His own body, so that we being dead to sin, should live unto righteousness. It was by Christ's stripes [that is a clear reference to His horrific scourging at the hand of the Roman soldiers], we are healed.

Hebrews 9:28: - "**So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many**; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation."

1st Peter 2:24: - **“Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.”<sup>1</sup>**

- Christ came into this world to save sinners by calling them to repentance. Christ came to give His life as a ransom for many – that is, for all people; He came to redeem those who were under the law, so that they could receive the adoption of the children of God.

1st Timothy 1:15: - **“This is a faithful saying, and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners; of whom I am chief.”**

Mark 2:17: - **“When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician, but they that are sick: I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.”**

Matthew 20:28: - **“Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”**

1st Timothy 2:5 & 6: - **“For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.**

Galatians 4:4 & 5: - **“But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.”**

**NOTE:** - When we compare these passages carefully, we can see that Christ came into the world to save sinners; He came to give Himself as a ransom for all [because we have all sinned – See Romans 3:23]; He came to redeem those who are under the law. Therefore, to be **under the law** is to be a sinner whom Christ came to save and to redeem. As Christ gave Himself as a ransom for all, **it is sinners who are under the law that Christ came to redeem. To be under the law is to be condemned as a guilty sinner or transgressor of God’s law. It is to be under the condemnation of**

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<sup>1</sup> The apostle Peter has quoted this reference to Jesus’ stripes from the following well known prophecy, concerning Christ’s sufferings and taking our sins and transgressions upon Himself.

Isaiah 53:5: - **“But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed.”**

**the law.** Does this mean that only Israel was under the condemnation of the Law? No! God's Law is a world-wide Law, to **prove** that the whole **world** has become guilty before God. This condition applies to all of fallen humanity.

Romans 3:19: - "Now we know that what things soever **the law saith, it saith to them who are under the law: that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God.**"

**NOTE:** - If a person asserts that because they are a Gentile Christian, they are not under the law<sup>2</sup>, then according to Galatians 4:4 & 5, they have placed themselves outside of the group of people whom Christ came to redeem. They are without Christ and without hope in this world!

***What think ye of Christ, coming into the world to save sinners and to redeem the whole world who are under the law – that is, who are guilty before God?***

### **“SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS”: -**

The Author of this quote, is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Jesus told the woman of Samaria a little understood truth, that, “salvation is of the Jews” – John 4:22. Did our Saviour tell a lie to this woman? **NO!** Jesus was the very embodiment of truth; He was “**full of grace and truth**” – John 1:14. He was “a man that hath told you the truth” – John 8:40. He was the very “truth” itself – John 14:6. He revealed this truth to the Samaritan woman, that salvation is of the Jews.

**NOTE:** - In light of this simple but profound truth from Jesus Christ, the following mindset that is held by many professed Christians, is **not** Biblical. It goes something like this: -

**POPULAR THEORY:** - ***“As a Gentile Christian, the new covenant belongs to me, and the terms and conditions contained within it, especially concerning the law, have been altered from the old covenant God made with Israel. And this translates in people’s minds that God is now more merciful to me than He was to Israel of old.”***

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<sup>2</sup> The traditional understanding of Paul's expression of “**under the law**”, is commonly held to mean as “**subject to or obedient to the law**”.

The Biblical contrast to this thinking is that God entrusted His Word, His Covenants – **plural**, His Promises, His being the Messiah – the Christ, His salvation to Abraham and to his seed – [that is, to his descendants]. Both Covenants were made with the house of Israel. [We will establish these truths very soon.] To acknowledge this Biblical truth should start a new thinking process in the Gentile mind.

Firstly, let us understand that God made a covenant between Himself and Abraham, which is a reality, and contains the gospel of salvation through Abraham's promised seed – that is, through the Christ..

Genesis 12:1 – 3 & 7: - “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee: and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing: and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: **and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.** ... And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed will I give this land:** and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.”

**NOTE:** - The promise that the Lord made to Abraham in VS. 3, “and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed”, the apostle Paul calls “the gospel” in his book of Galatians, because it was a promise of the coming of Christ, who was Abraham's seed. Abraham had the gospel preached to him in this promise by God himself. The Gentiles [that is, the heathen] were also going to be reached by the gospel under the term “the nations”. We shall now prove this.

Galatians 3:8 & 16: - “And the scripture, foreseeing that God would justify **the heathen** through faith, **preached before the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all nations be blessed.** ... Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. **He saith not, And to seeds,** as of many; but as **of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ.**”

The following statement from the apostle James clearly teaches that it was God's purpose to take out of the Gentiles, a people who would seek after the Lord.

Acts 15:13 – 17: - “And after they had held their peace, James answered, saying, Men *and* brethren, hearken unto me: Simeon hath declared how **God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name.** And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, After this I will return, and will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it



up: **That the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called**<sup>3</sup>, saith the Lord, who doeth all these things.”

Again, the Apostle Paul in the New Testament Scriptures confirms the fact that **the adoption, the glory, the covenants – plural, the giving of the law, the service of God and the promises pertain to Israel**. Even the Christ – the Messiah came through the line of the fleshly Hebrew fathers. Please observe, that the Apostle Paul does **not** separate these six things.

*Romans 9:3 – 8*: - “For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh: **Who are Israelites; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises; Whose are the fathers, and of whom as concerning the flesh Christ came**, who is over all, God blessed for ever. Amen. Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they *are* not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, *are they* all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, **They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.**”

**NOTE: -** The Gentile Christian does not have the Biblical right or authority to correct or alter God’s Plan. The Christian Bible and the Christ of that Bible have come to us through the Jews. As Casper ten Boom [of “The Hiding Place” fame] said, “The Jews gave us the Bible and our Saviour”.

In VS. 6 – 8, Paul goes on to explain that the seed of Abraham are not to be accounted from the literal fleshly descendants of Abraham, but are the spiritual children of God’s promise, as Isaac was the true son of God’s promise to Abraham.

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<sup>3</sup> James is quoting from *Amos 9:11 & 12*: - “In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: That they may possess the remnant of Edom, and **of all the heathen, which are called by my name**, saith the LORD that doeth this.” The heathen = the Gentiles.

## THE SIX THINGS THAT APPLY TO FLESHLY ISRAEL IN ROMANS 9:4: -

After Abraham was adopted from among the heathen, then we see a nation being adopted – the seed of Abraham.

- **The adoption:** - The Israelites were taken into the family of God as a nation, and were called by the Lord His sons and His first-born.

Exodus 4:22 & 23: - “And thou shalt say unto Pharaoh, Thus saith the LORD, **Israel is my son, even my firstborn.** And I say unto thee, Let **my son** go, that he may serve me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy son, *even thy firstborn.*”

Deuteronomy 14:1 & 2: - “**Ye are the children of the LORD your God:** ye shall not cut yourselves, nor make any baldness between your eyes for the dead. **For thou art an holy people unto the LORD thy God, and the LORD hath chosen thee to be a peculiar people unto himself, above all the nations that are upon the earth.**”

Jeremiah 31:9: - “They shall come with weeping, and with supplications will I lead them: I will cause them to walk by the rivers of waters in a straight way, wherein they shall not stumble: for **I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn.**”

- **The glory:** - This is referring specifically to the manifestation of God’s Divine Presence among the children of Israel. Through the cloud and pillar of fire in their wilderness wanderings, God’s Divine glory was leading His people. Then especially in the Shekinah, or the Divine Presence, that appeared between the cherubim over the mercy-seat in the earthly Sanctuary. These exhibitions of the Divine Glory were peculiar to the children of Israel alone.

Exodus 13:21 & 22: - “**And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light;** to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, *from before the people.*”

Exodus 25:21 & 22: - “**And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And 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**, of all *things* which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.”

Exodus 40:34 & 35: - “Then a cloud covered the tent of the congregation, and **the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle**. And Moses was not able to enter into the tent of the congregation, because **the cloud abode thereon, and the glory of the LORD filled the tabernacle.**”

Leviticus 9:23: - “And Moses and Aaron went into the tabernacle of the congregation, and came out, and blessed the people: and **the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the people.**”

- **The covenants:** - The Lord made a covenant with Abraham that related to his natural descendants and also to his spiritual seed. Both the first covenant from Mount Sinai, and the second or new covenant were made with the house of Israel.

Genesis 17:1 – 8: - “And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the LORD appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I *am* the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect. And **I will make my covenant between me and thee, and will multiply thee exceedingly**. And Abram fell on his face: and God talked with him, saying, **As for me, behold, my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations**. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make nations of thee, and kings shall come out of thee. **And I 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. And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, the land wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan, for an everlasting possession; and I will be their God.**”

Psalms 105:8 - 12: - “He hath remembered **his covenant for ever**, the word *which* he commanded to a thousand generations. **Which covenant he made with Abraham, and his oath unto Isaac; And confirmed the same unto Jacob for a law, and to Israel for an everlasting covenant: saying, Unto thee will I give the land of Canaan, the lot of your inheritance:** When they were *but* a few men in number; yea, very few, and strangers in it.”

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34: - “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, **that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel;** After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.** And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”

- **The giving of the law:** - The Divine revelation of God by God himself to the children of Israel, was a revelation which contained a system of moral, ceremonial and political Laws, such as no other nation has ever been given.

Deuteronomy 4:5 - 8: - “Behold, **I have taught you statutes and judgments, even as the LORD my God commanded me,** that ye should do so in the land whither ye go to possess it. Keep therefore and do *them*; **for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the nations,** which shall hear all these statutes, and say, Surely this great nation *is* a wise and understanding people. For what nation *is there so great, who hath God so nigh unto them, as the LORD our God is in all things that we call upon him for? And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?”*

Nehemiah 9:13: - “Thou camest down also upon mount Sinai, and spakest with them from heaven, and **gavest them right judgments, and true laws, good statutes and commandments.**”

Psalms 147:19 & 20: - “**He showeth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them.** Praise ye the LORD.”

- **The service of God:** - The Jewish sacrificial system enabled the children of Israel to have fellowship with God, in a way that revealed the sinfulness of sin, God’s holiness, and His love in His providing an innocent sacrifice for their sins.

Exodus 25:8: - “And let them make me a sanctuary; **that I may dwell among them.**”

Psalms 77:13: - “**Thy way, O God, is in the sanctuary:** who *is so* great a God as *our* God?”

- **The promises:** - The Lord made a number of promises to Abraham and to his seed, including the Promised Land of Canaan being given to them for an everlasting inheritance, and the blessings of the coming Messiah – Abraham’s seed.

Genesis 12:1 – 3 & 7: - “Now the Lord had said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father’s house, unto a land that I will shew thee: **and I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing; and I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.** ... And the Lord appeared unto Abram, and said, **Unto thy seed will I give this land:** and there builded he an altar unto the Lord, who appeared unto him.”

Genesis 22:15 – 18: - “And the angel of the LORD called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only *son*: **That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which *is* upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; And in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; because thou hast obeyed my voice.”**

Genesis 26:2 – 4: - “And the LORD appeared unto him [that is Isaac – compiler], and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: **Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swore unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.**”

Genesis 48:3 & 4: - “And **Jacob** said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, and said unto me, **Behold, I will make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee *for* an everlasting possession.**”

Acts 3:25 & 26: - “Ye are the children of the prophets, and **of the covenant which God made with our fathers, saying unto Abraham, And in thy seed shall all the kindreds of the earth be blessed.** Unto you first God, having raised up his Son **Jesus**, sent him to bless you, in turning away every one of you from his iniquities.”

Acts 13:32 & 33: - “And we declare unto you glad tidings, how that **the promise which was made unto the fathers, God hath fulfilled the same unto us their children, in that he hath raised up Jesus again;** as it is also written in the second psalm, Thou art my Son, this day have I begotten thee.”

