

THE PRICE OF REDEMPTION

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The word “redeem” speaks of the buying back of something that was sold or mortgaged to another. Webster’s dictionary defines redeem as meaning:

“To buy back; to get back or recover, as by paying a fee; to set free; ransom; rescue.”

From a scriptural point of view, the word refers to the redemption of slaves, as well as of land or chattels. It involves a price to be paid and a return of the thing that was indentured to the one paying the price of redemption. Under the Law given in the Old Testament, the nearest of kin had the right and responsibility to redeem his kinsman or inheritance of land or houses lost through poverty or war. Under the Law, as stated in Deuteronomy 25:5-10, if the rightful owner of the land was deceased, then redemption by the nearest kinsman would include the duty to marry the widow of the deceased. Such was the case in the story of Boaz and Ruth.

Let us look at a scripture pertaining to the redemption of Israel by God:

Exodus 6:2-7, “And God spake unto Moses, and said unto him, I am the LORD: And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them. And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers. And I have also heard the groaning of the children of Israel, whom the Egyptians keep in bondage; and I have remembered my covenant. Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I AM THE LORD, AND I WILL BRING YOU OUT FROM UNDER THE BURDENS OF THE EGYPTIANS, AND I WILL RID YOU OUT OF THEIR BONDAGE, AND I WILL REDEEM YOU WITH A STRETCHED OUT ARM, AND WITH GREAT JUDGMENTS: AND I WILL TAKE YOU TO ME FOR A PEOPLE, AND I WILL BE TO YOU A GOD: AND YE SHALL KNOW THAT I AM THE LORD YOUR GOD, WHICH BRINGETH YOU OUT FROM UNDER THE BURDENS OF THE EGYPTIANS.”

Note that this same promise is repeated in almost every book of the Old Testament as God’s oft repeated promise to Israel, and was repeated in the New Testament by the Lord speaking through Paul to the Church in Hebrews 8:10. This shows us that God has only one *Israel*, one people, and that both Jew and

Gentile must come to the one point of salvation by the hand of the one *Redeemer*.

“...and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm.” If the Israel of old was free born, whence then did they become indentured? And if they were a type of God’s Church today, who then having been made free, why then do we still need the Redeemer, after we have been once set free?

From the fall of Adam, humanity was lost to God our maker. Man had joined with the enemy and God had to pay a price to get us back. The Almighty paid the blood of His Son before the foundation of the world as the price of our redemption; but this price, though paid in the heavenlies, had to be made manifest in our realm. In order to redeem mankind, He had to choose a people and so He chose Israel.

Thus, in Abraham, Israel became a covenant people. This means that God took them unto Himself as His peculiar treasure; but they sinned against the covenant and through their transgression, they made the promises of God ineffective. God, by making a covenant with one nation, was making it possible for all nations to come into that covenant, so that redemption should come to us through Israel. Therefore, in the fulness of time, Jesus Christ was born of Israel and He became the *Redeemer* of all mankind.

In the first place, we were sold into bondage by our brother Adam. So let us read the Law concerning being made a bondsman by another, and how such a person can be freed or remain a bondsman:

Leviticus 25:25-28, “If thy brother be waxen poor, and hath sold away some of his possession, and if any of his kin come to redeem it, then shall he redeem that which his brother sold. And if the man have none to redeem it, and himself be able to redeem it; Then let him count the years of the sale thereof, and restore the overplus to the man to whom he sold it; that he may return unto his possession. But if he be not able to restore it to him, then that which is sold shall remain in the hand of him that had bought it until the year of JUBILEE: and in the jubilee it shall go out, and he shall return unto his possession.”

TWO WAYS TO LOSE ONE’S FREEDOM

From Old Testament scripture, there are two ways in which one might become a bondsman or be in a position of needing redemption:

- (1) By suffering defeat in war
 - (2) By selling oneself into bondage, or by another selling us into bondage.
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If we should look at this from its spiritual angle, we see Adam our brother totally defeated and in weakness giving up our inheritance in God to Satan. The Law prescribes however, that this bondage can only last until *the year of Jubilee*. This means that after the *Jubilee* is proclaimed and all the prisoners are set free, that the only ones who will remain in prison or in bondage are those who sell themselves again into bondage or those who refuse the deliverance. We should note from Luke 4, that immediately after Jesus came out of the wilderness, having gained a resounding victory over the devil, He went into the synagogue and read from Isaiah 61:1-2, that He had come to set at liberty the prisoners and to proclaim the year of deliverance (*Jubilee*).

Isaiah 61:1-2, "The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because the Lord hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the broken hearted, TO PROCLAIM LIBERTY TO THE CAPTIVES, AND THE OPENING OF THE PRISON TO THEM THAT ARE BOUND; TO PROCLAIM THE ACCEPTABLE YEAR OF THE LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God: to comfort those that mourn,"

The price of redemption was paid from before the foundation of the earth. This means that God, knowing all things, knew that Adam would fall and become the property of the devil. Therefore, He slew Jesus Christ the Lamb, before the fact, and paid for the liberation of man before He was made. It transpires then, that before Israel sinned, it was paid for.

When Daniel prayed earnestly for Israel, God was faced with what would be a dilemma in our human way of thinking, but He solved it (Daniel 10:12-13) by sending *Michael* the archangel (who carries the blood), and promptly overthrew the claims of the Prince of Persia who was claiming the Israelites as his property. Their sins were already paid for by the blood of Jesus Christ, which was shed from before the foundation of the world.

PROPERTY IN A WALLED CITY

Leviticus 25:29-31, "And if a man sell a dwelling house in a walled city, then he may redeem it within a whole year after it is sold; within a full year may he redeem it. And if it be not redeemed within the space of a full year, then the house that is in the walled city shall be established for ever to him that bought it throughout his generations: It shall not go out in the Jubilee. But the houses of the villages which have no wall round about them shall be counted as the fields of the country, they may be redeemed and they shall go out in the Jubilee."

In type, the "*walled city*" represents those that are bound by covenant to the king whom they serve, whether it be unto God or unto Satan. There is a place in God that one might attain, from whence there is no turning back. In

the study of the Tabernacle, we find that the first enclosure, where God begins to shut man in unto Himself, is the *Outer Court*. There we receive salvation and then the baptism of the Holy Ghost, which prepares us to enter into the next enclosure, through the door of the *Holy Place* (Christ). When once we are firmly enclosed, and have tasted of the *lampstand* (which is the union of God and man bringing forth light) and of the *shewbread*, which are other dimensions of Christ, then we are asked at the *golden altar* to offer up all that we have and all that we are to God. It is then at this point, as we would do this, that there is no possibility of turning back. Before this, however, we are not yet entered into the WALLED CITY OF GOD, that is, in Christ, and we are vulnerable to satanic counter claims. In this same way, there is a place in Satan where men commit the unpardonable sin, and there is no place of repentance.

