ORIGIN OF BAPTISM

STUDY TOOLS - VOL. XIII

Part 3

By ART MOKAROW

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CONTENTS

PREFACE	vii
Introduction	ix
JOHN THE BAPTIST'S PURPOSE	1
THE EARTH WAS BAPTIZED	7
TO WHOM GOD GIVES KNOWLEDGE	13
REPENTANCE IS THE KEY	19
THE LAW AND REPENTANCE	25
JOSHUA AND JERICHO	31
GOD'S REBELLIOUS CHILDREN	37
A WORTHY NATION	43
GOD'S SPIRITUAL TEMPLE	49
TEMPLES OF DIVINE PURPOSE	55
CHRIST DRAWS ALL MEN	61

PREFACE

Many Christians believe baptism began with Christianity. Others believe baptism called "mitsveh" in Hebrew is of Jewish origin.

Baptism is the process of going under the water completely. A cleansing of your bodies happens when you come out of the water to become a new body.

This basic understanding satisfies many as the reason for baptism. Is this basic definition the full truth of what baptism is? To discover the complete meaning of baptism, you need to, *biblically*, investigate its origin.

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INTRODUCTION

Educational systems in too many cases are not basic enough. Originally, languages began as pictures and not as alphabets. You discern or comprehend, intellectually, by your five senses.

Even Science is smart enough to know this truth. Physical science, like astronomy learns new concepts and theories by their five senses (seeing, hearing and feeling).

Using your intelligence would be a mistake. Starting to observe the universe by your rational logic of reason, at best, would be a wild guess and you are always learning, but never coming to the truth of reality. There are too many options called variables.

To learn reality, the origin and purpose of all things by human intelligence, presumes an individual or a group have fundamental truths. You must have facts upon which you can build. Mankind's science takes too long and does not know all the possibilities.

God knows this way of learning is a mistake as occurred at The Tower of Babel, "And the Lord said, Behold, the people is one and they have all one language [cuneiform alphabet] and this they begin to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined [guessed] to do" (Genesis 11:6). Wow!

God warned mankind not to guess without the fundamentals, or basics of reality, which is the truth.

PAUL KNEW BETTER

Biblically John, The Baptist seems to be the first to baptize for repentance. Repentance from dead works is also fundamental teaching to Christ. John, The Baptist came to prepare *The Way to Christ*.

Even The Pharisees came to have John, baptize them. Here is John's answer, "But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said to them, O generation of vipers [snakes] who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Bring forth therefore fruits meet [suitable] for repentance" (Matthew 3:7-8). Why would The Pharisees and Sadducees come to be baptized, when they knew baptism was a major part of temple worship? John, The Baptist said, "And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say to you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children to Abraham" (Matthew 3:9).

The difference between "temple baptism" and John, The Baptist was "repentance." The Pharisees and The Sadducees believed, being of Abraham's genealogy was enough, since, that is all required for being circumcised and keeping God's Law of Moses.

Baptism existed as a significant part of temple worship, but without repentance. How far did baptism as a ritual go?

CHAPTER 1

JOHN, THE BAPTIST'S PURPOSE

Baptism existed before repentance was required. How far in history did baptism without repentance exist? Baptism began with The Creation when God created the earth.

COMING OF THE GOSPEL

Isaiah, which in Hebrew means "God saves," is a prophecy and is the history of The Fall of Israel and Judah in captivity. Isaiah concludes, with the future restoration of both divisions of The Ten Tribes of Israel and the two and a half tribes of Judah. Jerusalem is where God will once again dwell with them. God intends to save Israel and the world by the good news of the restoration of His people (Isaiah 40). John, The Baptist is the forerunner of The Gospel and prepares the way for good tidings to Zion (Isaiah 40:1-9). God will bring all nations to worship Him in Jerusalem and, ultimately, He will build The New Heavens and The New Earth for everyone (Isaiah 66), "For as the new heavens and the new earth, which I will make, shall remain before me, said the Lord, so shall your seed and your name [Israel] remain. And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon [month to month] to another and from one Sabbath to another, shall all flesh [the world] come to worship before me [in the temple], said

the Lord" (Isaiah 66:22-23).

The Millennium is the time to restore The One True God, in Jerusalem. This will be before The Wedding Feast takes place under The New Heavens and on The New Earth. The Millennium is when God invites the world to The Wedding Feast, "And he said to me, Write, Blessed [happy] are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the lamb. And he said to me, These are the true sayings of God" (Revelation 19:9).

Both "the good" and "the bad," are invited to The Wedding Feast under The New Heavens and on The New Earth, "Go you therefore into the highways and as many as you shall find [who are willing], bid to the marriage. So those servants went out into the highways and gathered together all as many as they found, both bad and good [the world]: and the wedding was furnished with guests" (Matthew 22:9-10). At The Wedding Feast, under The New Heavens and on The New Earth, God separated those still refusing to change. They were banished into outer darkness, where they will stay until they repent (Matthew 22:11-13). Jesus said, "For many will be called, but few are chosen" (Matthew 22:14).

ISRAEL'S CAPTIVITY TO THE MILLENNIUM

Isaiah describes the period of Israel and Judah's history as prophecy from the time of the Babylonian captivity to the restoration. It is a time of sorrow, as Christ said, in Matthew 24, called "The Tribulation." This time of sorrow and joy is likened to a woman in

childbirth, when the babe is maturing in the mother's womb during the gestation period.

At times, the coming birth is a joy, while false labor pains occur and keep occurring. These false labors are a tribulation, as she awaits the birth of her son, "Hear the word of the Lord [prophecy], you that tremble at his word; Your brethren that hated you, that cast you out for my name's sake, said, Let the Lord be glorified; but he shall appear [The Messiah] to your joy [Jerusalem] and they shall be ashamed. A voice of noise from the city, a voice from the temple, a voice of the Lord that renders recompense to his enemies. Before she travailed [had labor pains], she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child" (Isaiah 66:5-7).

Christ's birth took place with no labor pains and announcing joy to the world, "Who has heard such a thing [no birth pains]? who has seen such things? Shall the earth be made to bring forth [world's birth] in one day [suddenly] [Genesis 1:3-4]? or shall a nation [Israel] be born at once [instantly]? for as soon as Zion [Jerusalem] travailed [had birth pains], she brought forth her children [Israel]. Shall I bring to the birth and not cause to bring forth? said the Lord: shall I cause to bring forth and shut the womb [abortion]? said your God. Rejoice you with Jerusalem, and be glad with her, all you that love her: rejoice for joy with her [birth will happen], all you that mourn for her [tribulation]: That you may suck [feed] and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations [false labors]; that you may milk [nourish] out and be delighted with the abundance of her glory [good birth]. For this said the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall you suck, you shall be borne on her sides and be dandled on her knees. As one whom his mother comforts, so will I comfort you; and you shall be comforted in Jerusalem" (Isaiah 66:8-13). That is Isaiah's whole story about how God saves His children.

Your Messiah's birth was a time of joy and peace for the world (Luke 2:10-14). Instead of His life bringing peace, He was crucified by His own people. The Tribulation starts in 70 A.D. with The Fall of The Temple under Titus in 70 A.D. From that time on, the world will continue until your Messiah returns to establish God's Kingdom, announcing The Wedding Feast. Everyone, worldwide, will be invited to The Wedding Feast. False labor pains come and go with wars and rumors of war, until Christ returns as King of Kings. At that time, He will carry out His Father's will during The Millennium.

BAPTISM WITHOUT REPENTANCE

John, The Baptist did not baptize, as those, who were baptized in the temple. When baptized in The Temple, they did not need repentance. Their baptism is simply to clean the flesh and offer sacrifices for sin, a witness of better things to come. That is the reason people came to The Temple on The Holy Days to worship God. This worship was according to the prophecy of "better things to come" (Colossians 2:16-17). Jewish baptism is "mitzvah" in Hebrew and did not require repentance, which was not necessary, until Christ died

and was resurrected. Baptism with repentance is a spiritual baptism – "In Christ." His death paid for the sins of the world. Until Christ died and was resurrected, a person could not be saved. All prior baptisms were testimonies, or a witness of better things to come. Christ is your new High Priest after The Order of Melchizedek (Hebrews 7:15-17).

