Image – Vol. II

THE MAGI AND CHRIST'S BIRTH

Part 2

By

ART MOKAROW

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PREFACE

Who were The Magi? The Magi came from The East and brought gifts to The Newborn – Christ. This event almost seems like a fairy tale. In December, the scene is dramatized and displayed in public places and on the lawns of individual's homes. The arrival of The Magi, biblically, is an important event concerning your Savior. It goes far beyond the simple seasonal depictions. Prophetically, the identity of The Magi is the key to the origins of all world religions.

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INTRODUCTION

In King Herod's day, there were many *wise men* who came from *The East*. This episode was recorded in Matthew 2:1. Herod, himself, wasn't surprised to hear the news about *The Coming of The Savior*. But, why would God use Gentiles to announce Christ's coming? Simon, an elderly man, was about to die.

However, prophetically, it had been promised to him that he would see The Savior before his death. This is what Simon told the parents of the newborn child, *"For mine eyes have seen your salvation, Which you have prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel"* (Luke 2:30-32). Jesus was The Messiah for the whole world (The Gentiles and The Israelites). The Magi and The Wise Men from The East came as *educated* Gentiles.

When Jesus was born and lying in the manger, the shepherds were the first to visit Him. The Magi saw Christ much later. The shepherds, after seeing The Savior, went everywhere announcing Christ's birth (Luke 2:8-17). The Shepherds told Israel about The Birth of Christ. The Magi were Gentiles and represented the rest of the world. Do you really understand the importance of these two witnesses? The Magi and The Shepherds are the two witnesses of The Messiah's birth. Both were lights or witnesses of Christ's coming. Many scholars are aware that when The Messiah was born, Israel was ready for this event. Israel knew He was coming. It is amazing how the world, without God, expected a redeemer to come. The Magi validated that truth.

The Wise And The Pagans

Pagans spend a great deal of their time worshipping idols. Some Christians know very little about *The Truth of God* while others know it very well. The Hindus believe in Nirvana, which is "becoming one with the universe." Buddhism, through mind control, reaches a certain spiritual dimension. The Chinese and Japanese pray to their dead ancestors on an annual basis. *The truth* about a Messiah has been known from the beginning.

In Christ's day, there were three classes of people: 1) God's chosen people (Israel), 2) The Greeks who were educated and, 3) The Pagans (the uneducated ones). The world viewed those who lived in the cities as being wise and educated (this applied both to The Jews and The Greeks).

It did not mean that The Pagans were without God. The definition of "Pagan" in Greek is "country people." Country people, usually, were located too far away to attend the schools in the cities. Because of this, they were regarded as "Pagans," meaning they were "illiterate and uneducated." They never had a chance to be educated in school. Therefore, they were known as the ignorant.

In reality, this was somewhat different. Some never went to school but were educated through their *religion*. With all its rituals and sacraments, The Pagans believed in a certain *philosophy of life*. In fact, the word "*religion*" was viewed as one's faith according to what they understood. The knowledge they had was derived from their religion. This religion was called *Gnosticism.* "*Gnostic*" in Greek merely means "*higher spiritual knowledge.*" There were Egyptian Gnostics, Jewish Gnostics, Asian Gnostics, Indian Gnostics and many more.

Gnosticism was not a religion, rather it was a philosophy of life. Just as colleges and universities have philosophy classes, The Jews, Greeks and Pagans also had philosophy classes in their schools. In the cities, during Christ's time, Gnostics were considered to be from schools of higher learning. *The Pagans* were educated through their religions and their rituals were conducted by a Priesthood.

There were three separate classes of people. The three classes were The Jews, The Greeks and The Pagans. They all knew of The One God who created everything. This God was known as The SkyGod who lived in the heavens with a variety of names given by different groups. They knew about man's depravity since it was believed by both The Greeks and The Pagans. Everyone had the need for a Redeemer/Savior. Their need came from man's sinning ways. All three groups had an eschatology, which is the fulfillment (or "pleroma") of an end-time prophecy. This contained a great deal of truth and was accepted by these three schools of thought. The key ingredient in all of this was known as The Word. "Pleroma" in Greek is "the fulfillment."

How did these Gnostic schools of knowledge begin? The Magi (The Wise) were part of The School of Gnostics. So, you have The Shepherds who heralded the arrival of their Messiah to Israel and you, also, have this mysterious group called The Magi. Rome inherited their own form of Gnostic beliefs from The Greeks, who in turn received their knowledge from Babylon. The Babylonians gained their knowledge of Gnosticism from the very beginning in The Garden of Eden. The offspring of Cain altered *the truth*.

This book is about the origin of two great mysteries. One is The Mystery of The One True God and the second is The Mystery of Babylon. Both include the truth about The One True God. These mysteries, however, follow different paths. Amazingly, all world religions came from these two mysteries. Many Christian *denominations* have their genesis in these mysteries. In short, the schools were the source of revelation about these two philosophies.

The foundational knowledge of The Gnostics gave birth to all man-made religions. Synergism is the doctrine that mankind will cooperate with The Holy Spirit in the work of regeneration. It is scary how Jesus, in The Olivet Prophecy, warned the elect can, also, be fooled (deceived).

CHAPTER 1

DANIEL'S WISE MEN

When The Prophet Daniel was taken captive by Nebuchadnezzar of Neo-Babylon, his wisdom and intellect were noticed by The King. Consequently, Daniel was placed with a very élite group of people. Who were these people?

The Wise

The King of Babylon asked the master in charge of his eunuchs to select the highest level of noble children from the captive Israelites. The King commanded, "Children in whom was no blemish but well favored and skillful in all wisdom and cunning in knowledge and understanding science and such as had ability in them to stand in the king's palace and whom they might teach the learning and the tongue of the Chaldeans" (Daniel 1:4). This was quite a vital pre-requisite. Chaldeans were a religious educated sect like The Pharisees.

The chosen individuals had to have courtly manners, a good appearance, a cheerful personality, common sense, wisdom and intelligence. They were required to have a good comprehension and understanding of Science, as well as excellent, sophisticated behavior. They chose the best and the smartest of a nation. They were the wise or the élite of The Empire. At that time, God intervened and gave Daniel and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego some divine knowledge in wisdom and understanding (Daniel 1:17). They were considered *spiritually knowledgeable*. The world believed *the gods* fought each other to prove which "god" was *the most powerful*.

Besides having human knowledge and wisdom, God gave them *divine intelligence*. Look at how much smarter they were than the nation's other élite or *wise men*, "And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm [kingdom]" (Daniel 1:20). These were the wise of Babylon, which included the magicians and astrologers. With their mystical mixtures and combinations, they were considered knowing more than the others. These individuals were the king's or ruler's personal guardians and cabinet members.

The Elite

King Nebuchadnezzar was a Polytheist. He believed in many gods and, therefore, didn't know which "god" was the strongest or had the most power. The king accepted all gods, just as those at The Tower of Babel did. He had no idea there was only One Almighty God, Elohim. When Daniel revealed the true meaning of his dream, Nebuchadnezzar said, "The king answered to Daniel and said, Of a truth it is, that your God is a God of gods and a Lord of kings and a revealer of secrets, seeing you could reveal this secret [mystery]" (Daniel 2:47). The King believed that Daniel's God was stronger than the other gods. This was because Daniel's God revealed secrets no one else knew. The King still believed in all the other gods, but began to realize that Daniel's God was *the strongest*.

Nebuchadnezzar's wise men, the èlite of his empire, believed in many gods. He accepted them because everyone thought the èlite knew more than anyone else. This same situation occurred at The Tower of Babel where many gods were worshipped. Paul said The Babylonians worshipped the creation instead of the creator (Romans 1:22-25). At that time, anyone who knew about the gods were considered wise. But, in The Bible, God called them foolish.

The One God Lesson

As *the empire* grew and became greater than other nations, King Nebuchadnezzar thought of himself as one of *the gods*. Daniel warned him to believe, only, in The One True God and worship Him, alone. But, Nebuchadnezzar did not listen.

The King's ego and vanity went to his head, so God caused him to lose his mind. As a result, The King ended up wandering, in the wilderness, like an animal for seven years. After seven years, The King's mind became sound again and his empire was restored (Daniel 4). Here is the lesson he learned, "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes to heaven and mine understanding returned to me and I blessed the most High and I praised and honored him that lives for ever, whose dominion is an everlasting do-

minion and his kingdom is from generation to generation" (Daniel 4:34). The King finally acknowledged that Daniel's God, known as *The SkyGod*, was the greatest and the ever-living God. He still believed in many gods, but he knew Daniel's God was *the greatest*.

Nebuchadnezzar still accepted his wise men, the élite (The Magi and the astrologers). However, he regarded Daniel's God as *The One True God*. This was the world's belief system from The Tower of Babel. It is the same general situation as today. The contemporary world accepts all religions with their gods, even though they knew The One God. *Science* has replaced the need for God or any other gods.

The world doesn't believe or even need or want God. Science has engulfed the minds of mankind and causes people to worship themselves. That is exactly what Satan told Eve, "For God does know that in the day you eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened and you shall be as gods, knowing good and evil" (Genesis 3:5). It can't be any clearer!

Satan's primary purpose was to get mankind to honor and worship themselves instead of God. Satan, also, wanted them to look to him as a god. Thinking too highly of oneself is exactly what God warned them not to do at The Tower of Babel in Babylon, "And the LORD said, Behold, the people is one and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6). Science (human science) is predicated upon mathematical probability, which is only "a guess." As such, Science has become the god of this world. Many feel there is no longer a need for The One True SkyGod. Like any Science originating from human guesses, they come to conclusions by long-term experience. The élite or wise men of today rule by Science, so the real God is no longer in the equation. In Science, only those who are knowledgeable are the élite or wise men.

The Ignorant

Most people feel life has no real purpose after death. Those with Scientific *understanding* are considered *the élite* and *truly wise* of *the earth*. The world (as at The Tower of Babel) **now has goals of** *globalizing* everything and having *a one-world government* which will be ruled by *the wise* or *the élite*. They are the ones who feel they know better than everyone else. They believe this One-World Government is the solution to all the world's problems. This belief began at The Tower of Babel.

The rest of the world, outside this élite group of the wise, is considered to be *the ignorant*. The ignorant seem to need religion with its mysticism. So few seem to have any clear answers to life. That is why individuals must be allowed to worship as many gods or religions as they choose. However, only the wise élite of the earth are destined to lead the world. The pagans are the unlearned who follow *rituals* and do not know their meaning.

Since the majority of the world is *ignorant*, wise in-

dividuals will not listen to them or their street-smart wisdom. The élite do not think *the ignorant* are logical. Their own *logic* includes *magic*, *astrology*, *witchcraft* and any form of religion as presented by their wise leaders. They will follow those individuals as their *Saviors* or *world leaders* if those leaders produce safety and a livelihood for them.

The Fools

"The fool has said in his heart, There is no God" (Psalm 14:1). The élite of the world depend upon humanity with its Science of creating gods. Conversely, they call those who believe in The One True God "a fool." "The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge [doctrine]: but fools despise wisdom [logic] and instruction [understanding and comprehension]" (Proverbs 1:7).

There are three groups of people:

1) The ignorant

2) The foolish

3) The truly wise

The ignorant don't care about these issues, because they are too interested in their pleasures or making a livelihood. The fools ignore God and, therefore, seek only human knowledge. They consider themselves to be the élite or the only wise ones. Those who are truly wise do not seek human wisdom and understanding, but rather, they fear God and look to Him for wisdom and *understanding*. In this world, *the fools*, those who have no God, choose to call themselves *the élite* or *the wise*. They rule the rest of humanity by allowing them to believe in any god they choose. God calls these mixed or divided groups "*unlearned*," since every individual has a different viewpoint. No divided nation can stand. Therefore, *the élite* of the world want to rule everyone. They want to be masters over slaves. They feel they know what is best.