2 Corinthians 5:17, "Therefore, if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

This means that anyone who is in the "walled city" has been made a new creation. It brings back the words of an old song, "I am too near my heavenly home to turn back now."

THE CITY OF THE LEVITES

Leviticus 25:32-34, "Notwithstanding the cities of the Levites and the houses of the cities of their possession, may the Levites redeem at any time. And if a man purchase of the Levites then the house that was sold, and the city of his possession, shall go out in the year of Jubilee; for the houses of the cities of the Levites are their possession among the children of Israel. But the field of the suburbs of the cities may not be sold; for it is their perpetual possession."

This is so because the Levites in type represent that class of believers who are chosen of God (the *elect*). One was born a Levite and had no choice as to his profession. In the same way, Jesus chose twelve disciples; from the twelve He had three, and from the three He had one. They did not choose themselves, and they had no choice in the matter. Judas, who lost his bishopric, was from the nine and could not have been from the three. There are some among us who God has chosen and they will not and could not sell their possession. We are not here talking of natural birth or any form of heavenly favoritism, but of spiritual birth and Godly *calling and election*.

2 Peter 1:10, "Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure; for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall"

SELLING ONESELF INTO BONDAGE OR TO BE SOLD BY ANOTHER

We understand from the foregoing scriptures that a person can sell himself into bondage to Satan, and can be redeemed by the Lord, but what about those who resell themselves after they have been redeemed? It is the work of the devil to try to get men to sin so that they will become his slaves, though they be freed by the Lord Jesus Christ. I will first give you the Old Testament Law and then the interpretation in the New Testament:

Exodus 21:2, "If thou buy an Hebrew servant, six years he shall serve: and in the seventh he shall go out free for nothing."

Verses 5 & 6: *"And if the servant shall plainly say, I love my master, my wife and my children; I will not go out free: Then his master shall bring him unto the judges; he shall also bring him to the door or unto the door post; and his master shall bore his ear through with an awl; and he shall serve him forever."*

When Jesus sets a soul free from sin and the devil, that person has the option to return and to make a covenant with the devil and be bound forever. It is the same in the Lord, that one can go on into Christ and become an eternal bond slave of Jesus Christ. In my experience, I have found Christians who are bound by certain sins and seemingly cannot get relief. For some, habits like smoking cigarettes and drinking liquor are so compulsive that they cannot break away. This happens to Christians because many, after they have been delivered from these things, willingly and willfully return to them. In so doing they give the spirits that attend every unclean habit the power to bind them.

SPIRITS OF DARKNESS DEMAND REDEMPTIVE SUBMISSION

In Africa and in other places where spirits can find fertile ground, the ruling spirit oppresses the people with barrenness, so that they might submit to him for having children, and when they do, that they might offer the children to him. The whole idea stems from the fact that Satan claims all the people as his property. In Isaiah 14:13, Satan told God he would rule over the choicest of God's people,

“For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.”

And in Luke 4:5-8, he laid his claim before Jesus on the mount of temptation:

“And the devil, taking him up into an high mountain, shewed unto him all the kingdoms of the world in a moment of time. And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee, and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it. If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve.”

It is evident from these passages that the devil not only lays claim to all humanity, but also to redeemed Christians. It should not be so, but for one fact, which we will explain later. Satan contended before Jesus Christ that the kingdoms of this world belonged to him. We must remember that the twelve disciples that Jesus had selected from the world were also a part of these kingdoms. Jesus even said to Peter that Satan had planned to sift him as wheat, but that He counteracted it by prayer. The mountain of vision into which Satan took Jesus must not have been natural, since from that vantage point they not could see *“all the kingdoms of the world.”*

The English rendition could not do justice to the powerful rebuke here in this passage that came to Satan from Christ. It is *“hupage opiso”* in the Greek, which in the imperative mood is a command rebuke, to “Take your place behind me; go from my face”, which at the same time says, “You are out of your place; you are not worthy of worship; only God is to be worshipped.”

SATAN’S CLAIM TO ALL HUMANITY CAN ONLY BE COUNTERMANDED BY THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST, BECAUSE THERE IS NOTHING ELSE THAT CAN PAY FOR SIN BUT THE BLOOD OF JESUS CHRIST. The Law of God says that *“...the wages of sin is death.”* Therefore, the angel of death demands death for every man.

RATIFYING A DEAD CONTRACT

Before we were born again, the contract of Adam made us slaves to Satan. Satan felt secure in this because he knows that God cannot take sin into heaven, therefore we were naturally children of hell, and consequently his property. However, Satan’s security was shattered by Christ giving Himself to us in our wretched condition, and by our accepting His free gift of redemption.

A new contract was entered into—A contract of Life—which automatically canceled the contract of death. IMMEDIATELY THE ENEMY OF OUR SOULS FINDS THAT HIS CONTRACT IS CANCELLED, HE GOES ABOUT TRYING TO GET US TO RATIFY THE DEAD CONTRACT, TO RESURRECT IT.

Every contract that is made by proxy (that is, someone making it for you or your being born into it), needs your ratification to make it valid. This means that when you become of age you must put your signature to it or agree with it by your action. A contract is any offer and an acceptance; and there are “implied” contracts in law: For instance, when you buy a newspaper, you just take up the paper and put down the money. Without a word said, a contract has been executed. In the same way, the devil looks for some submission on our part in order to renew his claim on us.

THE CHRISTIAN, THEREFORE, IS CONSTANTLY IN A PREDICAMENT BETWEEN RIGHTEOUSNESS AND SIN, AND MUST KEEP A VERY WATCHFUL EYE ON HIMSELF/HERSELF IN ORDER TO KEEP OUT OF SATAN’S “CLAIMS DEPARTMENT.”

Because of this problem, we find devils having power over us in our affairs and in our business that they should not have. If you know that a person has stolen some money and you receive some of it from him for the “Lord’s work,” then you are an accessory to theft. If it is blood money, then you are stained by the blood of it. In law, you would be arrested as an accessory after the fact.

CORPORATE SIN ENHANCES THE POWERS OF THE DEVIL

We live in a society and a world that is totally inundated with sin, and truly, most all of us labor in desperate places. If we sell a piece of property, it is almost certainly going for the devil’s work. If we buy it, then most of the times we have to buy it from the devil. If we put the money in the bank for a day, the devil is going to use it and quite likely give us some of the interest. Our only hope is to live in constant prayer and trust in the Lord. Without this trust and faith, we would have to move out of the world entirely, but since we are here to redeem the times, then we have a job to do. In view of this, God has given us a redemption that continues like a flowing river.