Baptism pictures your death like that of Christ, but also guarantees "your resurrection" to Eternal Life (Romans 6:1-5 and Hebrews 7:18-25). Your atonement to be with God is through Christ. Prior to John, The Baptist The Kingdom of God was taken by violence and not through repentance, which is a change of mind (to be like Christ) (Philippians 2:5 and Matthew 11:12). Baptism is more than Christian baptism. The Jewish baptism in temple worship did not demand repentance. A cleansing of the outer body was all that was necessary to be able to worship God. Christ's baptism grants God's Holy Spirit through repentance. One more baptism is written in Matthew 3:11 - "baptism by fire." Before baptism by repentance, only, a mitzvah baptism with the cleansing of the whole body, was needed to provide an acceptable sacrifice for sin.

BAPTISM BEFORE ISRAEL

John, The Baptist as a Prophet, spoke not only of their day or their future Prophecy, including history, but he told The Pharisees and The Sadducees that baptism could come from stones of the creation (Matthew 3:9). You are ready now to read about the original baptism to end death and give Life Eternal. In the beginning,

there was only God who was life. God is sinless and has no death.

God's creation of the heavens and earth, also included darkness, "In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Genesis 1:1-2). Then it states, the earth was without form (no shape) and was void (nothing but darkness).

Darkness is space and the universe is without planets and stars. God created darkness, which was space containing "nothing" in it. Why did God create darkness? The answer lies in baptism and death.

CHAPTER 2

THE EARTH WAS BAPTIZED

God said, "light was good" (Genesis 1:31). God has no darkness (I John 1:5). Since God is only "light," which is good, darkness is the absence of good. Without goodness nothing can live. God, who is good, created everything, even darkness, but God, Himself, has no darkness. Why did He create darkness? Darkness is nothing with no purpose other than death.

WHAT IS BAPTISM?

Now, for a wonderful prophecy. God predestined, before the beginning, to reproduce Himself and have Holy Sons of God (Ephesians 1 and Genesis 1:26). The question then becomes: What is the process God uses to make man in His "image?"

God taught Paul, His plan was to reproduce Himself and to have Sons of God, "For the creature [humanity] was made subject to vanity [no purpose], not willingly, but by reason of him [God] who has subjected [enslaved] the same in hope [faith]. Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage [slavery] of corruption [death] in the glorious liberty [total freedom] of the children [sons] of God" (Romans 8:20-21). And that is, exactly, what God did from the beginning.

His plan was the best way for God to have mankind become Holy like Him. God can do, or be, whatever He chooses. God is at total liberty, free to do whatever He wishes. To reproduce Himself, His children must also be free. You must have The Mind of Christ, who is The Word of God with The Mind of God (Philippians 2:5).

These facts answer the question by many, as to why He did not make you perfect in the beginning. Such a plan would have saved God and all mankind from a lot of trouble and pain. But, still, you would not be like God, if He made you "perfect" from the beginning. You would not be like God, because you would not have liberty, but instead you would be robots or slaves. A rather simple answer, is it not?

To be Sons of God in His "image" – "free choice" (liberty) is a "must" because it is what God is! His purpose is for all to be Sons of God. He wants you to "want" on your own, to be like God. Out of darkness, God created you as slaves, but darkness is of no value, just space – "nothingness" with no purpose. But you are about to discover that although you exist, you are not anything. But in the future, be assured, you will become very special.

IN GOD'S IMAGE

God is creating you in His "image." "Image" in Hebrew is "salem." "Salem" denotes a "ghost" or "shadow" of something real. The "image" is a "likeness" – not real. For that reason, God does not want you to make

any image of Him that would not be real and therefore, was "idolatry."

Science has recently discovered that "darkness" which is "space" has "matter plus a force like gravity." Out of this darkness, by God's light, your brilliant universe was created (the whole earth and everything on it). God said, "the light was good and darkness was the absence of good." This darkness was not evil, because it was causing no harm — was only in a state of chaos. God, by His light gave structured direction, where the universe could be observed by man's five senses.

From the darkness, God's light made goodness. The evening and the morning were the first day, a mixture of good and evil, which is also a mixture of chaos (Babylon) and good. When you can see, hear, feel, touch and smell, you can know "the truth." When you lack one or more of your senses, you are not whole and you feel disabled.

After God finished the creation in six days, He rested on the seventh day and declared it to be Holy, because everything was "good." God's goodness was manifested by observing His creation by the five senses, that He gave to man. Man was a mixture of good and evil and was not perfect.

As long as, man harmed no one, there was neither evil nor sin. Man was just confused. Mankind would need to be taught the difference of "right" from "wrong." They needed to be taught by God, who alone was good and knew, exactly, the difference between good and

evil.

WHAT IS DISEASE?

God created you with goodness, as he did Adam and Eve. Any impairment to your bodies, if less than whole, is depressing, and you sense despair because of its "incompleteness." You become stressed, discouraged and lack the ease of being in God's "rest."

The English word "disease" comes from "dis" in Latin meaning "away from" "ease" or "rest." Disease is a state or condition of lacking ease, because you are no longer whole or complete. When you are complete, God made you function perfectly, as He created you. You have no disease nor any sin.

Sin is not only a transgression of the law, but unrighteousness. Anything that harms God or His creation is unrighteous Any unrighteousness is sin (I John 3:4 and I John 5:17). Thus, the complete scriptural definition of sin is "to miss the mark" (being less than whole).

Being less than what God intended is "sin." Only God knows what is good, since He is The One who created everything and the only good one, as Jesus told (Matthew 19:17).

CREATED IN CORRUPTION

The entire universe is subject to death (Romans 8). God made it so, in order for you to have hope and become comparable to God (Romans 8:20). The entire

universe moves in circles like galaxies. Everyone on the earth strives to survive and protect their lives. The Bible is clear about this desire for life, "For we know that the whole creation groans and travails [misery] in pain together until now" (Romans 8:22). Everyone desires to live, forever, in Paradise without disease. Inherently, atheists and agnostics desire to achieve these same goals.

CHRISTIAN DESIRE

"And not only they [atheists and agnostics], but ourselves [Christians] also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan [in pain] within ourselves [inherently], waiting for the adoption [immortality], to wit, the redemption of our body" (Romans 8:23). Most individuals wish they had perfect bodies. Your Father in heaven does and has the power to give you one in the resurrection (Matthew 5:48).

In reality, you are incomplete, since any fetus in a mother's womb is not fully matured. The name "Isaiah" means "God saves." Only God can make you perfect and complete, to be eternally, at rest in God's Kingdom (Isaiah 66). Until then, you are in travail (on a journey) which is a tribulation (painful) with many false labors before you are born in a spiritual body. (Request the free book, God's Work Vs. Man's Work). The universe is chaotic, living in pain like humanity.

THE FIRST BAPTISM

As any incomplete fetus, when born fully matured,

12 ORIGIN OF BAPTISM

it is necessary for the new babe to be washed and cleaned. When God saw Jerusalem, the city was like a baby born, unwashed and unprepared for a loving birth (read Ezekiel). Jerusalem, in its beginning was left to die, as any babe aborted (Ezekiel 16:4-6). But God saved Jerusalem and gave it new life. God married Jerusalem.

Jesus decreed that to be in God's Kingdom, you must be born of water and The Spirit (John 3:3-5). When was the first recorded baptism? Surprisingly, it was the baptism of the earth in the beginning (Genesis 1:1-4). The earth's birth was created out of the water by God's Holy Spirit!

CHAPTER 3

TO WHOM GOD GIVES KNOWLEDGE

You begin, as a newborn, before you can be a child, teenager and then adult. A baby is not aware of its nakedness (Genesis 2:25). These newborns, certainly, do not know good or evil (right from wrong). To venture out on their own, as babes in a wilderness, would be foolish. They would starve or perhaps be eaten by some ferocious beast.

HOW TO TEACH

In any school system not every teacher has the inherent gifts or abilities to properly teach. Some teachers may have the knowledge, like having college degrees, but lack skills of a good teacher. As with any career or discipline, you may have the same education, but not the natural ability to teach properly. Satan had all the knowledge to teach, but ended up deceiving Eve, and Adam followed. What was the first lesson, He taught Adam and Eve? After they sinned, God confronted Adam and asked, "Where were you?" (Paraphrased). Adam answered, "And he [Adam] said, I heard your voice [word] in the garden and I was afraid, because I was naked; and hid myself. And he [God] said, Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree whereof I commanded you that you should not eat?" (Genesis 3:10-11). Babes are born naked and not ashamed knowing nothing.

SATAN'S SIN

Why was Satan's sin of deception so evil? God asked Adam, who told him he was naked, for Adam and Eve did not know. Satan was the culprit. His deception was to teach them knowledge, which they were unable to handle.

