

# Israel's Journey From Egypt To Canaan's Land

**B.R. Hicks**

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from  
Egypt to Canaan's Land**

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# Introduction

Throughout His Holy Word, God has established His Law of Growth to Spiritual Maturity for mankind. God's Law of Spiritual Growth is not different from His Law of Natural Growth in that all growth to maturity begins in a seed form.

Believers do not achieve full Spiritual Stature overnight; rather, they grow gradually as they study and pray and overcome in their daily encounters with their flesh (their inherent carnal self), the world (the temptations presented to them to give in to the allurements of the sensual pleasures of the world in which they live), and the Devil (the spiritual ruler of this present, evil world).

Growing to maturity in Christ's Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge is depicted in many ways in the Scriptures. This is true of all God's Principles. He presents His Laws over and over — from Genesis to Revelation — in order to establish that He never changes in His Person nor in His dealings with mankind.

It was through Israel's journey from Egypt to Canaan's Land that God first set forth His Law of Growth to Spiritual Maturity in shadow and type in the Old Testament, for we first see Israel referred to as a "Son" in the land of Egypt; then, as the nation progressed in her journey, we see Israel referred to as the "Church" in the wilderness. After this experience, Israel entered Canaan's Land as a "Wife." In her mature form, having completed her journey in God's Master Plan and Purposive Will, she became a "Mother." (See pull-out chart on next page.)

The lessons the Israelites learned during their journey are the same lessons God's Spiritual Bride (who are His chosen people from every generation of believers) must learn as they grow to spiritual maturity, or as they travel through this world on their way to the Promised Land, the New Jerusalem.

Only those believers who achieve spiritual maturity will be in the Bride of Jesus Christ — the highest spiritual attainment possible — for it will be the Bride, the mature ones, who will rule and reign with God and the Lamb out of the New City, the New Jerusalem, throughout Eternity.

Out of all the people on Earth, Israel was God's chosen people, through whom He communicated His Master Plan and Purposive Will to all men. God's first Promises to Israel, as a nation, came prophetically through Abraham. He was the father of the nation, but before God called him Abraham, He dealt with him as Abram.

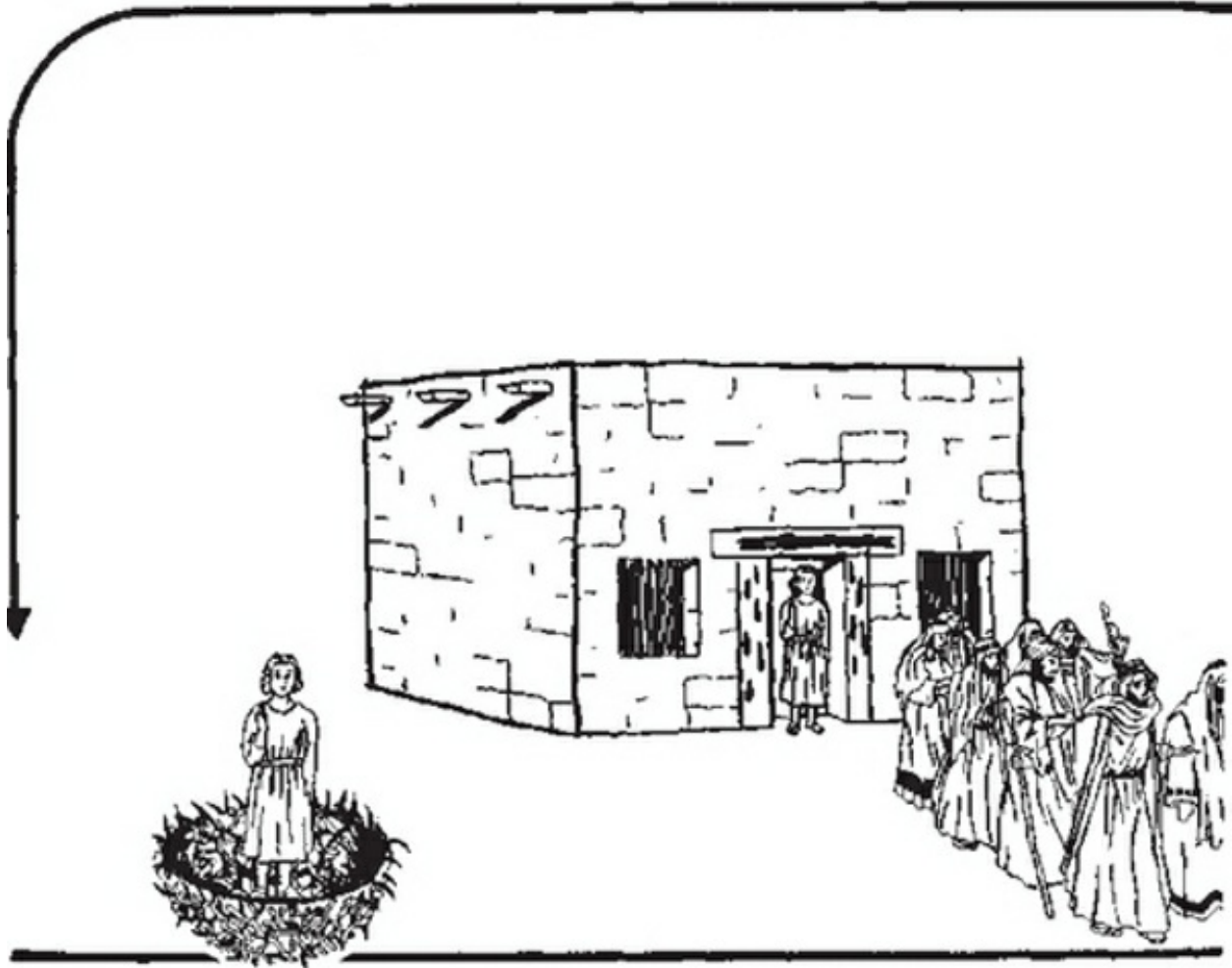
*Abram* means "Father of Elevation." Until God commanded him to leave his country and his kindred and go to the Promised Land that would be shown to him, Abram lived in his father's house in Ur of the Chaldees. Among the many Promises God made to Abram were His Promises to bless him, to make his name great, and, through him, to bless all the families of the Earth.

Abram, obediently responding to his Heavenly Calling, took Sarai, his wife, and left to go to Canaan's Land. When Abram reached Sichem in Canaan's Land, the LORD appeared to him and repeated His Promise to give him the land (Genesis 12:7).

Many events occurred in Abram's life during his sojourn in Canaan's Land. Later, during his lifetime, when Abram was in Hebron, the LORD appeared again unto him in a vision, confirming His Promises and accompanying them with the declaration of His gracious Favour unto Abram. At this time, God appointed certain sacrifices for Abram to offer. And, late in the evening, after Abram had laid all the sacrifices upon the Altar, God caused a deep sleep, attended by a horror of great darkness, to fall upon him.

While Abram was in this darkened trance, God revealed to him some of the most important events that would happen in his own future and in the lives of his posterity. All these prophetic events were accomplished in due time and with explicit exactness.

# Son Relationship



Israel Was Protected  
in the Nest of Affliction  
by God.

*Believer Learns to Trust  
in God for Deliverance  
from the World, the  
Flesh, and the Devil*

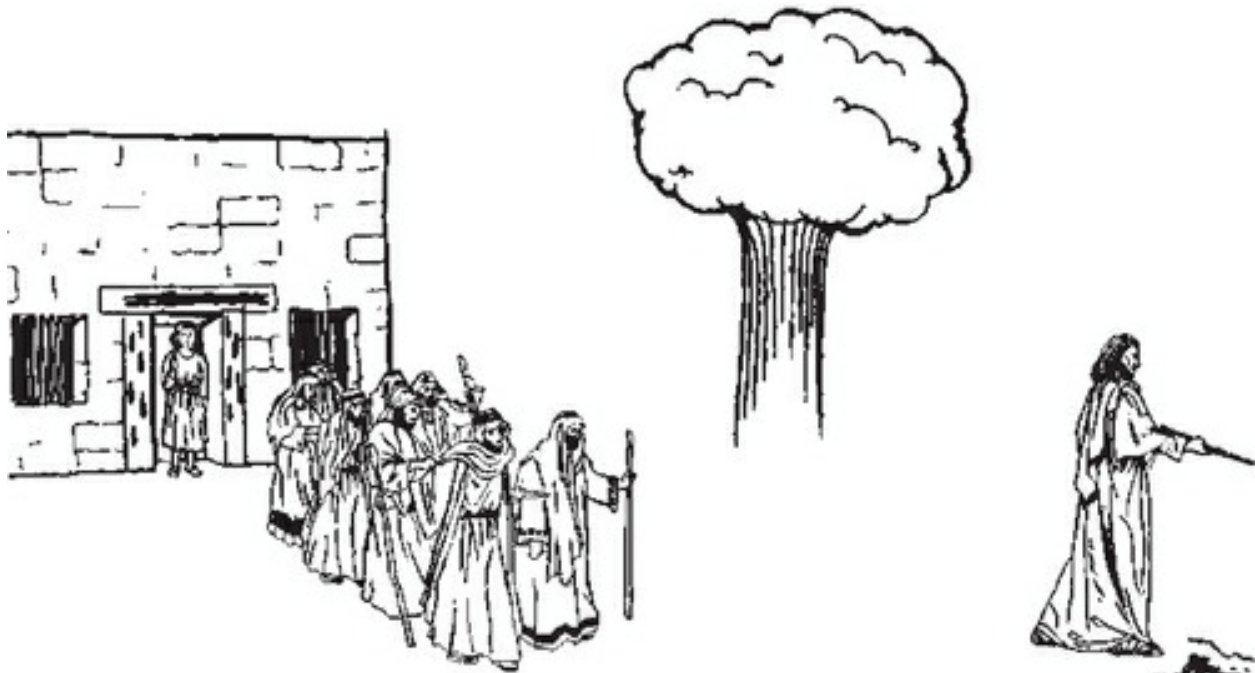
Israel Was Delivered from Death  
by the Lamb's Blood,

*Believer Is Delivered from Sin  
Through Salvation, by Faith in  
the Blood of the Lamb of God.*

Israel!  
the Cloud

*Belief  
by the  
in the*

# Son Relationship to God in Egypt



Israel Was Delivered from Death  
by the Lamb's Blood.

Israel Was Led by  
the Cloud and Fire.

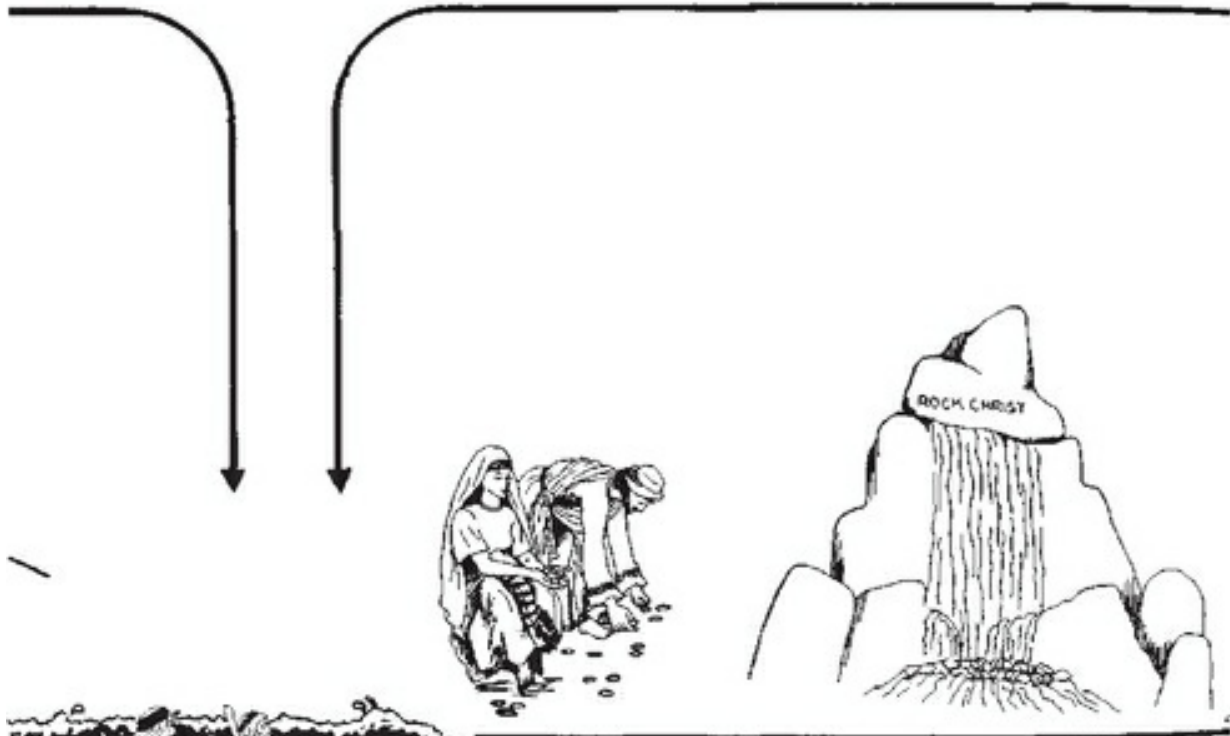
Israel Was Baptized  
in the Red Sea, by  
the Name on the Rod.

*Believer Is Delivered from Sin*  
*through Salvation, by Faith in*  
*the Blood of the Lamb of God*

*Believer Is Led*  
*by the Holy Ghost,*  
*Through Baptism*  
*in the Holy Ghost.*

*Believer Is Baptized*  
*in the Name of the*  
*LORD Jesus Christ*  
*in the Waters of His*  
*Name, Death, and Life.*

# Church Relat



**Israel Ate Manna.**

*Believer Receives  
Strength, by Faith,  
from Christ the Word.*

**Israel Drank Water from the Rock.**

*Believer Is Sanctified and Cleansed,  
Daily, by Faith, Through the Waters  
of the Word — the Christ.*

## Church Relationship to God in the Wilderness



### **weil Drink Water from the Rock.**

*Believer Is Sanctified and Cleansed  
Daily, by Faith, Through the Waters  
of the Word — the Church.*

### **Israel Received the Torah on Mount Sinai.**

*Believer Receives the Light of  
Christ the Word, by Faith.*

**Israel Was Given the  
Mosaic Tabernacle,  
a Type and Shadow of  
the Spiritual Structure of  
the LORD Jesus Christ.**

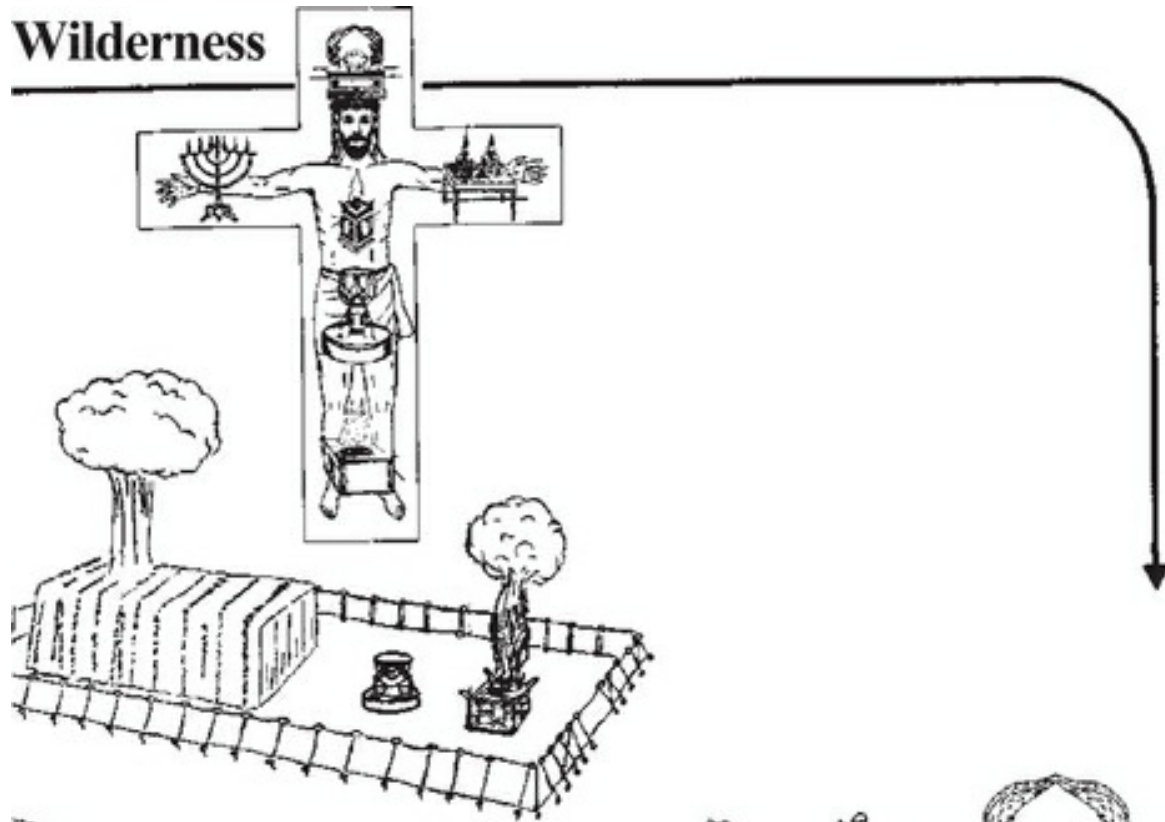
*Believer Experiences  
Growth in the  
Spiritual Structure  
of the LORD Jesus Christ.*

### **Israel Passed Under the Ark in the River Jordan.**

*Believer Must Accept  
the Headship of the  
LORD Jesus Christ  
to Become His Bride.*



# Wilderness



Israel Was Given the Mosaic Tabernacle, a Type and Shadow of the Spiritual Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ

*Believer Experiences Growth in the Spiritual Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ.*

Israel Passed Under the Ark in the River Jordan.