THE LAW OF THE FIRSTBORN

Numbers 3:12-13, “And I, behold, I have taken the Levites from among the children of Israel instead of all the firstborn that openeth the matrix among the

children of Israel: therefore the Levites shall be mine; because all the firstborn are mine; for in the day that I smote all the firstborn in the land of Egypt I hollowed unto me all the firstborn in Israel, both man and beast: mine shall they be: I am the Lord."

GOD'S CLAIM TO HIS PEOPLE

The Law prescribes that the firstborn of a woman or an animal belongs to the Lord, and should be either redeemed or killed. The *Levite* was the redemption money for the Israelite, and the blood of a lamb without spot or blemish was given to redeem an unclean animal (an ass, etc.). The Gospel of Jesus Christ is clearly laid out here. The Levite could not give his life for sins, and his mediation between God and man was but temporary, and his feeble sacrifices of animal blood could not stop the sinner from sinning. God rejected Levi and chose Judah, by which a conquering *Lion* (Jesus: "...the lion of the tribe of Judah") could come and defeat the *roaring lion* (Satan (1 Peter 5:8)), and from his carcass, to suck the riches of strong honey for the strength of the people (Ref: Judges 14:5-9). THE FIRSTBORN, THEREFORE, IS A TYPE OF THE *FIRSTFRUITS* COMPANY THAT SHALL ARISE IN CHRIST IN OUR TIME, FULLY REDEEMED.

Because of this law, Satan takes occasion to demand the firstborn child of every woman. Firstborn children seem to be oppressed by all the familiar spirits of the family than the other children in the family. Of course, we know that "*where sin abounds, grace did much more abound*", (Romans 5:20). Some of the peoples of the world are much more spiritually aware of these things than some of us. The highly modernized countries, in their sophistication, hide themselves from these basic spiritual realities.

In Jamaica and other countries that I know, certain oblations are offered for firstborn children, which binds them in a contractual relationship with the ancestral spirits. Sometimes the navel string (umbilical cord) and placenta are buried, and a tree planted with spiritual overtures in the belief that this binds the life of the child to the life of the tree. Even after many of these persons are saved, they remain tethered to the spirits of their ancestors (familiar spirits). They will be made to believe that they are free while they are yet tethered, so that every now and then they are caused to participate in some seemingly small act, which ratifies the contract they did not make in the first place.

SATAN WORSHIPPED IN THE CHURCHES

2 Thessalonians 2:3-4, *“Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come (the coming of Christ), except there come an falling away (apostasy) first, and the man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition (Satan): Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God.”*

Satan works his way into every culture to get worship from the people. Most of the time they do not know that they are worshipping Satan. When, for instance, a person prays to a statue (whether it be Mary or Peter—it does not matter), they are actually praying to the devil, because God has clearly stated in His Word that there is *“no mediator between God and man except the man Christ Jesus.”*

Others do not pray to a statue, but they make vain repetitions and religious incantations, which, because of their emptiness, do not glorify God nor does He hear them. Such prayers as these are received by the devil. Some prayers, too, are not scriptural: For instance one woman told me she would commit some sin and then ask the Lord to forgive her. Willful sinning is called in scripture, *“presumptuous sin”* (Ref: Psalm 19:13) and will not be forgiven by just praying.

Leviticus 20:3, *“And I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people; because he hath given of his seed unto Molech, to defile my sanctuary and to profane my holy name.”*

Highly civilized people still take their babies to a priest, pastor, or minister of some kind to be christened. Christening is contrary to Scripture, therefore, we are saying that christening is contrary to the *Word of God*. If it is contrary to the Word of God, it is contrary to God, and anything that is contrary to God is of the devil. It was the devil who created this tradition among humans; therefore, he gets the glory. So, we see that the civilized Americans, Europeans, etc., without knowing it, are still giving their children to devils. The only difference between the Africans and the Europeans etc. in their traditional practices is that, whereas the African knows he is giving the child to a spirit (mistakenly thinking it is for protection), the European tells himself he is giving the child to the Almighty God. The voodoo priest in Haiti finds perfect harmony with the Roman Catholic Church in his rituals and spiritual operations because of the parallel that there is in their two forms of worship.

Leviticus 25:46, *“And ye shall take them as an inheritance for your children after you, to inherit them as a possession; they shall be your bondsmen*

for ever: BUT OVER YOUR BRETHREN THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, YE SHALL NOT RULE ONE OVER ANOTHER WITH RIGOUR."

Verse 55: *"For unto me the children of Israel are servants; they are my servants whom I brought forth out of the land of Egypt: I am the Lord your God."*

The price was paid. It was paid in the blood of the eternal Lamb, shed from before the foundation of the world. Therefore, God was justified in opening a war against Satan to redeem that which was rightfully His by purchase. The prophet Isaiah states this clearly:

Isaiah 49:24-25, "Shall the prey be taken from the mighty, or the lawful captive delivered? But thus saith the Lord, Even the captives of the mighty shall be taken away, and the prey of the terrible shall be delivered: for I will contend with him that contendeth with thee and I will save thy children."

This is a case of power against power. Every day, more and more, the battle is getting stronger, and soon no weakling will be able to stand. This means that all those who stand in an outer court type of spiritual operation will be overthrown and trampled. Those who are in a holy place operation (of healing and manifesting spiritual gifts), without appropriating the power unto themselves (their souls), will next be destroyed. When these are out of the way, the real battle will begin. Satan will marshal all his forces and all the power at his disposal to make a final launch against the people of God. Unfortunately for him, at this very time the trumpet shall sound in *Zion* (Joel 2), bringing the power of the Christ to the *REMNANT* that is left.

Revelation 11:3, "And I shall give power unto my two witnesses."

We are in the time of the full redemption, not because it was not given, but because it was not taken. It was not taken because we were too immature and under the delusion of deception. One who is deceived does not know that he is deceived.

THE DEVIL'S CLAIM

Scripture states in 1 Corinthians 15:56 that the *"strength of sin is the law."* This means that because of sin the Law was necessary. Without sin the devil would have no power over humanity, but the Christian though redeemed still sins, thus giving Satan a right over God's possession. This law of the spirit is clearly stated in the apostle Paul's letter to the Roman church:

Romans 6:16, "Know ye not that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants (slaves) ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness."

In the mount of temptation, Satan clearly stated to Jesus that the kingdoms of the world were given to him:

Luke 4:6, "And the devil said unto him, All this power will I give thee and the glory of them: for that is delivered unto me; and to whomsoever I will I give it."

These kingdoms of men were not given to Satan by God, but man relinquished it by the law of war described by Jesus Christ:

Matthew 12:29, "Or else, how can one enter into a strong man's house, and spoil his goods, except he first bind the strong man? and then he will spoil his house."