God is the only one who knows how to teach His goodness, which is righteousness. Receiving knowledge too soon can be destructive and harmful. Look at the harm military weapons produce. Nuclear bombs can obliterate the world. All scientific technology is good and evil.

Satan was perfect when created and able to teach knowledge. But the knowledge, he taught Adam and Eve was harmful and therefore, evil. Telling Adam and Eve about sex too early led to perversions, many of which can be extremely damaging. "Satan's sin" is "teaching Godly knowledge before one is ready" and being able to use it properly for good.

Thus, God confused the languages so they would not come up with a "plethora" of ideas which could cause sin, producing great harm. Sin is "missing the mark" in how knowledge is to be used.

Doctrine, which is truth, can therefore be harmful or evil, when misused. It is wrong to be dogmatic regarding doctrine by burying or interpreting it, when one does not know its complete intended purpose. Satan is the author of sin.

JUDE'S PROPHECY

Jude, Christ's brother, warned God's people, they were losing God's truth and needed to return to the faith once delivered. One of the reasons, The Truth of God was lost in the beginning, was Satan and his angels left their first estate, their responsibilities, habitations and created chaos (Genesis 1:2).

"Void" in Hebrew is "chaotic" or "without purpose." When God made space in its darkness, it was not in confusion. Why not? God is not the author of the genesis of confusion (I Corinthians 14:33). God does not create without a good and peaceful purpose. Satan began the process of "sin" (Genesis 1:1). When God created the earth, it was in a state of being formless (void).

God's Spirit moved over the water which covered the earth beneath the water. This act was the original baptism, just as God's Holy Spirit descended, as a dove, when Christ was baptized (Matthew 3:16).

John, The Apostle gives the definition (the symbolic meaning) of "being baptized" in Revelation 17:15, "And he [the angel] said to me, The waters which you saw, where the whore sits, are people and multitudes and nations and tongues." That is Baptism.

This baptism of God's Spirit was like Christ with the dove, as a resurrection of the world. All nations are resurrected from this earth, which was covered by the deep water. God, in Genesis 1, was resurrecting man-

kind from death.

God said, "let there be light and it was good" and brought the earth out of darkness (the ocean) by the intense heat of God evaporating the water. This was The First Day.

The result was that on <u>The Second Day</u>, the firmament – the atmosphere – appeared. After the evaporation continued, dry land appeared. As of yet, the earth had not been divided into continents and islands.

With the intense heat of the light, on <u>The Third Day</u>, plants and trees began to grow. The earth became fertile by photosynthesis.

And on <u>The Fourth Day</u>, the galaxies and the rest of the stars were made for signs of seasons and times.

On The Fifth Day, the sea life and birds appeared.

The animal kingdom and man were created on <u>The Sixth Day</u>. Then, God decided to make man in His "image." The first homo sapiens were Adam and Eve. Eve came from Adam as his equal.

God saw this creation that He restored from the chaos, which originated from Satan and his group of angels. With the baptism of The Heavens and the restoration of The Earth, God saw all was "good" (Genesis 1:31). The original sin generated by Satan leading his angels, was restored with God's great love and mercy.

THE COSMIC COVENANT

With the resurrection of the earth and the firmament atmosphere, God saw all was restored and was good (Genesis 1:1). God was beginning, once again, to dwell with man by the creation of Adam and Eve, as the first homo sapiens.

The first baptism of the atmosphere and on earth, means in Hebrew "mikvah." This baptism and resurrection to a restoration was a "baptismal oath." This cosmic, heavenly oath was to make man in His "image," so that God could dwell, eternally, with them in Paradise.

Water baptism, without being repentant, had its origin, because mankind could not comprehend the need to be repentant.

Adam and Eve were little babes, who did not even know they were naked. How could their Father expect them to see the need for repentance?

Even Cain, as a farmer, did not think of repenting. He felt his punishment was greater than he could bear. His entire life was spent looking for The Tree of Life and the healing waters, yet felt there was no need to repent.

He was resentful, thinking that God was unfair by not accepting his sacrifice of grains, since it was just, as clean an offering as, was Abel's. As the first-born, he felt that he should have been the king/priest after The

Order of Melchizedek.

His resentment made him spend his life killing other contenders who were keeping him from accessing Eternity. Now, God had to choose another Promised Seed besides Abel to restore humanity to The Garden of Eden and Paradise. Since Paradise was lost, God would choose another offspring from the line of Adam and Eve to give access to "the truth."

CHAPTER 4

REPENTANCE IS THE KEY

Christ told The Pharisees, who asked Him for a sign of His Messiahship, "A wicked and adulterous generation seeks after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas" (Matthew 16:4). Only "the sign of Jonah" would be given to the wicked and the unrepentant.

JONAH'S SIGN

After your Savior resurrected Lazarus, His friend, Martha said, she knew Lazarus would be resurrected during the last days. Christ replied, "I am the resurrection and the life [Eternal]: he that believes in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever lives and believes in me shall never die. Believe you this? She said to him, Yea, Lord: I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world" (John 11:25-27).

Martha gave the same answer, as that of Peter. God revealed this truth to Peter, but also made it known to Martha. God gave Martha and Peter the same gift of truth that Jesus was The Christ, The Son of God. Until one acknowledges Christ, as their Savior, Judge and King/Priest of The Order of Melchizedek, that person has not repented of their sins. Christ said, "And I say

to you, That you are Peter [Cepherastone] and upon this rock [Christ – I Corinthians 10:4] I will build my church and gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give to you the keys of the kingdom [Christ] of heaven and whosoever you shall bind [baptize] on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever you shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19).

The subject is not about "binding" or "losing sin" but who "believes Jesus is The Messiah." Never forget what is the context of the verses. The Judgment for sin is not the prerogative of The Apostles. After "the resurrection" of Lazarus, as an example of The Resurrection, the following judgment was proclaimed, "Now is the judgment of the world: now shall the prince of this world [no access to God] be cast out. And I, if I be lifted up from the earth [ascend to heaven] will draw all men [the world] to me [to believe]" (John 12:31-32).

Christ is The One who makes the judgment who believes "In Him." Neither He, nor The Apostles, nor any Christian can bring anyone to conversion or repentance – these are gifts from God, as Christ told Peter and Martha. No human can forgive sin. Only Christ is the judge, "For the Father judges no man, but has commanded all judgment to the Son. That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honours not the Son, honours not the Father which has sent me. Verily, verily, I say to you, He that hears my word and believes on him that sent me, has everlasting life [Eternal] and shall not come into condemnation [judgment]; but is passed from death to life" (John 5:22-24). Quite clear, is it not?

Eternal Life is a gift and not a matter of sin. Neither Peter nor The Apostles were given the right to forgive sin. Sin is not what makes the difference in receiving Eternal Life. Christ made that fact very clear, "Wherefore I say to you, All manner of sin and blasphemy shall be forgiven to men: but the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit shall not be forgiven to men. And whosoever speaks a word against the Son of Man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaks against the Holy Spirit it shall not be forgiven him neither in this world, neither in the world to come" (Matthew 12:31-32). Amazing! Sin is not the point, but not listening to The Holy Spirit is surely the point.

The Holy Spirit is God's voice (Hebrews 3:7-11). Rejecting God's voice and the power of God's Holy Spirit is The Unpardonable Sin now and in The New Heaven and on The New Earth. It takes true repentance, being as a babe "In Christ" as Isaiah said, "But they [priest - prophet] also have erred through wine [drunkenness -Babylon] and through strong drink are out of the way; the priest and the prophet have erred through strong drink [drunk], they are swallowed up of wine [Babylon], they are out of the way [Torah] through strong drink; they err in vision [prophet], they stumble in judgment. For all tables [drinking] are full of vomit and filthiness, so that there is no place clean. Whom shall he teach knowledge [truth]? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine [God's teaching]? them that are weaned from the milk [mother church] and drawn from the breasts" (Isaiah 28:7-9).

There it is. "Repentance" means to change from hav-

ing a babe's or child's mind and asking, God to have the Mind of God (Philippians 2:5). These words are very clear.

Being dogmatic, debating and arguing should never be the game you play. Resisting God's Holy Spirit, which is God's voice, is unforgivable. Sin is forgivable by Christ's blood, but turning from God, your Father is unforgivable in this world and the next. Those who do turn away end up in outer darkness, in God's prison, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth (Matthew 22:13).