Romans 4:13: - “For **the promise, that he** [that is Abraham – compiler] **should be the heir of the world, was** not to **Abraham**, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith.”

***What think ye of Christ, who gave to Israel the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants - plural, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises?***

**A SIMPLE ILLUSTRATION WILL HELP TO EXPLAIN WHY PAUL WROTE THIS EXACT ORDER OF BLESSINGS WHICH WE FIND IN ROMANS 9:4: -**

Romans 9:4: - “Who are Israelites; to whom *pertaineth* **the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, and the promises.**”

The Order of the Blessings that God gave to Israel, and how a Gentile is brought into the House of Israel: -

1.] The Adoption; 2.] The Glory; 3.] The Covenants; 4.] The Giving of the Law; 5.] The Service of God; and, 6.] The Promises.

A simple picture story will illustrate how this process works in order.

A wonderful Father, finds a young, homeless adolescent on the street. This youth is in a desperate plight, and is utterly without hope. His family has rejected him. He is alone, and has turned to various substances to try and dull his mental anguish. The loving Father, who also has children of his own, decides to **Adopt** this youth, and to care for him and give him a loving home. The Father shows the Light and a whole new way of living to the youth – **the Glory**. Then the Father brings the youth into his

family, and sets down the laws of the household, and promises to look after him – **the Covenants**. The Father sets boundaries for the youth, and tells him what is acceptable behaviour in his new family home – **the Giving of the Law**. The Father’s words are absolute, and he does not make excuses for the youth’s former way of life. All is done in love. The Father teaches the teenager how he can relate to Him, his new parent, who has shown him such love and compassion, when he adopted him in the first place, and the youth accepts the conditions of living in his new home, and conforms to the loving guidance of his new Father – **the Service of God**. Finally the Father promises to love and raise him up. The Father promises to feed, clothe, and educate the youth, and to teach him good morals, so that he can reach his full potential. The Father also promises that the youth shall also receive the same inheritance as his own blood children will do – **the Promises**. The youth will gladly and lovingly obey such a Father who has done so much for his happiness.

We trust that this simple illustration can be easily understood by the reader, as to how a Gentile convert to Christ, can receive the same spiritual blessings that God gave to Abraham and his seed.

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Paul makes it very clear to his Ephesian converts, that before they came to know Christ, they were **ALIENS**<sup>4</sup> from the commonwealth of Israel, and **STRANGERS**<sup>5</sup> from the covenants – plural of promise. At that time, they had **no hope** and were **without God** in this world.

***Ephesians 2:11 & 12:** - “Wherefore remember, **that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh**, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; **That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world.**”*

**NOTE:** - To be an alien or stranger from the Israel of God, according to Paul, is to be in a hopeless, Christless and Godless state. Is that what you want as a Gentile?

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<sup>4</sup> **ALIEN** is defined as: - “A foreigner; one born in, or belonging to, another country; one who is not a denizen, or entitled to the privileges of a citizen.” – Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.

<sup>5</sup> **STRANGER** is defined as: - “A foreigner; one who belongs to another country.” - Noah Webster’s 1828 Dictionary.

Paul also revealed that the true Jew is to be identified as the person who has an inward spiritual experience. It is the person who is circumcised in the heart and spirit, and not in the outward flesh.

Romans 2:28 & 29: - "For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But **he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit,<sup>6</sup> and not in the letter;** whose praise *is* not of men, but of God."

**NOTE:** - The expression, "not in the letter" is referring to being a Jew in name only, and has no reference to the letter of the Law, as some Christians believe.

In the very next verse, Paul informs us, that the oracles of God [that is, the sayings of God] were committed to or entrusted to the Jews.

Romans 3:1 & 2: - "What advantage then hath **the Jew?** or what profit *is there* of circumcision? **Much every way:** chiefly, because that **unto them were committed the oracles of God.**"

Concerning the promised New Covenant, the LORD has made it with the houses of Israel and Judah. There is **no** mention of the Gentiles within the terms of the

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<sup>6</sup> Concerning true circumcision being in the heart and not just in the flesh, this teaching did **not** originate with Paul's statement. It is actually found in Moses and Jeremiah's writings.

Deuteronomy 10:16: - "**Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart,** and be no more stiffnecked."

Deuteronomy 30:6: - "And **the LORD thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed,** to love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live."

Jeremiah 4:4: - "**Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart,** ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench *it*, because of the evil of your doings."



New Covenant. God's Law is clearly referred to in the promises, as to be written within the hearts and minds of His covenant people. The promises also include God forgiving His people their sins, and not remembering their sins any more. All the terms and conditions involved in the New Covenant, were laid down by the LORD, through the prophet Jeremiah, hundreds of years before the birth of Christ.

Jeremiah 31:31 – 34: - “Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that **I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah:** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day *that* I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: **But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel;** After those days, saith the LORD, **I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts;** and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: **for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.”**

The Apostle Paul quotes directly from this passage in Jeremiah's writings, concerning the New Covenant and its promises. The New Covenant is clearly made with the house of Israel, and not with the Gentiles.

Hebrews 8:8 - 12: - “For finding fault with them, he saith, Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, **when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah:** Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they continued not in my covenant, and I regarded them not, saith the Lord. For this *is* the covenant **that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people:** And they shall not teach every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for all shall know me, from the least to the greatest. **For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more.”**

**NOTE:** - The apostle is **NOT** initiating the New Covenant in this passage. He is repeating what the LORD inspired Jeremiah to write hundreds of years before. Also be aware, that Paul did **NOT** quote the promises of the New Covenant in any of his letters to the Gentile churches. He repeated them only in his epistle to the **HEBREWS!** And from what we have already revealed in the Scriptures concerning Abraham and his

seed, and the covenants and the promises of God etc. this is exactly what we should expect Paul to have done.

***What think ye of Christ, the Lord, and His promise to write His Law into the hearts of His new covenant people?***



Why does the New Testament Scriptures not reissue or repeat the Fourth Commandment concerning the seventh day Sabbath under the New Covenant? It is because the promises of the New Covenant, that were made hundreds of years before Christ, clearly enjoins the Law of the LORD upon the subjects of the New Covenant, the houses of Israel. The Law of the LORD cannot be referring to the Law of Moses under the New Covenant. It is the Moral Law of Ten Commandments that is to be written in the hearts and minds of God's New Covenant people. And that Moral Law already contains the seventh day Sabbath Commandment. Let us not forget, that Jesus Christ was not going to change or do away with the smallest part of God's Law. Jesus taught this truth from His own lips.

**Matthew 5:17 & 18: - "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."**

**NOTE: -** Has heaven and earth passed away yet? No. So nothing has passed away from God's Law, according to the words of Christ.

The promised eternal home of the righteous, the Holy City – the New Jerusalem, has only twelve gates by which anyone can enter into the Holy City. Upon these gates are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel.

**Revelation 21:12: - "And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel."**

**NOTE: -** It is very clear that there are no gates set aside for the Gentiles to enter into the Holy City. The only way to enter into this heavenly abode is through one of the twelve "Jewish" gates. How then can a Gentile enter into the Holy City? The following verse from the last chapter of the Bible gives us a simple answer to this vital question.

**Revelation 22:14: - "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city."**

**NOTE: -** In a “Red-Letter” Bible, this verse is in black ink; but it should be printed in red ink, because the narrator of this truth in it’s immediate context, is Christ Himself!

## **THERE IS ONLY ONE GOSPEL MESSAGE FOR BOTH THE JEW AND THE GENTILE: -**

There is only one gospel message for all nationalities, because every person irrespective of their race has the same sin problem to deal with.

Acts 20:20 & 21: - “*And* how I kept back nothing that was profitable *unto you* , but have showed you, and have taught you publicly, and from house to house, **Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.**”

**NOTE: -** What do we have to repent from? From sin which is identified as being “the transgression of the law” – 1<sup>st</sup> John 3:4.

Romans 1:16 & 17: - “For I am not ashamed of **the gospel of Christ:** for it is the power of God unto salvation **to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.** For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, **The just shall live by faith.**”

Romans 3:9 - 12: - “What then? are we better *than they*? No, in no wise: for we have before **proved both Jews and Gentiles, that they are all under sin;** As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.”

Romans 10:11 – 13: - “For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. **For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek:** for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”

## **HOW THEN CAN A GENTILE BECOME PART OF SPIRITUAL ISRAEL AND ENTER INTO THE NEW COVENANT RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD?**

This is exactly what John's gospel records Jesus the Good Shepherd, as doing. Jesus has other sheep that are not part of His sheepfold, and it was His work to

gather them into His fold, so that there would be only one sheepfold and one Shepherd. This parable symbolized Jesus' gathering together all the scattered children of God into one body. There is not a Jewish Sheepfold and a Gentile Sheepfold. There is only one Sheepfold, and the Gentiles are to be gathered together into the existing Sheepfold.

John 10:16: - "And other sheep I have, which **are not of this fold**: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; **and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.**"

John 11:51 & 52: - "And this spake he not of himself: but being high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus should die for that nation; and not for that nation only, but that also **he should gather together in one the children of God that were scattered abroad.**"

***What think ye of Christ having one sheepfold where both faithful Jews, and faithful Gentiles will find safety together?***

The apostle Paul makes it plain, that through Christ's death upon the cross, He has reconciled both the Jew and Gentile together into one body. The Gentiles do not have to be **strangers and foreigners from the commonwealth of Israel**, and the covenants – plural of promise; but rather, they can now be fellow-citizens with the believing Jews, and have equal access to God by the Holy Spirit. It is your individual choice.

Ephesians 2:11 - 20: - "Wherefore remember, **that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh**, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time **ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world**: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. **For he is our peace, who hath made both one**, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition *between us*; having abolished in his flesh the enmity, *even the law of commandments contained in ordinances*; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; **And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross**, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. **Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone.**"

**NOTE:** - In VS. 15, Paul refers to Christ's abolishing "the law of commandments contained in ordinances". In a similar passage, the apostle describes Jesus as, "**Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances** that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross." – Colossians 2:14.

Many Gentile Christians **assume** that Paul is teaching in these two passages, that Jesus abolished the Ten Commandment Moral Law when He died upon the cross. But nothing can be further from the truth! Firstly, why would Jesus nail to the cross the very commandment that identifies how God [that is, Jesus] created the world?

John 1:1 – 3: - "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, **and the Word was God**. The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**"

The seventh-day Sabbath commandment remains God's signature in the Law, and identifies the authority and ownership of the same, showing that Jesus is the Creator! If the common assumption is true, that Jesus nailed to the cross, the Commandment which is the reminder, or memorial of Him being the Creator then we have Christ acting against Christ. And Jesus Himself said, "... Every kingdom divided against itself is brought to desolation; and every city or house divided against itself shall not stand." – Matthew 12:25.

Let us remember that we have already read in Jeremiah 31:31 – 34, that in the New Covenant, the Lord has promised that He will write His Law in the hearts and minds of His covenant people. These promises were made to the house of Israel hundreds of years before the first Advent of Christ. Clearly the Lord was **not** going to write the Laws of Moses in the hearts and minds of His new covenant people. It can only be the Moral Law that He will write in their hearts.

### **THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS, AND THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES THAT WERE WRITTEN BY MOSES' HAND: -**

The ordinances were written by Moses in a book on paper, and came from the hand of Moses.

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 33:8: - "Neither will I any more remove the foot of Israel from out of the land which I have appointed for your fathers; so that they will take heed to do all that I have commanded them, **according to the whole law and the statutes and the ordinances by the hand of Moses.**"

Deuteronomy 31:24 - 26: - "And it came to pass, when **Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book**, until they were finished, that Moses

commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying, **Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God**, that it may be there for a witness against thee.”