God discloses who is truly wise and who understands Godly knowledge. Is it *the ignorant fools* (the world) who have *no* god?

CHAPTER 2

WHAT IS THE GODHEAD?

When Paul preached to The Athenians, he knew they believed in many gods. Out of all the idols, featured upon Mars Hill, Paul chose one idol that had been dedicated to The Unknown God (Acts 17:19-23). The philosophers asked Paul about the identity of this new doctrine or teaching. These people did not know The One True God. They were taught and believed in many gods.

A Discipline

Those who attend schools, especially at the college and university level, generally choose *a discipline*. It is their major area of concentration and it is called their *major*. A discipline is a focus upon one major subject area like Biology, Economics, Sociology, etc. It is where a student's personal interest lies and will consume the majority of his/her study time.

Educational institutions, especially universities, have many disciplines to pursue, while colleges only offer a few. Most of these institutions have *a major flaw* in their methodology of teaching. Their doctrinal study begins at too high a level. They skip major steps necessary to go further. Therefore, many students do not truly understand the *basics* of their *discipline* or *major*. The teachers do not start at the beginning of a subject or at its original source.

Take Cosmology for example, which is the study of the universe and how it works. The true subject of beginning with a first cause, which is the conscious Supreme Energy Field (God who started everything), is never approached. They are still searching for a beginning or The Mother of All Theories. Evolutionists are, also, guilty of this educational flaw. To master different mathematical realities from the beginning without, initially, proving a first cause is foolishness. Religions make the same mistake. They begin with a doctrine, which is a teaching that may be true, but it is not in context with a first cause. Understanding doctrine and how it is applied or meant to be used requires learning about a subject from its very beginning. Paul knew this truth, so he began with the question. "Who is God?" He knew The Athenians did not know the answer, so God gave him the wisdom to start at the beginning. Doctrinal differences need to be resolved, not from some point of understanding, but always from its beginning, which is The Torah.

Torah – A Way And A Path

Most theologians and Christians begin their Christian "education" with Moses. The Torah, which is a teaching, began thousands of years before Moses. Many are, religiously, educated through the doctrines of The Old Covenant or The Law of Moses (which was only meant for Israel) (Deuteronomy 5:3). To start there and continue to *The New Covenant* is ludicrous. *The Torah* begins with Genesis 1:1, "*In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth*" (Genesis 1:1).

"God" in Hebrew comes from the word "Elohim." Who is Elohim? Until you can, biblically, understand who Elohim is, you have no reasonable foundation to start your theological studies. It is the first teaching or doctrine in The Torah. This event took place thousands of years before Moses and The Old Covenant.

Kindergarten

In German, the meaning of "kindergarten" is "the level at which a child starts school." In English, this word means "a child's garden." In kindergarten, the teacher may use pictures and blocks to explain a lesson. God was the first to use this method. God's first writings were in pictures and His creation is the prime example. "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse" (Romans 1:20). This is the source of all written alphabets.

This verse lays out God's entire teaching *methodology*. God teaches through *pictures* or *symbols* of His creation (the first form of writing). This is why, in all cultures – worldwide – you find pictures in caves and on cliffs. In Paleolithic times, this was the only method of writing. It was something which everyone could understand through their own life experiences. What was God's purpose? God's intention was

to create man in His image (Genesis 1:26). The goal for mankind was to emulate or become like God or as Paul said, "Even his eternal power and Godhead." The word "Godhead" in Greek suggests "one's personality, thought and power." You are to be formed in God's express *image* (Hebrews 1:3). Christ is your example. There is no greater power. God is The Creator of All Things (Hebrews 3:4). God is everything and anything He chooses to be. Little by little, you can begin to comprehend The Godhead. This lesson includes God's complete personality and never includes any other gods. Satan made that mistake with Eve. Elohim, being *plural*, is not to be misinterpreted into meaning many man-made gods. *Elohim* is the *multiplicity* of God as The Creator. "Elohim," in its verb form, is singular or "one being with multiple aspects and many attributes." There is only one God-being, but He is all that was in the unknown past, is today and will be in all of your tomorrows. He is infinity.

God has one name, "JHVH," which is "The I Am." He is whatever He chooses to be. God has many titles such as Elohim, The Almighty Creator and God of Everything. God has many powers and personalities. He is without end. God is, therefore, Lord or Master of everyone and all things since He created everything. Now, it is clear why God is called "Elohim" (Genesis 1:1). In the beginning, He revealed His process of creation. He is Elohim, The Creator. He is creating mankind and is The Master Rabbi – Master Teacher. As He teaches with the heavenly host as assistants, He is your Master. Consequently, His creations are slaves who grow to be willing to die for Him.

Godhead – A Being

Because God created the universe, mankind, on its own without The Master Teacher, began to *think* the creation was divine or a product of *the gods*. They knew and held The Truth of God in *unrighteousness* (Romans 1:18). What did they do? "Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. Amen" (Romans 1:25). "And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:28). This can't be stated any clearer.

Because they chose to follow God's earthly and universal creation, they performed actions that could never make them like *a god*. In fact, their *doctrines* became *perverted* so they could *worship* from their own *imaginations* instead of getting to know The One God. This was a major, worldwide problem which started at the time of *The Tower of Babel* (Genesis 11:6-7). All this *human reasoning* (through one's human nature) became *Babylon*, *The Great Whore*. They were *a divided* and *a mixed* people. To keep them from annihilating each other, God *divided the nations* according to their own *inheritance* (Deuteronomy 32:8).

The plurality of God has always confused mankind. Since God is whatever He chooses to be as a separate being and personality, humanity imagined The One God as being many gods, which are revealed by His Creation. This is The Origin of Polytheism, which consists of many gods. God's *purpose* is to be All In All, so everything and everyone is "God" in that sense (I Corinthians 15:28). That, in the carnal mind, means there are many gods. God as Master Rabbi (teacher) becomes unknown as The Mystery of God. This is opposed to The Mystery of Babylon, which is a divided people with many gods and many doctrines. They were taught knowledge, which only led to confusion. These two mysteries, The Mystery of God and The Mystery of Babylon, ended in conflict once Adam and Eve lost entrance to God's schoolhouse (The Garden of Eden). The Tree of Life, which offered God's Holy Spirit, was lost.

Knowledge, gnosis or gnosticism, was, then, divided and continued to become *a worldwide pandemic* creating different religions which worshipped multiple gods. These gods, human or otherwise, are continually created by man's *imagination*. Babylon became the wise and the élite of the world. Human reasoning and logic became their own god. They worshipped themselves.

God and His *Godhead*, which is *the plurality* of His total *power* and *personality*, now changes from *The Truth* of *One God* with *all power* as "*Elohim*" into many man-made *gods*. Even *wisdom* and *knowledge* become *separate gods* worthy of worship.

CHAPTER 3

THE MASTER AND GOD

Jesus talked to His Disciples and the people about their leadership (Matthew 23:7-11). He said that the scribes and Pharisees sat in Moses' seat (Matthew 23:1-2). Then, He warned them that their teachers love to be called "Rabbi, Rabbi." "But be not you called Rabbi: for one is your Master, even Christ; and all you are brethren. And call no man your father upon the earth: for one is vour Father, which is in heaven. Neither be vou called masters: for one is your Master, even, Christ. But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant" (Matthew 23:8-11). This is quite a change in God's original methodology of teaching. This avenue of teaching points you to God as your Master Rabbi. Now. Christ is The Master Teacher. How could this be?

A Marriage

The Law of Moses defines marriage as being either of Baal or a Master (Deuteronomy 24:1). A Master becomes The Lord or owner of a specified property. Therefore, he becomes responsible to care for and protect his land and possessions. God reveals something very important. He created *the earth* and everything in it, so He is *married* to it and everyone on it (Psalm 24:1). The first thing God built was a Garden where He could dwell with His *wife*. He built everything in His garden in *a very good way* so it would be Holy (Genesis 1:31). It took Him six days to build it and, then, He rested The Seventh Day and made it *Holy*. His work was *perfect* and God considered it very good (Genesis 1:31).

This House of God, the property and everything in it was *Holy*, including Adam and Eve. There was *no sin* or *flaws*. When Adam and Eve *sinned* by rejecting their husband (God), He expelled them from The Garden where The Tree of Life was located. Consequently, they were divorced just as *The Law* permits. In order for God to *remarry* them, they had to *die* according to *The Law*. Once they died, He could *resurrect* them and *remarry them*. That is why "*it is appointed to men once to die*, *but after this the judgment* [follows]" (Hebrews 9:27). *The Judgment* will determine who is *worthy* to *live* in *New Jerusalem* (The House of God – The Holy Temple).

God's Great House

Paul wrote to Timothy, "But in a great house [earth] there are not only vessels of gold and of silver, but also of wood and of earth; and some to honour and some to dishonour. If a man therefore purge himself from these, he shall be a vessel to honour, sanctified and meet for the master's [husbands] use and prepared to every good work" (II Timothy 2:20-21). This is the whole gospel as it was preached in The Garden of Eden. When Adam

and Eve chose to learn on their own without God as their husband, they became *Bachelors* to be remarried later according to *The Law*. They chose to learn good and evil by means of their personal human experience. At that time, Adam and Eve were going for a *Bachelor's Degree* of their own choosing. They were no longer under a Master as their husband. They were divorced and free to do whatever they wanted.

Since they chose by their *free choice* to become single (unmarried) and follow their *human nature*, they were required to get a new teacher (as a husband) to further their education. A promised seed, a new husband, according to The Law, had to be found. The Law of God permits, "And when she is departed out of his house, she may go and be another man's wife" (Deuteronomy 24:2). When Boaz married Ruth, a pagan, she became an Israelite within King David's family.

That is why this *seed* (future son) shall have an enemy, Satan, who will *seek* to destroy Adam and Eve's children. "And I [God] will put enmity between you [Satan] and the woman and between your seed and her seed; it shall bruise your head and you shall bruise his heel" (Genesis 3:15). Satan will stop deceiving when Christ returns to the earth.

Law, Grace And Truth

The Bible is as The Muslims say, "A Book of The People." From The Garden, human history follows a very long and winding course until The Birth of Jesus. Finally, The Promised Seed (God's Son) will come. At His birth, the angels announced Christ's purpose, "Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14). At last, the time of their Messiah was at hand. What was promised in The Garden was now ready to take place. The last days began. God's light to the world, which was God's goodness, was restored (Exodus 33). Christ was the restored light to the world (John 1:9).

A drastic change in *The Law* was to transpire, "*For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ*" (John 1:17). The Word of God came through Jesus Christ. Christ was The Messiah. Until Jesus' birth, Israel (Judah) had a different Master Teacher. "Wherefore the law was our schoolmaster to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith" (Galatians 3:24). Before Jacob's death, he stated in his will, for The Jews to keep the scepter (government of David) and to be the teachers or Rabbis of The Law (Genesis 49:10).

That is why Jesus said to the woman from Samaria, "You worship you know not what: we know what we worship, for salvation is of the Jews" (John 4:22). Then, Christ announced a change in The Law and the inauguration of a new Master Teacher. "But the hour comes, and now is, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in spirit and in truth: for the Father seeks such to worship him" (John 4:23). This was the end of The Jews being Rabbis or The Master Teachers of The Law and succeeding The Throne of David. The Messiah took over. The full change came with the fall of The Temple in 70 A.D. Why was this? The disaster meant that The Jews could no longer keep *The Old Covenant* in its entirety, as *The Law* demanded (James 2:10).