All the laws of God are good for the children of God. Nevertheless, we find the devil using them against the people of God. It is simple to look historically at God's dealings and to see a pattern of behavior that is not human but absolutely effective. God's ways are so much higher than man's ways.

In delivering the Israelites from Egypt, God called out *evil angels* (Psalms 78: 49) to kill all the firstborn in Egypt. In His order to the spirits of death, He did not tell them only to kill Egyptians, but just to kill all the firstborn. The Lord then instructed Moses how to defeat the spirits with the blood on the doorposts and lintels. The lamb without spot or blemish, slain in obedience to the Lord, became an acceptable type of Christ. The blood applied to the doors and windows flashed forth the glory of God in the face of the spirits and they could not enter the houses of the Israelites. It did not matter even if many Egyptian firstborn might be within the house, they had to flee from such a house.

Another instance of God's peculiar dealings can be seen in the story of Herod's trying to kill the baby Jesus. God did not stop Herod, but gave Joseph a dream to flee into the land of Egypt with the young child until Herod was dead.

In the same way, the Lord told the devil in Genesis 3:14, "...*dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life*," and in Verse 19, He said to Adam, "...*dust thou art*." It looks at a glance that the Lord is giving us to Satan as his food, but at a closer scrutiny we find that God has actually given us the power to destroy Satan by denying him of his food. We now control the food of the enemy, and as we grow in righteousness, we more and more starve Satan and his hosts in a battle that we are winning more and more every day.

THE LAWS OF REDEMPTION

God's various laws of Redemption were designed by Him for the deliverance of His people, but laws, when put in the converse, become detrimental to the very people that they were designed to deliver. Thus, we see Satan turning the Word of God backwards in order to hurt humanity. Some Satanists even learn to read the bible backwards and they even walk backwards as part of their training.

For years we were baffled by the vulnerability of Christians to satanic bedevilments even as sinners are. This particularly baffled me, when in our ministry all over the world we found Christians who loved the Lord with all their hearts and who were greatly dedicated to God still having severe satanic oppressions and needing deliverance. As God continued to reveal Himself to us, we gradually began to understand the situation. At the outset, let me say that it does not necessarily mean that a Christian has committed some sin to be bound by the enemy:

1. When a person accepts Jesus Christ as his Savior and submits to the Spirit of God, he comes under the law of Romans 6:16, and becomes a servant of God. The blood of Jesus Christ redeems him, and all the covenants that he had made with Satan are broken. Nevertheless, his redemption is complete only in the Word of God, but in his soul he remains imperfect. That which he has received now in the Word of Almighty God and in his spirit must work its fulfillment in his soul and body. He becomes a covenant child of God. As a covenant people, we are required to keep our part of the covenant. God now lays claim to us as His property, bought and paid for.

2. The covenant that we had with Satan and sin has been broken by the covenant we now make with the Lord:

Romans 8:2, "The law of the spirit of life in Chris: Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death."

The covenants we had with devils were made null and void by our covenant with the Lord, but immediately the devils begin to try to get us to submit again to them, in order to apply Romans 6:16, so as to restrict if not altogether rescind our covenant with the Lord. Because of our imperfection, we find ourselves in constant danger of obeying devils instead of the Lord.

Let me tell you a story. There was a day when I told the Lord that I could not find anything wrong with me. In order to prove my unrighteousness, He

told me to watch my members that day. When I got to the office there was a piece of chip on the ledge. A suggestion came to my mind to kick the chip off the ledge. Immediately the pride of being a good soccer player with a powerful right foot came into me, and I succumbed to the temptation and kicked the chip like I was placing a ball into the goal. The chip sailed around the corner and slammed into a man's left eye. In one moment of light banter, I had become the servant of the devil.

This was a small act of obedience to the enemy that gave him the right over me. Of course, I repented immediately, and denied Satan any further manipulation. But let me give you a more serious scenario: Suppose there was someone I know who was worshipping the devil and I reproved him of his devil worship and told him I would have nothing to do with it, but because he is a near kin of mine, I would from time to time give him money to help him along. This money he would use to strengthen himself in his worship of the devil. Would I be guilty of aiding the work of the devil? The answer is yes! The devil is not concerned with what you thought you were doing. He claims his right over you because you participated with one of his servants.

In our recent visit to Africa, we discovered that all the babies in certain parts were offered to Satan by way of the parents burying their umbilical cords in graves as an offering to devils, and pouring out libations on their behalf. At the naming ceremonies, certain articles were requested by the fathers and these articles were laid out in certain fashions so the names of the children were actually chosen by spirits. The spirits would then own the children.

We discovered that the dowry that was supposed to be given to the parents of the bride was not an innocent gift as the bridegroom was made to believe, but that it is "redemption money." The bride was the property of the ruling spirit, and had to be redeemed with money. Part of this money was used to purchase drink offerings, which were poured out before the gods of the family. If we go back and look at the laws of redemption which were first stated in this article, we will find that if the man himself is a bond slave and he was given a wife that was a bond woman, then both the wife and the children belonged to the slave master. The redemption money that the bridegroom pays in this situation for his bride is a full acknowledgment that the woman belongs to the devils that rule the family.

Though these people are Christians, I found that the ruling spirits had power to make them barren and to otherwise disturb their lives, even as spirits make some of us sick. Whenever the elders of the village called them to any feast, festival, funeral, or wedding, they were made to participate in some of the rituals, which ratified their covenants with the devil.

CIRCUMCISION PRACTICED BY DEVILS

The first mention of circumcision in Scripture is found in Genesis 17:10-13, where God told Abraham to circumcise his son Isaac, which was a covenant between himself and God:

“This is my covenant, which ye shall keep, between me and you and thy seed after thee; Every man child among you shall be circumcised. And ye shall circumcise the flesh of your foreskin; and it shall be a token of the covenant betwixt me and you. And he that is eight days old shall be circumcised among you, every man child in your generations, he that is born in the house, or bought with money of any stranger which is not of thy seed...and my covenant shall be in your flesh for an everlasting covenant.”

All of Gods laws point to salvation, therefore, because the body is the temple of God, He demanded that this mark of the covenant be put in the body of the Israelites. It was done in the blood of the child and it was a blood covenant. It was to be done on the eighth day (eight means “new beginning”) which tells us that, in Christ, the man who is circumcised in heart receives some restriction in his body from carnal lust. We are now being asked of God to be circumcised “in heart” and not in the flesh as it was under the Law.

Satan takes occasion by this law of God, which is wholly spiritual and when translated in the Spirit speaks of the cutting away of the carnal veil of the heart of man. Nevertheless, in some African cultures, circumcision is practiced on both boys and girls, and it brings them into a satanic relationship in which the foreskin and the blood of the child are offered to ancestral devils. Please do not think that this is only an African practice—this is coming from way back in Babylon and later in Egypt, and is practiced by all modern nations who take their children into a church for a dedication service, when that church only has dead rituals to perform over the child, and does not worship the true and Living God in Spirit and in Truth.