**NOTE: -** The writings of Moses were put by the side of the Ark of the Covenant. There was nothing else within the Ark except the two Tables of the Law of God, thus making a clear separation between these Two Laws. Again, we will prove a very clear line of separation between the Moral Law of God written by the finger of God; and the handwriting of a man – Moses.

1st Kings 8:9: - **“There was nothing in the ark save the two tables of stone**, which Moses put there at Horeb, when the LORD made a *covenant* with the children of Israel, when they came out of the land of Egypt.”

The Ten Commandments were written by the finger of God, upon Tables of Stone.

Exodus 24:12: - “And the LORD said unto Moses, Come up to me into the mount, and be there: and **I will give thee tables of stone, and a law, and commandments which I have written**; that thou mayest teach them.”

Exodus 31:18: - “And he gave unto Moses, when he had made an end of communing with him upon mount Sinai, **two tables of testimony, tables of stone, written with the finger of God.**”

### **THE ABSOLUTE TRUTH OF WHAT WAS WRITTEN ON THE TWO TABLES OF STONE IN THE ARK!**

The Law that was written down in stone, contained the only words that were **spoken publicly by God's Own mouth** on that day, in the hearing of the whole assembly of the children of Israel, at Mount Sinai, and **NOTHING MORE.**

Deuteronomy 9:9 & 10: - “When I was gone up into the mount to receive **the tables of stone, even the tables of the covenant** which the LORD made with you, then I abode in the mount forty days and forty nights, I neither did eat bread nor drink water: And **the LORD delivered unto me two tables of stone written with the finger of God; and on them was written according to all the words, which the LORD spake with you in the mount out of the midst of the fire in the day of the assembly.**”

**NOTE: -** Only the Ten Commandments were spoken on that day to all of the congregation of Israel, and that is all that Israel heard from God's Own voice. They are called the Tables of the Covenant. Comparing this passage with Exodus 19:16 -18;

20:1 – 20, the Ten Commandments were spoken directly to the people by God's Own voice, which was accompanied by fire, the smoke of a furnace, thunders, lightning, thick clouds, the sound of a trumpet exceedingly loud, and a great earthquake. Moses' handwritten law, on the other hand, was **NOT** made known to the people of Israel in the same dramatic way.

The finger of God, burnt into the incredibly hard rock, with an ultimate power of more intensity than any laser device that we know of today. The voice of God was to be obeyed; the enormity of the scene at Mount Sinai, attests to the fact that God visited man, and the whole assembly were terrified to hear the voice of God. Jesus reminds us to live "by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God." – Matthew 4:4. This includes the words that were spoken in that day of old, audibly by God Himself to all the Hebrew people, under such awesome circumstances.

☞ We see clear evidence of two extremely different laws that were given at Mount Sinai. The Moral Law of God was spoken publicly in great grandeur, as opposed to the handwritings of Moses, which included the ceremonial laws and ordinances, which were read to the people by Moses, without any grand displays of God's awesome power.

## **GENTILE CONVERTS BECOME PART OF THE SAME SPIRITUAL BODY, HEBREW OLIVE TREE, AND ABRAHAM'S SEED TO INHERIT GOD'S GLORIOUS PROMISES: -**

In the third chapter of his letter to the Ephesians, Paul reveals that the Gentile believers are fellow heirs, and are of the same body, and partakers of the same promise in Christ by the gospel.

Ephesians 3:4 – 6: - "Whereby, when ye read, ye may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) Which in other ages was not made known unto the sons of men, as it is now revealed unto his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit; **That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel.**"

Paul likens the conversion of the Gentiles through faith in the gospel of Christ, to being a wild olive tree, and that through faith in Christ, they have now been grafted into the natural Hebrew olive tree, among the natural branches.

*Romans 11: 11 - 27:* - "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but *rather* through their fall salvation *is come* unto **the Gentiles**, for to provoke them to jealousy. Now if the fall of them *be* the riches of the world, and the diminishing of them the riches of the Gentiles; how much more their fulness? For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation *them which are* my flesh, and might save some of them. For if the casting away of them *be* the reconciling of the world, what *shall* the receiving *of them be*, but life from the dead? For if the **firstfruit be holy**, the lump *is* also *holy*: and if the **root be holy**, so *are* the branches. And if some of the branches be broken off, and **thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree; Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee.** Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. **Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee. Behold therefore the goodness and severity of God: on them which fell, severity; but toward thee, goodness, if thou continue in his goodness: otherwise thou also shalt be cut off.** And they also, if they abide not still in unbelief, shall be grafted in: for God is able to graft them in again. **For if thou wert cut out of the olive tree which is wild by nature, and wert grafted contrary to nature into a good olive tree: how much more shall these, which be the natural branches, be grafted into their own olive tree?** For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, **lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved?**<sup>7</sup>: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this *is* my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."

**NOTE: - WARNING:** - Do not have an elitist attitude in thinking that you are above or superior to Israel.

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<sup>7</sup> We notice in VS. 25 & 26, that this spiritual process of grafting in the Gentiles into the natural Hebrew Olive Tree, is to continue until the "fulness of the Gentiles" are come or grafted in. Then **all Israel** shall be saved. That is, when all the Gentiles have been gathered into Christ through the gospel, having become Abraham's seed and spiritual Israel, then all Israel – that is, all spiritual Israel shall be saved. These verses are only to those who have faith in Christ Jesus as the Messiah of prophecy, and are not talking about joining Israel of the flesh.



It is very clear from this passage, that Gentiles who exercise living faith in Christ, are grafted into the NATURAL HEBREW OLIVE TREE. They become part of spiritual Israel, and are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promises God made to Abraham and his seed. When the fullness of the Gentiles is come in, then **ALL** Israel shall be saved. This is how the blessing of Abraham comes to Gentiles through faith in Christ. Such is the teaching of Paul to the Galatians.

Galatians 3:6 & 7: - "Even as Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness. Know ye therefore **that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham.**"

Galatians 3:13 & 14: - "Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed *is* every one that hangeth on a tree: **That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ;** that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith."

Galatians 3:29: - "And **if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed,** and heirs according to **the promise.**"<sup>8</sup>

Jesus identified Abraham's children as those who do the works of Abraham.

John 8:39: - "They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, **if ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.**"<sup>9</sup>

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<sup>8</sup> One of the key promises that God made to Abraham, was that he was to inherit the world – that is, the New Earth.

Romans 4:13: - "For **the promise, that he should be the heir of the world,** was not to **Abraham,** or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith."

Hebrews 11:8 – 10 & 16: - "**By faith Abraham,** when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, **obeyed;** and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as *in* a strange country, dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: **For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ... But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.**"

<sup>9</sup> Abraham's works are described in the following passage,

Genesis 26:2 – 5: - "And the LORD appeared unto him, and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: Sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless

Paul concluded his epistle to the Galatians with a salutation to the Israel of God. We need to be part of the true [that is, spiritual] Israel of God, who are Abraham's seed and heirs with him of the promises God gave to him. All this is because we have a living faith in the Christ - our Lord Jesus,

Galatians 6:16: - "And as many as walk according to this rule, peace be on them, and mercy, and upon **the Israel of God.**"

***What think ye of Christ? Do you want to be part of the Israel of God?***

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## **WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST THEREFORE, AND OF HIS SABBATH?**

The following mindset that is common to many Gentile Christians, is **not** Biblical.

***POPULAR BELIEF***: - "***The seventh day Sabbath was only given to the people of Israel during the time of the first covenant. It is a Jewish institution and we refer to it as the Jewish Sabbath***<sup>10</sup>. ***We are Gentile Christians who are living under the***

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thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give all these countries, and I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father; And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; Because that **Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws.**"

He was blessed by a faith that brings obedience. This passage is **NOT** referring to the Law of Moses, as Abraham lived hundreds of years before Moses was born.

<sup>10</sup> **Nowhere in the entire Bible** is the seventh day Sabbath called the Jewish Sabbath, or the Sabbath of the Jews. The Sabbath was made for man, not for the Jews, and is God's example to us of His day of rest, first celebrated in Genesis 2:1-3 before sin entered into the world. Mark 2:27: - "And he said unto them, **The sabbath was made for man**, and not man for the Sabbath."

It is described as being "the sabbath of the Lord thy God" – see Exodus 20:10 & Deuteronomy 5:14. It is also referred to as "the sabbath of the Lord" – see Leviticus 23:3. God refers to it repeatedly as "my sabbaths" – see Exodus 31:13; Leviticus 19:3 & 30; 26:2; Isaiah 56:4; Ezekiel 20:12, 13, 16, 20, 21 & 24; 22:8 & 26; 23:38; 44:24. God refers to it as "my holy day ...

***new covenant, and the Jewish Sabbath does not apply to us Gentiles. It has never been commanded in the New Testament Scriptures.”***

☞ Let us not therefore, continue in our ignorance, bigotry and anti-Semitism against the Sabbath of the Lord, mistakenly labelling it the Jewish Sabbath, something for which there is no Biblical authority. Gentiles cannot follow a New Covenant of their own making. You must abide by the New Covenant as the Lord has given it to Israel. **You cannot pick and choose what you want and what you reject.** By doing this you are forming a Gentile Covenant and another God to worship. Thus you are guilty of breaking the Commandments of God. Let us not continue to claim the promises and blessings of the New Covenant, while we completely ignore the simple promises that God has made to the house of Israel, in the New Covenant. Many professed Christians claim some of the good promises under the New Covenant, without having an intelligent understanding of what God has promised to do for His people in the New Covenant, and who God has made the New Covenant with.

The Apostle James wrote that, “... if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.” – James 4:11.

**Jesus’ statement is true – Salvation is of the Jews! Do not be an alien or stranger to spiritual Israel, by making a Gentile Covenant, where you make the rules, while you break God’s Holy Law.**

Mark 7:7: - “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”

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**WHAT THE HOLY SPIRIT TEACHES CONCERNING THE  
SABBATH DAY – TO PUT STRAIGHT ANY ARGUMENTS  
RAISED FOR NOT KEEPING IT: -**

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the holy of the Lord” – Isaiah 58:13. Those Christians who label it “the Jewish Sabbath” are revealing their Biblical ignorance and prejudice against the Hebrew people, and are at variance with the God who chose them out of all the nations.

## IS GENESIS 2:2 TEACHING A NEVER ENDING SABBATH DAY?

**POPULAR BELIEF:** - “As each of the first six days of Creation Week as recorded in Genesis 1, were bounded by “the evening and the morning”, and then in Genesis 2:2, the seventh day is not recorded as being bounded by “the evening and the morning”, this teaches us that the seventh day Sabbath is a never ending day.”

This claim is then offered as “proof” that we cannot and need not observe the seventh day Saturday Sabbath, as it is a never ending day, which is a type of the eternal or never-ending rest we find in Christ, and in the Kingdom of God in the New Earth.

When we actually read carefully the passage concerned, a rather different picture emerges.

Genesis 2:1 – 3: - “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and **he rested on the seventh day** from all his work which he had made. And **God blessed the seventh day**, and **sanctified it**: because that in it **he had rested** from all his work which God created and made.”

**NOTE:** - There is a distinct order given to us by Moses in this passage concerning what God did surrounding the seventh day. And we shall see that this order is distinctly repeated again in other Biblical passages concerning the seventh day of Creation week.

1. God rested upon the seventh day, from all of His creative work.
2. God **then** blessed the seventh day; and,
3. God **then** sanctified<sup>11</sup> the seventh day, because He **had rested** [past tense] from all of His creative works upon this day.