SIMON MAGUS

When Simon Magus saw the laying on of Peter's and John's hands, when all the people received The Holy Spirit, Simon Magus wanted to purchase the same power of The Holy Spirit. Peter told him, "Repent therefore of this your wickedness and pray God, if perhaps the thought of your heart [desire] may be forgiven you. For I perceive [see] that you are in the gall of bitterness and in the bond of iniquity" (Acts 8:22-23).

The problem is not of sin, but being entwined with a wrong heart. He was consumed with personal desires, many of which were very harmful. Simon had no desire to repent and he did not want to change his mind, as he was consumed with his private idol – Himself.

The key to God's Kingdom, first and foremost, is to believe that Jesus is The Christ, The Son of God. This belief is the key, where Christ, as The Rock, will build

His church – it is not "a point of sin" but "repentance." Once you repent, Christ's blood forgives all sin.

Peter would not lay hands upon Simon Magus to bind God's Holy Spirit within him. Notice what Simon said to Peter after Peter refused to bind him with God's Holy Spirit, "Then answered Simon, and said, Pray you to the Lord for me, that none of these things which you have spoken come upon me" (Acts 8:24). Simon's words were like those of Cain. This reply was similar to what Cain thought.

It is all a matter of *free choice*. Either you choose to let God be your teacher through The Power of God's Holy Spirit or not, and it is always your *free choice*.

The key to bind you to God is through The Mind of God in faith. Repentance is the key to open *the gate-way* or *door* to God's house, which is Christ.

CHAPTER 5

THE LAW AND REPENTANCE

Paul wrote, The Law with its curses was made only for criminals, "Now the end [good] of the commandment is charity [God's love] out of a pure [honest] heart and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned; desiring to be teachers of the Law, understanding neither what they say, nor whereof they affirm. But we know that the Law is good, If a man use it lawfully; knowing this, that the Law is not made for a righteous man, but for the lawless and disobedient for the ungodly [atheist, agnostic] and for sinners, for unholy [not clean] and profane [common], for murders of mothers, for manslayers, For whoremongers, for them that defile themselves [homosexuals] with mankind, for menstealers, for liars, for perjured persons, and if there be any other thing that is contrary to sound doctrine; According to the glorious gospel of the blessed God, which was committed to my trust [faith]" (I Timothy 1:7-11).

ISRAEL'S BAPTISM AND SIN

This Scripture is quite simple. There are curses everywhere and all the time (penalties, judgments or con-

demnations). Slavery has two specific purposes, one "a Godly purpose" and the other "a selfish purpose." God from the creation put humans in bondage, or subjected them to slavery (Romans 8).

The punishment is natural, when you do not repent and desire to only follow God and His commands, which are given for your good. Everyone wants a glorious hope of a completely, free future of liberty, where one could do whatever their heart desires. To do so, one has to be completely mature, in order, to do the right thing. The perfect goal is to produce good.

Only God is good and therefore, God's goal is to make you in His "image." Until then, you must be His servant or slave under the tutelage of *The Law*. When you have *free choice*, which is *liberty*, one must learn from God to make the right choices. When mature and *perfect* like Him, you will be, completely, on your own to do good (Romans 8:15-16).

Joseph, the son of Jacob, who was Israel, was sold into slavery by his brothers. The brothers were not very honorable individuals. Joseph, "a type of savior," humbly accepted his role as a slave. Because God was with him, he was made second under Pharaoh in Egypt. Joseph had prophetic talents given by God to save Egypt from famine and destruction. He was mature enough for Pharaoh to trust him with Egypt's survival.

When the famine struck Palestine, Israel and his family were allowed to live and prosper in Egypt because

of Joseph's good deeds for Egypt's welfare.

As time passed, the new Pharaoh was afraid of Joseph's family, which had grown so large, he felt they might take over control of the nation. So they became slaves for over four hundred years. With The Pharaoh under Moses, God miraculously, forced The Pharaoh to set them free. When Israel was ready to cross the river, a miracle took place. God was ready to teach them how to, properly, look to Him for safety and sustenance.

God wanted to give them a new beginning, completely dependant upon Him, so that He could bless them in a land of milk (nourishment) and honey (sweetness). A "land of plenty" under His protection and blessing. First, they had to come, as little babes, to completely trust their God, to live in peace and learn to worship Him.

Secondly, they had to be cleansed of all self-interest and implicitly, trust God as their Father. God used a miracle to gain their faith and have absolute trust "In Him." He had to test them, because in Egypt, they were steeped in "polytheism" – serving many gods. God is above all "the man-made gods" humans have created over the centuries.

As The Egyptian army was ready to destroy Israel, God offered protection by baptizing them, as they crossed the sea. Crossing the sea was "a miracle baptism," as they left Egypt. The Egyptians received the penalty of wanting to kill the Israelites. Thus by a

miracle, God destroyed the Egyptians and the Israelites left Egypt in complete safety. Repentance was not required. Israel should have been grateful enough to be released from slavery.

They were overjoyed, full of relief and with trust in God, ready to enter God's "Promised Land." God needed to "prove" to them, this miracle baptism did not require repentance. Israel's trust and faith were predicated upon God being accepted as "The Almighty One" over all other gods. However, a question arose: Was it enough for them to worship Him as The One True, Almighty God? He gave them their first test of faith – His Ten Commandments at Mount Sinai.

When Moses seemed to be gone too long, The Israelites reverted to their Egyptian gods, proving their lack of faith in their One True God. Here was the problem, "O that there were such a heart [desire] in them, that they would fear me and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them and with their children forever" (Deuteronomy 5:29).

Since their baptism saved them from The Egyptians and gave them life, they were not required to repent. They obeyed God out of fear and did not truly love Him. They were cleansed by a "washing of baptism," but still did not have faith "In Him" (Hebrews 3:7-19).

Instead of obeying God and with Moses gone, they built The Golden Calf, which they worshipped instead of having trust in their God. They sinned after receiving *The Ten Commandments* that told them with the

first four commandments not to worship any other "gods."

After all the miracles God performed for Israel, they still seemed to lacked faith and continued to trust other "gods." They could not enter God's *rest*, because only violence would be the result. As an example, when The Canaanite Tribes were living on God's property, violence arose. God, out of His zeal for His people, decided it was better to start over and give them another chance in The Resurrection.

Moses pleaded with God, "It was not good for the other nations, as they would not understand why He would kill them." God knew He could resurrect them, as was with the people during the flood of Noah, where they all drowned and God would have to start over.

God realized, Israel needed to be tried and tested many more times, before they could enter His "Land of Paradise." He gave them one more test by sending spies into Palestine, to see if they would trust Him.

Except Joshua and Caleb, the rest lacked faith because of the size of the people. The land, however, did prove to be a land of milk and honey. The choice was theirs and they failed – as usual by lacking faith. It was time for the Canaanites to leave or be destroyed, as they had corrupted God's property with idols. The Commandments and statutes (a constitution), had to become a Law for them to be obeyed, or they would be cursed by stringent penalties. This Law of Moses was like "Hammurabi's Law," because they were "carnal-

like" beasts that had the requirement "an eye for an eye" and "a tooth for a tooth." The curses were so strict, every part of this Law had to be, perfectly, kept.

Paul told Timothy, the Law was instituted to bring them peace and prosperity. Each and every detail had to be, perfectly, followed, or they were immediately penalized with a curse. In breaking any point of *The Law*, a person became guilty of transgressing the entire Law (James 2:10).

Until one was repentant and sought to obey *The Commandments*, like Abraham, severe penalties had to follow (Genesis 26:5). The Israelites had to pay for their sins, as do any criminals.

Israelites were constantly sinning, because they never felt the need to repent. They were never willing to change. It was as if, they were like the immigrants arriving on Ellis Island proving to the authorities they were qualified to stay in America.

CHAPTER 6

JOSHUA AND JERICHO

The (Egyptian) Israelite generation was tested by God ten times and failed each time. Even Moses and Aaron could not enter The Promised Land. The new generation received a fresh start and had to be baptized. Christ said, until their Savior came, The Kingdom of God had to suffer violence and would have to be taken by force (Matthew 11:12).

CROSSING THE JORDAN

This new generation under Joshua did not commit the sins of their fathers, as on Mount Sinai. They were too young to know better about sin and experienced how bad it was, as they wandered in the wilderness. They were eager to enter God's Property, as they remembered all the stories their fathers had told them.

They did fear God, but still were not repentant. They knew that only God could help them win over their enemies. They understood why God gave them the power to beat "The Giants" in the land. The Kingdom of God would have to be taken by violence or war.

They needed to be baptized to become God's people living in His land. Baptism was the signing of their

Declaration of Independence. They were no longer in captivity as slaves.