SATAN TAKES THE BLOOD OF THOSE WHO SIN

When a man is tempted by the devil to enter into fornication (sexual uncleanness), his blood is taken by devils during the act. The blood is *the life of the flesh* (Leviticus 17:11), therefore whenever blood or seminal fluid is emitted from the body in the many coerced acts of perversion which Satan causes humans to participate in, Satan gets a part of the life of the victim.

Many wonder where does Satan get so much power over them. Let me tell you, every time he sucks the blood of a person he gets life from that person, thus strengthening himself and weakening the person. When children are offered to devils they did not actually make the covenants with the spirits and though they did not approve of these things, they then may however, through their adolescent years and into their adulthood have never resisted the things that were done on their behalf. The devils, however, will see them as ratifying the deeds of their fathers by every little act of acquiescence. Jesus Christ spoke of the traditions of the elders. Jesus Christ said it, that by their actions they ratified the deeds of their fathers:

“Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets. Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers” (Matthew 23:31-32).

THE TRADITIONS OF MEN (RELIGION)

Mark 7:8-9, “For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men, as the washing of pots and cups: and many other such like things ye do. And He said unto them, Full well ye reject the commandment of God that ye may keep your own tradition.”

When we keep the traditions of men, we actually reject the commandments of God. Traditions never obey God, for they that worship God must do so *in spirit and in truth*, not by traditions. If men worship and they do not worship God, then they are worshipping the devil—sometimes even without knowing it. It does not matter to the devil whether you know that you are worshipping him or not. When we worship God, we feed upon His life, and when men worship the devil, they receive of his death.

THE SIN OF FALSE WORSHIP IN AMERICA, EUROPE, AND THE WORLD

All over the world there are large and mighty edifices of worship, but there are very few for which could be said that they were built for the worship and glory of the true and living God. Almost all of these are edifices built in the name of religion. Man is a religious creature. He must worship something, and the carnal man cannot worship the true and living God. Let us just look in John 4 at this talk between Jesus Christ and the woman at the well. This beautiful story tells us of Jesus being thirsty and asking a woman of Samaria

to give Him a drink. The woman was astonished that a Jew would ask drink of a Samaritan. When Jesus Christ prophesied about her life of adultery, she immediately saw that He was a prophet, and made the following remark in Verse 20:

“Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship.”

Verses 21-24, *“Jesus said unto her, Woman, believe me, the hour cometh, when ye shall neither in this mountain, nor yet at Jerusalem, worship the Father. Ye worship ye know not what: We know what we worship: for salvation is of the Jews. BUT THE HOUR COMETH AND NOW IS, WHEN THE TRUE WORSHIPPERS SHALL WORSHIP THE FATHER IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH: For the Father seeketh such to worship him. God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.”*

If we worship, and it is not *in spirit and in truth*, then who or what are we worshipping? Jesus described it as *“what.”* He said, *“Ye worship ye know not WHAT...”* If we are worshipping a “what,” then it is not the true God, and if it is not the true God then it is the devil.

The verdict is in! Most of today’s worship, with all its religious embellishments, is nothing but worshipping the devil. It was very easy to read my writing when I said that the Africans were worshipping the devil, but now I am saying that the whole religious church world are worshipping the devil. Religion cannot please God. Religion was invented of the devil to turn men from true worship to methods of religious practice, which translates into worshipping the devil.

THE WORSHIP OF THE DEVIL AT HALLOWEEN

In the ancient world, the Druids believed that on the night of the 31st of October the devils must be appeased so as to deter their wrath from hurting them and their families. Therefore, they would dress the children up like devils at Halloween to appease them. These beliefs can be found in all the human cultures in one form or another. The two highest feasts of the worshippers of Satan are: (1) Beltide (15th of May) and (2) Halloween (31st of October). Today we find most of the churches having Halloween parties etc. It does not matter what is the rationale for these activities, it translates into the worshipping of devils.

THE WORSHIP OF THE DEVIL AT CHRISTMAS

Christmas ("Roman Catholic Mass of Christ") is an ancient festival held on the birthday of Nimrod to commemorate "the dying sun." The antiquity of this feast dates back to Nimrod and Babylon. It surely was a blasphemous act, but it was sanctified by the Roman Catholic Church and given to the world as the birthday of Jesus Christ. The whole church system, as daughters of Rome, have accepted this Mass and merrily celebrate the season every year, not knowing that it is in obedience to Satan and in worship of him. Here again Satan gets his glory according to the law of Romans 6:16, and millions become his servants by obedience at Christmas time. All that he has to do is to get Christians to obey him, and then he drains them of spiritual power and authority. "*Blind leaders of the blind*" continue to lead them into the ditch.

It is amazing how many Christians would fight me for their Christmas, and on the other hand there are some who would accept the word of no more Christmas, and then carnally try to bring forth righteousness by cutting off all their Christmas operations without really having a heart conviction. If people obey my word without the conviction in their hearts by the Spirit of God, they are just as much religious as those who continue in their Christmas.

The unlearned might believe that I am exaggerating this matter without ever looking into it themselves.

Let me quote from the Encyclopedia Britannica, Book 4, Page 603:

"CHRISTMAS: The word Christmas is derived from the Old English CRISTES MAESSE, 'Christ's Mass.' There is no certain tradition of the date of Christ's birth. Christian chronographers of the third Century assumed that the creation of the world took place at the spring equinox, then reckoned as March 25; hence, the new creation in the birth and death of Christ must have occurred on the same day. The first notice of a feast of the nativity of Christ occurs in a Roman almanac (the chronograph of 354, or Philocalian Calendar), which indicates that the festival was observed by the church in Rome by the year 336.

It is commonly supposed that the emperor Constantine was influential in the institution of a Christian feast of 'the birthday of the Sun of Righteousness' (Malachi 4:2) as a rival to the popular pagan Festival of the Unconquered Sun (Sol Invictus) at the winter solstice. This cult of oriental origin, syncretistic (fusing the beliefs of many cults) but leaning towards monotheism, had received official recognition by the emperor Aurelian in 274. It was popular in the armies of the Illyrian

(Balkan) emperors of Rome of the late 3rd Century, and to it Constantine himself had adhered before his conversion to Christianity in 312.

...Christmas is the most popular of all festivals among Christians and many non-Christians alike, and its observance combines many strands of tradition. From the ancient Roman pagan festivals of Saturnalia (December 17) and New Years come the merrymaking and exchange of presents. Old Germanic midwinter customs have contributed the lighting of the Yule log and decorations with evergreens. The Christmas tree comes from medieval German mystery plays centered in representations of the Tree of Paradise (Genesis 2:9). St. Francis of Assisi popularized the Christmas crib, or creche, in his celebration of Greccio, Italy in 1223."