Christ replaced *The Rabbis* as teachers of *The Law*. Jesus, from this point forward, was *The New Master* for The Bride of Christ (Matthew 23). He is *The Groom*. *The Law of Moses* was their *master* or *husband* until then. The Jews were the ones disclosing *The Road to Christ*. Israel had *a new husband*, as *The Law* permitted. The Messiah came to *marry* God's *people* who were *divorced* in The Garden *episode*.

Now Jesus, as their husband, could be their *Master Teacher* and *protector* by teaching them *The Spirit of The Law*. He was ordained to *magnify The Law* and make it *more honorable* so they could *live* in God's house as *honorable vessels of gold* (Isaiah 42:21).

A Spiritual House

As Jesus foretold, God wants to be worshipped – spiritually. This is because God is *a spirit*. As Sons of God, you must become Spirit in God's *image* with all of God's *glory*.

Jesus fulfilled *The Law* by keeping it "*perfectly*" (without sin) and died for all mankind. Thus, He freed Israel and The Gentiles so they could become His Bride. From that time forward, God had two groups of people witnessing to the world (Israel and The Gentiles).

As The Author of your Salvation, Christ is your ex-

ample for you to follow as your Master or Rabbi (Hebrews 12:2). Furthermore, He is your teacher through God's Holy Spirit (Romans 8). Jesus is The Chief Cornerstone of The House of God and you, too, will be "a lively stone" in this spiritual temple (I Peter 2:5). Israel and The Gentiles are to become The Spiritual Temple of God (I Corinthians 3:11-16).

The Godhead Defined

Just as Moses was intended to lead his people to Christ by means of *The Law*, Christ as The Author will lead you to God. The Messiah reveals that He goes to God to prepare a place in His Father's Mansion for you (John 14:2). Then He tells Philip, "*Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father in me: or else believe me for the very works' sake*" (John 14:11). Christ then promises that He will send you God's Holy Spirit. This Spirit will teach Christians "*The Truth*" so they can, finally, become *One with Christ and The Father* (John 14:20).

Christ, through The Holy Spirit, will lead you to *The Truth* to become "*One* – *In Christ*" with God who built everything (Hebrews 3:1-4). Consequently, you can, now, be part of The Godhead. Paul states that Jesus is in the fullness of The Godhead and that is what The Godhead is all about. The invisible things of God are understood through the visible things in God's creation. This comes through *the very power* of The Godhead (Romans 1:20). Mankind is without excuse.

Isaiah defines The Godhead this way, "Seek you the

Lord while he may be found" (Isaiah 55:6). You are told to get rid of wickedness and the unrighteous thoughts of man. God's thoughts are not your thoughts because, as the heavens are higher than the earth, God's thoughts are higher than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The Godhead is all of God's power, thoughts and ways. The Godhead is the totality of God's attributes, which are in His mind. This is God's way of thinking and behaving.

The Godhead consists of *The Almighty*, *The Elohim*, who builds *all things*. This is not to be worshipped as mini-gods or divine *personalities*. *The Godhead* is all that God is and represents His very power. Now you can understand why God or *Elohim* created everything. Christ was not The Godhead as a separate personality, but rather He was in God's *mind* as The Word of God. God's *"word"* became *"Christ in the flesh."* Christ was all of God's *glory* and *goodness*.

The Godhead is all that God was, is and can be. He is *JHVH*, *The I Am* or *whatever He chooses to be*.

CHAPTER 4

GOD'S FULLNESS OR COMPLETENESS

In the beginning, Elohim (God) created the heavens and the earth (Genesis 1:1). From the genesis of the heaven and earth, God was called "*Elohim*." This Hebrew word was the spark that instigated Polytheism.

Who Is Elohim?

The word "*Elohim*" in Hebrew has *a plural meaning*. What does *the plurality* refer to? Does Elohim mean there is more than *one* God or does it reveal *The Multifaceted Nature of God*?

Most scholars agree that God's name in Hebrew is "JHVH" or "The I Am." Many of God's other names are titles addressing His multiplicity of abilities or attributes. Some say God consists of many gods. Others say He is a separate personality. This is the great debate posed by all religions. Scripturally, God uses His different titles in reference to particular events.

Some worship God, as *many gods*, while others believe God is *Only One God* with many abilities, attributes and powers. Who is right? These questions are vital in understanding The Magi and The Birth of Christ. The issue of *Polytheism* has been resolved with there being only *One God*. Consequently, the truth becomes apparent. You now know The Godhead is all that God is, which is Only One God. With this in mind, who is Elohim?

From the beginning, the people of the world living in The Time of The Tower of Babel knew *the truth*, but they held, believed and used *the truth* in *an unrighteous way*. It was *unrighteous* because they worshipped *the creation* instead of *The Creator* (Romans 1).

The Creator is One God, not two, three or any other number. Polytheism was a Roman error of worship. God's name, JHVH, reveals part of the answer. "JHVH" is "The I Am." That, in itself, precludes multiplicity. Elohim and God's name, JHVH, define more than one. As written, the verb form of Elohim is singular. Everything that is, was, or can be, is in The One God, The Father.

God And His Voice

Jesus made a supremely important declaration, "And the Father [God] himself, which has sent me, has borne witness of me. You have neither heard his voice at any time, nor seen his shape" (John 5:37). Christ clearly said that, "If you had known me, you should have known my Father also; and from henceforth you know him and have seen him" (John 14:7). What did He mean?

In addition, He said that at no time has anyone seen or heard God's voice. This is quite a mystery! It is *The Mystery of God.* Biblically, The Mystery is about "Christ- In You" (Colossians 1:27). You must put together everything that has been proven so far. God's *image* (as a being) and voice have not been seen or heard by anyone. Christ is "In God, The Father," and now God's mystery has been revealed as "Christ – In You." By seeing and hearing a true Christian, you can begin to know the identity of Jesus. Therefore, an individual can know who God is, by knowing who Jesus is. The answer to the dilemma of Polytheism starts to become clear.

The Messiah answers the question, "And I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever: Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it sees him not, neither knows him: but you know him: for he dwells with you and shall be in you...Yet a little while and the world sees me no more, but you see me: because I live, you shall live also [resurrection]. At that day [resurrection] you shall know that I am in my Father and you in me, and I in you" (John 14:16-20). There it is! God has revealed The Mystery to repentant Christians.

God is not *a trinity*, rather God can dwell in Jesus and Christians through His Holy Spirit. This is so simple! This is what God said He would do in the beginning, "And God said, Let us make man in our image" (Genesis 1:26). "Who being the brightness of his glory and the express image of his person and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged [cleansed] our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3).

These texts are monumental to analyze and grasp.

But, when you have prayed to understand, these texts completely solve this conundrum. Does God consist of many Gods or just one? Can Polytheism be the truth when it is presented as *the trinity*? No! The answer in *The Book of Hebrews* simply states that God is one being. However, there is more. You can be like Him, in His likeness but, still, a separate being.

Notice how, by being like Jesus, you are, also, like God and in His *express image*. "*Image*" in Greek refers to "*character*." It is beyond an appearance or likeness. It is being of the same nature and mind or way of thinking. At the same time, in The Resurrection, you will be in The Glory of God ("doxa" in Greek). It is a state of being with all of God's goodness and Holiness. Then, God will be All In All (I Corinthians 15:28). Everyone will be One with God.

The English word for "God" in Greek is "hypostasis." It means "to stand under as a foundational substance." In Science it is known as "a singularity." God is the rock, foundationally, with Jesus as The Chief Cornerstone. You are built upon Christ and Christ is built upon God – thus making all "One." This is plain, simple and clear! Just as any father has the same DNA as the child. So does The Family of God have the same DNA.

God is not three Gods "*in one*," but everyone is in *the bosom* of God (John 1:18). That is why Paul said, "Of *whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named*" (Ephesians 3:15). In Greek, the word "*family*" is "*patria*," or "*Father*." God *created* everyone. You are from *the bosom* of God like *Eve* was from *Adam*. What God has joined together, let not man put asunder (divide).

God is your Father because He *adopted* you from human parents and you become His very sons like Jesus (Ephesians 1:5). Your Savior clearly told you Jesus is your Master or Rabbi and only God in heaven is your real Father (Matthew 23:8-9). Jesus said, "God is everyone's Father." You and all others are the brothers or the sisters of Jesus. Christ told His mother, brothers and sisters, "And he stretched forth his hand toward his disciples, and said, Behold my mother and my brethren! For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother and sister and mother" (Matthew 12:49-50). Was Jesus indifferent to His earthly family? No, He wasn't. Rather, He was revealing that God sent Christ to save you (I John 4:14). Jesus came to Save The World, which means you have the opportunity to become a Brother or Sister of His and, also, to become The Sons of God. This is possible "In Christ."

All this should be getting clearer and simpler. God is not *a trinity*, but rather He is *one person* and everyone is within His *bosom*. This allows them to be His *family* as Sons of God. God is not two, three or more gods. He wants you to be like Him "*kind after kind*."

Everyone is to be an individual and *separate beings* **but in God's likeness in** *every way* (your thoughts and very mind). All your experiences makes you special and unique. Jesus obeyed and *honored* His earthly mother when He told her at The Wedding Feast, "Woman [His

Mother], what have I to do with you? Mine hour is not vet come. His mother said to the servants, Whatsoever he says to you, do it" (John 2:4-5). Not only did Jesus disagree with His mother, but, also, she seemed to discern what He meant. The answer is given in another text, "When Jesus therefore saw his mother and the disciple standing by, whom he loved, he said to his mother. Woman, behold your son! Then said he to the disciple, Behold your mother! And from that hour that disciple took her to his own home" (John 19:26-27). How beautiful is this account? Jesus always honored His earthly mother and father and His Heavenly Father. When Mary, His mother became a widow, He knew she needed to be cared for. So, He passed the responsibility to the loved Disciple, who was His brother "in spirit."

Jesus understood some awesome unknown *truth* by including anyone and everyone who wants to do God's *will*. What did *The Messiah* know about human existence and God's predestinated purpose? How is a *human physical existence* different from a spiritual existence?

CHAPTER 5

A THEOPHANY

Why didn't people recognize Jesus after His Resurrection? Mary, also, did not recognize Him, nor did anyone else. As they walked to Emmas (a village some distance from Jerusalem), His own Disciples didn't know Him until He told them who He was. Scholars call this phenomenon "*a theophany*."

A Likeness

John's gospel makes a startling disclosure about the state of being human. "It is the spirit that quickens [gives life]; the flesh profits nothing: the words that I speak to you, they are spirit and they are life" (John 6:63). Your body is of no use, since the words that Jesus speaks can save you and give you Eternal Life. Human bodies are much like a phantom or ghost because the body, itself, is temporary.

Your human body is only in the form of an image (Genesis 1:26). The Hebrew word for "image" means "a shadow" or "ghost." Your body is merely a shadow and is not a reality. An idol is, also, an image, but it has deeper negative qualities. If you are worshipping any type of idol (fame, power or leaders), it is not God. Since it is not God, then the idol, is of no benefit to you. Jesus told His Disciples that human bodies are useless. The body can do nothing profitable for Salvation. Rather, the words He spoke could give Salvation (life). He was the word – God's word (Deuteronomy 18). Your human bodies are only tabernacles (where God gave "The Spirit In Man" – your intelligence). Jesus, was God in the flesh. He was represented as "a theophany." That is why He told Philip, "Have I been so long time with you [3 years] and yet have you not known me, Philip? He that has seen me has seen the Father; and how say you then, Show us the Father?" (John 14:9). It was The Holy Spirit, which was God's power "In Christ."