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<sup>11</sup>The Hebrew word that has been translated as “**sanctified**” in Genesis 2:3, is the word - קָדַשׁ - “qadash” – Strong’s Hebrew Number 6942. It is defined as “to consecrate, sanctify, prepare, dedicate, be hallowed, be holy, be sanctified, be separate” – The New Brown-Driver-Briggs-Gesenius Hebrew-English Lexicon, pp. 872 & 873. It is the same Hebrew word that has been translated as “**hallowed**” within the fourth Commandment in Exodus 20:11. As the Lord God sanctified or set apart for holy use the seventh day of the week at creation, and as Jesus



God's blessing and sanctification of the seventh day would have occurred at the end of that first seventh day at sunset, as the next day [which would have been the first day of the week] was about to, or had just commenced. The Lord did these things **after** He had rested throughout the seventh day. So, within the passage in question, a careful reading of the passage reveals that the first seventh day Sabbath did indeed come to an end in Genesis 2:2 & 3.

These Biblical facts are clearly confirmed within the wording of the Fourth Commandment itself.

Exodus 20:11: - "For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and **rested the seventh day**: wherefore **the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**"

There is another very obvious reason that Genesis 2:2 does not contain the formulaic expression of "the evening and the morning" as the preceding six days of creation did in Genesis 1. One function of this concluding formula in days one through six, is to bring in the **following day**, as shown in the previous verse listed above, "For *in* six **days** .... and rested the seventh **day**." This formulaic expression is not required for Day Seven, since the next day, Day Eight is **not part of the creation account**, as the Creation had been finalized on Day Six. It is that simple!



We need to point out a couple of simple additional truths concerning the Lord's blessing and sanctification of the seventh day in Genesis 2:2 & 3.

- i. The Lord blessed and sanctified the seventh day **before** sin had entered into our world as recorded in Genesis Chapter 3. Therefore, the sanctification of the seventh day is a moral institution established by the Lord, and is **NOT** a *shadow* or *type* of redemption through Christ. Please note, that **ALL**


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stated that "The sabbath was made for man" – Mark 2:27, that is, for THE man Adam, it logically follows that the seventh day was made or sanctified for holy use by Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden. Some professed Christians assert that Genesis 2:2 & 3, contains no legal commandment from the Lord to observance the seventh day Sabbath. The simple answer to this argument is, For who was the day sanctified or set apart for holy use? For THE man Adam and his wife, as there were no other human beings in the world when Jesus sanctified the seventh day of the week.

**shadows were instituted because of the fall** of our first parents, pointing forward to salvation through Jesus Christ.

- ii. Jesus Christ stated, based upon His authority as being the Lord of the Sabbath day, that, “**The sabbath was made for man**, and not man for the sabbath.” - Mark 2:27. Therefore, the Sabbath was blessed and sanctified for the first man – for Adam. Before sin entered into this world, and before a Jew had ever existed, the Lord gave our first parents the pleasant labour of tending to and looking after the Garden of Eden. “And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.” – Genesis 2:15. If our first parents had never sinned, the six days of pleasant labour in the Garden of Eden in every week would have continued, and then every seventh day, they would have rested from their labour upon the seventh day of each week, and kept the day as holy time, keeping alive the memory that God is the Creator.
- iii. After sin had entered into our world, God changed the labour of our first parents from their working in the sinless conditions of the Garden of Eden. They now have to battle for their daily bread by hard labour, in the changed conditions of a fallen and cursed world. They would have to do this, until they would eventually die, and return again unto dust. ***This is where the Sabbath becomes even more essential to human life.*** People in the Western world, who shop at supermarkets, and do not live in poverty, cannot really appreciate this LEGAL day off, from the sweat and grind of having to do hard physical labour six days a week, just to survive, as people have to do in poorer countries.

Genesis 3:17 – 19: - “And unto Adam he said, Because thou hast hearkened unto the voice of thy wife, and hast eaten of the tree, of which I commanded thee, saying, Thou shalt not eat of it: **cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee; and thou shalt eat the herb of the field; In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground;** for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.”

 Can you imagine now, in the dramatically changed conditions of a sin cursed world, for someone who is battling by hard physical exertion to earn their daily bread for themselves and for their family, how welcome is the weekly rest of the seventh day Saturday Sabbath, which is a **legal rest** they receive from their Creator, from the daily

grind of trying to eke out a meagre existence in this fallen world? The Sabbath day is even more of a blessing now than when it was first instituted by the Lord Jesus Christ in Genesis 2:2 & 3. It is now a Commandment of mercy, and freedom to the labouring person. Let us not forget that our Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things, and the Creator of the Sabbath, and all that is in the Universe – John 1:1 – 3.

As far as the eternal Kingdom of God in the New Earth is concerned, the gospel prophet Isaiah has recorded the truth that all the saved shall come and worship before the Lord, every Sabbath day for all of eternity. So speaks the Holy Spirit through the prophet Isaiah.

Isaiah 66:22 & 23: - **“For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, saith the LORD, so shall your seed and your name remain. And it shall come to pass, *that* from one new moon to another, and **from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD.**”**

***What think ye of Christ? Will you want to acknowledge every Sabbath day for eternity, so as to worship Him?***

## **IS BELIEVING IN JESUS FULFILLING THE SABBATH COMMANDMENT?**

Some Christians believe the following theory, asserting that it frees believers in Christ from the obligation of having to obey the fourth commandment of God’s Moral Law. -

**POPULAR THEORY**: - ***“When we believe in Jesus, we have entered into the rest that he promised to give to His followers, and thus we are fulfilling the rest outlined in the Sabbath Commandment.”***

Or others state this belief in the following way: -  
***“Jesus is the Sabbath.”***<sup>12</sup>

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<sup>12</sup> We have personally had one zealot who believed in this theory, and strongly asserted to us, “Jesus is the Sabbath”. We replied, “No, Jesus is the Lord of the Sabbath, but where is your text?” This individual had an open Bible in front of them on the table, and yet they could not produce one text to support their claim. They repeated their assertion again, and our response

We shall examine this assertion comparing it with the Scriptures. Underlying this popular belief is the mindset [although often unstated] contained within the following two thoughts: -

**THE POPULAR MINDSET IS: -**

1. The word “Sabbath” which means “rest” should be understood as being interchangeable with the word “Jesus” in the New Testament Scriptures, as He is our rest or our Sabbath.
2. Jesus is our Sabbath, or our Sabbath rest.

**ANSWER TO MINDSET 1: -** The Bible writers have **NOT** once used the word “Sabbath” interchangeably with, or for the word “Jesus”. These words are two distinct and separate Nouns as found in the inspired writings. Jesus is indeed the Lord of the Sabbath day, but He is **NOT** the Sabbath!

**We shall now show the contradictions involved in this mindset of those who believe this popular theory, by rephrasing the following texts substituting the word “Jesus” for the word “sabbath”. By doing this, the following verses will make no sense, and thus demonstrate that this MINDSET is not Biblically sound.**

Matthew 12:8: - “For the Son of man is Lord even of the sabbath day.”

**Rephrased:** - “For the Son of man is Lord even of the Jesus.”

Matthew 24:20: - “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day.”

**Rephrased:** - “But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the Jesus.”

Mark 2:27: - “And he said unto them, The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath.”

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was exactly the same, and yet again they could not find one text in the Bible that stated what they were so confidently asserting. This again spoke volumes to us, of the complete Biblical bankruptcy of this belief!



**Rephrased:** - “And he said unto them, the Jesus was made for man, and not man for the Jesus.”

**NOTE:** - A Complete adulteration of the truth! Let’s ask some questions then following this false **MINDSET**.

1. Matthew 12:8: - Is the Son of man Lord of Jesus? NO!
2. Matthew 24:20: - Should our flight be on Jesus? NO!
3. Mark 2:27: - Was Jesus made for man? NO!

You could go on and on with further examples, and find out that **Mindset Number 1**, will lead to absurd teachings and distortions of Scripture, which make no sense at all!

What about after Jesus’ death and resurrection? Was there any change in the Bible writers’ use of these two words? None whatsoever!

Let’s look at some more texts that would be ruined by this false **MINDSET** that Jesus = the Sabbath. **The compiler will rephrase the word “Sabbath” to read as “Jesus”, to show this mindset as being a course of falsification from the true meaning of the texts.**

Acts 13:27 & 28: - “For they that dwell at Jerusalem, and their rulers, because they knew him [that is, Christ – compiler] not, nor yet the voices of the prophets which are read every Jesus **[rephrased]**, they have fulfilled *them* in condemning *him*. And though they found no cause of death *in him*, yet desired they Pilate that he should be slain.”

**Q:** - Are the prophets read every “Jesus”? NO!

Acts 13:44: - “And the next Jesus **[rephrased]** came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”

**Q:** - Are there more than one “Jesus”, because the text should say “and the next Jesus”?

Acts 18:4: - “And he [that is Paul – compiler] reasoned in the synagogue every Jesus **[rephrased]**, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.

**Q: -** Are there many “Jesus’”, because Paul reasoned every “Jesus”, according to this **MINDSET**.

This **MINDSET** that Jesus = the Sabbath just does NOT work! It is a **FALSE TEACHING!**

**ANSWER TO MINDSET 2:** - Nowhere is it recorded in the New Testament that Jesus ever claimed to be the Sabbath, or to be the Sabbath rest. He had plenty of golden opportunities to teach this to His disciples privately, or in His public preaching, during the 3½ years of His public ministry. Yet He never made any statement to this effect. Jesus did often speak concerning the Sabbath Commandment as recorded in the four gospels, but He did **NOT** once claim to be the Sabbath, or to be the Sabbath rest.

Jesus did state that “I will give you rest” in Matthew 11:28, and that if **we follow Him**, “ye shall find rest unto your souls” in Matthew 11:29.<sup>13</sup> Yet we find in the very next chapter [See Matthew 12:1 – 8] Jesus was involved in teaching the Pharisees what was true lawful Sabbath observance, and He asserted His title to be the Lord of the Sabbath day [Matthew 12:8]. Jesus’ statement concerning finding rest of soul through Him in Matthew 11:28 & 29, did **NOT** free people from the true lawful observance of the Sabbath Commandment! Far from it!

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<sup>13</sup> Jesus’ promise in Matthew 11:28 & 29 to give rest to our souls, did not originate in this statement of His. It was found in the following Old Testament passages.

Exodus 33:14: - “And he said, My presence shall go *with thee*, and **I will give thee rest.**”

Jeremiah 6:16: - “Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where *is* the good way, and walk therein, and **ye shall find rest for your souls**. But they said, We will not walk *therein*.”

**NOTE:** - These texts from the Old Testament Scriptures, show that when God states He “will give thee rest”, it is distinct from the Sabbath Commandment, which was already being kept as one of the Ten Commandments. The rest that God promises therefore, is **NOT** the fourth Commandment; otherwise, there would be no need to make the Sabbath Commandment, one of the Ten Commandments. God knew people, both Jews and Gentiles would reject this loving Commandment, given as the legal day off, from the six days of labour. That is why God says, **“REMEMBER”** the Sabbath day to “keep it holy”. It is a remembrance that Christ is the Creator!

Jesus did **NOT** once state that “I am rest”; or that, “I am your Sabbath rest” in the New Testament Scriptures. There is **NO** language used by Christ, to say He was the Sabbath rest. Not once!

☞ A belief is popularly believed as being true New Testament teaching, when in actual fact, it does **NOT** have any direct inspired evidence at all to support it. Assertion is **NOT** evidence or proof. We have the right to demand a plain “**Thus saith the Lord**” in support of this theory, before we can accept it as being Biblically correct.