*Believer Must Accept the Headship of the LORD Jesus Christ to Become His Bride.*



# Wife Relationship to God at Gilgal and Mother Relationship to God at Jerusalem in Canaan's Land



Israel Became God's Bridal Nation  
in Canaan's Land.

*Bride Enters into Spiritual  
Marriage Union with  
Christ's Spiritual Stature in  
Spiritual Canaan's Land.*

Israel Became a Spiritual Mother  
to the Nations of the World  
at Earthly Jerusalem in Canaan's Land.

*Bride Will Experience Fruitfulness  
in the New City—the Heavenly Jerusalem.*

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God’s revelation to Abram unveiled the following future events in his life and in the life of the nation to which he would give birth:

- the requirement of blood sacrifices;
- the captivity of the Israelites by the Egyptians and the nation’s severe, protracted bondage in Egypt;
- God’s painful judgments upon the Egyptians because of their oppression of God’s chosen people;
- the working of God’s mighty, miraculous Power in behalf of His chosen people when He would bring them out of Egypt and give them great substance;
- Abraham’s personal death and burial;
- God’s return of Israel to the Promised Land, fulfilling His Covenant with Abram.

And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? And he said unto him, Take me an *heifer* of three years old, and a *she goat* of three years old, and a *ram* of three years old, and a *turtledove*, and a young *pigeon*. And he took unto him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. And when the fowls came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. And when the sun was going down, a deep sleep fell upon Abram; and, lo, an horror of great darkness fell upon him. And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that *thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not their’s, and shall serve them; and they shall afflict them four hundred years; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance. And thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age. But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again; for the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full.* And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces. In the same day the LORD made a covenant with Abram, saying, *Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates: The Kenites, and the Kenizzites, and the Kadmonites, And the Hittites, and the Perizzites, and the Rephaims, And the Amorites, and the Canaanites, and the Girgashites, and the Jebusites* (Genesis 15:8-21).

These precious verses reveal God’s Master Plan for all that Israel, as a nation, would experience in her relationship to God. His Master Plan for Israel consisted in her having to pass through four great stages of spiritual growth, which the following diagram shows.

<b>I. Egypt Son</b>	<b>II. Wilderness Church</b>	<b>III. Canaan’s Land Spouse/Wife</b>	<b>IV. Jerusalem Mother</b>
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To Abram, God revealed His detailed method for accomplishing His Purpose, which He had formulated before Israel existed as a nation. He would call her out of all other nations to be the guiding Light of the world; then, through the Light of Truth that God would give to Israel, men from all nations would be led to the Knowledge of their Redeemer, the Son of God, the LORD Jesus Christ. From the beginning of her relationship with God, Israel would know His wise design for them so that, when God began to execute His Master Plan, Israel would have no reason to be surprised at the pain and the pleasure she would encounter in the midst of its fulfillment.

Israel’s experiences in her journey from Egypt to Canaan’s Land are essentially important to believers because they are pictures, shadows, and types of the spiritual experiences that God has for overcoming believers in their spiritual journey from the Egypt of this world to the Heavenly Canaan’s Land, or the New Jerusalem. Believers must begin, as Israel did, as a “Son,” a newly born child of God, and grow to maturity so that they eventually can be “Mothers” to others, bringing souls into the Kingdom of God.

As each reader studies this book, my prayer is that his eyes of understanding will be enlightened and that, as he meditates upon the Truths set forth within its pages, his heart will be inflamed with a new desire to experience, personally, each phase of Israel’s spiritual growth in his own spiritual education and moral development in Jesus Christ.

— The Author

# Chapter One

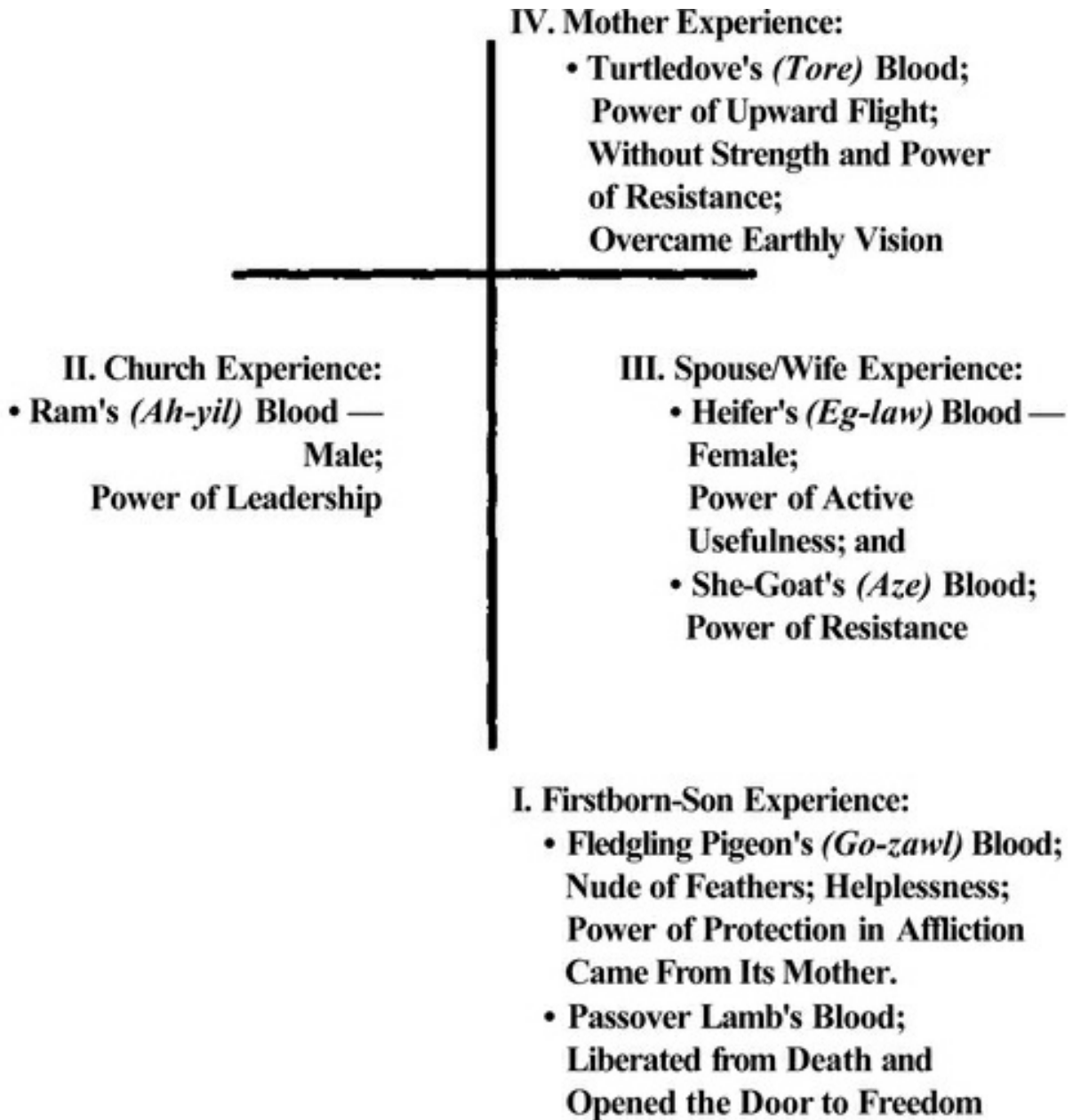
## Israel's Experience in Egypt as a Firstborn Son Among the Nations

In God's visitation to Abram, He established that the fulfillment of His Promises were to be built on the foundation of blood sacrifices because, when Abram asked how he would know that he would inherit the land, God told him what animal sacrifices to make to Him.

Following Abram's obedience in making the required sacrifices, God then gave Abram the prophecies concerning him and his seed, which were about their future as a nation who would come out of Egyptian bondage after 400 years and journey to the land God promised Abram as an inheritance for his seed.

God's first revelation to Abram was that He required a blood sacrifice as a foundation for all the other experiences that would follow. All of Israel's experiences — as a Son, as a Church, as a Wife or Spouse, and as a Mother — were to be built on the Stature of blood which God revealed to Abram on this occasion. The Stature of animal blood, required in the beginning of Israel's walk as a nation with God, was a picture and type of the Blood of Jesus Christ that would be required for the believer to have in order for him to make his journey through this world to the Promised Canaan's Land in Heaven.

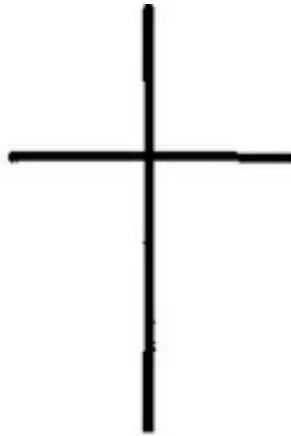
**The Four Stages of Spiritual Growth Israel Experienced in Her Journey from Egypt to Canaan's Land and the Blood Sacrifices Required to Give Her Power To Be an Overcomer in Each Stage**



The four kinds of powerful blood of the five animals that Abram was required to sacrifice, plus the lamb's blood that Israel was required to sacrifice in Egypt, picture the Power of the LORD Jesus Christ's Blood that will help believers achieve the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will for their lives.

Before God revealed Israel's captivity, suffering, and oppression in Egypt and her subsequent deliverance and return to Canaan's Land, He revealed His provided Redemptive Blood which she was to utilize in each stage of her spiritual growth.

Israel was and is God's firstborn Son among the nations of the world. God set Israel apart as Holy unto Himself so that the nation might learn His *Torah* and share it with all the other nations of the Earth. The blood that would take Israel through this Son-stage of his journey was the fledgling pigeon's blood and the Passover lamb's blood.



### **I. First born Son Experience:**

- **Fledgling Pigeon's (*Go-zawl*) Blood;  
Nude of Feathers; Helplessness;  
Power of Protection in Affliction  
Came From Its Mother.**
- **Passover Lamb's Blood;  
Liberated from Death and  
Opened the Door to Freedom**

The fledgling's power is the result of its dependency upon and trust in its mother's power of protection in affliction.

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

After Israel had learned the necessary lesson of obedience as a Son, through suffering as a captive slave in Egypt, God sent Moses to tell Pharaoh that since Israel was His firstborn Son among the nations, he was valuable, honourable, and dear to His Heart and precious in His Sight; therefore, Pharaoh was to let him go free to serve God. Pharaoh had no right to detain God's Son outside of God's Purposive Will. God warned Pharaoh that He would slay Egypt's firstborn sons if Pharaoh continued to refuse *His* firstborn Son his freedom.

God sent Israel, His firstborn Son, into Egypt to learn the lessons of passive and active obedience unto Him while Israel was under the rulership of the merciless, hard Egyptian taskmasters. Then, later, after Israel had been brought into a closer proximity to the LORD God as a Church in the wilderness, the nation would have gratitude and joyful appreciation for God's Merciful, Gracious Headship.

God took His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, through the same Principle of Suffering-Humility so that He could learn obedience as a Son.

*Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him; (Hebrews 5:8,9).*

Although Jesus Christ was God's only Begotten Son, He was subjected to the humility lesson of having to learn obedience through His Sufferings, just as Israel, God's firstborn Son among the nations, had to learn obedience through his sufferings.

Neither should the believer imagine that he can learn obedience on any other road than the road of suffering.

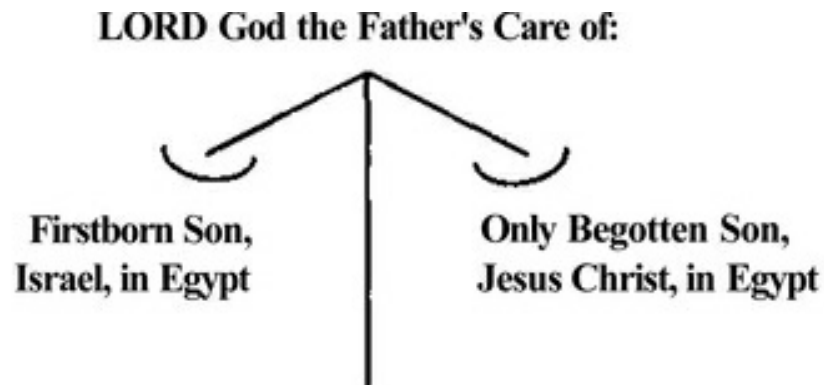
Jesus Christ demonstrated His perfect, passive and active Obedience when He became obedient unto Death, even the death of the Cross. He has left the believer an Example so that when the believer follows in His Steps, he will learn, through all his afflictions and sufferings, to have a humble, submissive obedience to the Will of God.

Remember, through afflictions, the believer learns sweet submission to God's Purposive Will.

Jesus Christ, by His own Blood, was consecrated to His Office as the Eternal Redeemer and Mediator. Through Christ's perfect Obedience, He became a perfect Propitiation for the sins of mankind, making reconciliation between God and sinful men.

Through Christ's perfect Obedience in suffering, He purchased for mankind a complete deliverance from sin and its miserable effects and brought in Holiness and happiness for penitent souls.

God sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into Egypt to suffer in a strange country, as an alien, until the time was right for Him to return to Canaan's Land, just as He had brought Israel, His firstborn Son, back into the Promised Land from Egypt.



And when they were departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeareth to Joseph in a dream, saying, Arise, and *take the young child and his mother, and flee into Egypt*, and be thou there until I bring thee word: for Herod will seek the young child to destroy him. When he arose, *he took the young child and his mother by night, and departed into Egypt*: And was there until the death of Herod: *that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Out of Egypt have I called my son...* But when Herod was dead, behold, *an angel of the Lord appeareth in a dream to Joseph in Egypt*, Saying, Arise, and take the young child and his mother, and go into the land of Israel: for they are dead which sought the young child's life (Matthew 2:13-15,19,20).

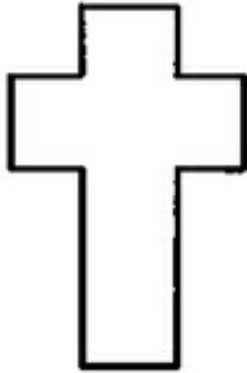
When Israel was a child, then I loved him, and called my son out of Egypt (Hosea 11:1).

The purpose for the LORD's provision of young pigeon's blood or the blood of the fledgling (a bird that is nude — one having no feathers) was to prepare Israel for foundational trust in the LORD as his Heavenly Parent. The fledgling represents the tiny bird's helpless condition and utter dependence upon the protective care of its parent.

The LORD God, the Father, the Heavenly Parent, took care of Israel, His firstborn Son among the nations, during Israel's time of sufferings as an alien and as a mistreated slave who had no homeland, no freedom of power, and no power of resistance. However, in the midst of his suffering, Israel, the firstborn Son, the nude, fledgling nation, was covered with the fledgling pigeon's trustful, protecting blood, which was a type of Christ's precious, trustful, protective Blood. God purposed that, through the fledgling's blood, His firstborn Son would learn implicit trust in His Protective Care.

The LORD protected the tiny Son-nation as it matured in the depths of humility, poverty, slavery, and wretchedness, while at the same time, its captors matured in the depths and heights of their lust and degeneration, filling their cup of iniquity to the full.

**God Protected  
Tiny Son-Nation  
as It Grew to Maturity in  
Humility, Poverty,  
Slavery, and Wretchedness**



**Israel**

**Lucifer Governed Egypt  
until She Filled Her  
Cup of Iniquity**



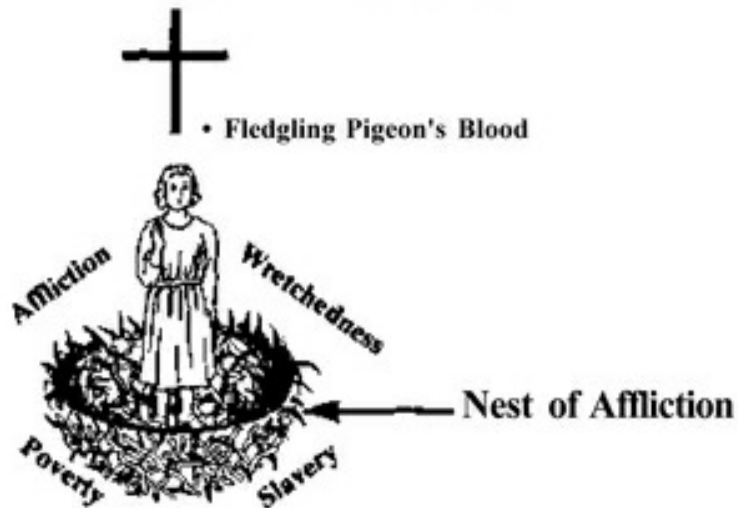
**Cup of Iniquity**

God's tiny Son-nation was protected in his Father's "nest" of affliction, poverty, slavery, and wretchedness by the fledgling pigeon's blood offered by Abram when God made His Covenant with him.

## The First Phase of Israel's Journey: As a Son in Egypt

LORD God

### Firstborn Son-Nation Protected by the Fledgling Pigeon's Blood



### Israel's Lesson of Trust in the LORD's Protective Care in Egypt

Israel, as God's firstborn Son among the nations, was fed and protected by the LORD God in His nest of afflictions for four hundred years so that Israel could grow and develop in his Son-like trust in his Heavenly Father. The more God allowed the Egyptians to enlarge Israel's nest of afflictions, the more the Heavenly Father caused the Israelites to multiply and grow.