Their time of testing was over and they had God's approval to enter The Promised Land of *milk* and *honey*. With slavery behind them, they were ready to enter *The Land of Liberty* and *Rest*.

God had them enter His "kingdom" through violence, so they did not have to repent before being baptized. They crossed The Jordan River, which God divided, as had their forefathers, who had come out of Egypt. They still had to learn the lesson of faith rather than just having fear of God. Their fear was self survival. God promised He would keep them safe from their enemies, so they could be a free people and no longer in slavery.

After the males in Jericho were circumcised, to show acceptance of God as their Deliverer and Savior, *The Old Covenant* was completed. From that day forward, they had their Constitution and were considered citizens of the land. No illegal immigrants were permitted. Jericho was their first test of faith.

God was ready to show that He was The One True God who was The Almighty (JHVH), "The I Am." There were to be, no other "gods" for Israel, who learned to grow "in faith." Joshua's military strategy to conquer Jericho was strange. God would do the fighting to take the city and Israel did not have to lift a finger. God told Joshua exactly what to do.

WALLS OF SALVATION

Isaiah, God's prophet, defines how God saves. In Hebrew "Isaiah" means "God saves." The One True God who is Almighty, is the only One that can save you. How? "In that day shall this song be sung in the land of Judah; We have a strong city, salvation will God appoint for walls and bulwarks [foundation]" (Isaiah 26:1). How clearly these words describe "God saves!"

When a city is under God's protection, He is the foundation of security. Any man-made walls of protection fall before Him. Human wars are not the answer. Only God is your Savior, and His land is your true place of *rest*.

God was ready to prove to His chosen people that only He is God Almighty who can save and then give Salvation.

To learn this lesson of faith, God allows mankind to follow their instincts, to suffer the pain and horror of war and violence. "Carnal" and unrepentant people end up going to war to learn the lesson of *faith*.

THE SEVEN TRUMPETS

What human works did Israel have to do? They had to prove their faith, as they entered God's Promised Land – human works at which their forefathers had failed.

God is The One who always does the work and not

man. On the first Sabbath in The Garden of Eden, only God did the work. Adam and Eve never did the work. Thus, The Seventh Day Sabbath is *Holy*, because only God did the work creating *rest*. Only God is Holy and thus, He can make a Holy Kingdom of Rest in Paradise.

Jericho was more than a test of faith for Israel – it was a prophecy of God's future Paradise under The New Heavens and on The New Earth. Israel's work at Jericho was a military strategy of blowing seven trumpets causing the walls to fall on The Sabbath with the seventh trump.

They did not have to fight, personally, to defeat Jericho, as God conquered it by Himself. All Israel did by their faith, as instructed by Joshua, was to mop up Jericho after God finished fighting.

Israel was to kill all in Jericho, except Rahab and her family, because they had helped Israel. This killing was not murder, in slaying all those in Jericho, because God is The Only One who will resurrect them in the future.

Jesus clearly said, "And fear not them which kill the body [flesh], but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matthew 10:28). God does not murder, because God gives life and has the power to restore it. That is exactly what baptism is all about – a death followed by a resurrection to "life." Until everyone repents, they are not held responsible for taking the kingdom by

force, which is true violence. Obviously, they did not know better. Israel marched for seven days around Jericho's walls. The Priests blew one trumpet a day and on The Seventh Day, The Sabbath, they blew all seven trumpets and then the walls fell. Israel, having shown their faith in God, entered the city and took it as theirs. God had done the work – not anyone in Israel.

THE PROPHECY

"And I saw another mighty angel come down from heaven, clothed with a cloud: and a rainbow was on his head and his face was as it were the sun and his feet as pillars of fire: And he had in his hand a little book open: and he set his right foot upon the sea and his left foot on the earth, And cried with a loud voice, as when a lion roars: and when he had cried, seven thunders uttered their voices. And when the seven thunders had uttered their voices, I was about to write [Revelation]: and I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, Seal [hide] up these things which the seven thunders uttered and write them not" (Revelation 10:1-4).

At the time of the seven last trumpets, "time" was to stop, symbolizing another prophecy (Revelation 10:6). These last seven trumpets ceased to sound, prophecy was to pause and to be continued later (Revelation 10:11). The Messiah's return was to be delayed. (Request a copy of our free article, End Of Days Prophecy).

The Mystery of God is finished, only, when the seventh trumpet sounds (Revelation 10:7). Prophecy will

36 ORIGIN OF BAPTISM

cease, when "the seventh trumpet" stops. Mystery and Prophecy comprise the seven last plagues, until The Messiah returns to establish God's "kingdom." The Time of The Gentile Rule is completed and God rules the world for a thousand-year millennium (Revelation 15:1).

This was a lesson of faith for Israel to trust God as their Savior, a lesson foretelling the future of God's "kingdom" is restored to Israel. Jericho was Israel's first test of faith, afterwards baptism and repentance were not demanded.

CHAPTER 7

GOD'S REBELLIOUS CHILDREN

God gave Adam and Eve free choice to accept Him as their teacher, except they chose to follow their own human nature to determine good and evil. Their progeny did not do any better, except for a remnant such as Abraham. He was The Father of The Faithful and once again, only a few of His children were faithful, like Joseph.

Israel spent four hundred years attempting to follow God, as led by Moses, Joshua and some good kings like David. Ultimately, Israel and Judah, ended up in captivity.

In each and every case, they were baptized and had new beginnings, only to fall into corruption and became decadent. They all had to be taught by God a new way to be born again, as a new creation. Their only hope was for God to do the work, as He had done in the first seven days. God made it *Holy* and did all the work of creation.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF BORN AGAIN?

A person must be short of "something" to be reborn. You know that Adam and Eve and all their children on their own, through the ages, decided to determine their own ideas of *good* and *evil*. Only a relative few decided to let God be their Master Teacher and Father in faith.

AN OLD WAY

To make man in His own *image*, God had to do all the work. *The Law of Moses* did not do what was necessary with all its penalties and curses. They, continually, came up with their own interpretations and ideas of doctrine.

God reverted to a new beginning and created a new way to make man do what? God created a way for Him to make man in His "image." According to your choices, God created different Covenants to make you like Him (The Old Covenant was replaced by The New Covenant). But what was different? Free choice, was still the only way.

Baptism, a cleansing, needed one added step – repentance. To *repent* is to desire a new mind, a different way of thinking. God wanted them to repent and have them desire to be taught by Him with His great mind. So, God made His Son, an author and teacher and He did that through faith.

It was time for a Messiah – Savior who already knew the truth from birth. As a human, He could experience all that every human does through His faith, He lived by every Word of God. God was His teacher.

It was also the time for a Prophet in The Spirit of Eli-

jah to bring Israel back to God from Baal worship. Always remember, Baal worship is following every man-made "god" or desire of a human's heart, rather than having a heart like Christ.

John, The Baptist called upon everyone who was lost in the wilderness to come to repentance and be baptized. The baptism would let them be cleansed and made Holy as Sons of God.

Nebuchadnezzar became a madman with The Mark of the Beast. To rescue a normal mind, He had to survive on his own like a roaring lion and acknowledge God Almighty as His God once again.

Now, John, The Baptist in *The New Testament* prepared the way to repentance. He had to follow this way out of the wilderness and follow The One God, Father of All (Matthew 3). As in the beginning, God would once again offer The Tree of Life to mankind by adding a new step to Salvation. That new step was, you had to repent.

AUTHOR OF YOUR SALVATION

With repentance, Jesus, The Promised Seed, had come as The Husband, to oversee His Wife and to be ready for The Marriage Feast (Matthew 3:11). John, The Baptist instituted repentance, but Christ as The Groom would baptize with The Holy Spirit and Fire.

God added three new steps to bring man to be in His *image*:

- 1) Repentance.
- 2) The Holy Spirit.
- 3) Fire all to destroy sin.

These steps offered a *free choice* decision for every human to make (Philippians 2:12).

Paul answers this question of "Individual Salvation" for each human being, "For it is God which works in you [each person] both to will [desire] and to do [works] of his good pleasure" (Philippians 2:13). God even gives you the gift of repentance, as well as, doing the work for you, to help you become like Him.

GOD DOES THE WORK

The end is the beginning. (Request the free book, *The End Is The Beginning*). As God did the work, now He must do His work through His First Begotten Son, The Author of your Salvation (Hebrews 12:2).

Jesus clearly understood, only God can make you in His image, "This is the work of God, that you believe on him [Christ] whom he has sent" (John 6:29). Jesus offered this fact in a clear manner.