**POPULAR BELIEF:** - “**We don’t know today, which day of the week is the Biblical Sabbath as it was in the days of Jesus.**”

**ANSWER:** - All we have to do is follow the example of our Lord Jesus Christ. He recognized His holy day, even resting in the tomb over the Sabbath day, and being raised from the dead, on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week. The gospel of Luke clearly distinguishes between the Preparation Day – the Friday, when Jesus was killed and buried; how His followers rested on the Sabbath day **according to the Commandment**; and how Jesus was raised from the dead, upon the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week.

**Luke 23:54 – 24:1:** - “And **that day was the preparation, and the sabbath drew on.** And the women also, which came with him from Galilee, followed after, and beheld the sepulchre, and how his body was laid. And they returned, and prepared spices and ointments; and **rested the sabbath day according to the commandment.** **Now upon the first day of the week,** very early in the morning, they came unto the sepulchre, bringing the spices which they had prepared, and certain *others* with them.”

**Question:** - Why did His followers rest on the Sabbath day “according to the commandment”, if Jesus had taught them, it has now been abolished?

**NOTE:** - The apostle Paul and his travelling companions, with the Jews in various cities and synagogues where Paul preached the gospel, as recorded in the **Book of Acts**, all kept the Sabbath day as it was reckoned by the Hebrew people. That is, the seventh-day Saturday Sabbath. The Hebrew people have never lost track of the days of the week for thousands of years, and they certainly know which day of the week is the Sabbath day – the same day that our Lord Jesus Christ kept holy – Saturday.

If a person knows when the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week is, they certainly can know what day of the week is the seventh-day Sabbath. A person cannot recognize when one of these two days arrives, without recognizing when the other day also occurs!

## **HEBREWS 4:1 – 11 EXAMINED: -**

**POPULAR BELIEF: - Some Christians quote only a small portion of the following passage as supposed “proof”, “that if we believe in Jesus Christ, we have entered into God’s rest, and we have ceased from our own works, and thus we are fulfilling the Sabbath Commandment.”**

Hebrews 4:1 – 11: - “Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard *it*. For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world. For he spake in a certain place of the seventh *day* on this wise, And God did rest the seventh day from all his works. And in this *place* again, If they shall enter into my rest. Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of **unbelief**<sup>■</sup>: Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts. For if Jesus\* had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. There remaineth therefore a rest<sup>◇</sup> to the people of God. For he that is entered into his rest, he also hath ceased\* from his own works, as God *did* from his. Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of **unbelief**<sup>■</sup>.”

☞ Jesus did promise rest to the soul, if people would come unto Him [see Matthew 11:28 & 29]. This “rest of soul” is quite different in definition between it, and the rest that was spoken and written by God Himself – “Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.” – Exodus 20:8.

**NOTE:** - Within Hebrews 4:1 -11, there are a number of mistranslations made by the KJV, which have “muddied the waters” to reading this passage correctly. We shall deal with these issues first, before giving a brief exposition of this passage.

■ In VS. 6 & 11 the Greek word that has been translated as “unbelief” is the word ἀπειθεία – “**apeitheia**” – See Strong's Greek No. 543. It is defined as “disobedience”.<sup>14</sup> This is further confirmed by the marginal reading in VS. 11 – “**Or, disobedience**”. The Apostle Paul by the use of this Greek word, is referring to obstinate disobedience in these verses, with VS. 6 using the example of the rebellious disobedient children of Israel in the wilderness.

These two verses correctly read as follows: -

“Seeing therefore it remaineth that some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of disobedience.”

“Let us labour therefore to enter into that rest, lest any man fall after the same example of **disobedience**.”

\* In VS. 8 for the word “**Jesus**”, the margin has the word “**i. e. Joshua**”. The Greek word that has been translated as “Jesus” in this verse in the KJV, is the word Ἰησοῦς – “**lésous**” – See Strong's Greek No. 2424. This Greek word is applied in the New Testament as follows: -

“1. *Joshua*, successor of Moses and military leader of the people when they entered Canaan ... 2. *Jesus*, son of Eliezer, in the genealogy of Jesus ... 3. *Jesus Christ*, ... 4. *Jesus Barabbas* ... *who is called Justus*.”<sup>15</sup>

This verse correctly reads as follows: -

“For if Joshua had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day.”

✧ In VS. 9 for the word “**rest**”, the margin has “**Or, the keeping of a sabbath**”. The Greek word that has been incorrectly translated as “rest” is the word σαββατισμός

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<sup>14</sup> “Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature.” By Walter Bauer. Translated and adapted by William F. Arndt and F. Wilbur Gingrich. Revised and Augmented by F. Wilbur Gingrich and Frederick W. Danker. Second Edition, 1979; p. 82. It shall from henceforth be referred to by the initials “BAGD”.

<sup>15</sup> BAGD., p. 374.

– “**sabbatismos**” – See Strong’s Greek No. 4520. It is defined as “*Sabbath rest, Sabbath observance.*”<sup>16</sup>

This verse correctly reads as follows: -

“There remaineth therefore a Sabbath Observance to the people of God.”

**NOTE: -** As already shown, the people of God, or **ALL** of spiritual Israel, are composed of **both** faithful Jews **AND** Gentiles.

\* In VS. 10 the Greek word that has been translated as “hath ceased” is the word *καταπαύω* – “**katapauō**” – See Strong’s Greek No. 2664. It is defined as “*intransitive stop, rest ... he rested on the seventh day ... (both Gen 2:2). ... from his work Hb 4:4, 10.*”<sup>17</sup>

This verse correctly reads as follows: -

“.For he that is entered into his rest, he also rested from his own works, as God *did* from his.”

Let us now give a simple exposition of this passage.

**Hebrews 4:1 - 6:** - Paul exhorts his readers to “fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it” – VS. 1. The reason being, as the gospel had been preached to Paul’s readers, so had the gospel been preached to the Hebrews in the wilderness. But the preaching to the Hebrews in the wilderness did not profit them, because they lacked the “obedience of faith”. “For we which have believed do enter into rest” – VS. 3. If we truly believe in the Lord, we shall obey him, because we will have “the obedience of faith” [See Romans 1:5 & 16:26 where Paul plainly teaches this concept]. Paul then takes his readers back to the foundation of this world, when God rested upon the seventh day, after he had finished his work of creation in six days - “And God did rest the seventh day from all his works” – VS. 4. [See also Genesis 2:2.]

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<sup>16</sup> BAGD., p. 739.

<sup>17</sup> BAGD., p. 416.

Paul goes on to state in VS. 6 that “some must enter therein, and they to whom it was first preached entered not in because of disobedience”. The Hebrews in the wilderness had the gospel preached to them first, but they did not enter into God’s rest of soul in the Promised Land, because of their disobedience. Therefore, it still remains that some of the Hebrews must still enter into God’s rest.<sup>18</sup>

**Hebrews 4:7 & 8:** - Coming down to the Psalmist David’s day, the opportunity to enter into God’s rest was still open to the Hebrews, even though they had well and truly entered the Promised Land. Paul in VS. 7 quotes from Psalm 95:7 & 8: - “To day if ye will hear his voice, Harden not your heart.” And then in VS. 8 we find that if Joshua had given the Hebrews rest (even though the next generation finally entered the Promised Land), then would not he [that is, David in the Psalms] have afterward spoken of another day of opportunity to enter into God’s rest. Even though the Hebrews did finally enter the Promised Land, the majority of them never truly entered into God’s spiritual rest – because they were continually rebellious and unbelieving, wanting to follow after the idol gods of the heathen nations around them.

**Hebrews 4:9 & 10:** - Paul is stating that there **still remains** a Sabbath Observance to the people of God. And this is further reinforced in VS. 10, where we find that the believer, who has entered into God’s rest, has rested from his own works, “as God *did* from his”. How did God rest from his own works? The answer has already been given to us in VS. 4:- “And God did rest the seventh day from all his works”, which is a direct tie into Genesis 2:2.

Far from Hebrews 4 teaching that believing in Christ frees us from keeping the seventh-day Sabbath, it is quite plain that this passage is New Testament support for the continuing obligation of the Sabbath Observance for God’s people **as God**

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<sup>18</sup> One of the reasons why the Lord swore that the rebellious generation of Hebrews could not enter into the Promised Land (God’s promised rest) was because they profaned God’s Sabbath day. They were idolaters and commandment-breakers in the wilderness. (This is a little known Biblical fact.)

Ezekiel 20:15 & 16: - “Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given *them*, flowing with milk and honey, which *is* the glory of all lands; **Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.**”

**NOTE:** - They could not enter into the Promised Land because of their disobedience. Neither could they find rest of soul, because of their continual disobedience. They did not come unto God, who could give them rest to their souls.

himself rested from all his works on the seventh day in Genesis 2:2, which the Apostle quotes directly from in Hebrews 4:4.

Some people believe, that resting from their works, is resting from their own sins. But how then can this claim be harmonized with the statement, “as God did from his” in VS. 10? God has no sin in Him, and He never rested from any works of sin! This false theory doesn’t make sense, and is a terrible indictment on our Lord!

**Hebrews 4:11:** - Paul exhorts his readers to labour to enter into that [that is, God’s] rest, unless we fall after the same example of the Hebrews disobedience in the wilderness.

## **THE ROYAL LAW OF KING JESUS: -**

James 2:8 – 12: - “If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: But if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors. **For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all.** For he that said, **Do not commit adultery**, said also, **Do not kill**. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by **the law of liberty.**”

The Apostle James also wrote that, “... if thou judge the law, thou art not a doer of the law, but a judge.” – James 4:11. Are we allowed to judge what God has spoken? No, otherwise we will fall under the influence of Satanic reasoning, which will **always question** God’s WORDS and LAWS. See Genesis 3:1 – 5, for the first Biblical example of Satan doing this in deceiving our first parents, in the Garden of Eden.

**NOTE: -** These New Testament passages from the Apostle James contains some very clear and powerful information concerning the “Royal Law”.

- I. This “royal law” which must belong to a King, and is found within the Scriptures, that is, what James knew as the Old Testament writings. It was stated by Moses as “Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself” – see Leviticus 19:18. This is the 2<sup>nd</sup> of Jesus’ two great commandments [see Matthew 22:36 – 40], and deals with our duty to our fellow man.
- II. If we show partiality concerning people, we are convicted by the Law as a transgressor.



- III. If we keep the whole law, and fall at one commandment, we are convicted as transgressing all of the commandments.
- IV. James illustrates this truth, by quoting directly from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Commandments, that if we keep one of these commandments, and break the other one, we have become a transgressor of the law, thus identifying the “Royal Law” as being the Ten Commandments.
- V. We need to so conduct ourselves our words and actions in accordance with this law, as we shall be judged by this Law of Liberty. The inspired Apostle does **not** describe this Law as a Law of Bondage, but rather one of Liberty or Freedom.
- VI. We cannot preside over the Law, and judge what is right or wrong with it. It will be the standard by which WE ARE TO BE JUDGED!



Some people will assert that James did not enforce the seventh day Sabbath commandment in this passage. True, but that was only because he was dealing with the commandments relating to loving your neighbour as yourself. If he was dealing with the first of the great commandments, relating to loving God, than he would have quoted from the first four commandments, to illustrate his teachings. Besides that, if you break any one of the Ten Commandments, you are guilty in God’s eyes of having broken them all! Note well, the concept, that if you break one, you break them all. In Exodus 32, we find Israel’s apostasy in making a golden calf – an idol, another god. In VS. 16 -19, Moses shows dramatically the truth of James 2:8 – 12, by breaking the Law, and smashing it to pieces, as a symbol of how Israel had indeed broken all of God’s Commandments. As shown in Exodus 34:1, “And the LORD said unto Moses, Hew thee two tables of stone like unto the first: and I will write upon *these* tables the words that were in the first tables, which thou brakest.”