Come on, let us deal wisely with them; lest they multiply, and it come to pass, that, when there falleth out any war, they join also unto our enemies, and fight against us, and so get them up out of the land. Therefore *they did set over them taskmasters to afflict them with their burdens.* And they built for Pharaoh treasure cities, Pithom and Raamses. *But the more they afflicted them, the more they multiplied and grew.* And they were grieved because of the children of Israel (Exodus 1:10-12).

God's method and manner of protecting Israel with the pigeon's or fledgling's blood, during their four hundred years of slavery, was the same method and manner in which He protected His firstborn Son during the Passover night when He sent the Death Angel to slay Egypt's firstborn sons.

## The First Phase of Israel's Journey: As a Son in Egypt



LORD God

The LORD God Gave His Firstborn Son Liberating Life and Freedom  
Through the Lamb's Blood



• Lamb's Blood

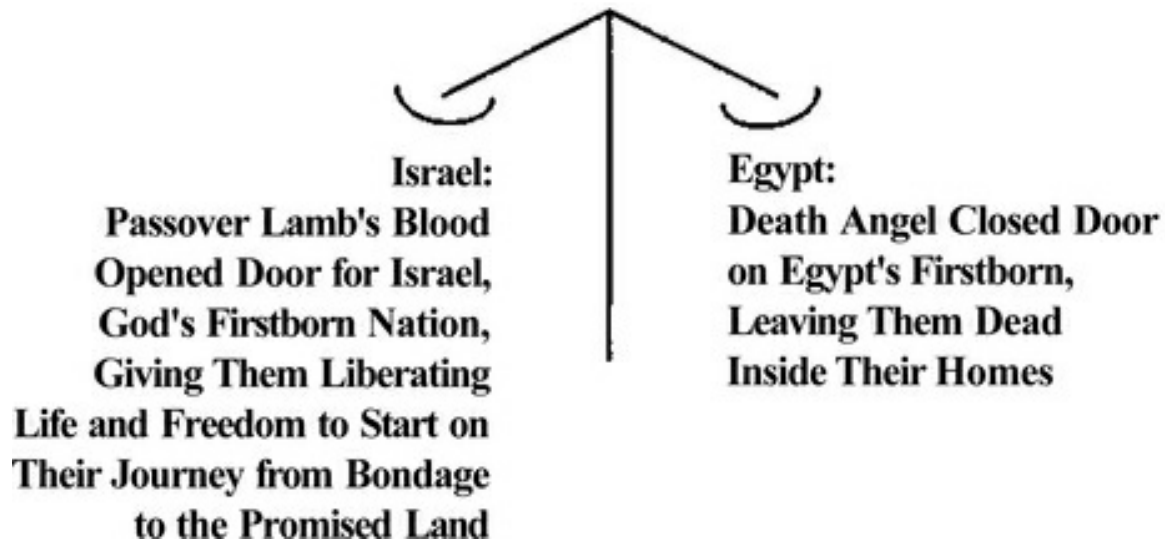
Blood



**Israel's Lesson of Trust in the LORD's Power to Preserve Life  
in the Midst of Death and to Provide Freedom in the Midst of Bondage**

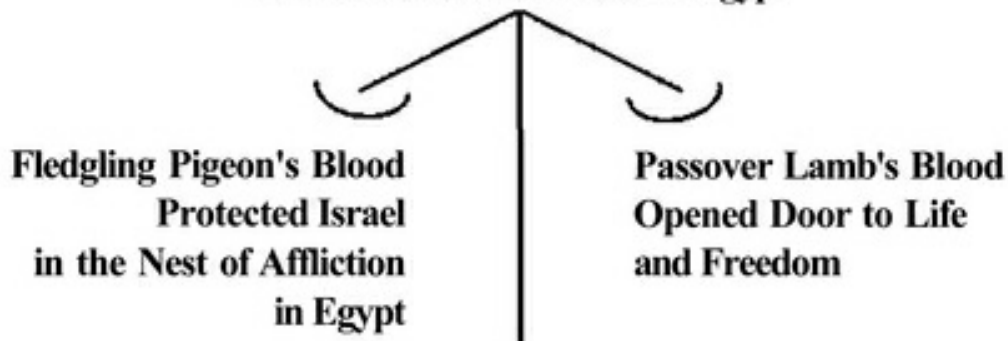
Not only was the Passover blood for the purpose of preventing the Death Angel from entering the door and destroying the life of God's Bridal Nation, it was for the purpose of allowing the life of the nation to go forth through the door to liberty and freedom so that God's people could journey to the land promised to their father, Abram.

## God's Protection of Israel in the Midst of Death



The fledgling pigeon's blood protected the people during their years of affliction, and they grew into a nation. Then, God liberated His firstborn Son through the Passover lamb's blood and opened the door of Egyptian bondage so that Israel, as a nation, could enter her journey to freedom. The Passover lamb's blood preserved the life of Israel's firstborn sons and gave Liberating Life to God's firstborn Son among the nations of the world.

## God's Provision of Blood in Egypt



The fledgling's blood and the Passover lamb's blood were both pictures of Christ's Humility Blood.

And they shall take of the blood, and strike it on the two side posts and on the upper door post of the houses, wherein they shall eat it (Exodus 12:7).

The fledgling's blood protected Israel in the midst of affliction and death, while the Passover lamb's blood liberated their firstborn sons from death and established an open door to freedom for the whole nation. Likewise, Christ's Humility Blood protects the believer in the midst of afflictions and liberates him from the death of sin, giving him an open door into God's freedom from the bondage of sin.

God's whole Purpose in putting the believer into a "nest" of affliction is to give him an opportunity to learn Christ's protection, through His Blood, and to learn to trust Him completely as the Heavenly Father. Hence, the believer can follow the LORD confidently through all the experiences that will deliver him out of the afflictions and death of "Egypt" or this world.

As God's tiny Son-nation, Israel, while protected under the LORD's provision of the fledgling pigeon's blood, had to learn to trust and to have confidence in his Father's *Protective Care* while he was in his nest of afflictions and suffering; but, he still needed to learn to have submissive confidence in *God's Divine Leadership*, which he learned by following the Cloud and Fire as God led him out of Egypt.

## **The First Phase of Israel's Journey: As a Son in Egypt**



**LORD God**

**The LORD God Gave His Firstborn Son-Nation  
the Cloud and Fire to Lead Them in the Way**



**Fledgling Pigeon's Blood**



### **Israel's Lesson of Trust in the LORD's Leadership in the Way**

*And they took their journey from Succoth, and encamped in Etham, in the edge of the wilderness. And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people (Exodus 13:20-22).*

Although Israel was in a stationary place of painful sufferings in God's nest of afflictions, he knew what to expect from day to day. In this circumstance, it was one thing for Israel, God's firstborn Son, to learn to trust and to have confidence in God's Keeping Power and Protective Care under the fledgling's blood; however, it was a new learning process for him to gain the proper trust and submissiveness when he had to follow the LORD by being led by the Cloud and Fire. Because he had no foreknowledge of the way in which he was to go nor what to expect when he arrived at a new place, Israel was required to have a new degree of confidence in the honesty, integrity, reliability, and justice of God's Leadership.

Israel had to yield and submit to the Power and Control of the LORD's Leadership, and offer no resistance, since the LORD was the only One Who knew the Way Israel had to take in order to get to Canaan's Land, the Promised Land. Israel's submission to the LORD was to be accomplished through the fledgling's blood of trust, both while Israel was in a stationary nest of afflictions and while he was in changing conditions as he followed the Cloud and Fire.

The LORD assumed the mighty responsibility to lead, guide, govern, and command His firstborn Son, Israel, in order to bring him to Canaan's Land, thus fulfilling His Promise to Abram. God's Word went before Israel to show him the Way and to conduct him in the Way.

The LORD God aided Israel in his journey by performing miracles when they were needed. For instance, He miraculously moved thousands of Israelites from Succoth to Etham in one day and night, a distance of more than

one hundred and twenty miles, in order to hasten them on their way. God testified about bearing His firstborn Son on eagles' wings in order to bring him to Himself.

*Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself (Exodus 19:4).*

The LORD GOD proved, in the very start of Israel's experience with Him, that Israel could trust in his Father's Protective Care and Leadership to bring him as a nation unto Himself. This is God's mutual mission for *all* mankind: to bring man unto Himself.

Israel should have learned trustful confidence in God's Protective Care and in His Leadership. However, ultimately, there were only four out of the adult group of Israelites who left Egypt who made it into the Promised Land.

God used the analogy of the eagles' wings in order to demonstrate the child-like trust that Israel, as a Son, placed in Him when he was leaving Egypt. Israel's trust at this point in his journey came to him as a Gift from God. However, as a whole, Israel as the Church in the wilderness did not allow this Gift of child-like trust to grow during her moral development.

In the Book of Deuteronomy, the LORD continued the analogy of the eagles' wings in order to picture Israel, His firstborn Son, and his beginning trust in Him as his Heavenly Father.

*As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young, spreadeth abroad her wings, taketh them, beareth them on her wings: So the LORD alone did lead him, and there was no strange god with him. He made him ride on the high places of the earth, that he might eat the increase of the fields; and he made him to suck honey out of the rock, and oil out of the flinty rock; (Deuteronomy 32:11-13).*

The eagle's actions give a beautiful analogy of Israel's beginning trust in God as a "Mother Eagle." In the natural realm, a mother eagle stirs up the nest with her personal presence as she removes the soft feathers from the nest, leaving the painful twigs to pierce her young. In other words, she turns the soft nest into a nest of affliction.

This is exactly what God did to Israel while he was in Egypt. God sent Joseph into Egypt, where the Pharaoh made him Governor. During Joseph's Governorship, Israel's nest was soft. But, after Joseph died, another Pharaoh came into power. God allowed the new ruler to pull the soft down out of the nest, as it were, and put Israel into a nest of painful affliction.

Next, after removing the comforting, soft lining of the nest, the mother eagle hovers over the now painful nest, fluttering her wings and flapping them rapidly without flying at all. Then, she waits patiently for her eaglets to make the free, conscious, brave decision to take their upward flight out of the painful nest by setting themselves upon her mother-eagle's wings, thus trusting themselves to her protective care.

This is why the analogy of the eagle is so applicable in Israel's case. God turned Israel's nest in Egypt into one of affliction; then, He hovered over His Son as a "Mother Eagle," waiting for the firstborn fledgling to cast himself upon his Parent's Protective Care.

Israel, God's firstborn Son among the nations, reacted in the same way as the fledgling eagle by casting himself upon the "Wings" of God's Miraculous Cloud and Fire, and God lifted him up above all Pharaoh's forcible, formidable, and active opposition.

God lifted up His firstborn Son, the most helpless and downtrodden of all nations, because the Son put his complete trust in his Heavenly Father's Protective Care. Then, God lifted him high above the reach of the enemy's power, bringing him into a personal, Father-and-Son Relationship with Himself.

The LORD taught His firstborn Son, Israel, his first basic lessons: (1) that the LORD God is the only One Whom man has to fear; (2) that He is the only One in Whom man confidently has to trust; and, (3) that He is the only One Whom man has to follow submissively.

Because His firstborn Son gave himself up completely to his Father's Protective Care, the LORD God bore him on the "Eagle Wings" of His Cloud and Fire from Rameses, the place of the lamb's blood, to the Red Sea.

At the Red Sea, God taught His firstborn Son a greater lesson of trust in Him, by Gift. Israel was told to stand still and see the salvation of the LORD and to watch the LORD fight his battles for him.

## The First Phase of Israel's Journey: As a Son in Egypt



### The LORD God Opened a Way of Escape for His Firstborn Son Through the Red Sea by His Name on the Rod



### Israel's Lesson of Trust in the LORD's Salvation Through His Mighty Name

And Moses said unto the people, *Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the LORD*, which he will shew to you to day: for the Egyptians whom ye have seen to day, *ye shall see them again no more for ever. The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace.* And the LORD said unto Moses, Wherefore criest thou unto me? speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward: But lift thou up thy rod, and *stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea* (Exodus 14:13-16).

When the Israelites reached the Red Sea, they discovered that the Egyptians quickly had recovered from their mourning over the loss of their firstborn sons and had pursued them in a vain effort to prevent them from leaving Egypt.

God's people found themselves in a pernicious plight. The Egyptians were behind; the Red Sea was in front; mountains were on both sides; and deathly fear besieged them from within their hearts.

Through Moses, God gave Israel, His Son, comforting Words and Promises to increase his trust and faith in his Heavenly Father. God told the Israelites all these things: *to fear not, to stand still, to see the salvation of the LORD, and that they never would see the Egyptians again forever!* The LORD promised to fight for them; therefore, they were to hold their peace. Then, He commanded Moses to lift up his Rod and stretch out his hand and the waters would be divided, giving them passage through the sea on dry ground.

The LORD told His firstborn Son that there was no need to fear because He was his Protector and Leader. Although Israel's existence was being threatened, he was to stand quietly still, in a state of inner calm, and trustfully expect the LORD's rescuing Hand to minister His Salvation.

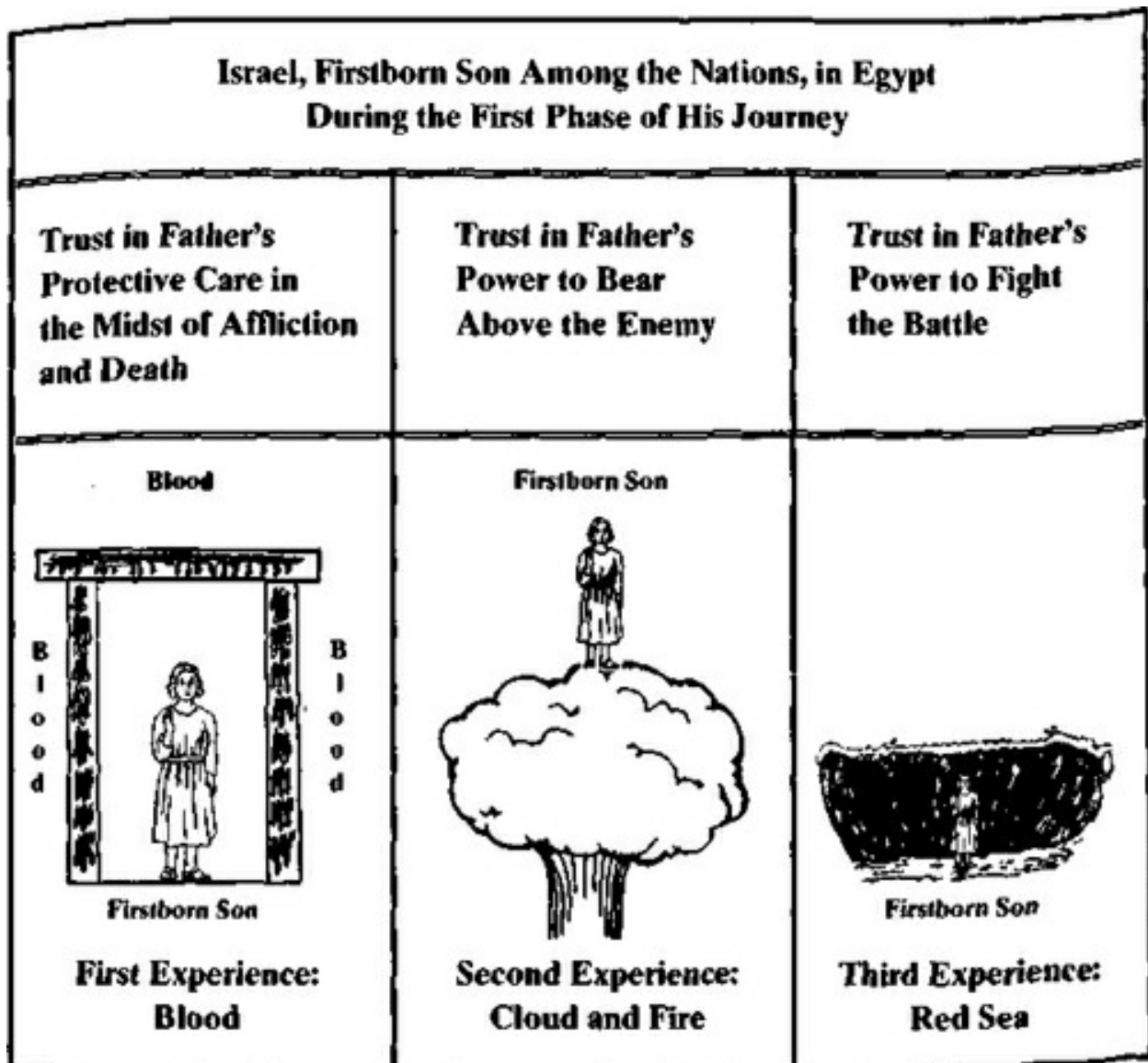
As Israel broke camp and started marching toward the sea, in courageous, fearless trust in God's Leadership, God began His salvation of Israel and His fight against his Son's enemy by commanding Moses to use his Rod to divide the sea so that Israel could go forth, through the sea, on dry ground.

After Israel had crossed the Red Sea, the Egyptians in their prideful arrogance dared to follow God's firstborn Son, entering into the sea. However, God, in the greatness of His Almighty Power, released the frozen walls of ice and their waves of water, bringing destruction upon the Egyptians.

The sea had retreated before the LORD's Mighty Name on Moses' Rod as the LORD had led His helpless, trustful firstborn Son through its icy walls. Then, the sea returned before the LORD's Mighty Name, regaining its full strength and destroying the wicked, pursuing Egyptians by drowning them.

The LORD God always saves His people who trust in His Mighty Name, and He always destroys His enemies who blaspheme His Name and oppose His Purposive Will.