Since Christ, spiritually, was just like *The Father*, He was *a theophany* of The Father. Peter explained how his own body was only a tabernacle or tent which was temporary. Soon Peter would give up his useless house, just like The Body of Christ (II Peter 1:13-14).

Doubting Thomas and The Apostles did not recognize Jesus after His Resurrection. Thomas said he wanted to see His hands and His side where He had been speared by The Roman soldier. Thomas needed these assurances before he would believe. Eight days later, Jesus appeared to them and displayed His hands showing where He had been nailed to the cross and His side with the hole in it. Christ did not display His hands and side until eight days later. Why? When Mary Magdalene came to the tomb, early, and saw Jesus was gone, she thought The Romans took His body away. His Disciples, also, left. As she wept, she saw two angels where Jesus' body had laid. Who did she see? Christ was standing there but she didn't know it was Him. Mary thought He was a gardener (John 20:11-15). She did not recognize Christ until He spoke to her (John 20:16). "Jesus said to her, Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father, but go to my brethren and say to them, I ascend to my Father, and your Father; and to my God and your God" (John 20:17).

This was similar to the situation with Thomas. Eight days later, Christ revealed His wounds. In all cases, the body was meaningless. It was *the words* that disclosed Jesus, as The Christ. Only, then, did His Apostles recognize it was Him. The body is merely a tent or a temporary dwelling place for *the spirit* to reside. This is *the reality* of every human.

God's Glory

Every time God Almighty dwelt with *man*, it was His glory that manifested itself. When Abraham met God as a man, this manifestation was not the real Father. In every case, the people saw a theophany where God dwelt temporarily, but only The Spirit of God was in the tabernacle. It was God's Holy Spirit. When Jesus went to The Father in the heavens, He was given the glory that He had with The Father before the world was created (John 17:5). Jesus was God's glory and revealed Himself as a theophany concerning what The Father did. No one has seen God or heard His voice (John 5). If God spoke or was seen, then a person would have been consumed (Hebrews 12:29). God is a consuming fire. Furthermore, God is The Lake of Fire. "For Tophet [garbage dump] is ordained of old; yea, for the king it is prepared; he has made it deep and large: the pile thereof is fire and much wood; the breath [brimstone] of the LORD, like a stream of brimstone [burning], does kindle it" (Isaiah 30:33). God's breath kindles (actually causes) The Lake of Fire.

God's Wrath

Does God get angry? Indeed, He does. As a last resort, His anger is furious, "For whom the Lord loves he chastens and scourges every son whom he receives... But if you be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are you bastards and not sons" (Hebrews 12:6-8).

Here is why God, finally, gets angry and punishes the wicked, "For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure [physical parents]; but he [God] for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seems to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to them which are exercised [trained] thereby" (Hebrews 12:10-11). There it is. God only becomes angry and punishes so you can have peace and His Holiness. It is God's last resort to get you to make the right choice to change your life. But who are you? (Read John 14:9).

Are you restricted in your physical *body*? No, your human body is merely *a temporary* dwelling place. The spiritual essence is *the truth* or *reality* of *a human being*. Here is what God intends to do with you, "*To the* general assembly and church of the firstborn [bride], which are written in heaven and to God the Judge of all and to the spirits of just men made perfect" (Hebrews 12:23). What is real is "The Spirit – In Man" that God gives to you at birth. That is the real you. That is why God is a spirit and only wants to be worshipped "In Spirit" (John 4:23-24). The bodies of humans are like a garment of clothing which is changeable. The book, Faith That Saves, tells about the times God dwelt with man. God tried to dwell with man seven times before the world would receive The Gospel of God's Kingdom. God appeared six times, only, as His "glory" which is God's goodness. Always remember no man has seen or heard God – ever.

Paganism

Most of you have learned the wrong concept about what or who *a pagan* is. Pagans believe in God, but they believe in God in an unrighteous manner (Romans 1:18). Pagans know the truth of God Almighty, but they worship Him in error. The word "pagan" means "country people." The country people outside of the large cities had no access to city schools and, therefore, were uneducated. They knew about The One True God, Almighty. They called Him "The Sky-God." The problem with pagans was they did not understand the meaning or implications of *a theophany*. Because God and angels can appear as humans, you never see God or the angels as they really are. The Pagans decided every human in The Garden of Eden and The Land of Eden were divine, so they regarded them as gods. Therefore, their definition of "Elohim"

became "many gods" in a plural sense. It was not The One True God, The God Almighty who built all things (Hebrews 3:4). These pagans did not understand Elohim in the plural form and how it did not imply many gods (like a trinity). In truth, God is The One God with many attributes. A theophany confused their thinking.

Pagans believed in *The One God*, but somehow, as time went on, they imagined three and, then, more gods. This was because God and the angels could appear as *humans*. Today, some believe in extra-terrestrial aliens. All *pagan religions* are steeped in this *unrighteous* acceptance of God. To them, the word "*elohim*" includes "*many gods*" and, thus, *Polytheism*. That is why Paul told The Romans that they held *the truth unrighteously* by worshipping *the creation* rather than *The Creator* (Romans 1:25).

Different Religious Beliefs of Faith

Historically, because of basic underlying misunderstandings about the existence of *theophanies*, all *faiths* or *religions* arise out of this confusion. Even worse, since *the entire creation* reveals *The Invisible One True God*, there are religions that know "the great spirit" is active in *the entire universe*. They choose to worship *mountains*, *rivers*, *trees* and even *the stars* (astrology) (Romans 1:20). After all, "*God*" is "*in everything*." The entire universe is a part of God.

This chapter presents *the foundation* and *basis* for discerning all *religious beliefs* of *faith* – *Christian* and *pagan*. Before Greek and Roman times, religion was a

philosophy. Philosophy is a study of life. The words "philos" and "ology" refer to the schools of the universe. That is why the ultimate educational degree is a Doctorate in Philosophy, which is a dogmatic doctrinal degree in the study of the universe. That school is called a university. Prior to "scientific university life," Religion was taught as an education about the creation.

Studying doctrine is not God's method for analyzing The Bible. Doctrines are only partial truth, "For we know in part and we prophesy in part [God's word]. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part [doctrine] shall be done away. When I was a child [babe in Christ], I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man [mature spiritually], I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass [mirror-shadow], darkly [Babylon]; but then face to face [God]: now I know in part; but then shall I know [knowledge] even as also I am known [God as All In All]" (I Corinthians 13:9-12). The whole is The Alpha and The Omega. Doctrine is a part of a whole. What is the whole?

Paul spells it out clearly. As humans in the flesh, you are on your own (in Babylon) divided and mixed, intellectually. Why is this? Without God's thoughts, mind and wisdom, you are as a babe "In Christ" and you think childishly. This aspect is limited to understanding a doctrine "in part." You need God's Ph.D. (Doctorate of Doctrine). You are getting closer and closer to understanding why The Magi came to see Christ.

CHAPTER 6

IN THE GARDEN

"Kindergarten" is *"a child's garden."* In German, it refers to The Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. God's intention with Adam and Eve was to *make man* in His *image* (Genesis 1:26).

Man's Image

"Selem" in Hebrew means *"image"* in English. This *image of man* is not *"spiritually mature."* It is only a *shadow* or a *type* of God in the future. That is God's purpose and predestined goal (Ephesians 1). Your body is not fully mature but needs to grow to be whole, which is perfection.

In The Garden, Adam and Eve were like newborn children. They didn't even realize they were *naked*. God, as their Father, was the top *Rabbi* or teacher. The heavenly host, including the cherubs, were supposed to assist in teaching them. Satan, a cherub, was to teach them *the truth*. He, originally, appeared as *Lucifer*, *the light bringer* (Isaiah 14 and Ezekiel 28).

As a cherub in The Garden, Satan was supposed to teach *the truth*, which he did, but in *a deceptive way*. Eve was susceptible to *Lucifer's* tricky ways. He asked her if she could eat of all the trees in The Garden. She said she could not eat of The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil because, if she did so, she would die.

Being subtle, Satan only told her what God planned to do in the future. Satan never referred to The Tree of Life which could have given her *Salvation* (Eternal Life). It would have made her like God and know good and evil. Adam followed her in the transgression even though he knew he would die, as a result. Why? He loved her, even to the death, just as Christ loves you.

Adam and Eve chose to educate themselves and did not want to be married to God. So, they were divorced from The Tree of Life and became *bachelors* living on their own. The only way they could come back to The House of God was to *die*, which would release them from *The Law* concerning marriage (Deuteronomy 24). This special *seed* of Adam and Eve had to be *Holy* and *sinless* because He would die for the world and pay for their *sins*. Then, and only then, could this first couple receive *grace*, *truth* and, eventually, *Eternal Life*.

Jesus, The Seed

With Jesus being The Groom, He could do this because He was sinless. He became that acceptable sacrifice for sin. As The Author of Salvation, *The First Begotten Son* of God made it possible for many to follow Jesus and regard Him as Master and Teacher. He, also, was *a Rabbi* (Master) trained to prepare His Bride and be The Head of His Family as Lord and Master Teacher (Matthew 23). Christ was *The Promised Seed* intended to save (restore) *what had been lost* (Matthew 18:11). He was *The Groom* to prepare His wife for *the wedding* (Ephesians 5). He was *The Teacher* for His *bride* to become like God, their Father. His bride was now getting *a Master's Degree*. To be *perfect*, they have to go for their *Doctorate* and understand all *doctrine* or *knowledge*. This transpires when you receive a glorified body and you will be like God.

The New Covenant

The Law of Moses, known as The Old Covenant, was to become their schoolmaster to lead them to Christ (Galatians 3). Jesus was The Master to actually lead them back to The Garden, so they could live in God's house. This house is currently being built by Jesus and God as a Spiritual House to be in The New Heavens and on The New Earth.

The New Covenant helps The Bride (Israel and The Church of God) mature, spiritually, so they can become perfect like Christ, their husband. No longer will they be an image of God. They will be like actual Sons of God (Jesus). They are ready to receive their Doctorate and be like God.

The Fulfillment

Jesus did not come to destroy *The Law* or *Prophets*, but to fulfill them (Matthew 5). The word "fulfill" comes from the Greek word "pleroma" which means "to bring to completion or perfection." Once perfect, you are like God, spiritually (Matthew 5:48). Then, you are ready for your *Doctorate* to know all doctrine or *knowledge*. That completes God's work to make man in His image (I Corinthians 13:1-12).

Here is the methodology that leads you to the fulfillment of perfection, "For we know [doctrine] in part and we prophecy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child [baby], I spoke as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child, but when I became a man [mature], I put away childish things. For now [babe] we see through a glass [mirror], darkly [darkness]; but then face to face [exact image]: now I know in part; but then shall I know [knowledge] even as also I am known" (I Corinthians 13:9-12). This is God's complete educational system. You begin in kindergarten (The Garden of Eden) and, then, you can decide to educate yourself and attempt to receive a Bachelor's Degree. Christ came to be your Master Teacher and head Rabbi. Only, then, will you begin your educational program for your Master's Degree. This can only be done after asking God to write His Law into your heart and mind.

When you receive your *Master's Diploma*, you are ready for your *Doctorate Degree*. This will be on The New Earth in New Jerusalem with God, as *your Father*, and Jesus will teach you to become *one* with them. At that time, you will be able to look *face to face* at *God* as A Son of God.