Who is the King that this “royal law” belongs to? “The Holy One of Israel is our king” – Psalm 89:18. “Jesus of Nazareth? art thou come to destroy us? I know thee who thou art; the Holy One of God.” – Luke 4:34; and Jesus Christ is the “King of kings” – Revelation 17:14. This Law of Liberty is King Jesus’ “royal law”. It is the Law of the New Testament or Covenant, that is to be written into our hearts and minds, both Jewish and Gentile converts.

**WHAT THINK YE OF KING JESUS’ ROYAL LAW?**

## KEEPING THE SEVENTH DAY SABBATH ON A ROUND WORLD: -

Some Christians urge the following objection against the keeping of the seventh-day Saturday Sabbath: -

***POPULAR THEORY: - "The Sabbath Commandment was only designed to be observed by the Children of Israel within the land of Israel. Once you are outside the geographical boundaries of the land of Israel, it is impossible to keep the same seventh Sabbath day in absolute time, because of the different time zones on this round world. Modern day Jewish Rabbis acknowledge this problem regarding Sabbath-observance outside the land of Israel. And in areas near the North Pole where there are seasons of the year when the sun does not set at all, it is impossible on a practical level to keep the seventh-day Sabbath."***

**ANSWER: -** The comments of modern day Jewish Rabbis concerning this supposed "problem" are not inspired, and should have no bearing in this discussion for a person who bases their faith upon the Word of God alone. If we were to accept the interpretations of modern day Jewish Rabbis, we would be led to reject Jesus Christ of Nazareth as the Messiah, just as the modern day Jewish Rabbis do! What the Rabbis teach and assert has no weight for a true Bible student or Christian. Uninspired man wants to set in concrete the beginning and ending of the Sabbath day, by fixing it to Israeli time. Yet this belief lacks any plain Biblical command to do so; and it also is NOT logical on an ever-moving planetary body in space.

Also Time Zones<sup>19</sup> and the International Date Line<sup>20</sup> are **MAN MADE** inventions of approximately the last 150 years. There is no pink line observable in the Pacific Ocean. It is a completely man made method of time keeping, but it cannot be used if you are following the Bible alone.

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<sup>19</sup> "Time Zones were created to synchronize time all across the world. Believe it or not, until about the 19th century there were no central time standards. Every town, city or location kept their own time and usually stayed in sync thanks to a clock tower or large clock placed somewhere accessible to all." – Source: - "History of Time Zones (worldtimeserver.com)" – accessed 10<sup>th</sup> of December, 2022.

<sup>20</sup> It was established in 1884. Source: - "What is the international date line? (noaa.gov)" – accessed 10<sup>th</sup> of December 2022.

Let us now turn directly to the Scriptures, and we shall find that there is an abundance of simple Biblical evidence which refutes this unbiblical philosophical argument.

The apostle Paul tells us that mankind was made by God to dwell upon all the face of the earth, and that God has determined the appointed times.

Acts 17:26: - “And hath made of one blood **all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth**, and hath **determined the times before appointed**, and the bounds of their habitation.”

Jesus Christ, the Lord of the Sabbath stated that the Sabbath was made for man – or mankind.

Mark 2:27: - “And he said unto them, **The sabbath was made for man**, and not man for the Sabbath.”

☞ Putting these two simple Bible texts together on this issue, we conclude that, the Sabbath day was made by God for mankind, to be kept upon all the face of the earth.

## **HOW DO WE KEEP TIME USING GOD’S METHOD OF TIME KEEPING?**

The Bible measures a 24 hour day from evening to evening. Evening is defined in the Scriptures as being sunset. This time measurement was laid down by God Himself at the beginning of the creation of the Heavens and the Earth.

Genesis 1:5, 8, 13, 19, 23 & 31: - “And God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. **And the evening and the morning were the first day. ... And the evening and the morning were the second day. ... And the evening and the morning were the third day. ... And the evening and the morning were the fourth day. ... And the evening and the morning were the fifth day. ... And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.**”

Leviticus 23:32: - “It shall be unto you a sabbath of rest, and ye shall afflict your souls: in the ninth day of the month at even, **from even unto even, shall ye celebrate your sabbath.**”

Mark 1:32: - “**And at even, when the sun did set**, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils.”

**NOTE**: - In other words, God has bounded not only the days of the week by sunset to sunset; He has sanctified the Seventh Day Sabbath to commence at sunset on Friday, and to end on sunset Saturday evening.

Concerning the difficulty that is sometimes urged relating to the great length of days and nights in high northern latitudes. How, is it asked, can the Sabbath be kept in countries where in summer the sun does not set for several months and in winter the sun does not rise for several months?

**ANSWER: -** God not only made the sun and the moon to divide the day from the night, but the stars were created to help determine the day as well, and to show us when night has come.

Genesis 1:14 - 16: - "And God said, Let there be **lights** in the firmament of the heaven **to divide the day from the night; and let them be for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years:** And let them be for lights in the firmament of the heaven to give light upon the earth: and it was so. And God made two great lights; the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night: *he made the stars also.*"

**NOTE: -** The sun in the northern hemisphere will go around the horizon, and in summer, and when the day is finished, it ends where it began. In winter, the sun's glow is below the horizon, and can be seen to do the same thing.

The stars are still visible at the North Pole throughout the year, and the turning of the earth in 24 hours can be recorded from the position of the stars alone, as they appear to rotate in the heavens. This is all that is necessary to keep the Sabbath according to the commandment.

If you want to follow King Jesus' Royal Law, you will use **GOD'S TIMEKEEPERS**, to know how and when to keep God's Sabbath day.

☞ These supposed objections have no foundation in the Scriptures whatsoever, and are theories based upon the inventions of uninspired men. All these supposed difficulties that are raised against the seventh day Sabbath, are purely imaginary raised by those who find the observance of the seventh day Sabbath inconvenient in our modern world, and also who want to avoid the stigma of being accused of being "judaizers". Again this is a form of anti-Semitism! Remember Jesus said, "**Salvation is of the Jews.**"

Throughout the times of the Bible, God's people had no difficulty in keeping the seventh Sabbath day holy, no matter where they were located on this round world. And this is exactly what we would expect to find, according to Acts 17:26 & Mark 2:27.

## **THE BIBLICAL RECORD OF SABBATH OBSERVANCE IN DIFFERENT PLACES ON THE ROUND WORLD: -**

The first recorded instance of the children of Israel's seventh-day Sabbath-keeping in Scripture, occurred **before** they arrived at Mount Sinai (which is in Arabia See [Galatians 4:25](#)), in the wilderness of Sin, after they had crossed the Red Sea. This episode is recorded in [Exodus Chapter 16](#). It is quite plain that the Lord expected Israel to keep his Sabbath day holy in the wilderness, as He rebuked Moses for the people's refusal to keep his laws by Israel's profaning of the Sabbath day, in relation to their gathering of the manna upon the Sabbath day. After the Lord's rebuke, the people complied with the Lord's command. This took place outside the land of Israel. It also shows that the children of Israel knew about the Sabbath rest BEFORE God's public declaration of the Law at Mt. Sinai. They already had some knowledge of God's Ten Commandments before they arrived at Mt. Sinai.

[Exodus 16:28 - 30](#) - "And the LORD said unto Moses, **How long refuse ye to keep my commandments and my laws?** See, for that the LORD hath given you the sabbath, therefore he giveth you on the sixth day the bread of two days; abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day. So the people rested on the seventh day."

**NOTE:** - Not keeping the Sabbath is a refusal to keep "my commandments and my laws" – plural in the direct context of this passage. Therefore, this Biblical incident agrees with [James 2:8 – 12](#). To break the Sabbath Commandment, is a refusal to keep the commandments – more than one.

When the children of Israel arrived at Mount Sinai in Arabia, the Lord spoke his Ten Commandment Law publicly, and enshrined in the heart of His Law the fourth Commandment, commanding the observance of the seventh-day Saturday Sabbath. The Lord commanded His special covenant people to keep His Sabbath day holy in Arabia. This took place outside the land of Israel.

[Exodus 20:8 - 11](#):- "**Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy.** Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But **the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God:** *in it* thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that *is* within thy gates: For *in* six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them *is*, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it."

The Lord expected the children of Israel to keep his seventh Sabbath day holy during all their wilderness travels, **before** they reached the Promised Land of Israel. In fact, because the original generation of adults who came out of Egypt profaned God's Sabbath day in the wilderness, God would not take them into the Promised Land.

Ezekiel 20:15 & 16: - “Yet also I lifted up my hand unto them in the wilderness, that I would not bring them into the land which I had given *them*, flowing with milk and honey, which is the glory of all lands; Because they despised my judgments, and walked not in my statutes, but polluted my sabbaths: for their heart went after their idols.”

Turning to the Book of Acts in the times of the apostolic Church, the apostle Paul, the Jews and Gentiles outside of the land of Israel had no difficulty in keeping the seventh day Sabbath, in whatever city of the world they were located in. The apostle Paul kept the seventh day Sabbath holy in the following cities, which were located hundreds of miles outside of the land of Israel: -

In Antioch in Pisidia<sup>21</sup>, which is over 800 kms distance away from Jerusalem. The sun would be lower in the sky here, than in the land of Israel.

Acts 13:14, 15 & 42 - 44: - “But when they departed from Perga, **they came to Antioch in Pisidia, and went into the synagogue on the sabbath day, and sat down.** And after the reading of the law and the prophets the rulers of the synagogue sent unto them, saying, Ye men *and* brethren, if ye have any word of exhortation for the people, say on. ... And when the Jews were gone out of the synagogue, **the Gentiles besought that these words might be preached to them the next sabbath.** Now when the congregation was broken up, many of the Jews and religious proselytes followed Paul and Barnabas: who, speaking to them, persuaded them to continue in the grace of God. And the next sabbath day came almost the whole city together to hear the word of God.”

In Philippi in the northwest of Greece,<sup>22</sup> which is a distance by air travel of 1482 kms, northwest to the land of Israel. The sun would be lower in the sky here, than in the land of Israel. It is as simple as that. Remember God’s Timekeepers!

Acts 16:12 – 15: - “And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted *thither*. And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard *us*: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. And when she was

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<sup>21</sup> A city in the Turkish Lakes Region, which was at the crossroads of the Mediterranean, Aegean and Central Anatolian regions, and formerly on the border of Pisidia and Phrygia, hence also known as Antiochia in Phrygia. — [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antioch\\_of\\_Pisidia](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Antioch_of_Pisidia)” - Wikipedia – accessed 30/07/2022.

<sup>22</sup> “**Philippi** (/fɪˈlɪpɑɪ, ˈfɪləˌpaɪ/; Greek: Φίλιπποι, *Philippoi*) was a major Greek city northwest of the nearby island, Thasos.” - <https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Philippi> - accessed 30/07/2022.

baptized, and her household, she besought *us*, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide *there*. And she constrained us.”

In Thessalonica in northern Greece,<sup>23</sup> which is a distance by air travel of 1477 kms, northwest to the land of Israel. The sun would be lower in the sky here, than in the land of Israel. Yet they knew the Sabbath day here also!

Acts 17:1 – 4: - “Now when they had passed through Amphipolis and Apollonia, **they came to Thessalonica, where was a synagogue of the Jews: And Paul, as his manner was, went in unto them, and three sabbath days reasoned with them out of the scriptures**, opening and alleging, that Christ must needs have suffered, and risen again from the dead; and that this Jesus, whom I preach unto you, is Christ. And some of them believed, and consorted with Paul and Silas; and of the devout Greeks a great multitude, and of the chief women not a few.”

In Corinth in south central Greece<sup>24</sup>, which is a distance by air travel of 1314 kms, west to the land of Israel. The sun would be lower in the sky here, than in the land of Israel. Yet they kept the Sabbath day here also.