The Heavenly Father taught His tiny, firstborn Son-nation to trust *Him and His Protective Care* as the nation lay under the fledgling pigeon's blood and the lamb's blood. He also taught them to trust *Him and His Leadership* as the nation was lifted by the Cloud and Fire, and to trust *Him and His Holy Name* as the nation walked through the Waters of the Red Sea.



This chapter has covered the following three levels of spiritual experiences of trust that Israel, as the firstborn Son among the nations, received by Gift:

- Through the Power of the blood, by Gift, Israel learned trust in the Father's Protective Care in the midst of Affliction and Death.
- Through the Power of the Cloud and Fire, by Gift, Israel learned trust in the Father's Power of Leadership to bear him up above the Enemy.
- Through the Power of the LORD's Name in the Water, by Gift, Israel learned trust in the Father's Power of Deliverance in the midst of the Battle.

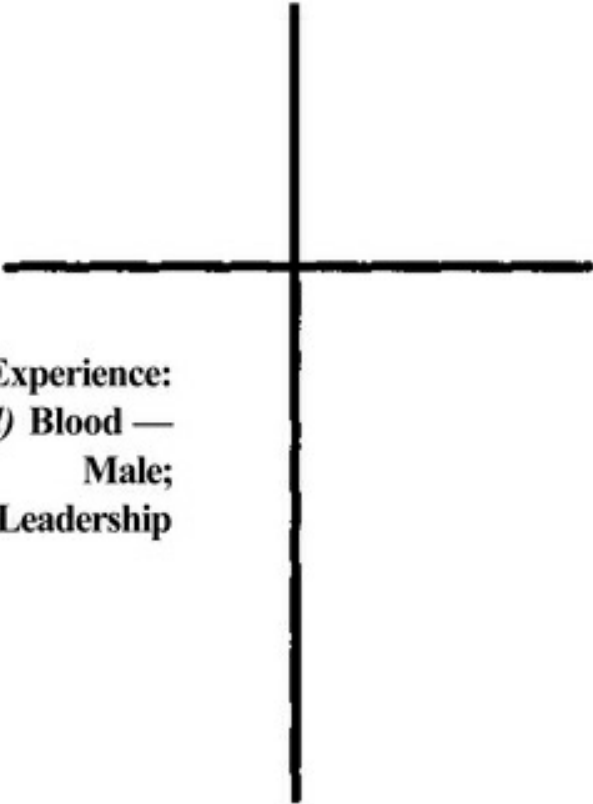
# Chapter Two

## Israel's Experience in the Wilderness as a Church

Leaving Egypt and entering the wilderness was just the first phase of Israel's journey. During this part of the nation's experience, which was that of a firstborn Son, the Israelites learned, by Gift, a threefold trust and confidence in the LORD God: (1) through His Provision of Protection by the blood, (2) through His leading with the Cloud and Fire, and (3) through the deliverance of His Name in the Water.

Next, when Israel entered into her wilderness experience, God brought her to a new place of spiritual growth and into a new spiritual relationship with Him. During this phase of the nation's journey, Israel became a Church.

If we return to the Scriptures which tell of Abram's visitation from God, at the time God promised Abram that his seed would someday possess Canaan's Land, we see that God commanded Abram to offer a second type of blood, which was the *ah-yil* ram's blood, a male blood. Abram's progeny also would need this kind of blood to help them possess the land.



**II. Church Experience:**  
• **Ram's (*Ah-yil*) Blood —**  
**Male;**  
**Power of Leadership**

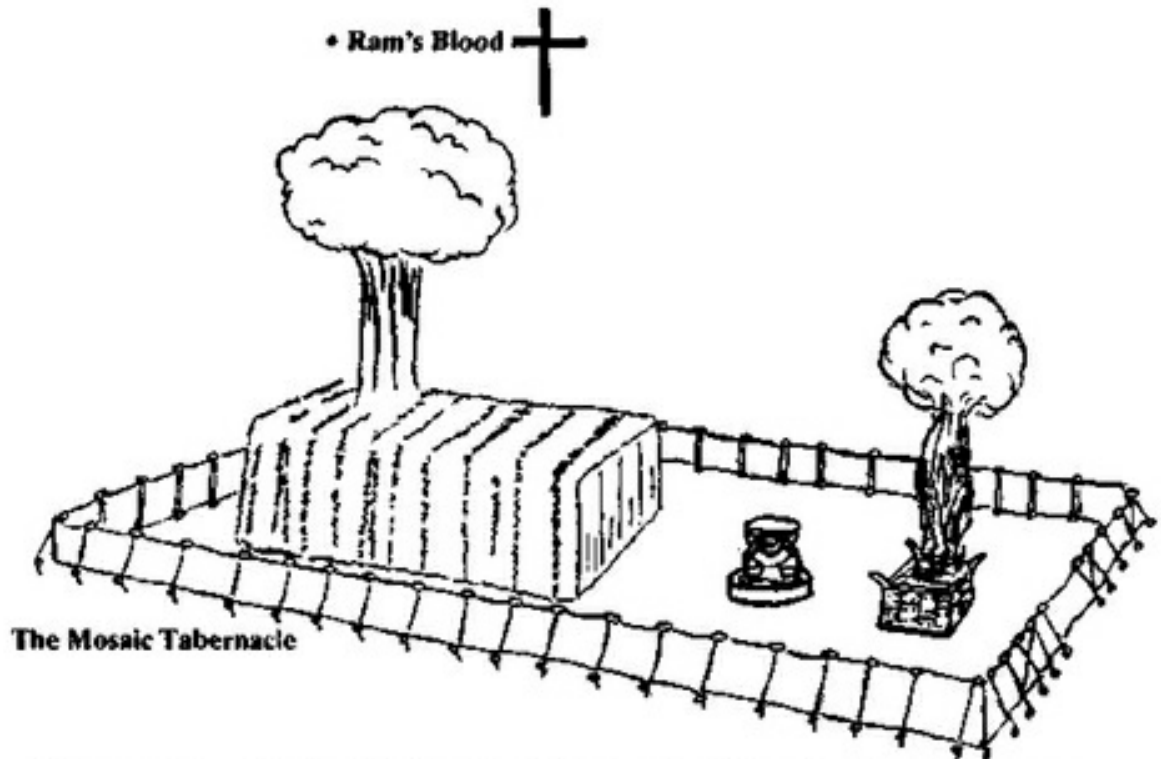
Israel, the firstborn Son, had to employ his God-given gift of *trust* and *confidence* in his Heavenly Parent (his Father) in order to leave the well-cultivated fields in Egypt and to trade them for the uncultivated, unrestrained growth of the wilderness and the barren, fruitless desert; and, because Israel did so, the LORD brought him into a place of new spiritual relationship with Himself. As a result, Israel rose one step higher in his spiritual growth and became a Church. Israel's growth was accomplished through his faith in Abram's *ah-yil* ram's blood (a type of the Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ) that led him to the LORD's Truth, causing him to grow in Grace and Knowledge of the LORD. Thus, Israel was growing into a position in which the nation would have the necessary Power of Moral Leadership to guide *all* nations to the LORD's Torah-Truth.

The Hebrew word for *Church* is written in both the masculine and the feminine gender; *kaw-hawl* is the masculine word, and *keh-hil-law* is the feminine word.

The Hebrew *root* word for *Church* means called out or forth, gathering of citizens, an assembly, a congregation called out from their homes into some public place.

That Israel would become a Church was prophesied by Isaac when he gave Jacob God's Blessing. God promised that Jacob would become a *Multitude* (*Church* — *kaw-hawl*) of people.

## The Second Phase of Israel's Journey: As the Church in the Wilderness



### Although Israel Was Divided into Separate Tribes in the Wilderness, She Was Unified as One in God's Church

Jacob was a picture of Jesus Christ from Whom the New Testament Church was begotten. Again, God reaffirmed His Promise to Jacob that out of his loins would come forth a *Company* (*kaw-hawl*), a Church of diverse tribes or nations, in other words, the Old Testament Jewish Church.

*And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation and a company [kaw-hawl] of nations shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; (Genesis 35:11).*

However, the Jewish Church was to be *one*, both externally and internally. Through His Purposive Will and His *Torah-Truth*, God joined Israel's diverse tribes into one, as far as their service to God and to each other was concerned. Each tribe or nation differed. For instance, there was a priestly, a martial, a mercantile, an agricultural, a scholarly, and a scientific tribe. Nevertheless, God, in His Almighty, Sovereign Headship, unified these diverse tribes or nations, externally, because they all were part of His Church. And, through His Holy *Torah-Truth*, God unified His Jewish Church, internally, because the Jewish people had *one* Moral High Calling and *one* mutual mission — to be a doer of His *Torah-Truth*.

Jacob had gone down to dwell in Egypt, where his beloved son Joseph had been exalted to the position of Governor, which was next in rank to Pharaoh. While there, Jacob revealed to Joseph that his two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, were to belong to him, their grandfather, as a part of the *Multitude* (*kaw-hawl* — *Church*) of people.

*And Jacob said unto Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and blessed me, And said unto me, Behold, I will*

make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, and I will make of thee a multitude [kaw-hawl] of people; and will give this land to thy seed after thee for an everlasting possession. And now thy two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, which were born unto thee in the land of Egypt before I came unto thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben and Simeon, they shall be mine (Genesis 48:3-6).

Jacob, according to God's Master Plan, conferred upon Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, the High and Holy honour of becoming two separate tribes in the Multitude (Church) of Israelites.

The Holy Ghost confirmed in the Scriptures that the LORD Jesus Christ was present as the Governor and Guide of the Old Testament Church when it was in the wilderness.

This is that Moses, which said unto the children of Israel, *A prophet shall the Lord your God raise up unto you of your brethren*, like unto me; him shall ye hear. *This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina*, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us: To whom our fathers would not obey, but thrust him from them, and in their hearts turned back again into Egypt, (Acts 7:37-39).

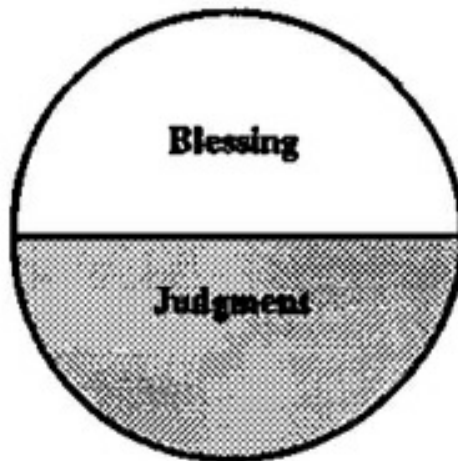
Jesus Christ appeared in the Old Testament Church in angelic form because His Father had not yet begotten Him a Body. The Father spoke the *Torah-Truth* from Heaven, and His only Begotten Son, present on Mount Sinai, also spoke the *Torah-Truth* to the people.

Unto thee it was shewed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him. *Out of heaven he made thee to hear his voice*, that he might instruct thee: *and upon earth he shewed thee his great fire; and thou heardest his words out of the midst of the fire* (Deuteronomy 4:35,36).

The Unbegotten Father, the LORD God, spoke His Eternal Truth *from Heaven* so that Israel would know that He was and is the only LORD God. As Israel's Instructor, the LORD God declared Himself to be the One Who would assume His Bond of Discipline in the Jewish Church.

God's Bond of Discipline consists of His Wheel of Blessing and Judgment.

### **God's Bond of Discipline or Wheel of Blessing and Judgment**



Or despisest thou the riches of his goodness and forbearance and longsuffering; not knowing that *the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance?* But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of *the righteous judgment of God*; (Romans 2:4,5).

The upper part of God's Bond or Wheel of Discipline consists of His Goodness, His Moral Excellence, His Moral Usefulness, His Lovingkindness, and His sweet Gentleness that He manifests in His Divine Effort to lead a soul to repentance and to a higher realm of moral character. If a person fails to learn God's correction on the upper half of His Bond or Wheel of Discipline, God places that person on the lower half of His Bond or Wheel of Discipline, which is His Righteous Judgment. God will perform Holy, Just, Righteous Acts in bringing pain to a person in His Divine Effort to bring a soul to repentance and to the moral correction of his evil way.

God placed His Bond of Discipline in Israel through His *Torah-Truth*. To Israel, the LORD God revealed Himself as the Divine Omnipresence that fills Heaven and Earth and that penetrates, with His *Torah-Truth*, the innermost beings of all souls in His Church.

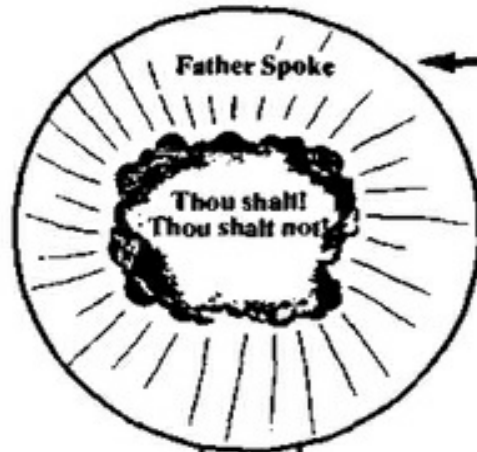
When God's only Begotten Son came down to *Earth* on Mount Sinai, He, too, *spoke* the *Torah-Truth* to Israel.

And when the voice of the trumpet sounded long, and waxed louder and louder, Moses spake, and *God answered him by a voice* (Exodus 19:19).

And *God spake all these words*, saying, (Exodus 20:1).

Thus, through His Son, the LORD God thrust His *Torah-Truth* into Israel's ears and hearts for the second time. And then a third time, through His servant Moses, the LORD God thrust His *Torah-Truth* into the ears and hearts of the Israelites (the Church). Hence, Israel, as the Church in the wilderness, received a threefold witness of God's Truth.

And the LORD said unto Moses, *Write thou these words*: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and with Israel. And he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights; he did neither eat bread, nor drink water. *And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the ten commandments*. And it came to pass, when Moses came down from mount Sinai with the two tables of testimony in Moses' hand, when he came down from the mount, that Moses wist not that the skin of his face shone while he talked with him. And when Aaron and all the children of Israel saw Moses, behold, the skin of his face shone; and they were afraid to come nigh him. And Moses called unto them; and Aaron and all the rulers of the congregation returned unto him; and Moses talked with them. And afterward all the children of Israel came nigh: and he gave them in commandment all that the LORD had spoken with him in mount Sinai (Exodus 34:27-32).



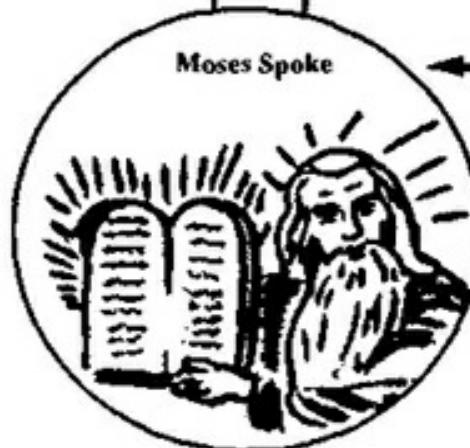
**First Witness:  
From Heaven**

The LORD God,  
the Unbegotten Father  
Spoke His *Torah-Truth*  
(Deuteronomy 4:35,36).



**Second Witness:  
From Mount Sinai  
on Earth**

The LORD Jesus Christ,  
God's Only  
Begotten Son,  
Spoke *Torah -Truth*  
(Exodus 19:20; 20:1)



**Third Witness:  
In the Wilderness**

Moses,  
God's Servant,  
Spoke *Torah -Truth*  
to the Church  
(Exodus 34:27-32)

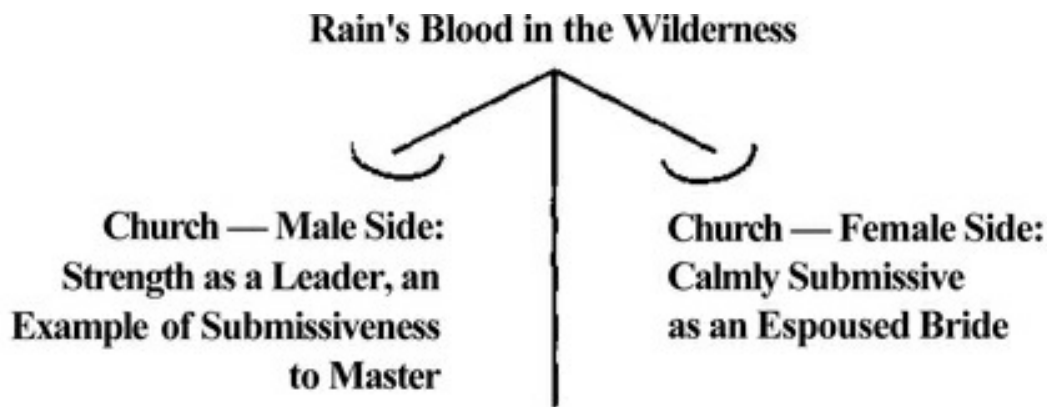
Israel, the Jewish Church, was without excuse before the LORD because He had given her a threefold Witness: once from the Father, once from the Son, and once from Moses.

Now that the fact has been established that the Jewish Church did exist in the wilderness, let us consider the second realm of sacrificial blood that God showed Abram as being necessary to guarantee that his seed would possess or inherit the Promised Land of Canaan. This second kind of blood, the ram's blood, was also a picture of Christ's Blood.

*Ah-yil*, the Hebrew word for *ram*, means to wash and cleanse by faith. The LORD gave Abram the blood of the ram (male) as a picture of what the Jewish Church would need for cleansing them on the feminine side and on the masculine side, since the Church is both. The *feminine side* of the Church had to learn exclusive *surrender and submission* to the Father's Master Plan, both in pain and in pleasure.