The Gnostic Education

Adam and Eve, early on, decided to educate them-

selves in the knowledge of *good* and *evil*. Remember, they only had their human imagination and what they heard and *observed* in order to logically come to decisions. This is called *Science* or *the theories of mathematical probability*.

What each of you experience in your *life* and what you learn from other people's *logical conclusions* has brought you to *the same human method* of forming a conclusion. With *the logic* and *life experiences* of others, as well as your own observations, you can come to your own conclusions.

Prophecy is the process of God foretelling the human experience in advance. After all, God made everyone and He knows everyone's limitations. Satan, as a deceiver, fools you into thinking you are right in many of your wrong choices.

Christ In The Wilderness

Jesus Christ was proven or tempted in the wilderness where God does not dwell. He fasted for forty days and was very hungry. What did Satan try to do? It was not pleasant. "And when the tempter came to him, he said, If you be the Son of God, command that these stones be made bread. But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Then the devil [destroyer] takes him up into the holy city and sets him on a pinnacle of the temple, And said to him, If you be the Son of God, cast yourself down: for it is written, He shall give his angels charge concerning you: and in their hands they shall bear you up, less at any time you dash your foot against a stone. Jesus said to him [Satan], It is written again, You shall not tempt the Lord your God" (Matthew 4:3-7 and Deuteronomy 6:16).

The contest continued with each of them quoting *scrip-ture*. Satan did not *lie*, but he was trying to deceive Jesus just as he deceived Eve. In both cases, with Jesus and Eve, Satan taught *the truth*, but a good lesson had to be learned as to the way he was so devious.

The famous scripture quoted by all is, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." Jesus was teaching Satan that being physically hungry isn't critical because the hunger for the spiritual substance is what really preserves life. Eating every Word of God gives Eternal Life.

Teaching *doctrine* from *the scriptures*, accurately, as Satan did, is only *a part of the truth*. Unless you *learn* every Word of God, you do not have *all the truth*. Once and for all, you can be *dogmatic* about *doctrine*. Doctrine, knowledge or *prophecy* is only displayed *in part*. You can easily mislead others by teaching *scriptures*, in context. It can be accurate but, nevertheless, it is only "*in part*."

Here is Paul's warning, "Be of the same mind one toward another. Mind not high things [superior], but condescend to men of low estate [humble]. Be not wise [proud] in your own conceits" (Romans 12:16).

CHAPTER 7

SEEK GOD

God's, only, purpose for mankind is to make *everyone* in His own *image* (Genesis 1:26). *What does God expect of you*? Adam and Eve had to make *a free choice* between God as their *Master Rabbi* and eating from The Tree of Life or The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil. They had to decide whether to serve God or decide *good* and *evil* on their own. In this context, what does God expect of you?

Isaiah 55:6-13

"Seek you the LORD while he may be found" (Isaiah 55:6). God makes a poignant request of mankind. He wants you to search for The One True God while He is available. Your mission is to seek and, then, find The One True God. What are the directions you are to follow? "Let the wicked forsake his way and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return to the LORD and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon" (Isaiah 55:7). You are to seek God and love Him, as any little child looks to their father.

The Hebrew word "rasha," when translated into English means, "doesn't know how to live right." These

are people who cannot distinguish between good and evil. The word for "unrighteous" in Hebrew is "awen." It means "vanity, nothingness, falsehood or idolatry," which is sin or missing the mark of truth (righteousness). Notice how it all has to do with thoughts. The Hebrew word for "thoughts" is "machashavah" which is defined as "imagination, intentions, purpose, plan or invention." Humans can invent things out of their logical minds. However, it may be good or evil. Wickedness and unrighteousness have to do with the way you think in your mind. God allows you to know what makes you sin, which is missing the mark of truth or righteousness. This is the way humans think! Since mankind did not create the universe or themselves. how could they know how everything works? It is a mystery throughout the entire world. Therefore, the best you can do, is guess or imagine what the truth is. Your theories must, then, be tested over and over again.

It is like those who manufacture products and know how the objects were created in the laboratory or the fabrication shop. How will God *teach* humanity to discern good and evil? "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, says the LORD. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts. For as the rain comes down and the snow from heaven and returns not thither [there], but waters the earth and makes it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater: So shall my word be that goes forth out of my mouth: it shall not return to me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it" (Isaiah 55:8-11). God concludes this chapter with a description of Paradise. "For you shall go out with joy and be led forth with peace: the mountains and the hills shall break forth before you into singing and all the trees of the field shall clap their hands. Instead of the thorn shall come up the fir tree and instead of the brier shall come up the myrtle tree: and it shall be to the LORD for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off" (Isaiah 55:12-13). Everyone lives forever like a fir tree with no briers or weeds of sin to hamper Eternal Life. A fir tree remains green year-round and keeps growing.

JHVH And Elohim

When God created the heavens and earth, He used the title "Elohim" meaning "God" (Genesis 1:1). Elohim can be *plural* or *singular* depending on the grammar (Isaiah 55). However, human reasoning or imagination thought it meant many gods, such as a trinity. Generally, *Elohim* applies to God Almighty, but it can mean a magistrate or a judge. Why is this? Clearly, the context refers to the true meaning of the word. Whenever "One" is a Creator and Superior to others, because he/she knows justice or judgment, then this Creator can discern good and evil. The Hebrew word "Elohim" is used for God, but humans can, also, be Elohim as a judge or ruler. They are still individuals. You have the biblical definition for "Elohim" in Isaiah 55. Whenever God refers to a creation. He defines the word "Elohim" for Himself. He is a Creator who knows good and evil in every detail. Why is this? It is

because He is The One who did the creating so He has the judgment regarding *right* from *wrong*. The term "Lord" is different (Isaiah 55). "Lord" in Hebrew is "JHVH." JHVH is God's name which is defined as "I Am." So "I Am" can be whatever God chooses to be. He is Elohim, The Creator and has a total of twentytwo titles. These titles are in reference to God's diverse abilities and perhaps they can be called talents. "Elohim" means God created everything (Hebrews 3:4 and Isaiah 55). Paul knew that God (Elohim in the plural) makes all things. God as The Lord (JHVH) has the ability to decide what He will do at any time. Once God makes that decision, His plans are carried out.

Which Is The Mind Of God?

Christians must have Christ's mind (Philippians 2:5). Paul said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus." The Apostle reveals how Jesus did not think it was robbery to be in the form (morph) of God. What form of God could this be? It is the very mind of God (Isaiah 55). Christ's thoughts or way of thinking follows God's will and what He decided to do.

Jesus said, "I can of mine own self do nothing: as I hear [words], I judge: and my judgment is just; because I seek not mine own will [humanly], but the will of the Father which has sent me" (John 5:30). That completely explains the subject. God wants you to seek Him and think like Him, with Christ as your example. That is why having "Christ – In You" is comparable to growing with God's mind and being like Jesus. Only, then, will you know right and wrong (Hebrews 1:3).

The Bible Story

Why was *The Bible* written? Since God, The Creator is making *man* in His *image*, God and those helping Him (angels) will teach mankind the way to become like God. In what way does this occur? It comes through *The Scriptures*. In short, you need to have Christ's *mind* which is God's mind, just as *The Scriptures* teach you. *The Bible* was written in such a way that you can discover who *The One True God* is and *learn* His way of *teaching* you. It comes by joining *like-minds* (God's mind joining your mind). You need to think like God and *live* or *behave* like Him. This will not make you a man-made *god*, but you will be in *The Family of God* as Sons of God. That is The Story of God. It is that simple.

Repentance Of What

God reveals how you must change from the human way of thinking to God's way of thinking (Isaiah 55). "Repentance" is defined in Hebrew and Greek as "a change of mind." You must give up wickedness, unrighteousness and the way you have been living (Isaiah 55:6-7). Isaiah has taught you something important. If you are ready to change your way of living, God will be so happy. He will be merciful and forgive all your sins, but, in order for you to be able to do so, it is necessary to have Christ's mind (and God's mind). How do you receive The Mind of Christ and God? Here is the answer, "For God has not given us the spirit of fear; but of power and of love and of a sound mind" (II Timothy 1:7). The Greek word for a "sound mind" is "sophronismos" meaning "disciplined in control by having wisdom." "Sophie" in Greek is "wisdom" and not just "knowledge." "Knowledge" in Greek is "gnosis." Knowledge without wisdom can be dangerous. A sound mind is in full control. What is it that keeps you from Godly wisdom? Godly wisdom is kept away by what destroys it. "Through desire a man, having separated himself, seeks and intermeddles with all wisdom" (Proverbs 18:1-4).

It is guaranteed that mankind, through their desires, will corrupt themselves. Conversely, there is wisdom and the ability to think straight, which is having a sound mind. Today, you may call it a personal agenda. It could be revenge, money, power, celebrity or sex. Whatever distorts your thinking (lacking wisdom and a sound mind) will cause trouble ahead.

When your agenda is not according to God's will, mind and way, then, your personal desires will corrupt your thinking. Consequently, you lack true wisdom. Wisdom is compared to a clear running spring where a person can see the bottom (being purified by the water running over the stones and rocks). Distorted wisdom or thinking is like deep water, which is still or foaming and you cannot see the bottom. As a result, they are drowning (first in sin and, then, in penalties). Seeking God as your maker and teacher will solve the human dilemma of knowing what is good and what is evil. Without Godly wisdom, no one can teach you to have a sound mind. (Read the book, What is Idolatry).

CHAPTER 8

RIGHTEOUSNESS Into

UNRIGHTEOUSNESS

Adam and Eve decided what was *best for them without God*. No matter how close they could have come, only God knows how to live in Paradise, forever. God, alone, is The Only One that can teach what is *good* and *evil*. So, what went wrong?

Genesis Of Unrighteousness

When Cain murdered Abel, he was ostracized to The Land of Nod. Nod was *a wilderness – a Land of Wandering*. This land was not under God's rule or protection. Cain joined some of his brothers and sisters who still adhered to God's rules. This was after he killed Abel. God knew the relatives would want blood for blood, so He protected Cain with a mark. Cain's relatives knew God was *The Almighty SkyGod*. Understandably, they were tempted to revenge Abel's death.

In the wilderness, society was *free* to decide between doing *good* or doing *evil* on their own. This would cause *the prominent ones with power* to become honored as *gods*. At The Tower of Babel, the people were deeply into *Polytheism*, which produced a variety of *trinities*. Knowing the *real SkyGod*, why did they decide to *worship* more than *one god*? Everyone knew *Seth* replaced Abel and both were known to call upon The Name of God (Genesis 4:25). One of Seth's children (Enoch) was a Prophet of God. Later, Noah became a Preacher of Righteousness. Enoch preached about The Coming of The Messiah (Jude 14 and II Peter 2:5). Why didn't they listen to God's Prophets (listed in Genesis 5)? These humans are called Sons of God (starting with Adam) (Genesis 5:1). Cain's name is *not listed*. When Cain left Eden, he lived on his own. His descendants were known as *country people* and lived in the wilderness. They were called *pagans* because they were uneducated in *the truth*.