Acts 18:1 – 4: - “After these things **Paul departed from Athens, and came to Corinth;** And found a certain Jew named Aquila, born in Pontus, lately come from Italy, with his wife Priscilla; (because that Claudius had commanded all Jews to depart from Rome:) and came unto them. And because he was of the same craft, he abode with them, and wrought: for by their occupation they were tentmakers. **And he reasoned in the synagogue every sabbath, and persuaded the Jews and the Greeks.**”

**NOTE:** - Both Jews and Greeks – Gentiles according to the flesh, kept the Sabbath day where they were located, outside of the land of Israel.

James made it clear, that in the time of the apostolic church, the Jews and Gentile converts to the Hebrew faith in the synagogues had no trouble keeping the seventh-day Sabbath holy, **in every city** in which they were located on the globe.

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<sup>23</sup> “**Thessalonica** (also Thessalonike) was an ancient **city of Macedon** in northern **Greece** which today is the city of **Thessaloniki**.” - <https://Thessalonica - World History Encyclopedia> – accessed 30/07/2022.

<sup>24</sup> “**Corinth**, Greek **Kórinthos**, an ancient and a modern city of the Peloponnese, in south-central Greece.” - <https://Corinth | Greece | Britannica> – accessed 30/07/2022.

Acts 15:21: - “For Moses of old time hath in every city them that preach him, being read in the synagogues every sabbath day.”



From the Biblical record, the Sabbath day can be accurately observed wherever you are on the globe, IF you stick to using God’s method of Time Keeping!

**NOTE:** - If people worship on Sunday, they certainly know when the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week is; a day never sanctified in all of Scripture. They would be also fully aware of when God’s holy Seventh-day Saturday Sabbath is. So they are without excuse.

If a person has a mindset to follow Christ and His word, and if they have the mindset of the Spirit, they will delight to obey the holy Law of God. But, if they are of a carnal mindset, they will frame superficial excuses and *supposed* “Bible arguments” to reject what God’s word makes plain. They will refuse to be subject to the Law of God.

Romans 8:3 – 7: - “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: **That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.** For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit. For to be carnally minded *is* death; but to be spiritually minded *is* life and peace. **Because the carnal mind *is* enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.**”

**OF WHICH MINDSET ARE YOU? ARE YOU PART OF ABRAHAM’S TRUE SPIRITUAL SEED OR OFFSPRING? OR ARE YOU AT HEART, STILL A CARNALLY MINDED GENTILE, WHO IS ACTING OUT THE PART OF A PROFESSED PART OF ABRAHAM’S SPIRITUAL OFFSPRING, WHILST LIVING IN A COVENANT OF YOUR OWN MAKING?**

**WHO WE WORSHIP, AND ON WHICH DAY HE HAS MADE HOLY TO WORSHIP HIM UPON, IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT TO OUR GOD. WHY? BECAUSE JESUS EXPRESSLY TALKS ABOUT VAIN WORSHIP –**

Mark 7:7: - “Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching *for* doctrines the commandments of men.”

**“SALVATION IS OF THE JEWS.” – AUTHOR – OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST.**

**“... Jesus the author and finisher of *our* faith ...” – Hebrews 12:2.**



## **JESUS BROUGHT IN THE NEW COVENANT TEACHING OF HEART SERVICE TO HIS LAW –**

**“For this *is* the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts; and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.” – Hebrews 8:10.**

The New Covenant experience which all true believers in Christ are to enter into is **NOT** a dry, outward, formal experience. Rather, it is an inward experience of the heart and mind, where the Lord has promised to write His Law within true spiritual Israel [that is, those who are truly connected to Christ].

Jeremiah 31:33 : - “But this *shall be* the covenant that I will make **with the house of Israel**; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people.”

It was prophesied of the Christ, that He was to magnify the Law and make it honourable.

Isaiah 42:21 : - “The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; **he will magnify the law, and make it honourable.**”


### **JESUS’ SERMON ON THE MOUNT TAUGHT THE TRUE HEART EXPERIENCE OF THE NEW COVENANT: -**

Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount did indeed magnify the Law of God. He taught it's true spiritual meaning and depth, and that it's claims reaches to the hearts and minds of people.

Matthew 5:17 – 19 : - “**Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.** For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled. Whosoever therefore **shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so,** he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but **whosoever shall do and teach them,** the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.”

Jesus in His Sermon on the Mount, plainly taught His disciples that their righteousness was **NOT** to be like the so called righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees. Jesus taught that we can violate God's Ten Commandments by harbouring evil thoughts within our hearts.

Matthew 5:20 - 22, 27 & 28: - "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. Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, **Thou shalt not kill**; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: But I say unto you, That **whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment**: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca, shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire. ... Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, **Thou shalt not commit adultery**: But I say unto you, **That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**"

 In VS. 22 & 28, Jesus uses the expression "But I say unto you", **before** He gives a deeper spiritual understanding as to how evil thoughts violate the Commandments of God. Some sincere Christians assert that by Jesus using the word "But", He is actually cancelling, or abolishing the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Commandments from the Ten Commandment Law. Nothing can be further from the truth! The fact is plainly revealed in the New Testament writings, that the letter of the 6<sup>th</sup> Commandment – "Thou shalt not kill", was still in existence after Jesus made this statement in the Sermon on the Mount. See Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9; James 2:11. As is the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment – "Thou shalt not commit adultery". See Matthew 19:18; Romans 13:9; James 2:11. "Thou shalt not kill" causes you to be in danger of the judgment; but to be angry without cause brings you into the same danger of the judgment. In VS. 28, it is revealed in the verse itself, after Jesus says, "but I say unto you", He states that before the physical act of adultery takes place, the sin of adultery already exists in the heart. Therefore the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Commandments have been magnified to include heart service.

An honest in heart reader should be able to see that VS. 28 establishes the truth that adultery goes much deeper than just the outward act. Jesus states it plainly, "**That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart.**" Is Jesus destroying the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment by his use of the phrase "But I say unto you"? **NO!** He is teaching that God's Law goes to heart observance, and does not just apply to the outward actions. Jesus is teaching the basic promises of getting and having the Law in the heart.

We have even come across some Christians who have gone to the extreme step of using liquid paper to white out from the English dictionary other alternative definitions of the word “but”, so as to maintain their assertion that it means to “cancel out what you have just said”. Such a belief is making a mockery of the English language, and is often used as a debater’s trick, to distract an opponent when confronted with an uncomfortable truth a person has difficulty in trying to answer.

That the word “**but**” has a range of definitions and uses in English, is clearly established by its dictionary definition given below: -

**“But is a conjunction**

used to introduce an added statement, usually something that is different from what you have said before:

*She's very hard-working but not very imaginative . . .*

**But as a linking word** - We use *but* to link items which are the same grammatical type (coordinating conjunction). *But* is used to connect ideas that contrast.

*I love fruit **but** I am allergic to strawberries. . .*

**But meaning ‘except’** - *But* means ‘except’ when it is used after words such as *all, everything/nothing, everyone/no one, everybody/nobody*:

*The cleaning is done now, **all but** the floors. They still have to be washed. . .*

**But for + reason** - *But for* is used to introduce the reason why something didn’t happen:

***But for** the traffic, I would have been here an hour ago. (The traffic was very heavy – if it weren’t for the traffic, I’d have been here an hour ago.) . . .*

**All but meaning ‘almost completely’**

*I had **all but finished** the essay when the computer crashed and I lost it all.”<sup>25</sup>*

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<sup>25</sup> “But” - Grammar - Cambridge Dictionary online – accessed 4<sup>th</sup> February, 2023.



The assertion by those Christians who misuse and misapply the definition of Jesus' use of the word "but" in Matthew 5:22 & 28, are trying to make Christ be at war with Christ. Jesus plainly taught in the immediate context of these verses, that not the smallest part of God's Law of Commandments is to pass away [VS. 17 & 18]; yet these misguided people attempt to say that Jesus by using the word "but", is cancelling out the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Commandments. Nothing can be further from the truth.

Jesus is quoting directly from the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Commandments in His statement found in Matthew 5:21 & 27 – See Exodus 20:13 & 14. Jesus describes murder as first existing in the mind. That malice and revenge which would delight in deeds of violence is of itself murder. The apostle John makes it plain, that if we hate our brother we are a murderer in God's sight.

1<sup>st</sup> John 3:15: - "**Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer**: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him."

Jesus also taught that those who cherish lascivious thoughts are as guilty at heart of violating the seventh commandment, as are those who openly commit adultery. Please observe, that the sin of sexually lusting after another person [who is not your spouse], is directly prohibited by the Tenth Commandment, which forbids to covet anything that does not belong to us. This Commandment goes right to the thoughts and intents of the heart. And it was the violation of this Commandment, that gave the apostle Paul the knowledge of his own sin.

Exodus 20:17: - "**Thou shalt not covet** thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, **nor any thing that is thy neighbour's**."

Romans 7:7: - "What shall we say then? *is* the law sin? God forbid. Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: **for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet**."

Jesus' teaching concerning lustful thoughts being a violation of the 7<sup>th</sup> Commandment, was not a new teaching at all. The righteous man Job described this conduct as "an heinous crime". And the Book of Proverbs teaches that the Law gives instruction, so as to not lust after a beautiful woman in your heart.

Job 31:9 – 11: - “**If mine heart have been deceived by a woman**, or if I have laid wait at my neighbour's door; *Then* let my wife grind unto another, and let others bow down upon her. **For this is an heinous crime**; yea, it is an iniquity to be punished by the judges.”

Proverbs 6:23 – 25: - “For **the commandment is a lamp**; and **the law is light**; and reproofs of instruction are the way of life: **To keep thee from the evil woman**, from the flattery of the tongue of a strange woman. **Lust not after her beauty in thine heart**; neither let her take thee with her eyelids.”

Sin, in both its conception and final fruition, is brought to light by the apostle James, as starting within the heart.

James 1:15: - “Then **when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin**: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”

Jesus made it abundantly clear, that the evil thoughts of the heart and mind that naturally come from within fallen humanity are the things that defile a person's character. And He specifically lists among these evil thoughts that come from the heart, a number of clear violations of the Law of God.

Matthew 15:18 – 20: - “**But those things which proceed out of the mouth come forth from the heart; and they defile the man. For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: These are the things which defile a man**: but to eat with unwashen hands defileth not a man.”

**NOTE:** - The transgression of God's Law in the heart from Matthew 15:18 – 20: -

**Murder** = “Thou shalt not kill.” – Exodus 20:13.

**Adultery** = “Thou shalt not commit adultery.” – Exodus 20:14.

**Theft** = “Thou shalt not steal.” – Exodus 20:15.

**False Witness** = “Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.” – Exodus 20:16.

**Blasphemy** = “Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.” – Exodus 20:7.

Not only does God's Law deal with the thoughts of the heart and mind, the Word of God does so as well.

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.**”

And Jesus is that Living Word – “In the beginning was **the Word**, and **the Word** was with God, and **the Word was God.** ... And **the Word was made flesh**, and dwelt among us, ...” – John 1:1 & 14.

Jesus charged the Jewish religious leaders’ experience as being a formal outward compliance to God’s Law, while within their hearts, they were violating the very spiritual principles of that Law, because the Law is spiritual – “...**the law is spiritual...**” – Romans 7:14.

Matthew 23:27 & 28: - “**Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!** for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed **appear beautiful outward**, but are **within full of dead men’s bones, and of all uncleanness.** Even so ye also **outwardly appear righteous** unto men, but **within** ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.”

## **HEART SERVICE TO GOD’S WORD BRINGS LIFE AND PEACE WITH OUR GOD: -**

The apostle Paul reinforced Jesus’ teaching, that our experience must be one from the heart.