A completely surrendered heart embraces Wisdom to itself, joyfully acknowledging that God, in His Mercy, Grace, and Goodness, gives all things for the believer's Eternal good and for His own Eternal Glory. The strength of the male ram's blood (the *ah-yil*), which is a picture of Christ's Blood, is sufficiently powerful to wash away all proud resistance and rebellion to God's Master Plan in the human will, making it docile and submissive. Christ's *Ah-yil* Blood can wash away all the fighting, struggling, and opposition to God's Master Plan in the human heart, leaving it calmly submissive as an Espoused Bride to her Bridegroom, Jesus Christ.

The *masculine side* of the Church had to learn, through the strength of the *ah-yil-blood* sacrifice, to be strong like the ram. The ram was placed in front of the flock to be a leader and an example to the flock of its submissiveness to the voice of its master. The ram never used its horns as a power to resist its master, but it did use them as a power to resist all strangers.



God purposed that Israel, as the Church in the wilderness, would become, through her sweet submission to her Heavenly Bridegroom, like a "ram," leading the rest of the nations of the Earth to walk according to her example of being under subjection to God's Master Plan, Purposive Will, and *Torah-Truth*.

God provided ram's blood for the Church in the wilderness; yet, very few of the adult generation that left Egypt laid hold, by faith, of the ram's blood, although God led them from place to place, teaching them, instructing them, and disciplining them as a Church.

As we look at the places in the wilderness that God led the Church to stop at and to dwell in, we will see clearly the murmuring and mutiny of most of the Church for most of the time.

In order to effectuate the spiritual growth of Israel, God ordained stops in the wilderness that always consisted of places that brought both pain and pleasure to the Church.

# Chapter Three

## The First Six Places Israel, the Church, Stopped During Her Journey Through the Wilderness

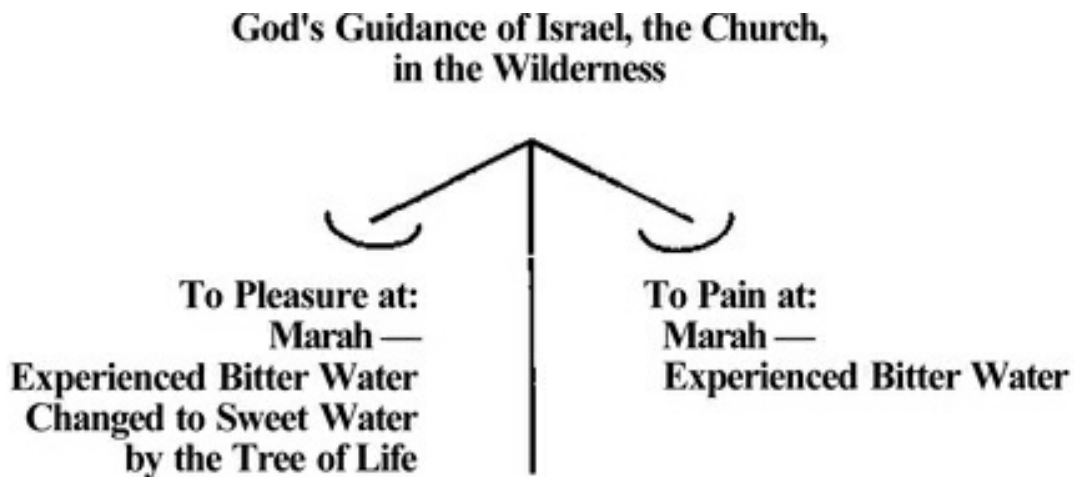
After God's firstborn Son, Israel, had made his victorious, triumphant crossing of the Red Sea, he became the Church in the Wilderness.

God brought Israel to many places of experience during the nation's sojourn in the wilderness in order to teach her about many things in her heart which she needed to overcome and to teach her many things about the LORD's Nature and Power. At each place the Church stopped, she was to learn the Truth God sought to teach her so that she could grow spiritually and, thus, be fit to enter the Promised Land.

Israel's first stop was at Marah, in the Wilderness of Shur; and, here, she experienced both the pain and pleasure sides of God's scales.

### I. Stopped at Marah

So Moses brought Israel from the Red sea, and they went out into the wilderness of Shur; and *they went three days in the wilderness, and found no water. And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name it was called Marah.* And the people murmured against Moses, saying, What shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet: there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, and wilt do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the LORD that healeth thee (Exodus 15:22-26).



From their glorious victory at the banks of the Red Sea, the Church of Israel journeyed to Marah where the waters were too bitter for them to drink.

Instead of expressing faith, by claiming the strength of the ram's blood (the *ah-yil*) to take away their resistance and rebellion against God's Headship, which had led them there, they murmured. The word for *murmured* in Hebrew is *loon*, meaning to be obstinate in words, to seek redress from hardship which one has to endure, to speak and spread complaints against someone, to grumble about someone.

Instead of trusting their Creator-Bridegroom and being sweetly submissive, which would have made them an Eternal example of how they should have acted as Christ's Espoused Bride, the Israelites murmured against Moses,

the creature. Nevertheless, in answer to Moses' prayer, God showed him the Tree of Life and, then, gave him Supernatural Strength to pick up the Tree of Life and cast it into the bitter waters, thus making the waters sweet. In this place, God put Israel on both sides of the scales — in pain with the bitter waters and in pleasure with the sweet waters.

In their pain, Israel murmured. In their pleasure, they were strangely silent. Not one word is recorded of any repentance on their part, nor is any expression of their appreciation and gratitude mentioned in God's Word.

Hence, the Church in the wilderness, as a whole, failed the test in their first spiritual lesson.

- They failed to trust God's Leadership.
- They failed to trust God's Integrity, Honesty, Goodness, and Justice.
- They failed to repent of their murmurings.
- They failed to be appreciative and grateful for the Tree of Life and the Sweet Water it produced.

God's Divine Decision, joined to His Purposive Will, forms the true road that leads through desolate deserts and to bitter waters in order to reveal the Tree of Life and His miraculous Power to sweeten the bitter waters.

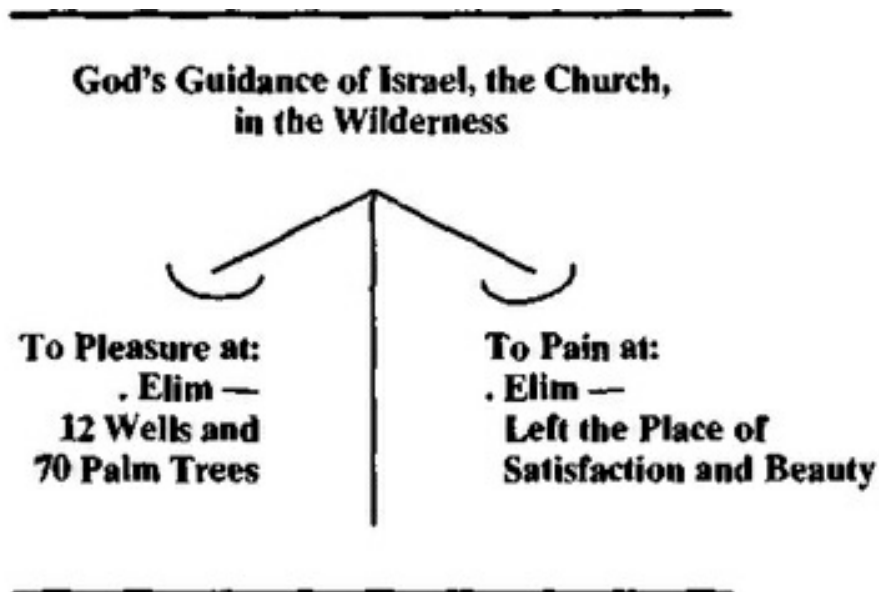
As the LORD guides His Church through the wilderness, she must first learn His Power to change bitter waters into pleasurable, sweet waters. Under the LORD's Holy, Loving Leadership, His Espoused Bride will be led, safely and happily, to Canaan's Land, if she uses the Strength of Christ's Ram's Blood to help her.

Had the Israelites appropriated the ram's blood, by faith, it would have given them the power to cleanse their hearts of their rebellious, disbelieving attitudes; and it would have given them strength to stride forward toward Canaan's Land, making them a spiritual example — to their present generation and to all future generations of the Earth — of how trusting in God's Provision of Blood will strengthen the believer to do the LORD's Purposive Will. What a glorious, spiritual privilege most of the Jewish Church missed by failing their test at the waters of Marah!

The second stop the Church made in the wilderness was at Elim, which, in the beginning, was an experience on the pleasure side of God's scales, but which, in the end, became a painful experience.

## II. Stopped at Elim

*And they came to Elim, where were twelve wells of water, and threescore and ten palm trees: and they encamped there by the waters (Exodus 15:27).*



In spite of the Church's failure to learn their lessons on the pain and pleasure sides of the scales at Marah, God, in

His manifold Mercy and great Grace, led them to a new place of pleasurable delight at Elim, where there were twelve wells of water and seventy palm trees.

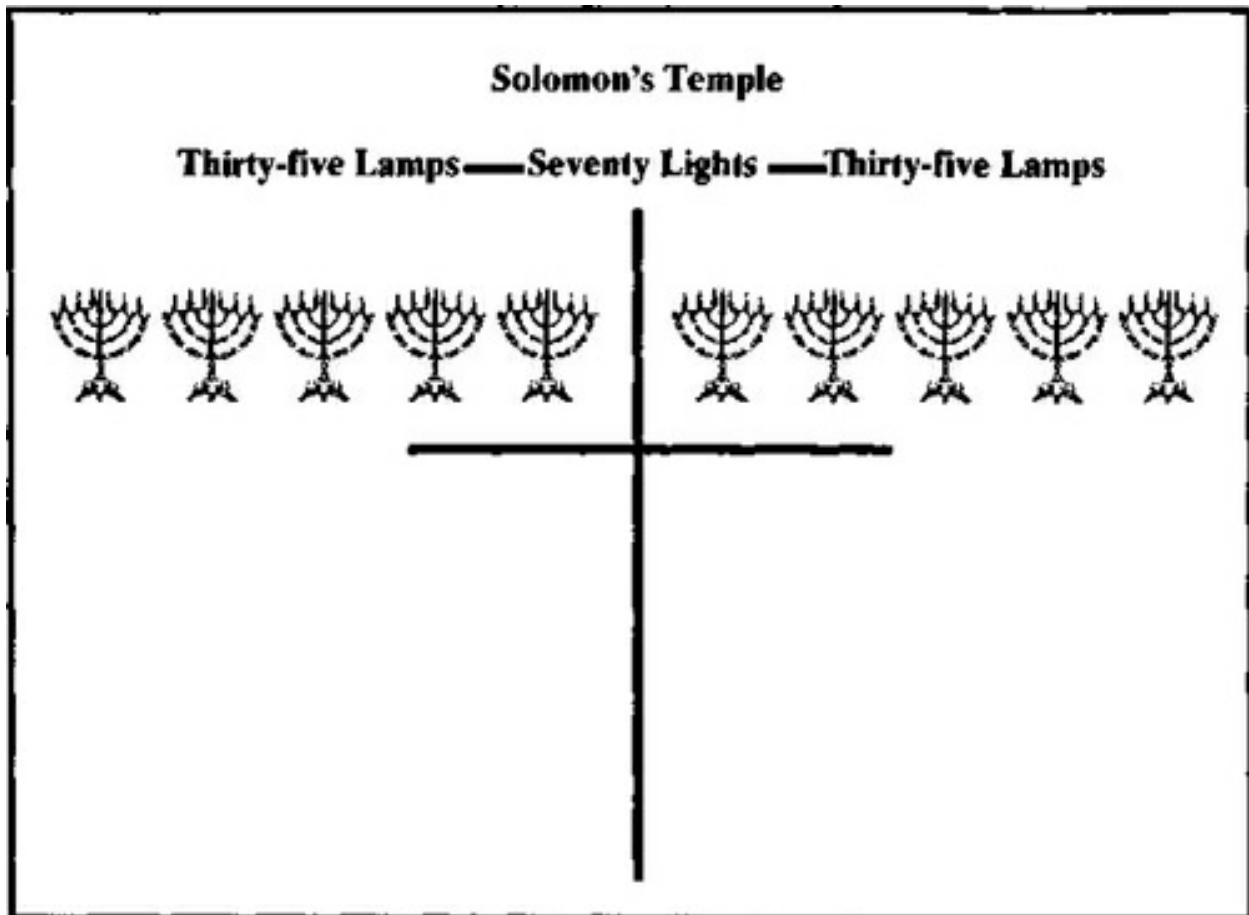
*Twelve* is the number of perfect Government. At Elim, there were twelve wells of perfect Government — one well for each of the twelve tribes.

A well signifies a source of abundant, underground water that flows from hidden fountains in the depths. These twelve wells pictured the depths of Christ's Humility Government which can cleanse and overthrow the proud rebellion of the human heart and will.

Also, there were seventy fruitful palm trees at this delightful, pleasant place. The number *seventy* speaks of the union of the Father's Fruitful Light joined to Christ's Humility Obedience to His Father's *Torah-Truth*, both in pleasure and in pain.

When Solomon built God's Temple of Splendour and Glory, God commanded that five Golden Candlesticks be made and placed on the right side of the Temple. Also, five Golden Candlesticks were to be made and placed on the left side of the Temple. Each Candlestick had seven Lights, which meant that there were thirty-five Lights on the right side and thirty-five Lights on the left side, making a total of seventy Lights in the Holy Place of the Temple.

And the candlesticks of pure gold, *five on the right side, and five on the left*, before the oracle, with the flowers, and the lamps, and the tongs of gold, (1 Kings 7:49).



By His Grace, God permitted His Church in the wilderness to experience the shadow and type of the depths of the Crucified Christ's Humility Governmental Waters by drinking from the twelve wells of water at Elim. And, by their feeding on the fruit of the seventy palm trees, He permitted them to experience the shadow and type of the Father's Fruitful Governmental Light that was joined to Christ's Humility Obedience to the Father's *Torah-Truth*.

If the Church in the wilderness had laid hold of the ram's blood, by faith, that had been given to Abram, it would have cleansed their ingratitude for God's Governance, His Guidance, His Way, and His Purposive Will as they journeyed on the road to Canaan's Land.

How much more will the Blood of Jesus Christ cleanse a per-son's penitent heart of its ingratitude and murmuring against Christ's Governance, Guidance, Way, and Holy Will as He leads him to the Heavenly Canaan's Land.

If Israel had laid hold of the strength of the ram's blood, they, as a Church, would have been leading examples of living gratitude and Eternal appreciation for the twelve wells and the seventy palm trees.

How great it is to read about the Mercy and Grace God extended to the Church at Elim; and, yet, how unspeakably sad it is not to see *one* recorded word of gratitude, thanks, praise, nor appreciation expressed by them for His Divine Gifts. Thus, the Church failed to learn her lesson at her second stop in the wilderness, which began on the pleasure side of the scales and ended on the pain side.

There was pain attached to Elim because Israel had to separate herself from this beautiful, satisfying place. It was just a stop, for a season, in order for them to learn a lesson of gratitude for God's Goodness, Mercy, and Grace. We know their hearts still were filled with murmuring and complaining since no appreciation was exhibited and since, all along the way, their complaining and ingratitude continually erupted.

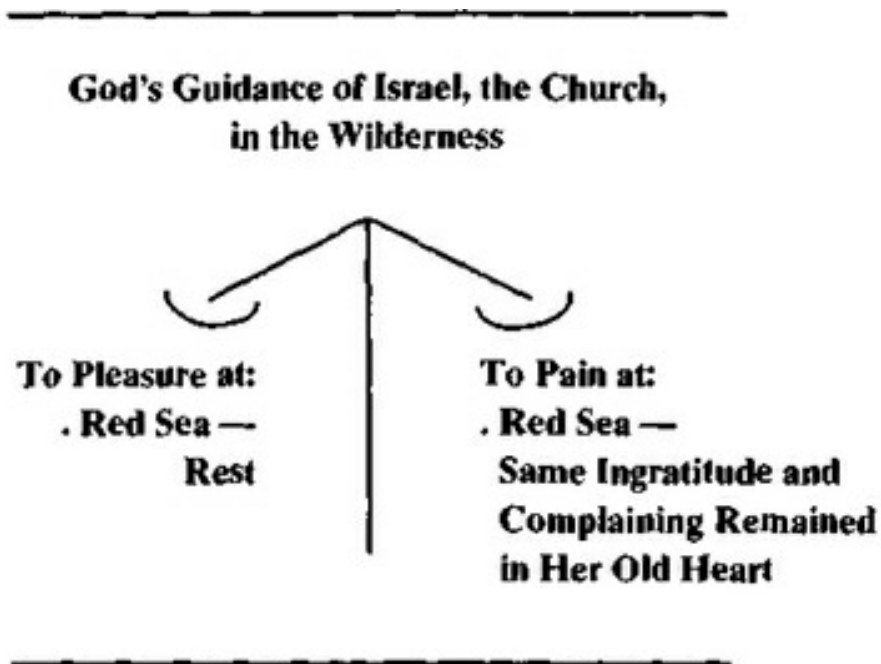
Every place Israel halted has been recorded in God's Word to serve as a memorial, both for historical interest and for spiritual instructions, admonitions, and encouragements to believers so that they will learn what to do and what not to do if they want to go to the Promised Land.

Israel was God's Church, so in His Wise Design, He knew every halting place, both in pain and in pleasure, that was necessary for Israel's spiritual education and moral development, according to His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Next, God's Guidance took Israel back to the Red Sea. This was the third stop in her journey.