Sons Of God

The Sons of God, descending from Seth, followed God's word as they were led by The Holy Spirit. Peter explained the problem. Why didn't the people at The Tower of Babel believe The Prophets and preachers such as Noah? Here is Peter's answer to The Gentiles in Turkey, "Receiving the end [goal] of your faith, even the salvation of your souls [lives]. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace [mercy] that should come to you: Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow. To whom it was revealed, that not to themselves [prophets], but to us they did minister the things, which are now reported to you by them [proph-

ets] that have preached the gospel to you with the Holy Ghost [spirit] sent down from heaven; which things the angels desire to look into" (I Peter 1:9-12). Christ's seven churches were, also, warned (Revelation 2 and 3). Do you understand what Peter told The Gentiles in Turkey? He was talking about the ancient world before and after the flood. This was when Noah, Shem and his progeny were Sons of God. (Read the book, Sons Of God). They all preached The Gospel of Christ. However, they didn't know who Jesus was or when He would come. This is just like many Christians today. It is important to understand that The Gospel of Christ was known from The Garden of Eden to The Tower of Babel. The world existing at The Tower of Babel knew a great deal of the truth. Well, then, what happened to all *the truth* they had in the beginning?

Truth In Unrighteousness

How did the world, at The Tower of Babel, get so confused? Which of The Prophets preached *the truth* of The Gospel of Christ? Shem, Noah's son, followed God and preached the same message as his father. Noah was a Preacher of Righteousness as was Shem. What happened? "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith. For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:17-18). "Ungodliness" in Greek means "to worship something other than God." Christians are encouraged to seek God's knowledge of good and evil. So, how did unrighteousness begin? Paul reveals that the invisible things of God are clearly known through the physical things which have been created (Romans 1:20). What did they do at The Tower of Babel? Here is the answer, "And [they] changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like the corruptible man and to birds and four-footed beasts and creeping thing" (Romans 1:23). "Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. A-men" (Romans 1:25).

The problem came about because when God created everything, they began to worship *the universe* and everything on it. Granted, the universe does manifest who *The One True God* is, but *the universe* did not *create itself* (starting from nothing). God always was The Only One Creator. What a mess so many people are in. This causes them to run amuck!

Jesus Said The Same

Christ said to Nicodemus, who was a Master in Judah, "If I have told you earthly things and you believe [me] not, how shall you believe, if I tell you of heavenly things?" (John 3:12). The Messiah told Nicodemus that spiritual things are much like the wind. You can't see the wind, but you can, nevertheless, feel the effects of it. When the wind is strong, like a tornado, its power can destroy things. The Book of Romans reveals this, also. All of today's world religions began at The Tower of Babel. Because God manifested Himself throughout the universe, a plethora of gods were created and worshipped. This is how ungodliness and unrighteousness became a way of life and replaced the truth. God had to stop the momentum. So, He divided the nations to end the religious pluralism of having too many gods and religions. All of today's faiths came from The Tower of Babel (called Babylon). Why is that? "Behold, the people [world] is one and they have all one language; and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6).

Astrology started because the people looked to the heavens and the stars. They wanted to worship anything God created. The earth and everything in it is what God consists of. All *faiths*, whether Pagan (country people) or not, built their own ideology of God and created their own forms of religion. God, The Creator, departed from them when they chose to live by themselves in *the wilderness*, just like Adam and Eve. God said nothing would be restrained from them. God, meaning *The SkyGod*, was in the heavens. The people, left to themselves, chose to decide what was *right* and what was *wrong*.

All the world's religions came from man's imaginations which, in turn, created their own numerous gods. Everything God created was worshipped. Ego-driven rulers, too often, regarded themselves as *a god*. But, they were only *human*. The One True God laughs at all this nonsense. As a result, you need to understand how these *Polytheists* spread so rapidly. You need to discover this crucial clue, which has confused the world for so long.

CHAPTER 9

WHAT IS GNOSTICISM?

"Remember the days of old [Paleontology], consider the years of many generations: ask your father and he will show you; your elders, and they will tell you. When the Most High [SkyGod] divided [The Tower of Babel] to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to the number of the children of Israel" (Deuteronomy 32:7-8). This is the beginning of all the nations of the world. It is very significant to keep this in mind.

One World And Islands

Before God divided the nations (by creating all the various languages), **the earth was one and everyone spoke a single tongue** (Genesis 11). **God decided to separate the people by giving each group their own language**. **To be certain they would remain apart**, **God created continents and islands in The Days of Peleg**. He gave **the people their separate lands as an inheritance**, "*And God said*, *Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together to one place and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And God called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called he Seas: and God saw that it was good*" (Genesis 1:9-10). **Clearly, dur-** ing the six days of creation, the water or seas (called oceans) were gathered into specific places. Then, the dry land of earth appeared when the waters receded. In the beginning, the earth was formed as one continent. God, then, divided the nations (in Peleg's day) by separating the earth into several continents or islands. Before The Tower of Babel, the earth appeared as one land with all the people living together. Originally, everyone had the truth, "For the Lord is a great God [SkyGod] and a great King above all gods...The sea [ocean] is his and he made it: and his hands formed the dry land. O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker" (Psalm 95:3-6). The earth was flat and one could walk into the waters.

David acknowledges that many other gods existed. David knew that at The Tower of Babel the people began to worship the entire creation and were creating minor gods. As a result, they ignored The True Creator. It was the reason they *turned the truth* into *unrighteousness*. They knew *The SkyGod* created everything. They, also, knew about *The Gospel of Christ* and how The Messiah would be their *Savior*. Since they decided who their own mini-gods were, all they had to do was observe leaders in their group and choose who their *Savior* would be.

When God separated the people, they had the freedom to *choose* what gods they wanted to worship. This meant God had to separate His future people (those who followed Him) from the corrupt Gentiles who rejected Him. Moses clearly understood this drama in The Song of Moses (Deuteronomy 32). This song reveals how God divided the nations in a way so The Children of Israel could have their own inheritance. Why was this? So, the followers of The One True God could worship Him *righteously* without divisions. He could, also, keep humanity from genocide.

God's People

"For the Lord's portion [inheritance] *is his people; Jacob is the lot of his inheritance*" (Deuteronomy 32:9). How did God know His portion would be Israel? He didn't, but He knew it was to be from Abraham's genes. *The Promised Seed* would come from Abraham. When God divided *the nations*, they could have, by *free choice*, been placed under God's protection as His people.

They all knew the truth about The Messiah. They only had to make the right choice, just like their forefathers (Adam and Eve). This freedom allowed them to have their pick of saviors. The human mind can imagine almost anything! With Polytheism rife in the world, anyone with great power could pose as The Savior or The Messiah.

God divided the nations to see if Abraham's seed would make the right choice regarding *Salvation*. The search continued from Abraham until Jacob and when his name was changed, he became *Israel* (one who prevails with God). Genealogically, Isaac was followed by Jacob and, then, Jacob became a tribe (a nation of twelve sons known as The Twelve Tribes of Israel). This is the family history of The Nation of Israel.

Gnostics

Biblically, most believe The Gnostics started around 50 A.D. by an individual called Simon Magus. Magus is derived from the same root as the word for The Magi who came to Christ at His birth. "Magi" merely means "wise men" or "magicians." Simon Magus tried to buy The Holy Spirit so he could sell it as a commodity. He wanted to make a profit. Peter rebuked him and said he was in the bond of wickedness and had no part with Christianity (Acts 8:18-21). Greed showed up in many forms. Gnostics, the wise men or The Magi, existed in Christ's day. But, trying to sell The Holy Spirit is a really extreme example. Recall, in Nebuchadnezzar's court, how Daniel was selected by The King because he was wise. Who were the ones involved in making that decision? When The King had a dream, he wanted someone wise to tell him what it meant. So he called all his wise men together, "Then the king commanded to call the magicians [magi] and the astrologers and the sorcerers and the Chaldeans, for to show the king his dreams. So they came and stood before the king" (Daniel 2:2). These were the wise, the king's cabinet and known as counselors. It included The Magi and Astrologers, just as was the case at The Tower of Babel. These were the ones who worshipped the whole creation and ignored God, The Creator. The Gnostics are those with super knowledge about God who began at The Tower of Babel. The word "Gnostic" in Greek means "knowledge, super knowledge" or "the wise." The Magi who came to observe Christ's birth knew where Christ was because of the star (astronomy) (I Peter 1).

Worldwide Gnostics

Each culture and empire had its *wise men* or *Gnostics.* A Gnostic was one who had special *knowledge* which comes from a higher level of thinking than most have ever experienced. They are viewed as *the élites of the nation* or *culture*. There are, also, contemporary élites. *Elites* or *Gnostics* possess *a higher level of knowledge* than *the majority of society*. That is why they consider themselves the leaders of nations, cities and places of learning.

The term "Gnostic" does not apply to religion as some believe. Rather, it applies to the intellectuals and the so-called scholars of a particular time period. For example, you have The Egyptian Gnostics who assembled The Nag Hammadi Books which were found by farmers. What many may not understand is that there are Gnostics in all cultures of the world. In Christ's day on earth and for the next 200 years, The Gnostics (knowledgeable ones) wrote a plethora of documents which were distributed throughout all the known world. There are Ethiopian Gnostics, Indian Gnostics and Aztec Gnostics, depending on who represented the wise or élites of any nation. "Gnosticism" is a term which means "philosophy" rather than religion. One example is Simon Magus in The Apostles' time. Another example is Diotrophes (III John 9-11). He was a Gnostic. Some of these individuals were so consumed by their mental brilliance that they insisted, only, "they" had the truth. Therefore, they were to be obeyed. If the people didn't obey these self-proclaimed wise ones, they were ostracized from the group. They

were excommunicated, just as Diotrophes did to members of his own fellowship group (III John 9-10). "*Dio*trophes" in Greek means "a friend of Zeus."

Church Disfellowship

The Apostles only believed in disfellowshipping (cutting people from fellowship in the church) others when they caused church division or sinned. However, they never disfellowshipped others over *doctrinal matters* just because they did not agree. Only those who, after two or three warnings, didn't show *love* and *respect* for others were cut off from *fellowship*. Some were not "*able*" or "*willing*" to understand *spiritual matters* from a different point of view. If they truly wanted to follow God, then, in time, they would repent and come back into the fold. Here is John's answer regarding Diotrophes and his insistence about being *right*, "*Beloved*, *follow not that which is evil*, *but that which is good*. He that does good is of God: but he that does evil *has not seen God*" (III John 1:11).

What are the biblical requirements for *disfellow-shipping an individual*? The Apostle Paul warns The Corinthian Church to have nothing to do with the fornicator who is personally doing evil (I Corinthians 5). Furthermore, this evil was evident in the entire Corinthian Church. They *disfellowshipped this man* until he *stopped sinning*. If he stopped his evil deeds, then he was to be accepted back into The Church of God. This is what God does when His chosen people keep on sinning and continue to be *a wrong witness*. As *wrong witnesses*, they cannot represent The One

True God (Isaiah 59:1-3). God was and is Holy and, as God's people, you must be Holy, as well. That is a requirement to be one of His. Troublemakers, who continue to disrupt a church, after two or three warnings, are not allowed in fellowship.

Babel And Magi

From The Tower of Babel to *The Magi* at Christ's birth, those who held *the truth* in *unrighteousness* were rejected because *they were not witnesses of The True God* and His *ways*. *The Magi were astrologers* who believed in *a coincidence* among *the stars* and were one of *the two witnesses* from God to the world. This witness was to prove Jesus was *The Christ*. Then, God was witnessed by The Angel of The Lord. The Magi, through human prediction, were the world's witnesses using *Astrology*. They saw *the astrological star* which foretold the birth of The Messiah and knew He had been *born*. The world is without excuse. Jesus had *a testimony* from His *Birth*. The shepherds were God's other *witnesses*.

God always gives free reign. He gives mankind *free* choice to choose the world's wisdom or His wisdom. You have the same choice as Adam and Eve. It is your decision to choose *Godly knowledge* or the world's knowledge. You can choose Gnosticism of the world or The Wisdom of God. The choice will always be yours.