The above tells some of the truth concerning a tradition which many of us claim as our tradition, but did you notice where it came from: "The pagan festival of the unconquered sun." In plain language this is saying that it was a celebration from Babylon instituted to commemorate the death of Nimrod. No matter how we cover up the truth in highfalutin language ("This cult of Oriental origin, syncretistic..."), it translates to mean that from Babylon, Nimrod (the great cult maker and antichrist) began the first cult, and that many other cults followed, synchronizing into one cult called Christmas in the modern church.

Let me tell you a story: Approximately forty-five years ago, as a newly born Christian, the Lord began to show me certain things about the Roman Catholic Church. In those days, everything the Lord showed me I would preach, so I preached about the great depravity of this church system. A friend of mine asked me if I had read a certain book, and I said, "No, I was just speaking from what the Lord had told me". I asked her to give me the name and the writer of this book, and she bluntly refused, saying that I would use it as a weapon against the Roman Catholic Church. I had a good memory, nevertheless, and had made a mental note of the book when she first mentioned it.

The Phoenix Library in London had a boast that they could find any book from any part of the world where it was available, so I sent off a letter to the Phoenix Library, London, and challenged them to find this book. An old copy of the book arrived with a bill for twelve shillings. The book was a masterful work of research and thirty years of labor by a Baptist minister, and was so full of information that it touches almost every ancient manuscript pertaining to the subject of Babylon. Unfortunately, in my excitement I began to preach it in

churches, until a cunning minister was able to steal it—thinking he would stop me from preaching the thing.

About twenty years after, I was asked to speak in a convention in Miami, Florida, and like a flood, the book came back to my memory. The message was “The Two Babylons,” and it lasted non-stop for three hours, in which the brethren sat on the edge of their chairs. They rushed me at the end of the message. “Surely,” they said, “You must have gotten this from some book?” I said, “Yes, The Two Babylons written by Alexander Hislop. Immediately the whole Convention wrote for the book. The publishing house in New Jersey was shocked and surprised. They had never seen such a thing before, where a book which was dead for over 15 years had all of a sudden come to be in such a demand. Yes, they would print, if we ordered at least 50,000 copies. I saw individual brethren order as many as fifty books each and a book that was banned and “murdered” by Roman Catholicism, was all of a sudden resurrected. Today, it is available or can be ordered in most of the Christian bookstores in America. You cannot be well read unless you have read this book. PLEASE GET A COPY.

I have said all this to make two quotations from this book:

The first quotation is from the foreword of the book by Donald Grey Barnhouse:

“The Two Babylons is one of the great books in the Christian literature of apologetics.... The pretensions of the Roman Catholic Church are old pretensions, and frequently they are based on old arguments. The author of The Two Babylons demonstrates that almost all of the practices of the Roman cult have been brought over from paganism. When we come to see that the worship (or veneration—it is the same thing) of the Virgin Mary is really the worship of Venus, Astarte, and that it comes from Babylon, the center of the system is revealed to be Satanic. Image worship is increasing in Roman Catholic churches, even in the United States. If inclined to doubt this, find out why it is that a statue of the Virgin of La Salette is considered more favorable than the statue of the Virgin of Lourdes, or vice versa: Why the Virgin in Algiers Cathedral is a Negress; and why the Jesuits push for the proclamation of the error that there is one mediator between Christ and man, and that is Mary, mediatrix. By all means circulate this book.”

Let me quote now from The Two Babylons, the last sentence on page 92 continuing on page 93:

“Indeed it is admitted by the most learned and candid writers of all parties that the day of our Lord’s birth cannot be determined, and that *within the Christian Church* no such festival as Christmas was ever heard of *till the third century*, and that not till the *fourth* century was far advanced did it gain much observance. How, then, did the Romish Church fix on December the 25th as Christmas day? Why, thus: Long before the fourth century, and long before the Christian era itself, a festival was celebrated among the *heathen*, at that precise time of the year, in honor of the birth of the son of the Babylonian queen of heaven; and it may fairly be presumed that, in order to conciliate the heathen, and to swell the number of the nominal adherents of Christianity, the same festival was adopted by the Roman Church, giving it only the name of Christ. This tendency on the part of Christians to meet Paganism half-way was very early developed; and we find Turtullian, even in his day, about the year 230, bitterly lamenting the inconsistency of the disciples of Christ in this respect, and contrasting it with the strict fidelity of the Pagans to their own superstition... That Christmas was originally a Pagan festival, is beyond all doubt. The time of the year and the ceremonies, with which it is still celebrated, prove its origin. In Egypt, the son of Isis, the Egyptian title for the queen of heaven, was born at this very time, ‘about the time of the winter solstice.’ The very name by which Christmas is popularly known among ourselves—Yule day—prove at once its Pagan and Babylonian origin. ‘Yule’ is the Chaldee name for an ‘infant’ or ‘little child;’ and as the 25th of December was called by our Pagan Anglo-Saxon ancestors, ‘Yule day,’ or the ‘Child’s day,’ and the night that preceded it, ‘Mother-night,’ long before they came in contact with Christianity, that sufficiently proves its real character.”

There is no such thing as an innocent Christmas celebration. Those who submit to the spirit of Christmas, in any way, are submitting to the devil and are ratifying a contract that will keep them into bondage. This Word of God is true, and if it does not work for you, then do not blame God. Blame yourself for being bound by Satan after you have been REDEEMED BY THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. All the customs of Christmas are from the devil. Let us read Jeremiah 10:3-4,

“For the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workmen, with the ax. They deck it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not.”

This seems to be a description of the Christmas tree, approximately six hundred years before Jesus Christ was born.

THE WORSHIP OF THE DEVIL AT EASTER

The word we call "Easter" in English is nothing more than a corruption of the Babylonish word "Ishtar."

Instead of explaining this to you, let me quote from *The Two Babylons*, Page 103, Section II- EASTER:

"Then look at Easter. What means the term Easter itself? It is not a Christian name. It bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country. That name as found by Layard on the Assyrian monuments is, Ishtar. The worship of Bel and Astarte was very early introduced into Britain, along with the Druids, 'the priests of the groves'."

We can see from this that the worship of Ishtar was incorporated into the Christian church under the name Easter at the time of the year which the Jews celebrate Passover. This was done with all the trappings of the Pagans:

Ezekiel 8:16, "And he brought me into the inner court of the Lord's house, and, behold, at the door of the temple of the Lord, between the porch and the altar, were about five and twenty men, with their backs towards the temple of the Lord, and their faces towards the east; and they worshipped the sun toward the east."