HOLY SPIRIT AND FIRE

How does God destroy sin? The answer is by The Baptism of The Holy Spirit and by The Baptism of Fire. Both Baptisms purge sin!

Now, you know why the *unpardonable sin* is denying God's Holy Spirit, because there is only one way to destroy sin (Matthew 12:31-32). All who reject God's Holy Spirit (leads you to the truth) have one more baptism – The Lake of Fire, the final baptism in death that destroys sin (I Corinthians 15:54-57).

God's Holy Spirit is a "baptism," stronger and more powerful than baptism by water. Water only makes your body clean and does not change your mind to think like God and Christ. Repentance is only a beginning to The Pathway to God's House.

To enter the gate to God's house and temple is a narrow way with many side paths. To reach God's gate the path is narrow and ,therefore, each and every time you stray (\sin) , you need a new baptism. You need to die and then be resurrected. You need to repent so God can forgive you. Then you must stay on the straight and narrow – <u>STOP SINNING!</u>

God's Holy Spirit is the way to the truth, even as Jesus was God's First Begotten Son, who is to be your Author. Jesus is your way to the truth. It was Christ who received God's Holy Spirit, without measure, from birth, which made Him Holy (Luke 1:35 and John 3:34).

A MATTER OF FAITH

The process for reaching God's house in The Kingdom of God requires faith and having complete trust in God. For Christ to be that Messiah, He had to ex-

ercise more faith than anyone else.

Revelation 1:5, prophetically, describes your Messiah as being faithful. You know, he was born a human through Mary, His mother, but His Father was God through The Holy Spirit (Luke 1:35).

To be the first, He also had to exercise more faith than anyone else. Why? Jesus told The Pharisees, if they were blind, they would have no sin (John 9:41). Sin is not counted against you, until you come to know what sin is and are aware you are sinning.

Sin is transgression of *The Law* (I John 3:4). One cannot sin and be allowed to live in The Promised Land, where no illegal immigrants are allowed. The Letter of *The Law* must be kept perfectly, or you are cursed according to Deuteronomy 28.

From Jesus's birth, He had all the *truth*, because He had God's Holy Spirit which is His *power*, *love* and *sound mind* (II Timothy 1:7). On earth, Christ was, totally, without excuse in every aspect of His life. He always knew God's *goodness*. His faith or trust in God had to be greater than of any other human being. He had to be without *sin* and *perfect* to be your Messiah.

Christ died and was resurrected into God's glory by The Holy Spirit. After Christ's resurrection, He offered The Holy Spirit to all the world. However, God's people, except for a few, became rebellious children. Of the few, both of Judah and The Gentiles, only a remnant of the world were qualified to be saved.

CHAPTER 8

A WORTHY NATION

Christ, The Groom, was rejected by His Bride – The Jews. So, now Christ turned to a nation more worthy to be The Bride. The Time of The Gentiles had arrived, "Therefore say I to you, the kingdom of God shall be taken from you and given to a nation bringing forth the fruit thereof" (Matthew 21:43).

BACK TO THE TWO TREES

Biblically, symbolism is mythical. A "myth" is not real, but can be a mystery. A "mystery" is something you do not understand, even though the account tells a story with all the clues or truths, but have only parts of that truth. Paul claimed all humanity, even Christians in the ministry by The Prophets, only comprehend a part (I Corinthians 13:9). Paul included himself in this scenario.

Christ defined the meaning, of The Tree of Life and The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil in Matthew 7 when He said, "You shall know them by their fruits" (Matthew 7:16). The Tree of Life (Good Tree) refers to people who seek God as their Teacher and Father. God can only teach you good and evil. Only

God is good, Holy and perfect.

Eating from The Tree of The Knowledge of Good and Evil, a person is left to decide what is *good* or *bad* for themselves. The Trees, by Christ's definition, became a *symbol* or *myth*, representing God and human nature. God wants you to seek Him, as your Father, so you can be taught by Him.

WHAT IS A FATHER?

A father is the one who gives you life. Seems like a simple statement. God, Almighty created all of you and gave everyone life. He gave you intelligent life, when He breathed into Adam's nostrils. In Hebrew, it is "ruach," "God's wind or Spirit." This Spirit made you homo sapiens (animals who have human understanding) (Job 32:8).

You have the rationale to comprehend and envision possibilities, known as human imagination or guesses. Science calls this type of possibility a hypothesis, or possible guess.

A father gives you the ability to rationalize, only to discover what is *right* or *good* through your human experience. If repeating one's experience over time and you continue to do good, you call it fact or the truth. Science then believes, they have the answer to what is good and real.

God is more than what *human experience* can achieve, He is also a Father. Humans do not have enough ex-

A WORTHY NATION 45

perience, when using computers. Computers, only add and subtract. The faster the computer, then more theory can be multiplied. Multiplication is nothing more than taking human guesses and multiplying them. This task is similar to a human experimenting over and over and then, coming up with right answers or formulas. Science, therefore, discovers the right equation and calls it "The Truth of Reality."

The problem with this reasoning is that new equations are always possible, by changing your dimensions, which are facts or factors that you accept as real. Now, science has discovered many new dimensions, which change the factors you use as laws or rules of physics.

Computers have limits. Making your computer faster can be better, but not eternal. Computers in themselves are factually limited. Top chess players beat computers all the time. Why? Very simply – computers are made by humans and therefore, limited as well.

Even human mathematics are limited. You teach arithmetic, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and calculus. These are all human ways of calculating your guesses to arrive at reality. Human mathematics are also limited, as new math continues to be discovered.

There will always be new formulas to arrive at reality. New dimensions beyond height, width, depth and time need new facts. Dimensions having new, unknown laws also need new mathematics. Their needs seem to be unending.

YOUR ELDER

When the elderly listen to the conclusions of younger generations, they just smile, when they repeat history or recent times. The elders have lived it. The younger can only guess what was, the truth of the past. Too often, the younger think, they have all the answers.

Telling older people what life was like, before they were alive is ignorant and foolish. The younger might be close, but close can be harmful and faulty. The Ancient of Days in Daniel 7:13, is when God appeared in a dream, as a vision, to Daniel. God, your Father, is "the supreme elder," since He is Eternal and does not experience time.

God is the only one who is in all dimensions, which He created. Since He is The Builder of All Things (Hebrews 3:4), He is the only one who is *good* and knows reality. Any builder knows how they create something new, and no one else can know all the ins and outs of such creations.

Elders are respected by God, because they have experienced real life longer and know some of the solutions that life presents. They are more profitable. The Apostle John clarified these facts, "I write to you, little [inexperienced] children, because your sins are forgiven [youthful mistakes] you for his [Christ's] sake. I have written to you, fathers [elders], because you have known Him that is from the beginning [experienced]. I have written to young men [more experienced than the child], because you are strong [muscular], and the word

A WORTHY NATION 47

of God [Christians] abides in you and you have over-come the wicked one [Satan]" (I John 2:12-14). John clearly, defines God's "elder program," is determined by the strength of the children. The younger men and the elders, each have their own gift from God. The elders, because they experienced God in their "lifetime experiences," should be respected, for their teaching and insight.

GOD'S ACCEPTANCE

Whether it be young children or elders, God works with all and wants everyone to be saved by Christ (I John 4:14). Peter learned that lesson in a vision from God. Peter saw in a vision, a sheet coming down with clean and unclean animals. God told him, no matter whether an animal was clean for sacrifice or not, He was changing His system in making a person fruitful. When they were working towards righteousness and were true witnesses, they were more worthy to be Christ's Bride, "Then Peter opened his mouth and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation [Jew and Gentile] he that fears him and works righteousness is accepted with him" (Acts 10:34-35). (Request the free book, God's Work).

A nation of "righteous seeking" people is all God needs for them to become God's people. These people are repentant, since they seek God's righteousness on their own.

Human nature, coming out of Babylon, makes them acceptable to God. When truly repentant, they be-

come clean sacrifices, as examples, of giving their lives to God. Baptism reveals their sins, so God accepts their sacrificial bodies for their sins (Hebrews 5:1).

Here is the nation bearing fruits to be Christ's Bride, "But you [the church] are a chosen generation [all people], a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a peculiar people [a few] that you should show forth [a sacrifice] the praises of him [Christ] who has called you [a virgin] out of darkness [Babylon] into his marvelous light [Christ]" (I Peter 2:9).