CHAPTER 10

WORLD RELIGIONS AND GNOSTICISM

All faiths and religions of the world have their roots in Gnostic teaching. The Pagan and Christian Gnostics of ancient times infiltrated religion because they were thought to be knowledgeable. From the time of The Tower of Babel, The Gnostics, or the élite, have had great influence.

The Wise And Barbarians

The Apostle Paul outlined the process of Salvation for all mankind. He covered the time-span from The Jews to The Gentiles, "For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to every one that believes; to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:16).

Paul said The Gospel of Jesus is *for everyone*. First, The Jews had a chance and, then, The Greeks were given their opportunity. The next verse is an amazing statement, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith" (Romans 1:17). Wow! Consider this statement, "From faith to faith." Paul clarified what he meant when he uttered these words, "faith to faith." The Apostle instructed The Church of God to accept the individuals who were weak (knowing little) in the faith (church). The Church should receive them and should not argue about the different scriptural understandings that, at times, arise in conversations and may end in deep discussions (Romans 14:1). Some believe you may eat all things (unclean foods) and others believe you should eat only vegetables. This is quite clear! Paul wrote about God accepting individuals who eat everything (clean or unclean) or only vegetables and fruit (Romans 14:3). It is each Christian's choice because only Jesus is your *Master Rabbi* or *judge* (Romans 14:4).

Following this perspective, Paul gives more examples including which day a person decides to worship God (just like the food choice). The English word "esteem" in Greek is "judge," which is the same word used in Romans 14:4. Only Christ can judge you regarding your doctrinal understanding as you grow in faith or knowledge.

He, also, discusses whether it is proper to drink wine or not. Finally, Paul commands you to live at your own level of spiritual understanding. You will, only, be *judged* by your *faith* and your own level of understanding. God never holds anyone responsible for what they do not know. That is why Jesus said, if you are blind to the truth, then you will not be held responsible (John 9:41). The Apostle Peter knew Jesus was The Christ because He (Christ) held *The Keys to The Kingdom*. Jesus is your *Master Rabbi* who teaches you. Only Christ knows when you are ready, *in your heart*, to receive *more truth*. That is why *the just live by faith*. With the conversion of The Roman Centurion, Peter finally uttered a remarkable statement, "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation [pagan, Christian, Gnostic] he that fears him [God] and works righteousness, is accepted with him [God]" (Acts 10:34-35). This includes all faiths because, as you will read, The Apostle Paul clearly understood something very important. Any Gnostic who fears God and seeks Him, will be accepted.

Christians, Greeks, Barbarians

It may be surprising, but here are the individuals to whom The Apostle felt indebted to preach The Gospel of Christ. "I am debtor both to the Greeks and to the Barbarians; both to the wise and to the unwise... For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God to salvation to every one that believe; to the Jew first and also to the Greek" (Romans 1:14-16). That is the reason Paul wanted to go to Rome (Romans 1:15). Whether The Romans were wise (like The Greeks) or unwise (Barbarians), he taught everyone who feared and sought The Righteousness of The One True God.

First, he would go to The Jews and then to The Greeks who based their understanding upon *Gnostic teachings*. Once they believed *in Christ*, they were accepted by God as His people. "For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who hold the truth in unrighteousness" (Romans 1:18). Here is how they polluted The Truth of God into unrighteousness, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served the creature [creation] more than the Creator" (Romans 1:25). That's it! This included birds, four-footed beasts and creeping things (snakes) (Romans 1:23). Even the worship of humans is idolatry, like Jesus as The Son of Man.

They quit *worshipping The One True God* and *Father* of everything – *Elohim*. Instead, they worshipped His creation and turned rivers, lakes, stars, trees, mountains and animals into *mini-gods*. How much *truth* did they know?

Peter answers the question about how much truth The Prophets taught. Peter wrote to the strangers (Gentiles) in modern-day Turkey. They loved Jesus even though they had not seen Him (I Peter 1:8). "Receiving the end [goal] of your faith, even the salvation of *your souls* [lives]. Of which salvation the prophets have enquired and searched diligently, who prophesied of the grace that should come to you. Searching what, or what manner of time the Spirit of Christ which was in them did signify, when it testified beforehand the sufferings of Christ and the glory that should follow" (I Peter 1:9-11). They knew the entire truth of The Gospel of Christ, including His suffering and God's glory to come. How amazing! They knew The Entire Gospel of Jesus, The Christ. All they lacked was the knowledge of when Jesus, The Savior would return. Everyone waited for His return. That is why in Adam's, Jude's and Noah's time, The True Gospel was widely spread (Jude 14). Noah, as The Preacher of Righteous, taught

World Religions And Gnosticism

The Coming of Christ and God's *righteousness*. They had *the truth* of God's purpose and of how God and the heavenly host would make *man* in His *image* (Genesis 1:26). This is a secret that God will reveal to you.

They corrupted this simple *truth* by making "god-beings" out of everything God created. The main problem was that they forgot *The One True God*, which they called *The SkyGod*. They figured, in their simple human mind, that God went off to heaven and all they had to worship were *the things* He created. With God up in the heavens, they were left with those who came from The Garden of Eden. Cain had been exiled to The Land of Nod, which was a wilderness. Thus, they had to fend for *themselves* and do whatever they wanted or reasoned to do.

Cain told those in Shinar (Southern Mesopotamia) about what happened to him. He told them how he was cast out of The Land of Eden. They became enthralled with these *exaggerated stories*. They viewed everyone and everything in Eden as *gods*. This included Adam, Eve, Seth and all the rivers, trees, mountains and animals.

Tower Of Babel

Cain's relative, Lamech, killed two men and said, "*If Cain shall be avenged* [forgiven] *sevenfold, truly Lamech seventy and sevenfold*" (Genesis 4:24). Only Cain could have told them the account of his exile. Since God was now in heaven, they *worshipped* everyone and everything as *mini-gods*. Adam and Eve, along with Seth and his children, were viewed as "*part divine*" and "*part human*." Adam and Eve were celebrities because they had lived in The Garden of Eden.

The earth, eventually, was populated with two types of people: Sons of God and Polytheists. Seth and his children were known as The Sons of God who were considered divine and respected as The Prophets. The Sons of God intermingled (married) with the daughters of men and, in time, the people became Polytheists. The world, with the exception of Noah and his family, truly worshipped the creation rather than The Creator.

Not knowing *The One True God* (*The SkyGod*), they thought *the saints* should be *worshipped as gods*. At that time, Noah warned about *the coming flood* because the world had become evil and violent. They didn't listen to him. So, for mankind's sake, God flooded the world before the people annihilated themselves. God *battled* with the world to the point where He decided He had to start over with Noah and his family (a group of righteous people). When the flood receded, Noah and his progeny, Shem, Ham and Japheth, repopulated the known world. They settled around the area of Babel and Egypt.

Only Shem remained faithful to The One True Sky-God (The True God). The rest went astray. It was not long before the people began to do exactly what was done in pre-flood days. They worshipped the creation instead of The Creator by building *a temple* (The Tower of Babel). This tower was intended to keep them united, as *a one-world government*. God saw a repeat of the same behavior that occurred in the preflood days. Those who were *men of renown*, like Nimrod and others, were *the élite*. This was the beginning of *Gnosticism*.

Gnostics were those who had *super-knowledge*. They had schools designed to promote their way of thinking. Religion, government and education were all managed in the same way. Rulers were king/priests serving as *civic* and *religious* heads. It was *a one-world rule* by *The Gnostics* (the élite) who were *men of knowledge and renown*.

What type of knowledge was this? These people were operating in the same condition as those living before them. They were The Astrologers and The Magicians. *The wise of the world* developed *a mystery system*, which was only known to *the élite – The Gnostics*.

CHAPTER 11

BABYLON, THE GREAT

World-rule by The Gnostics had been threatened, so *a one-world religion* was imposed on mankind through The Tower of Babel. Being Polytheists, the people worshipped everything that was *created*, including *the heavens* and *the stars* where The One SkyGod dwelt.

"Astrology" was born and based upon geometry. The stars were thought of as angels who ruled human activity. God said, "And the LORD said, Behold the people is one and they have all one language and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6).

With God seeing a repeat of pre-flood behavior, He decided, along with the heavenly host of angels, to divide the people into separate nations. Then, God declared, "Go to, let us go down and there confound [confuse] their language, that they may not understand one another's speech [language]" (Genesis 11:7). God confused their tongues. That is why "Babylon" means "mixed and divided."

Two Thousand Years

This was the genesis of Babylon and how it became

great. God wanted to wound this beast. That is why Moses, in The Song of Moses, said that God had to stop The Beast. This was in order to give each nation, with their free choice, an opportunity to seek God and follow His ways (Revelation 13:3, Deuteronomy 32:8-9 and Isaiah 55:6-10).

From the time of The Garden of Eden, 2,000 years or more passed before Israel, living as slaves in Egypt, were led to *The Promised Land* by Moses. The land was given to Abraham and his children for their opportunity to seek God. *The Tribes of Israel* had their chance to seek God in *the wilderness*. After that generation died, a new generation led by Joshua inherited God's property.

What happened to the rest of the world regarding their inheritance? Here is the answer, "And I saw one of his heads as it were wounded to death and his deadly wound was healed and all the world wondered after the beast. And they worshipped [bowed down to] the dragon [Satan] which gave power to the beast, saving, Who is *like to the beast* [militarily]? *Who is able to make war* with him [defeat]? And there was given to him a mouth speaking great things and blasphemies [God's prerogatives] and power was given to him to continue forty and two months...And it was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them [saints] and power was given him over all kindred's and tongues and nations. And all that dwell upon the earth shall worship him [militarily], whose names are not written in the book of life [God's mind] of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world" (Revelation 13:3-8).

World History

The summation of *world history* is found in those few verses in Revelation, which you have just read. The Beast coming out of The Great Sea (one-world ocean) was wounded at The Tower of Babel when their languages were confused. Each nation was given their specific inheritance. Only Israel (God's saints and people) responded by agreeing to obey The Law of Moses. They feared God, which allowed them to begin to get wisdom. However, they were still sinners and died in the wilderness. They were followed by the next generation under Joshua. On God's Land, they prospered. This was especially true in King David's reign from which The Promised Seed would come. Because God gave wisdom to Solomon, his kingdom prospered. Later, Israel sank into a state of corruption and, eventually, decayed (Isaiah 1). First, The Ten Tribes were taken into captivity. Almost one hundred thirty years later, Judah was conquered by Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon. The Times of The Gentiles began and will continue until The Second Coming of The Messiah, Jesus, The Christ. (Read the book, The Times Of The Gentiles).

Babylon And The Gentiles

Nebuchadnezzar had a dream about a great human image (Daniel 2). This image is represented by four world -ruling empires and will occur before The Messiah returns. The Ten Kings will rule the world before they are defeated by Jesus. Jesus will establish The Millennium and The Kingdom of God. What existed in The Days of The King of Babylon? The King discovered that Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah (who stood before him) were extremely wise. "And in all matters of wisdom and understanding, that the king enquired [vetted, tested] of them, he found them ten times better than all the magicians and astrologers that were in all his realm" (Daniel 1:20).

What did Nebuchadnezzar think about these Astrologers and Magicians? The King asked if these men could disclose the meaning of his dream. But, they couldn't do it. So, Daniel took charge, "Therefore Daniel went in to Arioch, whom the king had ordained to destroy the wise men of Babylon; bring me in before the king and I will show to the king the interpretation" (Daniel 2:24). The King was going to put his advisers to death, but Daniel interpreted the dream and saved their lives. Then, Daniel and his friends were put in charge of the affairs of The Province of Babylon, "Then Daniel requested of the king and he set Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, over the affairs of the province of Babylon: but Daniel sat in the gate of the king" (Daniel 2:49). The Gate was The Place of Judgment for the citizens of Babylon. This is reminiscent of the incident with Joseph and The Pharaoh of Egypt.