This is the exact format of our modern-day Easter morning service. All the churches that I know, practice the facing of the sun on Easter morning and worshipping, "*they know not what.*"

One of the trappings of Pagan antiquity which the churches still keep is "Lent"

"Let us quote from "The Two Babylons," Page 105:

“...Among the Pagans this Lent seems to have been an indispensable preliminary to the great annual festival in commemoration of the death and resurrection of TAMMUZ, which was celebrated by alternate weeping and rejoicing, and which, in many countries, was considerably later than the Christian festival, being observed in Palestine and Assyria in June, therefore called the ‘month of Tammuz’; in Egypt, about the middle of May, and in Britain, some time in April. To conciliate the Pagans to nominal Christianity, Rome, pursuing its usual policy, took measures to get the Christian and Pagan festivals amalgamated, and, by a complicated but skillful adjustment of the calendar, it was found no difficult matter, in general, to get Paganism and Christianity—now far sunk in idolatry—in this as in so many other things, to shake hands. The instrument in accomplishing this amalgamation was the abbot Dionysius the Little, to whom also we owe it, as modern chronologers have demonstrated, that the date of the Christian era, or of the birth of Christ Himself, was moved FOUR YEARS from the true time. Whether this was done through ignorance or design may be a matter of question; but there seems to be no doubt of the fact, that the birth of the Lord Jesus was made full four years later than the truth.”

In the face of violence and murder, the church finally succumbed to the edict of Rome to keep a period of forty days of Lent before the celebration of Easter. In order to expose the depths of this abomination, we would have to quote too much from too many books, but it will be sufficient to say that the Pagan feast from which Lent was borrowed, was attended with forty days of fasting and weeping for *Tammuz* (Nimrod), then horrible revelries, with what was known as “sacramental fornication” in which horrible sexual orgies were perpetrated.

The strangest part of this whole thing, to my mind, is how modern men of learning and students of the Bible could ever accept and fellowship with such idolatry in the name of serving God, when the history of the abomination is available to all. Nevertheless, God spoke in Daniel of the *abomination* as something that would increase in the end of time to a point where He would have to bring a great *consummation*.

Daniel 9:27, “And He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week (seven years): and in the middle of the week (3 1/2 years) He shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations He

shall make it desolate, even until the consummation, and that determined shall be poured upon the desolate.”

The week referred to here is that which Bible students call “Daniel’s 70th Week” The abominations of the church will cause Christ to bring down desolation upon her and which will culminate in a consummation. When I hear the word *consummation* I can think of nothing but fire. If God sent brimstone and fire and burnt up the people of *Sodom and Gomorrah*, then our cities, which are now ten times worse, must soon also be burnt up by the action of the same God.

I do believe that the fire that will hit our cities will come from the weapons of fire that are in the arsenals of our enemies. I recently heard the brethren praying that God would save America. These brethren are misguided and casting their prayers to the wind. The time to pray for the saving of America is long past. We should be praying for God to save the Church. This too is now almost too late. The Church and its leaders are under the judgment of God, and my prayer at this time is “GOD, SAVE YOUR PEOPLE.”

THE MINISTERS OF THE DEVIL POSING AS MINISTERS OF GOD

2 Corinthians 11:13-15, “For such are false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.”

As part of the desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, false apostles and false teachers turn up everywhere. The false is more like ten to one in the realm of the Church today. Mighty men of prophecy have risen up in our time, bringing forth many truths, but in the long run when their prophecies are evaluated, they have proven to be nothing more than a glorifying of their own positions. I was in a meeting where a man rose up and proclaimed himself as a “prophet of God.” In his speech, he outlined what would take place in the world shortly, and then he said that Jesus Christ would not return for another thirty or forty years, and so we should not be concerned about that. I could have told them that he was false from the outset when he announced himself as a prophet of God. There is another who blows down people with his mouth, and many others (who I thought were men of God) have begun to do the same thing. This man is not judged as false because he blows down people, but mainly because Jesus Christ the Lord is not glorified in all of this. It makes him richer and richer, and gives him thousands of followers.

Many men are doing wonderful works, but they still retain their carnality in worldly possessions, and in their lack of spiritual growth. It is sometimes frightening to be speaking to an adult and then see him start sucking his thumb or crying for his bottle. A man will come into a congregation and begin to tell you your name and where you are from, and then in the same breath he tells you that God wants you to go back into your dead congregation and submit to your uncircumcised pastor.

PASTORS, PROPHETS, PRIESTS, AND KINGS

In Chapter 4 of Paul's epistle to the Ephesians (Who, in the first place, were Baptist brethren), he speaks of five ministries that God places in the universal Church for the edifying of the body, in order to bring them up in maturity to the full stature of Christ. Of these five, one is singled out by the Church system to be the head of each congregation and named "*Pastor*." Pastors are generally appointed by a board, or sometimes selected by the congregation, or just sent in by headquarters to take charge. He is expected to be loyal to the denomination that appoints him and he is generally paid a salary. The other four ministries in the five-fold ministry of Ephesians are: *apostle, prophet, evangelist, and teacher*. The Church will go as far as to appoint evangelists and teachers, and the Roman Catholic Church appoints a Pope, which is their Apostle. I have not heard of them appointing a prophet. All this is a blatant rebellion against the Word of God, which clearly states:

"And He (GOD) gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors (shepherds) and teachers..." (Ephesians 4:11).

MAN CANNOT APPOINT THE FIVE-FOLD MINISTRY.

Some of us will ask, "Why then did the apostles appoint Matthias?" Let us read the account of the appointment of Matthias at the insistence of Peter:

Acts 1:15, 20-26, "And in those days Peter stood up in the midst of the disciples, and said...concerning Judas...For it is written in the book of Psalms, Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and, his bishopric let another take. Wherefore of these men which have companied with us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, Beginning from the baptism of John, unto that same day that he was taken up from us, must one be ordained to be a witness with us of his resurrection. And they appointed two, Joseph called Barsabas, who was surnamed Justus, and Matthias. And they prayed, and said, Thou, Lord, which knowest the hearts of all men, show whether of these two thou hast chosen. That he may take part of this ministry and

apostleship, from which Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place. And they gave forth their lots; and the lot fell upon Matthias; and he was numbered with the eleven apostles."

The scripture clearly outlined the method by which they chose this apostle so that we all might see the error. An apostle cannot be chosen by ballot, as was done in this case. The error occurred before the brethren were filled with the Spirit, and to this day the Outer Court churches appoint their ministries in this way. Nothing like this is in the record of the New Testament after the brethren received the baptism of the Holy Ghost in Acts 2. This error was not corrected until approximately 20 years later, when Paul went to Jerusalem and met James, Peter, and John. They recognized him as the apostle appointed unto the Gentiles, just as they recognized Peter was the apostle appointed to the Jews. Here God Himself added the twelfth apostle to the other eleven. Nothing more was heard of Matthias, except that tradition says he died a martyr in Ethiopia.