CHAPTER 9

GOD'S SPIRITUAL TEMPLE

David wanted to build God a house, but God asked, David a question, "You are going to build me a house?" King David had no idea what he was attempting to do. David built himself a grand palace and, perhaps felt, he should build a house for God. Solomon, his son, actually built the house, according to the actual plans God gave King David. Solomon was a man of peace, so God permitted him to build the house. David's life was filled with violence.

CAN MAN BUILD GOD'S HOUSE?

"For every house so built by some man; but he that built all things is God" (Hebrews 3:4). This is a profound Biblical statement.

The Book of Hebrews follows with another deep reality, "But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence [faith] and the rejoicing of the hope firm [truth] to the end" (Hebrews 3:6). Wow!

Neither Moses (Hebrews 3:2) nor Jesus could build God's house! No man, including King David, Solomon, Moses or even Jesus, could build a house for

God. Only God could build His own house. Your Savior could do nothing of Himself. He never performed a single miracle, as He told you in John 5:19. Christ worked and His Father works even on The Sabbath (John 5:17).

Christ's main job was to have *faith* in His Father. But it is God who builds or does all things. It was The Holy Spirit – God's power, love and sound mind – who actually did the work (II Timothy 1:7).

The *scriptural* answer of the declarations made in Hebrews 3:1-4 is: The One God Almighty builds all things which no man can do. Even Christ, as a human, was not capable of doing God's work.

Hebrews continues the point of entering God's rest, "Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost says, Today if you will hear his voice, Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness: When your fathers tempted me, proved me [tested] and saw my works [miracles] forty years [one generation]. Wherefore I was grieved with that generation and said, They do always err [sin] in their hearts [desires]; and they have not known my ways [logic]. So I sware in my wrath [anger], They [Israel] shall not enter into my rest [Sabbath])" (Hebrews 3:7-11). This scriptural quote spells out, clearly, that God builds all things and does all the work. God's voice is The Holy Spirit.

Humans can build physical houses for themselves, but, Christ's house is a *spiritual* one. The Bride comes from Christ, like Eve being born from Adam's body

(Ephesians 5). Only God builds His own house which becomes a temple or His Holy House.

To be Holy is *perfection* without even one small mistake (sin). There is to be *rest* for the people of God (Hebrews 4:9). Sabbatismose foretells the future under The New Heavens and on The New Earth (Revelation 21-22).

WORSHIPPING GOD SPIRITUALLY

When Christ visited with the Samaritan woman, she told Him about the coming Messiah. He then revealed that He was The Messiah. He explained, worshipping God in Samaria and Jerusalem would cease.

He also told her The Gentiles did not know what, or who they worshipped, but The Jews knew The One, Almighty Father. Therefore, Salvation is of The Jews from The One God who builds all things, which Hebrews 3-4 taught you.

Then, your Savior describes how The One God wants to be worshipped, "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. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him is Spirit and truth" (John 4:23-24).

Human works or those in human temples no longer signify who are The Sons of God. Only those in God's *image*, *perfect* and *Holy*, as Christ, are in His glorified form, can be in God's *rest* in God's Holy House.

God's plan is simple and wonderful.

52

GOD'S HOLY SPIRIT

The Holy Spirit is God's very word, power, love and sound mind (Hebrews 3). When God's Holy Spirit speaks to your heart's desires, you, then, know how to worship God *spiritually*. You are diligently seeking God, as Isaiah told you (Isaiah 55:6).

All the human works you do (The Law of Moses) or being in God's physical temples, change you spiritually without God's help. Only God can build all things since He does all the work.

Jesus was faithful in all the works (Revelation 1:5). His Father told Him, but of Himself, He could do nothing. It was Christ's faith which saved Him from death and not by anything He did as The Son of Man. He was the Son of Man, who was born to be God's First Begotten Son. He was The Christ, anointed to be that sacrifice which God prepared (Hebrews 10:5). God prepared Jesus as the body (human) to pay for the sins of the world.

Christ was building His spiritual house (His Bride). He built that house the same way Jesus became God's Son. But God's Holy Spirit accomplished all the work.

Jesus had to leave His Bride to help prepare her for The Wedding Feast. He gave The Bride a valuable engagement ring (God's Holy Spirit), which is the *truth*. This makes her love her Groom all the more. This ring, like the sun, was a beautiful pearl of great price.

During His journey, Christ had to leave and build a mansion for His Bride (John 14:1-2). This mansion was built by God (spiritual) and Jesus went to build an area for His Bride. Amen and amen. How beautiful! The husband must provide for and take care of His wife (Ephesians 5).

Since only God can build His House (and must be perfect), then the temples built by man must have a divine purpose, as well.

The First Covenant, called The Old Covenant, was merely, to be a witness, or type of God's Spiritual House (Hebrews 9:1-14). The house was built only by God's Holy Spirit under The New Heavens and on The New Earth.

The Old Covenant made with Israel (only) as The Fiancee, was to lead them to Christ, so The Christians and The Messanic Jews (those worthy) could become The Bride (Galatians 3:24). Christ brought you grace and truth and He was a witness of that truth (John 1:17). What witness to Christ was The Tabernacle and all "the temples" built by man?

CHAPTER 10

TEMPLES OF DIVINE PURPOSE

Archeology, the study of ancient history, reveals that all human temples built were very similar. All temples have levels depicting a heaven, a hell and a Paradise. Each temple, whether The Israelites, The Pagans, Islam or Christians, had the basics for Salvation. However, they varied on how to get to heaven.

WHO IS GOD?

The Ancients had many "gods" to worship. The question is: Is God, The Only One True God, or are there more "gods?" Polytheism, with many gods, became The Philosophy of Life for the majority. It all seems like a myth – or was it? The One, God Almighty told you to seek Him, while you are able. The world had been worshipping many gods, who disagreed and even fought with each other. Yet, in their Holy books each had similar beliefs like going to heaven, or the judgment – a Lake of Fire and, finally, about Paradise. The real search was to find out if there is "One" or many "gods."

Romans 1:21 reveals, everyone knew The One True God, but had to decide on their own how to worship Him. When it comes to religion, human nature has

ORIGIN OF BAPTISM

the inherent capability to judge which God is to be worshipped. At The Tower of Babel, God saw that humans have an intellect to create anything they form in their minds (Genesis 11) – and that is exactly what occurred. The ultimate god was to worship themselves. Today, that worshipping is called Science with no need for a "god," since most scientists rationalize that all "gods" are dead. You can become a god in your own mind, "Who changed the truth of God into a lie and worshipped and served [slaves] the creature more than the creator, who is blessed forever. Amen" (Romans 1:25). That is a simple and clear statement.

Humans tend to seek for and agree with those who help them receive their survival "needs." But pleasurable "wants" must also be included. History has upheld this truth to the present day.

GOD'S LOVE

Individuals were given free choice from the Time in The Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve. God loves all of you, but how does He justly deal with such diversity? He deals with you at your level of understanding, even though your faith and belief systems are all quite different.

THE INHERITANCE

The Song of Moses gives you God's solution to save the world, "Remember the days of old, consider many generations, ask your fathers [elders] and he will show you, your elders and they will tell you. When the most high divided to the nations their inheritance, when he separated the sons of Adam, he set the bounds of the people according to their number of the children of Israel" (Deuteronomy 32:7-8).

This song was given to Moses not just for Israel, but for the whole world (Deuteronomy 32:1). Then, God reveals a monumental truth. He foretells, everything that God teaches, as His doctrine, produces "good trust." Whenever and whatever God teaches, it will always be fruitful.

When God does "the work," it is for the good of everyone involved. God divided the world in Peleg's day and gave humans a chance to exercise free choice (Genesis 10:25). Dividing the nations by languages provided individual inheritances. The processes of debating, arguing and murdering were dramatically halted.

The beast – human nature, was wounded for every nation to grow into Godly knowledge at their own pace. Wow! What a loving Father!

TEMPLE WORSHIP

Each nation on its own worshipped God in peace according to their own imagination. Every culture religiously (by faith) worshipped God in their own way. There was a secret *mystery* only known to them with their own rituals and meanings.

Whether Egyptian, Mayan, Aztec, Chinese or Indian,

all knew The One True God and The Messiah. However, they did not know who He would be, or when He would come, as Peter wrote. Temple worship portrayed, exactly, what they believed at any particular time.

God made an exception with Israel, because of the "promise" made to them. Israel knew their God delivered them out of slavery in Egypt and agreed to obey Him out of fear. That fear became so great, they requested that Moses speak to them, instead of God.