Romans 6:17: - “But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but **ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.**”

☞ Jesus was laying down within His Sermon on the Mount, the heart felt spiritual obedience to God’s Law of Ten Commandments, that is to be manifested within the heart and mind of true believers in the New Covenant. It is walking after the things of the Spirit and not the flesh, and having the righteousness of the Law being fulfilled within those who are having this heart experience. This is the New Covenant promise being fulfilled within the heart and mind of the true believer. And it was also the personal experience of our Lord Jesus Christ, when He walked the earth in our flesh. God’s Law was within His heart! Whereas, the opposite mindset – the carnal mind, is at variance with God, because it will not be subject or obedient to the Law of God.

Romans 8:3 – 7: - “For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, **condemned sin in the flesh: That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk** not after the flesh, but **after the Spirit**. For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but **they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit**. For to be carnally minded *is death*; but to be spiritually minded *is life and peace*. Because the carnal mind *is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be.* ”

Psalms 37:30 & 31: - “The mouth of **the righteous** speaketh wisdom, and his tongue talketh of judgment. **The law of his God is in his heart**; none of his steps shall slide.”

This is what our Saviour prophesied concerning Himself.

Psalms 40:7 & 8: - “Then said I, **Lo, I come**: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, **I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.**”

**IT IS THE WILL OF GOD TO HAVE HIS LAW WITHIN OUR HEARTS! WE MUST FOLLOW CHRIST’S EXAMPLE!**

Our Lord Jesus knows what is within the heart of all people.

John 2:24 & 25: - “But Jesus did not commit himself unto them, **because he knew all men**, and needed not that any should testify of man: **for he knew what was in man.**”

Jesus looks into our heart, and can tell if it is spiritually inclined or carnally inclined; and if it is carnally inclined, it will not be obedient to God’s Law. Do you wish this for yourself? It is one of the tests the Lord uses to judge everyone who holds a Bible in their hand<sup>26</sup>. He judges the inner man and the perfect Law of Liberty is the Spiritual standard of the Judgment.

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<sup>26</sup> What about those who do not have the Bible? Or those who do not have access to God’s written moral code? Paul gives us a simple answer to these questions. They will be judged by the Law that God has written within their heart; and that if the ignorant Gentile fulfills the requirements of God’s Law, this is counted for them as their being circumcised, keeping the righteousness of the Law as they know it. For every person, it is paramount to live up to all the Light God has written within the heart.

Romans 2:14 & 15, 26 & 27: - “For when **the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law**, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which

James 1:25: - “But whoso looketh into **the perfect law of liberty**, and continueth *therein*, he being not a forgetful hearer, but a doer of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed.”

James 2:12: - “So speak ye, and so do, **as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty.**”

**NOTE:** - If you hold a Bible in your hand, and have been given an understanding of heart service to God’s Spiritual Law of Ten Commandments, there is no excuse.

Paul describes this law as a spiritual, holy, just and good law, and James makes it clear, that to the person who knows to do good and does it not, it is sin.

Romans 7:12 & 14: - “Wherefore **the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good.** ... For we know that **the law is spiritual**: but I am carnal, sold under sin.”

James 4:17: - “Therefore **to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.**”

**NOTE:** - A holy, just, good and spiritual Law! So why would God abolish it in any form? It is perfect for fallen humanity, just as it is written. “...the perfect law of liberty, ...” – James 1:25.

Paul also exhorted us, that after testing all things, we are to hold fast to what is good. [As he describes in the context of the above passage from Romans 7, God’s 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment as good (see VS. 7 where Paul quotes the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment), we are to hold fast to the Holy Law, from whence the 10<sup>th</sup> Commandment is the last of the Ten.

1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:21: - “Prove all things; **hold fast that which is good.**”

It is by keeping this Law that we can identify the children of God.

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show **the work of the law written in their hearts**, their conscience also bearing witness, and *their* thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another; ... Therefore if **the uncircumcision keep the righteousness of the law, shall not his uncircumcision be counted for circumcision? And shall not uncircumcision which is by nature, if it fulfil the law, judge thee, who by the letter and circumcision dost transgress the law?**”



1st John 5:2 & 3: - **“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.”**

And it is the Commandments of God in the very last days, that identifies the saints of God.

Revelation 14:12: - **“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.”**

**WHAT THINK YE OF CHRIST AND OF HIS MAGNIFYING AND MAKING HONOURABLE THE LAW OF GOD? WILL YOU BE PART OF THE TRUE ISRAEL OF GOD?**

In our own strength, apart from our Saviour Jesus, we can do nothing – *“for without me ye can do nothing.”* John 15:5. Through Jesus Christ, there is nothing impossible for us to achieve, such as entering into the new covenant experience of spiritual Israel, and by doing all things through the strength Jesus imparts.

Philippians 4:13: - **“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”**



Our faith in Jesus Christ, will save us, as we recognize that He died on the cross for the sins of the world. So do we want to continue in doing the sins that murdered our Saviour?

Romans 3:31: - **“Do we then make void the law through faith? God forbid: yea, we establish the law.”<sup>27</sup>**

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<sup>27</sup> Paul taught a simple but vital truth in the following two verses: -

“... for where no law is, *there is* no transgression” – Romans 4:15.

“... sin is not imputed when there is no law.” – Romans 5:13.

In light of these two clear verses, ponder the following facts, about the necessity of the Law for there to be any Sin and Transgression as found in the KJV Bible.

Do you now truly know our Saviour, and the saving faith which brings the fruit of obedience? Or are you at variance with the New Covenant experience, and have you followed vain traditions and formulated a Gentile covenant, by listening to the spiritual advice of peers, and, have you put your trust in man, which is a curse? Jesus has the answer to Satanic doctrine, and to the carnal mind.

Matthew 4:4: - “But he answered and said, It is written, **Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.**”

Jeremiah 17:5 & 6: - “Thus saith the LORD; **Cursed be the man that trusteth in man, and maketh flesh his arm, and whose heart departeth from the LORD.** For 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.”

**The Word of God alone** is our source of spiritual Light, and not the words of peers, who sometimes are put on pedestals, and every word that drops from their lips is seen as gospel truth. In the end, we will all individually have to face God and give an answer for how we have lived our lives. Any person that we held in high regard on this earth will not be by our side. The judgment is between you and your God alone. **What think ye of Christ and His spiritual Israel?** Are you ready to obey from the heart, all that inspiration has revealed? Salvation is of the Jews! Think about it!

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From the Book of Acts until the end of the Book of Revelation, the word “**sin**” occurs 75 times; “**sins**” occur 52 times; “**sinned**” occurs 11 times; “**sinneth**” occurs 6 times; “**sinner**” occurs 3 times; “**sinners**” occurs 10 times.

From the Book of Acts until the end of the Book of Revelation, the word “**transgression**” occurs 6 times; “**transgressions**” occurs twice; “**transgresseth**” occurs twice; “**transgressor**” occurs twice; “**transgressors**” occurs once.

In light of all these Biblical facts, that appear in the New Testament writings after Jesus' resurrection has occurred, how can any honest person believe or teach that God's Moral Law of Commandments has been abolished or changed in any way. To do so, makes the above Biblical facts about sin null and void, because in the carnal mind, the Law has been done away with. Therefore sin and transgression cannot be imputed. There would be no God determined moral absolutes, and then there would be a New Testament or Covenant which any person could corrupt to their own fancy.

## THE LIVING GOD IS EVERYTHING TO US: -

The Living God is identified in the Scriptures as being the Creator of heaven and earth, and the sea and all things therein; He spoke with His own voice His Moral Law of Ten Commandments to all of Israel at Mount Sinai; and He is identified a being the Saviour of all humanity, and He has His church.

Jeremiah 10:10 – 12: - “But **the LORD is the true God, he is the living God, and an everlasting\* king:** at his wrath the earth shall tremble, and the nations shall not be able to abide his indignation. Thus shall ye say unto them, The gods that have not made the heavens and the earth, *even* they shall perish from the earth, and from under these heavens. **He hath made the earth by his power, he hath established the world by his wisdom, and hath stretched out the heavens by his discretion.**”

**NOTE: -** \* In VS. 10, the margin has for “**everlasting king**” – “**Heb. king of eternity**”.

Acts 14:15: - “And saying, Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto **the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein.**”

Deuteronomy 5:22 & 26: - “**These words the LORD spake unto all your assembly in the mount out of the midst of the fire, of the cloud, and of the thick darkness, with a great voice:** and he added no more. And **he wrote them in two tables of stone,** and delivered them unto me. ... For who *is there* of all flesh, that **hath heard the voice of the living God speaking out of the midst of the fire,** as we *have*, and lived?”

1st Timothy 4:10: - “For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in **the living God, who is the Saviour of all men,** specially of those that believe.”

1st Timothy 3:15: - “But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is **the church of the living God,** the pillar and ground of the truth.”

## **JESUS CHRIST IS IDENTIFIED AS THE LIVING GOD! HE HAS ALL THE . ATTRIBUTES OF THE LIVING GOD!**

Jesus Christ is the Creator of heaven and earth; in fact, He is the Creator of all things in the Universe.

John 1:1 – 3: - “**In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.** The same was in the beginning with God. **All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.**”

Colossians 1:14 - 17: - “**In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins:** Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: **For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.**”

Hebrews 1:8 – 10: - “**But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: a sceptre of righteousness is the sceptre of thy kingdom.** Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, *even* thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows. **And, Thou, Lord, in the beginning hast laid the foundation of the earth; and the heavens are the works of thine hands.**”


**Jesus Christ is the only Saviour of the world.**

Acts 4:10 – 12: - “Be it known unto you all, and to all the people of Israel, that **by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth**, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, *even* by him doth this man stand here before you whole. This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the corner. **Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.**”

1st John 4:14: - “And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent **the Son to be the Saviour of the world.**”

**Jesus Christ who is God, purchased His church with His own blood.**

Acts 20:28: - “Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed **the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.**”

 Therefore, our Lord Jesus Christ **IS** the Living God<sup>28</sup> – the Creator and Saviour of the world. He has His own church for which He shed His own blood. It is He who spoke

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<sup>28</sup> It needs to be stated that the Biblical truth of Jesus Christ being identified as being the Living God, does **NOT** exclude the truth that the Heavenly Father is also referred to in some

with His own voice the Moral Law of Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai. And it is Jesus who said to His disciples, “**If ye love me, keep my commandments.**” – John 14:15.

### ***What think ye of Christ, the Living Creator God and Saviour, and the Divine Lawgiver?***

Can we, following Christ’s example say, “I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law *is* within my heart.” – Psalm 40:8?

The Second Covenant has been promised to the houses of Israel and Judah. It has a central theme to allow the Lord to write His Law in our hearts and minds. As Gentiles, we can become part of Spiritual Israel, by having a saving faith in Christ Jesus our Saviour, who shed His blood on the cross, so that we can have the opportunity to be cleansed from sin and accepted into the Kingdom of Heaven. When the Gentile mind has truly grasped the New Covenant promises, and understands the nature of God’s Moral Law, and of it being written in the heart and mind, then it will be a joy to obey from the heart, the Law of the Living God. His commandments will never be grievous to do [“By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments. For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and **his commandments are not grievous.**” – 1<sup>st</sup> John 5:2 & 3], and with thanks for His Salvation, we will, in gratitude to King Jesus, honour, respect and keep His Royal Law, as a new child and subject, born into spiritual Israel. Salvation is truly of the Jews!

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Scriptures as also being the Living God [eg. Matthew 16:16; John 6:69 & 1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 1:9 & 10]. As the Father and Christ are one [see John 10:30], they both bear the title of being the Living God.