What have you learned so far? Just as at The Tower of Babel, there was a contest between *The Wise Men*, *The Astrologers*, *The Magicians* and God's Prophets (Joseph with Pharaoh). In The New Babylon, the same system existed. The King's Counsel (cabinet) was composed of both false prophets and The True Prophets of God. The Gnostics (the spiritually knowledgeable) understood many mysteries. They made up mysteries concerning their gods. Which individuals have true wisdom? You have to see who understands God's *true mystery* about The Messiah.

The Second Dream

The King had a second dream about a great tree that grew where all creatures of the earth lived and prospered. The Tree was cut, leaving only a stump. The King brought all his wise men together but they couldn't interpret this dream for the king. This situation was like his first dream which only Daniel could tell its meaning. Daniel told him, "Wherefore, O king, let my counsel be acceptable to you and break off your sins by righteousness and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor; if it may be a lengthening of your tranquility" (Daniel 4:27).

After seven years of madness, The King repented. Here are his words, "And at the end of the days I Nebuchadnezzar lifted up mine eyes to heaven and mine understanding returned to me and I blessed the most High and I praised and honored him that lives forever, whose dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom is from generation to generation. And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing: and he does according to his will in the army of heaven, and among the inhabitants of the earth: and none can stay his hand or say to him, What does thou?" (Daniel 4:34-35). King Nebuchadnezzar knew The Gospel of God's Kingdom just as the people did at The Tower of Babel. The king repented and was represented as *The Head* of Gold. Each beast that followed him was inferior and deteriorated in value, down to silver, brass and, finally, iron.

What is *significant* is that *The Gnostics* (the knowing ones, the wise, or the élites) were *counselors* and *advisors* for The King. It is just as most world rulers do today.

Since The Tower of Babel, The Gnostics have been involved in world affairs and are still involved today. They hold the truth in unrighteousness! They seem wise, like the élite, but they were self-righteous like Job. At the end, Job, finally, repented. Job was like The Gnostics. He thought that, because he was a righteous man, God should treat him differently. Job said, "I know that you can do everything and that no thought can be withheld from you. Who is he that hides counsel without knowledge? Therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not" (Job 42:2).

That is the clearest definition of "Gnosticism" in a biblical sense. Job held the truth in unrighteousness. Job was righteous, but he was dogmatic in his doctrinal teaching and understanding. Job suffered from "the disease of The Gnostics." Here is his repentance, "I have heard of you by the hearing of the ear [preaching]: but now mine eye sees you. Wherefore I abhor myself and repent in dust [nothing] and ashes" (Job 42:5-6). It couldn't be any clearer. Both Nebuchadnezzar and Job had to acknowledge The One True SkyGod as the only *all-knowing Creator* of *all things*. The whole world knew about *The SkyGod*. Since God left *the earth*, *The Gnostics* were free to become *the chosen revelators* of The Mystery of God.

"Gnosticism" is not "a religion." It is an educational system invented by man's human imaginations. That is why God divided the beast power. Babylon, The Great Whore was married to another god. The god "Baal" became their Master or husband. They were divorced from God and they needed to have a promised Messiah die for them. God's people could, in the future, become The Bride of Christ.

All Gnostic teachings come from many different nations such as Israel, Egypt, Ethiopia (Coptic), India, Asia and The Aztecs. For that matter, those teachings are from the four-corners of the world. All have their *Gnostics* or *wise men* who were *the knowledgeable teachers of the world*. They had been changing *the truth* through their *human imaginations*. They should have been seeking *The One True God* and His *thoughts* (Isaiah 55). By not following God, the world finds itself in Babylon and following The Great Whore. Christ admonishes His Seven Churches and Israel to "come *out of her*" (Revelation 18:4).

CHAPTER 12

Magi And Christ

God warns, "And it shall come to pass, that whosoever will not hearken to my words which he shall speak in my name [authority], I will require it of him. But the prophet, which shall presume [interest] to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak or that shall speak in the name of other gods [human], even that prophet shall die. And if you say in your heart [desire], How shall we know the word which the Lord has not spoken [Gnostics]? When a prophet speaks in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord has not spoken, but the prophet has spoken it presumptuously: You shall not be afraid of him" (Deuteronomy 18:19-22).

A Prophet Of God

How did Daniel become God's Prophet and speak God's word? After three weeks of fasting, Daniel was beside The River Hiddekel. An angel came and spoke to him saying, "And he said to me, O Daniel, a man greatly beloved, understand the words that I speak to you and stand upright: for to you am I now sent. And when he had spoken this word to me, I stood trembling. Then said he to me, Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that you did set your heart to understand and to chasten yourself before your God, your words were heard and I am come for your words [prayers]" (Daniel 10:11-12).

The angel said he would have come earlier but he was delayed because he was fighting The Prince of Persia (Daniel 10:13). He told Daniel about God's words. "Now I am come to make you understand what shall befall your people in the latter days: for yet the vision is for many days" (Daniel 2:14). Daniel was chosen to be a Prophet because he humbled himself through repentance. But there is more. He loved his people, Judah. He was earnestly praying and fasting for them to stay in God's grace.

God chooses His Prophets by observing their freechoice decisions and whether they chose to follow Him. Samuel was chosen to be a Prophet when he was a fetus because of his mother. Certain individuals were chosen such as Joshua, Samuel and Jeremiah. They all came speaking The Words of God. When you repent of wickedness and seek God's *righteousness* and His *words*, you will begin to know God's *thoughts* (Isaiah 55).

The Apostle Paul said, "Yes doubtless and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ" (Philippians 3:8). Moses gave The Law (to know sin), but grace (forgiveness) and truth came by Jesus Christ (John 1:17). Jesus said The Word of God is the truth (John 17:17). They are not His words but His Father's words (John 5). That is why Jesus told Satan, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God" (Matthew 4:4). Knowledge or doctrine is not enough because doctrines or knowledge will vanish (I Corinthians 13:8). The Old Covenant vanished away because a new doctrine or knowledge was to come. The New Covenant replaced The Old Covenant (Hebrews 10:9).

Magi Are Gnostics

The Magi or Gnostics were considered "wise ones" because of their knowledge and superiority. They were the élite, the wise ones, who were the educators of their day. These included astrologers, magicians and the wise men.

Daniel was divinely knowledgeable and was *a wise one* for The King of Babylon. Remember, there is "*a divine knowledge*" from God. Then, there are Gnostics who become knowledgeable through human experiences and human learning. World rulers always look for *the most brilliant* or *wise* of their day to give them *counsel*. Who were these wise ones? God clearly tells you *the wise ones* are Prophets who foretell "*accurate counsel of things to come*" (Deuteronomy 18). The other *Gnostics* are *false*. The Apostle Paul was confronted with both true and false prophets.

There was a Gnostic group that claimed to be Apostles and were "more important" than Paul (I Corinthians 9). They were making a business out of their false apostleship just like Simon Magus (a Gnostic). Paul said, "For if I do this thing willingly, I have a reward [not money]: but if against my will, a dispensation [age] of the gospel is committed to me. What is my reward then? Verily that, when I preach the gospel, I may make the gospel of Christ without charge [no business], that I abuse not my power [take money] in the gospel" (I Corinthians 9:17). It is pretty clear how The Gnostics sought their own welfare just as Simon Magus did.

Now, for *the conclusion* of *The Magi* and *Christ's Birth*. The Magi were The Gnostics of their day. In fact, they were *Astrologers* and were reading *the stars*. They knew enough to be able to follow *the stars* to *The Messiah*.

Herod, The King, respected these *Gnostics* because he, also, had *Gnostics* and *wise men* to counsel him. These *Magi* came from *The East*, perhaps Syria or farther *East*.

The first to be God's witnesses were the shepherds. They were told about Christ's birth by God's angels. Jesus is The Shepherd of The World who would lead His sheep. "And there were in the same country [Bethlehem] shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night [against beasts]. And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them and the glory of the Lord shone round about them: and they were sore afraid. And the angel said to them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings [gospel] of great joy, which shall be to all people. For to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord. And this shall be a sign to you; You shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:8-14). Jesus came to Save The World (I John 4:14).

The shepherds were true Gnostics (true knowledge seekers) because God's *angels* told them who *The Messiah* was and that He would bring *peace* to the world.

The Magi came later, as they were directed by astrology (the stars). Both were correct and told the truth, but only the shepherds were from God as True Witnesses of Christ. The Magi (the wise men from The East) were Agnostics who knew The Truth of The Savior. But, they, also, worshipped the truth in unrighteousness. This happened in Daniel's day with The King's wise men (Gnostics).

Gnostics are the world's scholars (the super knowledgeable ones) and are considered wise. They were the élite in their day. The shepherds were like Christ in the sense that they lived by every Word of God (Matthew 4:4). The Shepherds were Witnesses of Christ and only listened to God's prophecy and not to man's dissertation about their personal, private thinking. The Law demands two or three honest witnesses in order for a fact to be true (Hebrews 10:28). Christ came to Save The World, so it was necessary to prove Christ was The Messiah. Those who didn't show love and respect for each other were cut off from *fellowship* after they were given two or three warnings. Here is John's answer regarding Diotrephes and his insistence about being *right*, "*Beloved*, *follow not that which is evil*, *but that which is good*. *He that does good is of God: but he that does evil has not seen God*" (III John 11).

John clearly writes about *the biblical requirement* for *disfellowship*. The Apostle Paul warns The Corinthian Church to have *nothing to do* with *the fornicator* who was personally doing *evil* (I Corinthians 5). He was *disfellowshipped* until he stopped sinning. If he did (stop sinning), then he was to be accepted back into God's church or family as a brother or sister "*In Christ*" (Matthew 12:50). This is what God does when His *chosen people* keep sinning and show themselves as *a wrong witness* of The One True God (Isaiah 59:1-3). God was *Holy*, so His people must become *Holy* before then can be one of His.

Babel And Magi

From The Tower of Babel to *The Magi* at Christ's birth, God rejected those who held *the truth in unrighteousness*. This is because *they are not a witness of The One True God*. *The Magi* were *Astrologers* who believed *a conjunction of the stars* would appear and reveal *The Birth of The Messiah* who came to Save The Whole World.

Check which direction you are following. There are two paths you can take. Are you on the path of those who created most of the religious doctrines from The Tower of Babel? They are known as The Magi and The Astrologers, along with The Gnostics, who twisted so many of *the truths* taught by The Prophets and The Apostles. Or, do you emulate Jesus Christ by following The Words of God? The Word of God is *The Ten Commandments*, not embedded in stone or written on paper, but written in your heart. *The Ten Commandments* must be magnified to the point that they are in your heart. Through Christ and magnifying *The Law*, you are given the ability to keep *The Ten Commandments*. You do not even "*think*" of breaking a commandment.

Each road has many forks and sometimes you might detour from The Path of God. But, as Christians, you have only one road to follow. You must follow the straight and narrow path. There is only one path for you – The Path to Salvation. Then, you will be able to receive *Eternal Life*. Even The Magi were witnesses of Christ's coming to The Gentiles, just as *the shepherds* were told by the angels to be witnesses. They witnessed The Coming of The Messiah. Christ came to Save The World. He will save everyone (I John 4:14)! Are you on the list to be saved? Only, you can make the decision to follow Christ.