### III. Stopped at the Red Sea

*And they removed from Elim, and encamped by the Red sea (Numbers 33:10).*



Because Israel exhibited only complaining and ingratitude at Marah and at Elim, God led her back to encamp by the Red Sea in order to refresh her memory of the happy praise and gratitude she had experienced on the wilderness side of the Red Sea. How quickly Israel forgot her gratitude for her deliverance from the Egyptians. She never once expressed gratitude to the LORD at her first two stops. She gave God no thanks or appreciation for the Tree of Life that had sweetened the bitter waters at Marah; nor was she grateful for the twelve wells and seventy palm trees at Elim. Consequently, God led Israel back to the Red Sea so that she could recall her marvelous deliverance and her joyful gratitude for God's victorious triumph over her enemies.

If, like Israel, believers fail to use the Strength of Christ's Ram's Blood that has the Power to cleanse them of

their complaining and ingratitude in *new* places of pain and pleasure, God will return them to an *old* place of experience so that they may set their foundation in order by learning to have grateful, trustful confidence in the LORD's Governance and Guidance of their lives.

After trust and gratitude have been carefully placed in the very foundation of a believer's espousal experience with the Bridegroom, the LORD Jesus Christ, he can express joyful appreciation for God's Master Plan and Purposive Will in both the pleasurable and painful things in his life.

The LORD's record of the Church's third stop, which was at the Red Sea, is silent about the pleasure and pain Israel experienced at this time. Although it is obvious she experienced the relief offered by rest, there also were some complaints.

God gave Israel this time of fresh rest and repose, a time of emotional calm, so that, in the quietness of her mind, she might reflect on her former behaviour.

This was *the* Red Sea by which she was resting — the place in which she had given the LORD *gratitude* for His miraculous deliverance from her enemies. However, she could not help but recall her *ingratitude* and *complaining* over her painful situation at Marah and her *ingratitude* for her blessings at Elim. Israel never gave thanks for her pain nor her pleasure because she was ungrateful for and distrustful of God's Governance and Guidance.

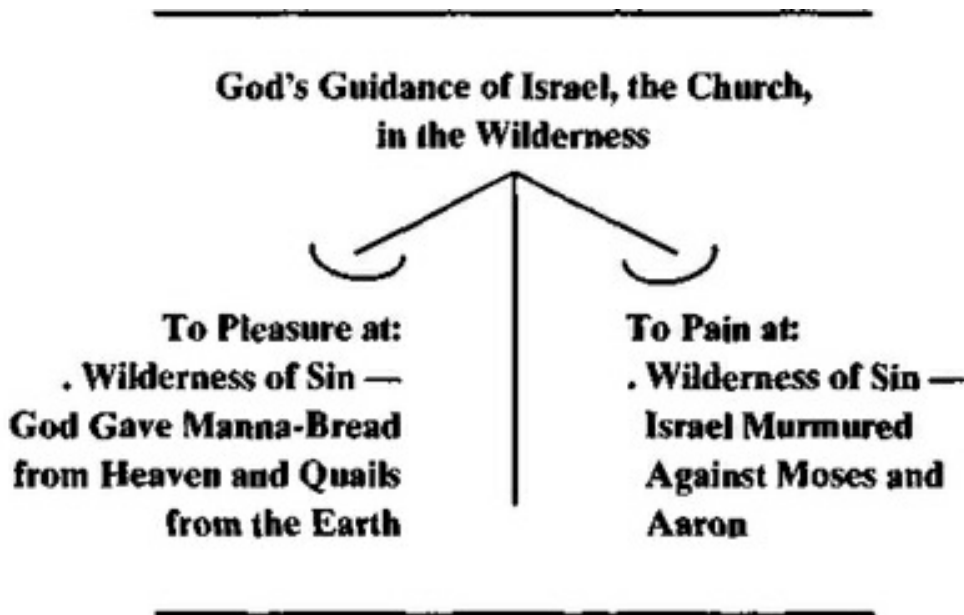
The LORD's omission of recording any of Israel's particular experiences at her third stop reveals the fact that there was nothing to communicate. However, Israel's vicious faultfinding, dissatisfaction, and accusations at her next stop permits us to know that her silence by the Red Sea was a sullen silence.

The believer may hide his sullen gloominess in one situation, but it will only build up and erupt in the next situation unless he appropriates Christ's Ram's Blood. Only through the Ram's Blood can the believer become calmly submissive to the LORD in his heart and be a leading example of an Espoused Bride.

After the Church's sojourn by the Red Sea and her failure to exhibit any praise or gratitude, which she could have had by laying hold of the Power of the ram's blood, she removed, under God's Governance and Guidance, to dwell in the Wilderness of Sin.

#### IV. Stopped in the Wilderness of Sin

And they took their journey from Elim, and all the congregation of the children of Israel came unto the wilderness of Sin, which is between Elim and Sinai, on the fifteenth day of the second month after their departing out of the land of Egypt. And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, and when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger (Exodus 16:1-3).



At first, God allowed Israel to dwell for a short time on the pain side of the scales while she was in the Wilderness

of Sin.

*And they removed from the Red sea, and encamped in the wilderness of Sin (Numbers 33:11).*

God desired that Israel have trust and confidence in His Guidance; but, to prove the lack of trust in her heart, He allowed the people to experience hunger. In His manifold Mercy, great Grace, and abundant Goodness, God brought Israel, the Church, to the Wilderness of Sin for the purpose of miraculously giving them His Corn or Bread from Heaven.



In the evening, God sent quails to cover the camp. In the morning, the LORD sent the Corn or the Manna from Heaven.

*Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no (Exodus 16:4).*

In God's lesson to Israel, He demonstrated His Almighty Power to feed His people, miraculously, when they follow His Leadership, regardless of the time or place.

As well as feeding His people, Israel, as they followed Him from Egypt to Canaan's Land, Christ miraculously fed those who followed Him when He journeyed on this Earth. Likewise, He will feed the believer, today, with the strong Meat and Bread of His Truth as the believer submissively and gratefully follows Christ's Headship in his life.

In the beginning of her stay in the Wilderness of Sin, God allowed Israel to feel a few hunger pains so that He might humble her proud, complaining heart and her distrustful will that caused her to doubt His Protective Care and His Leadership when she was following according to His Governance and Guidance in the wilderness (Deuteronomy 8:3).

God had promised, by His Word, that He would take Israel to Canaan's Land. He had proven, by His Almighty Power, that He could overcome all Israel's enemies and all obstacles their enemies could put before them. Had He not judged and punished the Egyptians for their cruel oppression and torturous bondage of His people? Had He not opened the Red Sea, saving Israel but destroying Pharaoh and his army? Israel had heard God's Promise; moreover, they had seen His Power work in their behalf. Yet, because they were having a few hunger pains in the Wilderness of Sin, they pridefully attacked Moses and Aaron with their accusations and ingratitude instead of implicitly trusting the LORD and praising Him for His Holy Headship that always protected them and provided for them, according to their needs.

Israel's murmuring and complaining did not change their painful situation; it merely compounded their pain. It

was God's manifold *Mercy* and great and abundant *Goodness* that changed their pain into pleasure by giving them earthly quails and Heavenly Bread to eat. But, in spite of all the LORD's Divine Goodness to them, the Church in the wilderness did not give one word of thanksgiving or praise to God.

Because the Israelites had not laid hold of the firstborn-Son-Trust in their Heavenly Father, by appropriating the fledgling pigeon's blood by faith, and because they had not laid hold of sweet submission and exclusive surrender to the LORD's Headship, by appropriating the ram's blood by faith, they murmured against Moses and Aaron, accusing them of trying to murder them by bringing them to a place where there was no meat nor bread.

The ram with its horns also speaks of the power of resistance to stand against strangers. The ram never uses its horns against its master; it always uses them against *strangers*. However, because Israel, the Church in the wilderness, failed to lay hold, by faith, of the ram's blood that was given to Abram, they used the "horns" of their blind, carnal minds against the LORD God, their Owner and Master, and against His servants, Moses and Aaron.

God brought Israel to the Wilderness of Sin for the purpose of freeing their souls and minds from the binding burdens and worries of providing daily bread for themselves and their families. However, the evil, distrustful minds of the Israelites twisted God's Holy, Truthful Purpose, which was to give them His Miraculous Life; hence, they accused Moses and Aaron of bringing them to the Wilderness of Sin to kill them. Under the great threat of painful hunger and possible famine, they forgot all about the previous experiences that God had given them concerning His Fatherly Protective Care and His Almighty Power to provide for all their needs.

Through His miraculous Provision of Bread from Heaven and meat from Earth, God desired to teach the Church more about His constant Care and His watchful, Almighty Love that provide for every pang of hunger within each person's soul and heart that belongs to Him, regardless of how tiny or big the person is. He desired to teach Israel about His Sovereign Headship that controls all things, both in Heaven and in Earth. This is why the LORD sent the Church Manna from *Heaven* and quails from the *Earth*.

Astoundingly, once more, the Church failed their spiritual test. They exhibited no more trust in the LORD in the Wilderness of Sin than they had in their previous situations, even though God always had been faithful to see them through. Not one word of repentance for their ugly murmuring, their evil distrust of God's Good Purpose, or their wicked accusations against Moses and Aaron is recorded.

Neither is one word of gratitude or thanksgiving or praise for God's gracious, powerful Provision for them recorded in God's Word. However, the Bible notes the greed of some who, contrary to the LORD's Command, tried to hoard more than their daily needs; but what they gathered did them no good, for it bred worms and stank. Others refused to gather a double portion on the sixth day so that they could rest and worship God on the seventh day. Because they were heedless of God's instructions, when they went to gather Manna on the seventh day, they found none.

How unspeakably sad to see the stiff-necked Church in the wilderness always failing and refusing to learn their basic lessons about the blood, which was a type of Christ's Blood, that God had given to Abram. The ram's blood would have cleansed their rebellious nature and changed their distrustful, complaining hearts, thus causing them to inherit the land that had been promised to them. Through the strength and submissiveness of the ram's blood, they could have been prepared as an Espoused Bride to enter Canaan's Land.

Although Israel failed in learning trustful, grateful appreciation for her LORD's Governance and Guidance in the Wilderness of Sin, the Cloud and Fire moved on for the sake of the tiny remnant (Caleb, Joshua, Eleazar, and Phinehas) who trusted and submitted their spirits to the LORD's Headship.

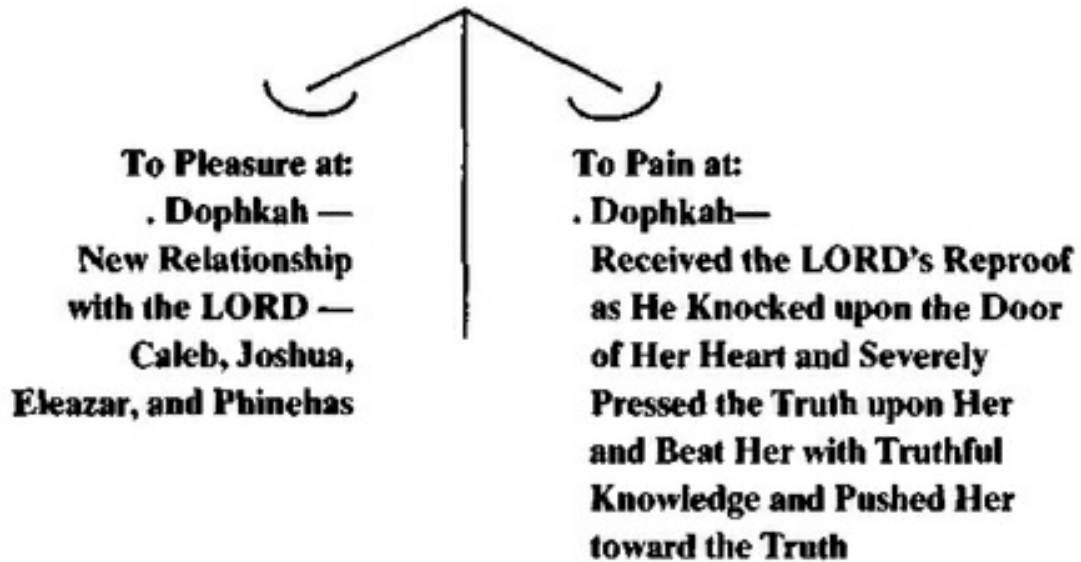
Next, Israel was led to a place called Dophkah in order to learn more lessons in pleasure and pain that were to prepare her for entry into the Promised Land.

## **V. Stopped at Dophkah**

*And they took their journey out of the wilderness of Sin, and encamped in Dophkah (Numbers 33:12).*

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## God's Guidance of Israel, the Church, in the Wilderness



Although the LORD is silent in His Word about the details of the lesson He endeavoured to teach the Church in Dophkah, the name of the place reveals something about the LORD's Workings there.

The fourfold meaning of the word *dof-kaw*, which is the Hebrew word for *Dophkah*, sheds much light on the LORD's Working with the Jewish Church in the wilderness. *Dof-kaw* means to knock, to press severely, to beat, to overdrive.

To *knock* means to hit with the knuckles of the clenched fist, to strike a blow or blows with the fist or some hard object, especially on a closed door. Knocking means to make a thumping, pounding, or rattling noise in order to get someone's attention.

To *press severely* means to push steadily against something, to squeeze for the purpose of making smooth, to force, compel, constrain, to embrace closely, and to be strict and uncompromising; it connotes a total absence of softness; to be harsh and grave; conforming strictly to a rule, trying as a rule; testing.

To *beat* conveys the idea of hitting or striking repeatedly, whether with the hands or the feet.

To *overdrive* suggests using force to urge onward; push forward; to force into action. In other words, pushing forward over and above the usual push.

Since *all Scripture is given* by inspiration and *is profitable* (II Timothy 3:16,17), this makes Israel's recorded stop at Dophkah an instructive example to every believer. The very word *dof-kaw* enlightens one's understanding as to how the LORD worked within the heart and mind of the Church at this stop.

The Hebrew root word from which Dophkah comes appears in the story of the Bride in the Song of Solomon.

I sleep, but my heart waketh: it is the voice of my beloved that *knocketh*, saying, Open to me, my sister, my love, my dove, my undefiled: for my head is filled with dew, and my locks with the drops of the night (Song of Solomon 5:2).

The way the word *knocketh* is used, here in this verse, gives a clue as to the LORD's Ministry to the Jewish Church in Dophkah.

After the wedding of the Bridegroom and the Bride in the Song of Solomon, the Bridegroom invited His friends to come and take part in the Wedding Feast. However, instead of the Bridegroom's new Spouse joining Him so that they could minister as Host and Hostess to His friends, she went to sleep. Consequently, the Bridegroom came to *knock* on His Spouse's door for three reasons: (1) *to awaken* her; (2) *to share* with her His gentle reproof for her unwillingness to share by serving His wedding guests; (3) *to instruct* her with the new drops of Doctrine of His

Headship.

With His clenched Fists, the Bridegroom knocked on His Spouse-Bride's door, pounding upon the door until she awakened out of her sleep.

The Spouse-Bride deserved the Bridegroom's gentle dew of reproof for going to bed and going to sleep because she was refusing to fulfill her duty as the hostess at their Wedding Supper. How inconsiderate, selfish, and uncaring the Spouse-Bride was on her wedding night. She slept, allowing her ardent, loving affections to cool for her Bridegroom. She neglected her duty as a Hostess and lost her opportunity, as her Bridegroom's Spouse, to be a good example to their guests. She selfishly chose to indulge in her rest and ease, separating herself from her Bridegroom and His guests.

This lesson in the Song of Solomon shows that God took the Church in the wilderness to Dophkah in order to *knock* on the heart's door of His Church in hopes of awakening her heart to her duty of renewing the trust that she had experienced in the LORD's Protective Care as a firstborn Son in Egypt. God knocked on the heart's door of His Church at Dophkah to allure her into presenting her heart to the LORD God so that He could teach her, as His Espoused Bride, the exclusive surrender and sweet submission to His Headship that she needed in the wilderness so that she eventually could obtain her goal of reaching the Promised Land.

In the Book of Revelation, the LORD Jesus Christ is seen standing outside the door of the Laodicean Church and knocking, pounding on the door with His clenched Fist, as He tries to gain entrance to His own Church, just as He tried to gain entrance into Israel's heart in the wilderness, and just as He knocked on the door of the Bride's heart on her wedding night in the Song of Solomon.

Behold, I *stand at the door, and knock*: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me (Revelation 3:20).

The same Hebrew word (*dof-kaw*) is used in this verse in Revelation to describe Jesus' knock on the door. Jesus waited, in Mercy and Long-suffering, outside the door of the heart of the sinful, lukewarm Church of Laodicea, hoping to awaken her to her sinful condition and to repentance. Through His knocking, Christ hoped to gain an entrance into the heart of the Laodicean Church so that He could take His rightful place there as her King and Ruler.

Jesus *knocked*, in other words, He *severely pressed* the Truth upon the Laodicean Church about her sinful, lukewarm condition. He repeatedly *beat* her with His Truthful Knowledge. Jesus endeavoured to *push* the Laodicean Church forward into the good action of repentance. Jesus Christ offered her the painful Truth and the pleasurable Truth, just as He offered the Church in the wilderness.

What unparalleled shame that only a few, a remnant, of the Church, today, are willing to awaken, to repent, and to enjoy the pleasure of Christ's Forgiveness and Victory over the world on the outside and over the flesh on the inside.