God told Moses to make The Tabernacle (temporary dwelling) exactly, as he was directed. In King David's time, God told the king to build The Temple of God just like "the temple in heaven" with every detail in place.

All the services performed by The Priests were to be exactly as God told them. Solomon built the temple, because he was a man of peace. Solomon's Temple was the only one built exactly like the one in Heaven. Every ritual, everything in it, was *divine* or Holy. This one temple built by man depicted the whole truth of the universe and God's *mystery* (Hebrews 9).

All other temples worldwide had only, partially, The Truth of God's Mystery. Each nation and culture had their own interpretation. As Paul said, they held the truth according to their own "limited" knowledge. Every single temple, whether Egyptian, The Parthenon in Athens, or others, knew of The One True God and His purpose. They all had a Holy of Holies (a Holy

place) and a Court for the people. From that time on, their Priesthoods were based upon their personal understanding.

CHRIST CAME TO SAVE THE WORLD

Jesus came to Save The World (I John 4:14). How? Moses defined what sin was (I John 3:4). But Christ brought *The New Covenant – grace* (mercy) and *truth*.

The Law of Moses could not save anyone, as it was only meant to describe. Jesus taught every Word of God (Matthew 4:4). Christ The Author and Originator of God's Mystery, revealed the truth of God's Temple in Heaven, as your High Priest, Melchizedek (Hebrews 7-8).

All the human temples, even Herod's in Christ's time, were corrupt. None of the temples were Holy or pure. Only Solomon's temple was, exactly, like the one in heaven.

Since Jesus was of The Word of God, He could teach the complete Word of God (John 1:17). All others were mixed with *good* and *evil*, holding the truth in an unrighteous way (Romans 1:18).

CHAPTER 11

CHRIST DRAWS ALL MEN

Just before Christ was crucified, He pronounced a worldwide prophecy, "Now is the judgment of this world: now shall the prince [Satan] of this world be cast out. And if I be lifted up from the earth [resurrected], will draw all men to me" (John 12:31).

WHAT CHRIST MEANT

In Greek, the word to "draw" has a much more forceful definition in English. The Judgment began with Christ's crucifixion and resurrection, the real reason why Lazarus was resurrected followed by many others. When Jesus was crucified and then resurrected, they were the faithful.

Thus, Peter wrote, "Judgment begins with The Church of God and Messianic Jews" (I Peter 4:12, 17). Peter wants you to think of those who do not believe The Gospel of Christ. In The White Throne Judgment, the goats are not dressed in white, as is The Bride. A white garment represents "the righteousness of the saints," who is Christ's Bride (Revelation 19:7-8). The ceremony is the resurrection of those who have become righteous like Christ and God.

The goats are an acceptable sacrifice, as clean animals

62 ORIGIN OF BAPTISM

to God. However, they must go into The Lake of Fire, because they do not accept Jesus as their Messiah and do not want God's Holy Spirit. The goats are clean and acceptable sacrifices by God's Law. Those who are not saints are willing to die for The Groom. But those who believe in Christ, keep *The Commandments*, are faithful and will be blessed to be the invited guests at The Wedding Feast (Revelation 19:9). (Request the free book, *The Wedding Feast*).

Those unrepentant, who do not believe in Christ, as The Messiah, will confess that Jesus is The Lord, "But the righteousness which is of faith speaks on this wise, Say not in your heart [desire], Who shall ascend into heaven? [Nobody can go to Christ. Christ will return to the earth for us]. *Or who shall descend* [into the grave] into the deep? [that is, to bring up Christ again from the dead]. But what say it? The word is nigh you, even in my mouth and in your heart [desires]: that is the word of faith, which we preach; That if you shall confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and shall believe to righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made to salvation. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all [the world] is rich [gifts] to all that call upon him [Christ]. How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Hebrews 10:6-14). The answer is: Once they confess Jesus as The Lord, they will be saved, "For the Father judges no man, but has committed all judgment to the Son: That all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father. He that honours not the Son honours not the Father who has sent him. Verily, verily, I

say to you, he that hears my word and believes on him that sent me has everlasting life and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death to life" (John 5:22-25). A very clear answer! Anyone who believes Jesus, as their Lord and Savior and, believes what He has to say will no longer die, but be saved. Those buried in The Lake of Fire have their flesh destroyed, but not their spirits.

The process is everyone in heaven and on earth will, ultimately, have "the potential" for Salvation (Ephesians I:10-21 and Philippians 2:9-13). Every tongue in heaven, on earth and in the grave will confess that your Messiah is Jesus, The Christ – The Lord. He will judge and Save The World. (I John 4:14). He claims He loses "no one" given to Him (John 5-6). So it appears, "the potential" for Salvation is, eventually, "no one" will be lost.

When Jesus returns and invites people to The Wedding Feast will everyone in the world want to join Him? "Now is the judgment of the world: now shall the prince of this world be cast out" (John 12:31).

DAY OF ATONEMENT

The meaning of The Day of Atonement is explained in Leviticus 16. The animal sacrifice, to forgive sin, represents two goats. One goat is sacrificed and the other, called the "scapegoat," is sent into the wilderness. The one who escapes is known as the "azazel" goat, that takes all the sins of the world with him. The world's sins will be forgiven and as Christ said, all

manner of sin shall be forgiven (Matthew 12:31-32).

In the judgment, Salvation is to bring everyone to Christ. When all confess and acknowledge Him as The Anointed Savior, they shall be saved.

The goats that are clean animals are accepted by God, as a sacrifice for sin. The blood of Christ paid for your sins. The goat goes into the fire to destroy the flesh, which is sin, and ends in outer darkness, in the wilderness like the "azazel" goat.

It is a given for all men to die once (Hebrews 9:27). Jude 12-13 tells you those who end up in outer darkness die twice, but end up alive while still in the darkness. The one goat dies as a sacrifice and the other ends up in outer darkness, as Jude wrote. How simple is that to understand!

Christ brings people to Him in the judgment (The White Throne Judgment), when all are resurrected (Revelation 20).

The second death has no power for The Bride in the first resurrection (Revelation 20:6). Those who die twice, end up in The Lake of Fire and are not allowed to The Wedding Feast (Revelation 20:11-15). The "unpardonable sin" is more than sinning and breaking God's Law (which is sin) (I John 3:4). This Scripture tells you what sin is. But the "unpardonable sin" in this life and the world to come, is the rejection of God's Holy Spirit who reveals The Messiah and God's "word" (Matthew 12:31-32).

THE ETERNAL COVENANT

Christ is The One who has The Everlasting or Eternal Covenant (Hebrew 13:20). The Old Covenant – The Law of Moses only tells you what sin is, but cannot make you perfect. God's goal is to make you in His "image," requiring you to be perfect or Holy, like Him (Matthew 5:48).

Baptism is the death of your flesh, but also the resurrection of your spirit and filling you with God's glory. The Eternal or Everlasting Covenant demands you become the exact image of God (Genesis 1:26 and Hebrews 1:3).

This Eternal Covenant – The Gift of Eternal Life in Paradise demands you be a duplicate of God and His Son. The first baptism by God's personal oath, took place at the beginning of creation. Genesis, in Hebrew is Bereskit, meaning Beginning Covenant.

Baptism by free choice without repentance occurred from the beginning. Until Christ came, God's Kingdom was taken by force or war. Then John, The Baptist and your Messiah came to pave the way for God's righteousness and glory.

Repentance by *free choice* is now demanded, in order to receive The Kingdom of God through His Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit leads you into all truth to be "one" with God and Christ (John 17:13-22).

What will God's people be doing in God's Kingdom?

God and Christ which comprise God's temple, teaches God's Word and *truth*. Through God's Spirit, The Bride will be bringing healing waters to all those who are guests at The Wedding Feast. Those in outer darkness who are wailing and weeping will have access to the waters, also. The healing waters will help all the nations to become God's Sons (Revelation 21-22 and Revelation 22:2, 17). (Request the free book, *The End Is The Beginning*).

All the individuals of the world, will finally, be in great awe to know God's desires and for everyone to come around to His "way of life." Their human ways were all messed up, but now, they only want to give Glory and Praise to God for rescuing them from their fate of death. Glory and Praise to your loving Father and God!

A perfect Eternal Life awaits you. You can pray, repent and perhaps be among the first, or you can continue to pay the penalties of life and remain at the end of the line. Perhaps you should try to be at the front of the line. This will be the sale-of-sales. Some took 70% off or 90% off their products. But God is offering you Eternal Life – no charge – a gift from your Heavenly Father. Choose wisely.