The Church has become a prolific field for charlatans. Every pretender who can gather a few people around him becomes a bishop. I knew a bishop in Los Angeles whose church was held in his mini bus, who were also his wife and children. The children went out every weekend collecting for "The Children's Fund."

The desolation of the Church and the world is due to the abominations that are being committed. We, the Christians, are feeding this monster with our blood (our money), and the monster is growing bigger and bigger. The redemption price is already paid, but if our covenant with death is so strong that we had gone so far as to be double-covenanted with death and with our consent had our ears bored with an awl, even from this God is able also to release us as we come into His great jubilee. This is so, up to a point, for we can pass the place where there is no return (Hebrews 6:4-6).

DOCTRINES OF DEVILS

1 Timothy 4:1-3, "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their consciences seared with a hot iron; Forbidding to marry and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth."

There are some churches, which are not in the tabernacle at all. In other words, unless a church is comprised of born again members, it is not a church

in the true spiritual sense, and God does not see a gathering of such people as His brethren. We find leaders in the churches who are not even children of God, and because of this there is great confusion among the brethren. It is very clear in scripture that a person must be *born again* to see the Kingdom of God, and must be born of the *water* and of the *Spirit* in order so enter the Kingdom of God.

Unfortunately, all the churches believe that they are the true Church. This belief has come to mark the false church more than anything else. In order to make it plainer, let me emphasize that any church that says it is the true Church, is a false church. THE TRUE CHURCH IS THE BODY OF CHRIST, AND IT CANNOT BE AN ORGANIZATION OF MAN'S MAKING.

When we, therefore, think of the redemption of Christ for us, we must first realize that the people of God are still being redeemed and will yet be redeemed. Let me be bold and below name just a few of the things which we the redeemed yet need to be redeemed from. Since the price is already paid by Christ, we the people of God, will have to come into His order by the hook or by the crook.

WORLDLINESS

John 2:15-17, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever."

Immorality, Impurity, Indecency
Idolatry
Sorcery
Enmity
Strife
Emulations (Discriminations)
Jealousy
Anger (Ill Tempered)
Selfishness
Denominationalism (False Doctrines)
Envy
Drunkenness
Carousing

These represent only a small proportion of the things from which Christ has redeemed us, but which we still retain. True doctrine says that God is going to have His Church without spot or blemish, or any such thing:

“That he might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.” (Ephesians 5:27).

If this massive work of cleansing must be done in such a short time as we seem to have, then the world is in for some very terrible and traumatic times in the near future.

TRIBULATION AS PART OF OUR REDEMPTION

Without a massive worldwide tribulation, there will be no completion of our redemption. The Church will not voluntarily come to that standard of righteousness that God requires. At this time, when we pray for revival, it is actually a prayer for judgment:

“With my soul have I desired thee in the night; yea, with my spirit within me will I seek thee early: FOR WHEN THY JUDGMENTS ARE IN THE EARTH, THE INHABITANTS OF THE WORLD WILL LEARN RIGHTEOUSNESS”, (Isaiah 26:9).

In the above passage, it is stated as divine wisdom that people in tribulation learn righteousness. Most men will call on God when they are in trouble, thus trouble is a necessity for some men's righteousness. It was John Wesley, I think, who said he thanked God for his wife because she kept him on his knees.

Daniel 9:27, “And He shall confirm the covenant with many for one week: and in the midst of the week he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease, and for the overspreading of abominations He shall make it desolate even until the CONSUMMATION, AND THAT DETERMINED SHALL BE POURED UPON THE DESOLATE.”

It is not difficult to see that there is desolation and a *consummation* determined by God upon the earth. We call this the *tribulation*. I believe that we are already in the tribulation, but it might well be just the part that is called the *desolation*, but very soon will become the *consummation*.

Matthew 24:7, "For nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places."

There is hardly a month now without some type of major *earthquake* in some part of the world. Both in the natural and in the spiritual (whichever way we take it), things are occurring which show this prophecy is being fulfilled. Take note of the incidence of wars in recent times, and see that that part of the destruction foretold to be brought upon the world by man is already evident.

As a footnote to this, let me add that the might and dreadful arsenal of the Soviet Union is being broken up, and some of it is being sold out, and already the Arab nations have acquired some of the hardware. It will not be long before terrorists acquire atomic weaponry and use it to threaten whole civilizations. We are in a time of trouble such as never was since God made man on earth. Let us read this passage in Matthew 24:21:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

This is a clear word from Our Lord Himself of what will come to pass in our time. There are some of us who are saying that it will not be as early as we are predicting (within not many years), but we are sure it is later than you think—and many will be caught unawares.

Revelation 8:6-8, "And the seven angels which had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound. The first angel sounded and there followed hail and fire mingled with blood, and they were cast upon the earth: and the third part of trees was burnt up and all green grass was burnt up. And the second angel sounded, and as it were a great mountain burning with fire was cast into the sea: and the third part of the sea became blood."

When we study the trumpets of Revelation, we find that almost all of them entail the shedding of blood. The word "sea" in this passage means the nations and kingdoms. These are the same nations and kingdoms concerning which Jesus said, "...*nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.*" There is war in the four quarters of the earth, and soon the whole earth will be embroiled in conflict.

In the midst of this debacle, our Lord will bring victory to the Church. Then shall we arise out of the low and beggarly realms of our humanness and into the *glorious liberty of the sons of God*.

Acts 2:17, "*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh.*"

There is a great outpouring of the Spirit of God yet to come, but it will come in the midst of the destruction. Let us read this verse which follows:

Verse 19, "*And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapour of smoke.*"

Here again we see the reference to *blood*, which we know means the slaying of humans. Fire and the vapour or pillars of smoke are the same thing referred to in Isaiah 25. I believe it refers to the massive pillar of smoke and vapour that stands up from the earth to heaven at the blast of an atom bomb.

TO THE WATCHMEN I SAY "IT IS TIME TO SOUND THE ALARM." TO THE SLEEPING, I SAY, "IT IS TIME TO AWAKE." TO THOSE WHO ARE AWAKE, I SAY, "IT IS TIME TO TRIM YOUR LAMPS." TO THE FOOLISH VIRGINS, "IT IS TIME TO GET OIL. THE BRIDEGROOM IS ON HIS WAY."

LET US HOLD FAST TO THE WORDS OF JESUS: "WHEN THESE THINGS BEGIN TO COME TO PASS, THEN LOOK UP, AND LIFT UP YOUR HEADS; FOR YOUR REDEMPTION DRAWETH NIGH."