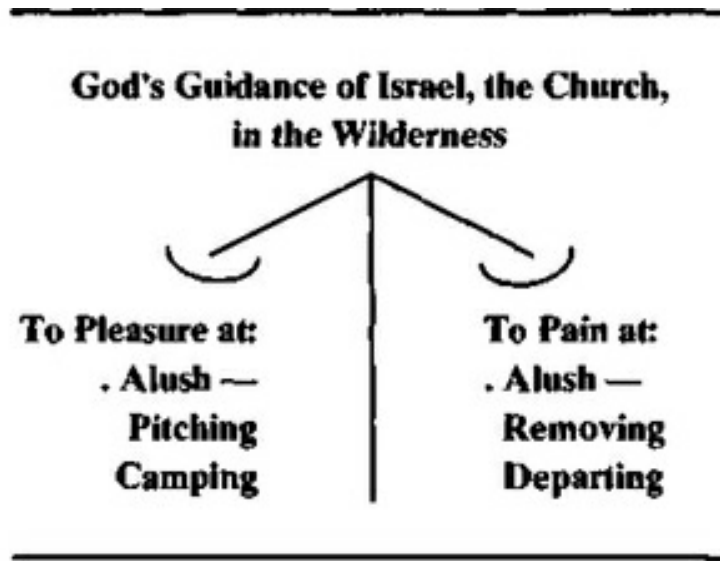
There is no record that the Church in the wilderness, as a whole, learned her spiritual lesson in Dophkah. However, Caleb, Joshua, Eleazar, and Phinehas *did learn* their spiritual lessons *at every stop* because they are mentioned as the only four out of the old generation who made it into Canaan's Land after leaving Egypt. These four, out of all the original ones who left Egypt, lived, overcame, entered Canaan's Land, and possessed it, which proved they were the *only ones* who had *learned every lesson* God had tried to teach them in their journey.

Obviously these four old overcomers exercised their faith in the Power and the Strength of the ram's blood. Therefore, they were submissive to God's Leadership, and they were instructive examples as leaders.

By the leading of God's Cloud and Fire, Israel, the Church, continued on their way, removing from Dophkah and encamping, next, in a place called Alush.

## VI. Stopped at Alush

And they departed from Dophkah, and *encamped in Alush* (Numbers 33:13).



Alush was a place in which the Israelites encamped on their way to Sinai. It was the last place they stopped before they came to Rephidim.

Again, the Scriptures are silent about the Israelites' experiences here. However, its very name suggests the danger involved in stopping at this station in the wilderness because the Hebrew name for *Alush* is *aw-loosh*, meaning a lair of wild beasts.

For the place to denote "wild beasts" means that the animals were unrestrained and undomesticated; so, naturally, they would be a menace to the safety of the Israelites. In other words, it seems that God, more or less, led the Israelites into a den of lions. But, just as God showed His restraining Protective Care for Daniel when he was in the lions' den, He also showed His Protective Care for Israel by restraining these animals when the Church was encamped at Alush.

Since there was no special event recorded here, it seems that God, for the sake of His people, faithfully kept the wild animals restrained in their lairs or dens.

God, the Divine Decider, being the Instigator of His Master Plan and Purposive Will, chose Israel's road to Canaan's Land, with all its attendant circumstances. He chose the prison road of slavery in Egypt, and He chose the twelve stops on the road of pleasure and pain in the wilderness.

In Egypt, God's firstborn Son was bound with chains and bonds in a prison of affliction. In the wilderness, the Church was a continual wanderer and a vagabond, always *pitching* and, then, *departing*.

God led Israel to *particular* places in which they *pitched* their tents; therefore, He was the One Who caused them to abide in the midst of both pleasure and pain. What pleasure Israel *could have* enjoyed in *every* place! Notice the pleasurable things God provided for the people's comfort and safety:

- They had Supernatural Bread and Water.
- God's Torah-Truth was with them.
- God gave them continual protection against their enemies.
- Their clothes did not wear out.
- Their feet did not swell.
- The Cloud and Fire guided them by day and by night, protecting them as well.

In the midst of their pleasurable circumstances, however, they always were accompanied by pain:

- They wandered, often into hostile situations.
- They moved from place to place.

- They lived an unsettled life.
- They aimlessly followed pathways unknown to them.
- They continually felt shiftless, worthless, and good for nothing.
- They seemed to go aimlessly, without reaching their fixed destination.
- They were always winding, straying, roaming, roving, and moving with no apparent purpose.

God's whole Purpose in allowing pain to enter a person's life is so that, through the pain, the person will be made to discover his flesh with its distrust of the LORD's Headship and so that he will be made to hear and repent of the murmuring and complaining of his rebellious will and so that he will rid himself of his ingratitude for the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will for his life. God's whole Purpose in giving a person pleasure is so that he will discover the LORD's Goodness, the LORD's Faith, the LORD's Life, the LORD's Truth, the LORD's Power, the LORD's Gratitude, the LORD's Humble Submissiveness, and the LORD's Headship over all things.

However, the Church, in general, left no record in Alush that she experienced any new crucifixion of her flesh or that she received any new, refreshing Life and Power of the LORD's Truth, which she *would* have received had she repented.

Thus, Israel's first six stops ended in Alush; and in these places — Marah, Elim, the Red Sea, the Wilderness of Sin, Dophkah, and Alush — Israel experienced both pleasure and pain. The people grumbled at the pain and were ungrateful for the pleasure, and only four persons of the thousands of Israelites learned the lessons God was trying to teach them through their six experiences: of bitter and sweet water; of the 12 wells and 70 palm trees and, then, having to leave this pleasant place of satisfaction and beauty; of rest and complaining; of the Manna-Bread from Heaven and the quails from the Earth and murmuring against their leaders, Moses and Aaron; of their new relationship with the LORD as He knocked on the door of their heart, while they were being pressed severely.

Neither did any but the four faithful, believing ones — Joshua, Caleb, Phinehas, and Eleazar — learn their lessons in the last six stops.

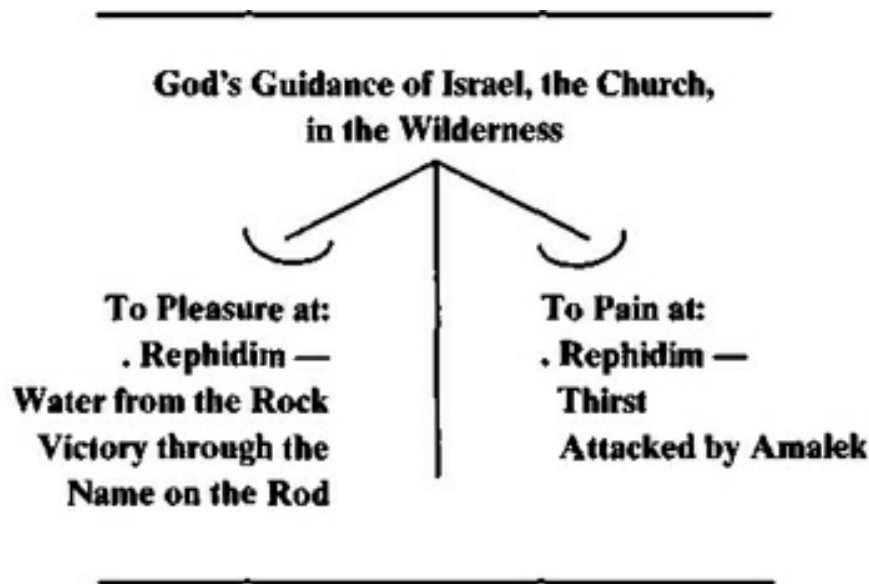
# Chapter Four

## The Last Six Places Israel, the Church, Stopped During Her Journey Through the Wilderness

Israel removed from Alush, being led by the Cloud and Fire, and encamped in Rephidim, which made this place her seventh stop. Rephidim was a place of great pain and rebellion, mighty miracles, and victory.

### VII. Stopped in Rephidim

*And they removed from Alush, and encamped at Rephidim, where was no water for the people to drink (Numbers 33:14).*



Although Israel experienced the pain of thirst at Rephidim, she compounded her pain by her rebellion, doubts, and murmurings. Nevertheless, God, in His manifold Mercy and great Grace, and by His abundant Goodness, brought her to the pleasure side of the scales and miraculously supplied Water from the Rock to quench her thirst.

*And all the congregation of the children of Israel journeyed from the wilderness of Sin, after their journeys, according to the commandment of the LORD, and pitched in Rephidim: and there was no water for the people to drink. Wherefore the people did chide with Moses, and said, Give us water that we may drink. And Moses said unto them, Why chide ye with me? wherefore do ye tempt the LORD? And the people thirsted there for water; and the people murmured against Moses, and said, Wherefore is this that thou hast brought us up out of Egypt, to kill us and our children and our cattle with thirst? (Exodus 17:1-3).*

The Hebrew word for *Rephidim* is *ref-ee-deem*, meaning a place of rest and refreshment. However, instead of experiencing the LORD's Refreshment and Rest, the Israelites experienced a tormenting display of their sinful, fleshly rebellion: the people *chided* with Moses and *tempted* the LORD. They *murmured* at their circumstances and *accused* Moses of bringing them out of Egypt for the purpose of killing them in the wilderness.

This was the last station at which they stopped before reaching Sinai. It was here that Moses smote the Rock; and it gave forth its Waters to quench Israel's thirst. Here, too, the Amalekites were defeated.

God's whole Plan and Purpose for every stop in the wilderness was to teach Israel implicit trust in His Presence,

His Power, His Love, His Truth, and His Holy Will that always, miraculously and mercifully, gave them His Best.

Implicit trust implies the kind of inner confidence that holds no reservations or doubts, but has only unquestioning faith, absolute inner trust in all things, and an interwoven confidence that is anchored in every crevice of the heart.

This is the spiritual lesson that the Church in the wilderness, as God's Espoused Bride, should have learned, both in her spiritual education and in her moral development as she journeyed toward Canaan's Land.

Christ's Church or Espoused Bride must learn this same lesson as she journeys through this worldly wilderness, if she expects to arrive in the Heavenly New City.

Unless implicit trust in the LORD is woven in every fiber of the believer's inner being, he, like the Church in the wilderness, always will question and doubt the Wisdom of the LORD's Holy Headship when it leads him in the way of painful affliction and suffering. But, pain and suffering are vital parts of the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will because they are for teaching the believer submission and obedience to God.

Jesus Christ, with His Life of Suffering and Death, is the proof of this Truth. Suffering purifies; it removes the shallowness of the soul; it creates deep wells of understanding and compassion in the soul.

The Israelites murmured and complained at every stop and never expressed praise and gratitude for the Mercy and Grace God showed unto them in every place. How fickle were their minds, and how distrusting were their hearts in the midst of the LORD's Presence, Power, Loving Care, and Holy Headship.

The Israelites were a people who had been bowed low under the heavy yoke of their brutal oppressors. Their cruel Egyptian taskmasters, increasing their already merciless burden, had compelled them to produce their daily requirement of bricks without supplying the straw necessary to make them. As a result of their pitiful plight, they became miserably sick of life; and so, they lifted their voices in a howling cry to the LORD — a cry so loud that it penetrated and pierced His Ears.

Everything in Israel's existence happened right on schedule and according to God's Master Plan. So, when God heard Israel's cry, knowing that the time was right — four hundred years having elapsed since their incarceration in slavery in Egypt — He miraculously set them free to start their journey to Canaan's Land, just as He had prophesied to Abram.

At their liberation at the Red Sea, seeing their Egyptian captors drown as they attempted to pursue them, the Israelites raised their voices in gratitude and appreciation to the LORD, their new Master and Owner, for their freedom and for God's glorious triumph over their old, ruthless Egyptian taskmasters. However, in a few days, they began to regret their exchange of masters and blamed their leaders, Moses and Aaron, for "alluring" them out of Egypt. In their houses of bondage, they had enjoyed savoury food; now they had been brought to the dreary, waste, uncultivated wilderness instead of immediately finding themselves in the Promised Land that flowed with milk and honey.

They hated the wilderness and the desert because it separated them from Egypt, which they had left behind, and Canaan's Land, which still was before them. In their blind rebellion, they could not see that God had brought them to the wilderness and the desert to acquaint them with the inner enemies of their flesh so that they might overcome them. When the LORD had overcome their *outer* enemies, the Egyptians, at the Red Sea, they had rejoiced and praised God for His victory over them. But, when God brought them to the necessary, painful stops in the wilderness in order to reveal their inner enemies of rebellion, doubt, murmuring, and complaining, they had no desire to repent, which would have allowed God to give them victory over the faults and failures of their flesh (their old heart or their old man).

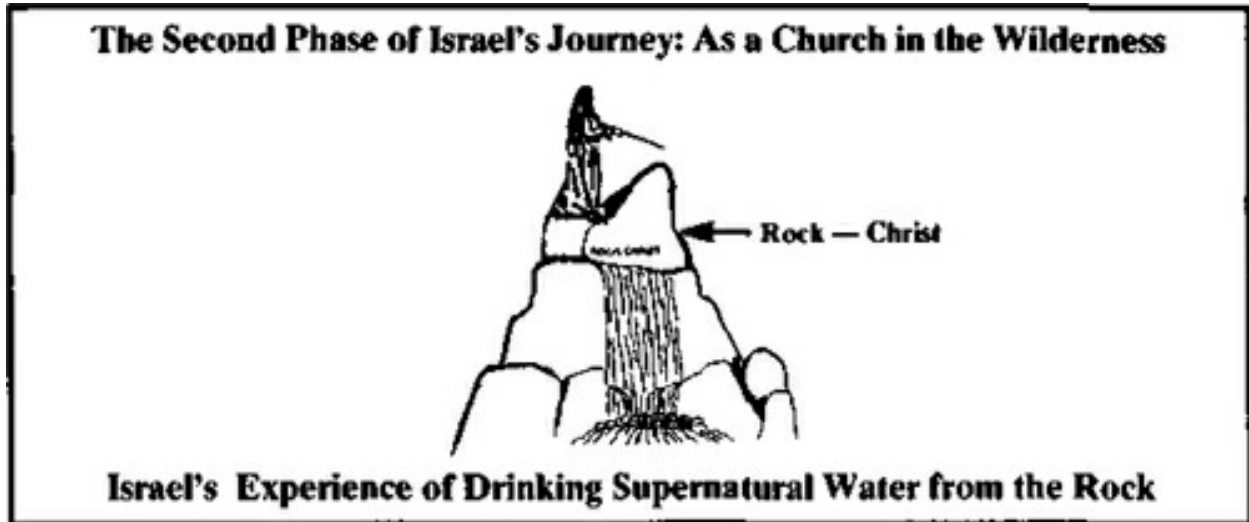
The LORD's express Purpose in leading the Israelites to each stop was so that they could recognize their evil, fleshly nature and, therefore, repent and deal with their *inner* rebellions and doubts. Had they yielded to God's Will in the wilderness, they would have been ready to fight the enemies *without* and *within* when they arrived in Canaan's Land because, in each phase of their journey, there were new enemies to overcome — without and within.

So, it is with believers today. As they progress in their spiritual journey, they go through new situations and encounter deeper layers of their flesh which they must overcome, through repentance, so that they will be fit to be Christ's Bride and dwell with Him in Spiritual Canaan's Land.

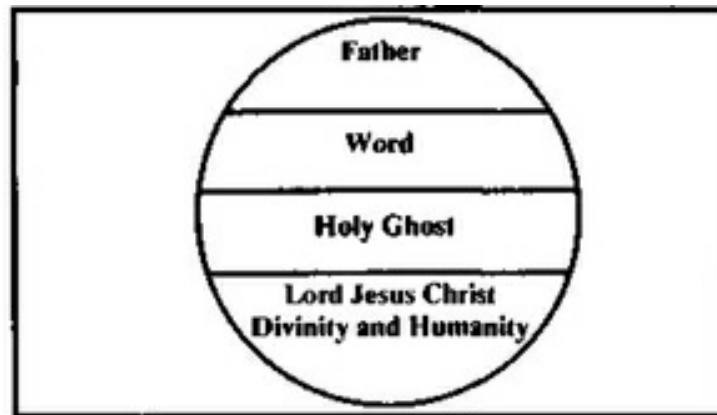
The spiritual experiences of blood, Fire, and Water that God gave Israel in Egypt, by Gift, are a picture of what the believer can experience, now, in the Crucified Christ. Jesus Christ offered Himself, through God's Eternal Spirit, shedding His precious Blood on Calvary's Cross as a Substitute and a Sacrifice for sinful mankind. And, He took His Holy Name down into the Waters of His Obedient Death in order to obtain the keys of Death and Hell from fallen Lucifer. Then, He arose again the third day with His Father's Unbegotten Resurrection Life, making it possible for believers also to be raised from the dead to new Life and Glory.

Israel's experience that transpired at Rephidim presents another great picture of what the LORD has done for

fallen mankind to reconcile him to God. Here, at Rephidim, the smiting of the Rock with the Rod that had the LORD God's Name upon it caused the Rock's waters to flow out abundantly. This was the shadow and type of Jesus, the Man, being joined into the Godhead after His Resurrection, at which time He was made both *Lord* and *Christ* (Acts 2:36).



The Godhead suffered a smiting in order to make an opening for the entrance of Jesus, the Man, into an Eternal Union with the Godhead; thus, He became the Mediator of all mankind.



With Christ Jesus' Divinity, He is able to touch God; with Christ Jesus' Humanity, He is able to touch mankind. Thus, He is:

- the Mediator between God and Man (I Timothy 2:5);
- the Mediator of a Better Covenant (Hebrews 8:6);
- the Mediator of a New Covenant (Hebrews 9:15; 12:24).

In spite of Israel's raging rebellion over her thirst, God commanded Moses to smite the Rock in the wilderness because this was part of His Purposive Will. Hence, the Waters of the Rock gushed out, bringing satisfying drink to the Israelites' thirsty bodies. This was a picture of the satisfying Spiritual Waters that flow out from the LORD Jesus Christ, the Mediator in the Godhead, Who quenches the thirst of spirits and souls, in spite of the raging rebellion of those who smote Him and crucified Him.

After Israel had drunk of the waters from the Rock, Amalek came to fight with her, cutting off all the weak, weary, and feeble ones who were walking in the extremities of the camp.

Israel's victory over Amalek did not depend upon any implicit *trust* she had learned in Rephidim since she had learned *none*; rather, she had murmured and rebelled. Israel's victory depended upon Moses' uplifting of the Rod which had the LORD's Name upon it. Therefore, when the Israelites saw and felt the Power of the LORD's Name on the Rod when it was lifted up, they were courageous and victorious. When Moses let down his hands that held the Rod, then Amalek prevailed.

In order to maintain the victory, when Moses' hands became heavy and tired, Aaron and Hur supported his uplifted hands so that the Rod stayed raised. Thus, Israel prevailed over Amalek by the Mercy and Grace of the LORD's Name. This place was named "Jehovah-Nissi," meaning "the LORD is my banner," for His Name was held up as a banner to bring the Israelites victory.

As long as the believer holds up the LORD's Name, lifting it above the enemies of his soul, he will have victory in Jesus.

From Rephidim, Israel marched on to Mount Sinai, where the LORD gave her both His Oral Law and His Written Law.

### VIII. Stopped at Mount Sinai

In the third month, when the children of Israel were gone forth out of the land of Egypt, *the same day came they into the wilderness of Sinai. For they were departed from Rephidim, and were come to the desert of Sinai, and had pitched in the wilderness; and there Israel camped before the mount* (Exodus 19:1,2).



When Israel *saw* the roar of the thunderings; the flashing rays of the lightning; the noise of the trumpet; the mountain smoking; and when they *heard* God's awesome Law from the Father in Heaven and from the Son on Mount Sinai, they were terrified and suffered great fear. Therefore, they removed themselves from Mount Sinai and stood afar off (Exodus 20:18). However, Moses, the man, became the mediator between the people and God and brought them relief from their fears so that they could hear God's Word of Truth with their ears and see it with their eyes.



- **Oral Law — For Ears**

Since faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God (Romans 10:17), God first sent His *Spoken* Word to Israel.

*And God spake* all these words, saying, I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; And shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's. *And all the people saw the thunders, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off.* And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die. And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not. And the people stood afar off, and Moses drew near unto the thick darkness where God was (Exodus 20:1-21).

God *spoke* the Oral Law in the ears of His people so that faith would be generated in their hearts.

If they *truly* had heard and if they *truly* had believed, they would have become doers of the LORD's Moral Truth, which is His Moral High Calling for all mankind. But, they did not let the Truth they heard with their ears penetrate their souls and spirits all the way through to their hearts.

- **Written Law — for Eyes**

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

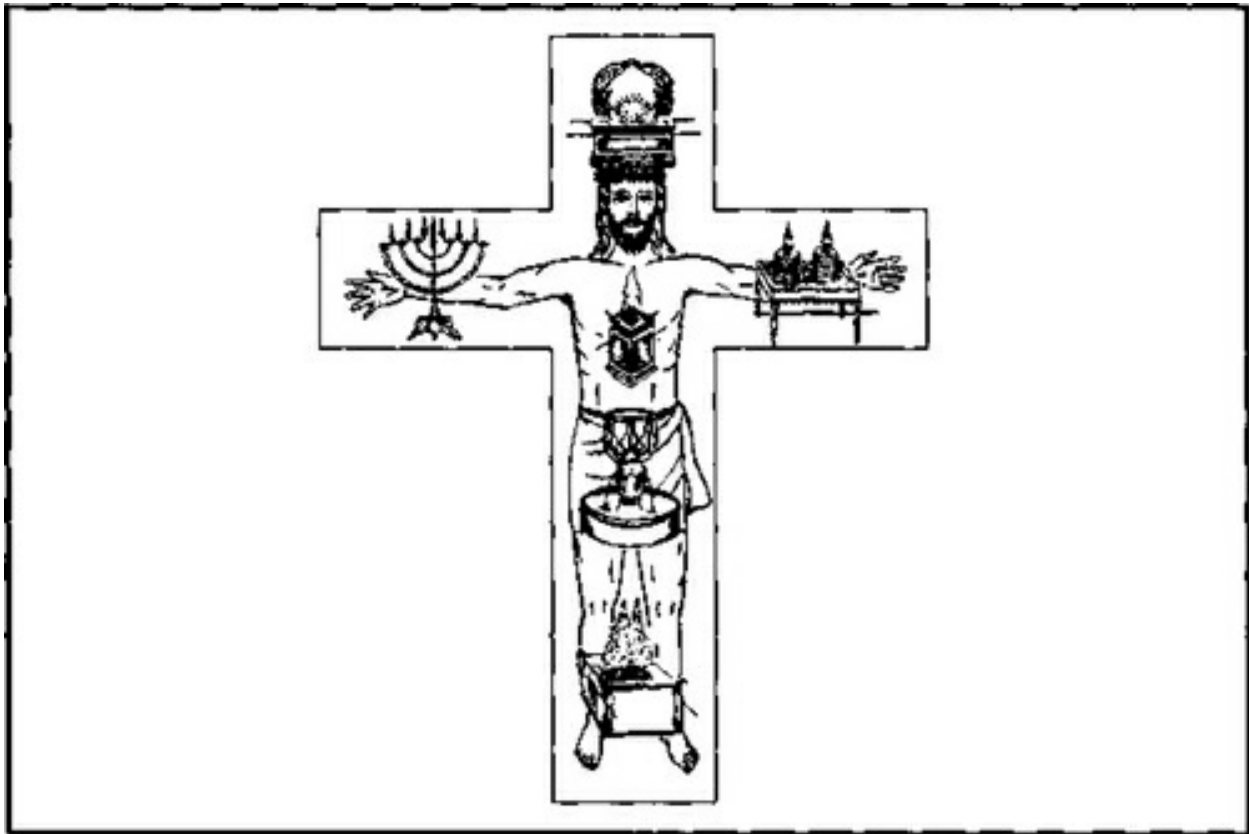
God gave the *Oral Law* for their *ears*; and, for their *eyes*, He gave the *Written Law* so that they could see the Light of Truth and God's Glory that covered the Truth. However, the Israelites did not want to see even the *reflected Glory* of the LORD's Torah-Truth upon Moses' face, much less the Glory upon the Law itself. Hence, Moses had to put a veil upon his face until he finished speaking to them.

God preserved His Moral Law by writing it in stone so that the Moral Truth would be solidified and never lose its shape and form.

By preserving the Moral Truth in stone, God presented a picture of the LORD's Truth that He has hidden in the Rock, Christ Jesus. He, the Truth, will remain forever the same and never lose His shape nor form of Truth.

God's Written Law included both the Moral Law and the Ceremonial Laws. God gave His Law with an extraordinary display of His Might, Majesty, and Glory on Mount Sinai. There, God also gave Moses the blueprint of the Tabernacle that was to be a picture of the Stature of His Son, Jesus Christ.\*

The Stature of Christ Jesus in the Mosaic Tabernacle



Each piece of furniture in the Mosaic Tabernacle was a picture of each part of Christ's Spiritual Stature, and each ministry that the Priest performed at each piece of furniture was a picture of the experiences that the believer must have as he grows up in Jesus Christ's Spiritual Stature.

God's Moral Law was recorded by His own Finger on two tables of stone. Afterward, it was preserved in the Ark of the Covenant in the Holy of Holies of the Tabernacle.

God guided Israel so that her journey brought her by Mount Sinai in order for her to learn implicit trust in His Holy Headship, exclusive surrender to His Governance and Guidance, and complete obedience to the LORD's Moral High Calling for her as an Espoused Wife in the wilderness. However, in the very midst of God's great display of His Might, Majesty, Glory, and Truth, Israel defected from God, her Espoused Husband, by making an idol, a golden calf, while Moses was receiving the Written *Torah-Truth* from the LORD on Mount Sinai.

The Israelites persuaded Aaron to make a molten calf of gold, an idol-god, because they had become impatient with Moses' absence. They blasphemously insulted God and His *Torah-Truth* by desiring some idol-god that was made by Aaron's hands. How dared they say that this god had brought them up out of Egypt, when it was nowhere

around when God miraculously brought them through the Red Sea?

By His Almighty Strength and Power, God brought the Church to Mount Sinai so that she also could learn implicit trust in Him as the only One, True God, her Espoused Husband. However, instead of using the strength and power of the ram's blood that would have cleansed her heart of its disloyalty and doubts, making it possible for her to learn to trust God implicitly, she made an idol and worshipped it as though it were the True God. Thus, Israel proved the fickleness of her unmortified heart and its lack of unswerving loyalty to God, her Espoused Bridegroom.

After Israel had experienced the giving of the Law at Mount Sinai, she abode there long enough for the following events to happen:

- The Mosaic Tabernacle was built.
- The Law was placed in the Ark.
- God's Glory took up its abode upon the Mercy Seat.
- The Ceremonial Laws were implemented.
- God's Judgment was wrought on the idolatrous Israelites at Mount Sinai.

The LORD continued leading Israel in her journey into the wilderness for three days. Again, the Israelites murmured, complained, and rebelled instead of bearing their sufferings in a spirit of meekness and implicit trust in the LORD and instead of manifesting a grateful dependence upon God.

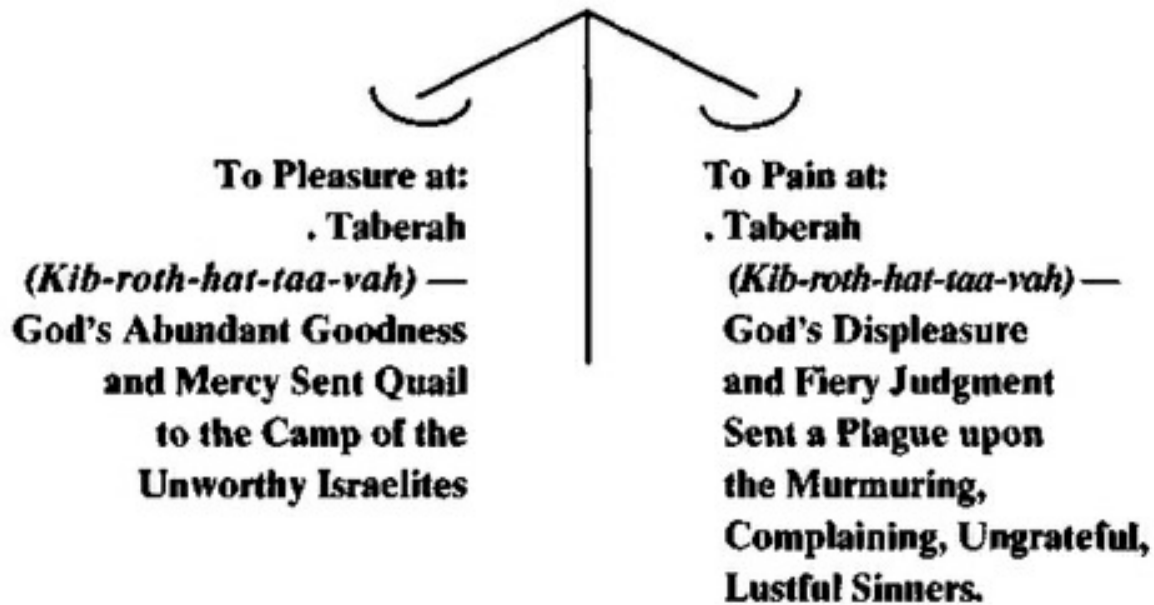
Israel's next stop was called Taberah and *Kib-roth-hat-taavah*. Here, God's Wrath was kindled against their lustful rebellion; consequently, many died.

#### **IX. Stopped at Taberah (*Kib-roth-hat-taa-vah*)**

*And when the people complained, it displeased the LORD: and the LORD heard it; and his anger was kindled; and the fire of the LORD burnt among them, and consumed them that were in the uttermost parts of the camp. And the people cried unto Moses; and when Moses prayed unto the LORD, the fire was quenched. And he called the name of the place Taberah: because the fire of the LORD burnt among them.... And there went forth a wind from the LORD, and brought quails from the sea, and let them fall by the camp, as it were a day's journey on this side and as it were a day's journey on the other side, round about the camp, and as it were two cubits high upon the face of the earth. And the people stood up all that day, and all that night, and all the next day, and they gathered the quails: he that gathered least gathered ten homers: and they spread them all abroad for themselves round about the camp. And while the flesh was yet between their teeth, ere it was chewed, the wrath of the LORD was kindled against the people, and the LORD smote the people with a very great plague. And he called the name of that place Kibroth-hattaavah: because there they buried the people that lusted (Numbers 11:1-3, 31-34).*

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**God's Guidance of Israel, the Church,  
in the Wilderness**



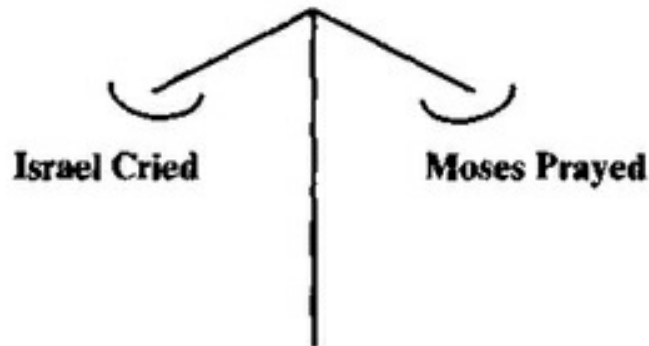
God's Merciful Long-suffering toward Israel and her constant complaining is inexpressible.

Although the Israelites knew God through their experiences of blood, Fire, and Water in Egypt and through God's miraculous, providential care of them in each of the eight previous stops, and although they knew that God knew their hearts, they still set themselves in battle array against God by impudently complaining against His Holy Headship. Instead of using the ram's blood, by faith, that would have cleansed them, and instead of using the ram's powerful horns, by faith, to gore down their fleshly complaining, they used their carnal horns of rebellion against God by goring down the Truth of His Holy Headship. In their lamenting self-pity, they mourned over themselves as though they were dead because they had no meat in the wilderness. They thought that God had made their lives worthless and of no value. Without meat, they considered themselves buried alive in this entangled, unrestrained wilderness. They falsely accused God, saying that the Manna was insufficient to take them to Canaan's Land.

Israel's evil thoughts and wicked words displeased God, causing Him to be angry, offended, and irritated with their behaviour. Therefore, He sent the worst of the evildoers through His Holy, Judgmental Fire, consuming them in the uttermost parts of the camp. The others then realized that they were alive and that their lives *did* have value and meaning. Hence, they cried, and Moses prayed.

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**In the Midst of God's Fire:**

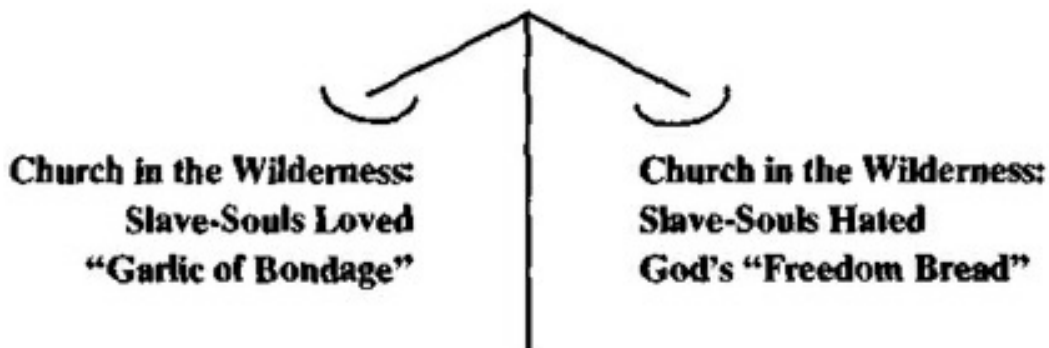


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Because Israel cried and shrieked in terror before the LORD, while Moses prayed and interceded for them before Him, God's Judgmental Fire was quenched, or it *sank down*.

When God's Anger was kindled against these ungrateful complainers, He swiftly sent His terrible, fiery punishment upon the worst of the offenders.

Although the other Israelites experienced this *Taberah-place* of burning, too, and saw the charred bodies of the dead, it made no Eternal imprint nor impression on their hearts. They did not learn godly fear from God's Fiery Punishment upon the complainers; nor did they seek to use the *ah-yil* ram's blood for strength to turn to the LORD and repent and lay aside their proud rebellions. They continued to grumble and growl in their discontent as they lusted for flesh-food. Again, they blasphemed God's Goodness by saying, in so many words, that their cruel taskmasters in Egypt were better to them than God, their True Master and Owner. These slave-souls preferred the "garlic of bondage" in Egypt to God's "Bread of Freedom" in the wilderness.



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Nevertheless, God, in His manifold Mercy and great Grace, caused the wind to bring in quail from the sea to gratify their passionate lust for flesh. They fed on the quail for a whole month, but then, a great plague smote many of the most ungrateful ones, and they died.

The LORD allowed their passionate lust to be gratified, but their own *ungrateful surfeiting* caused God to send a plague upon them.

*He rained flesh also upon them as dust, and feathered fowls like as the sand of the sea: And he let it fall in the midst of their camp, round about*

their habitations. So they did eat, and were well filled: for he gave them their own desire; They were not estranged from their lust. But while their meat was yet in their mouths, The wrath of God came upon them, and slew the fattest of them, and smote down the chosen men of Israel (Psalm 78:27-31).

They soon forgot his works; they waited not for his counsel: But lusted exceedingly in the wilderness, and tempted God in the desert. And he gave them their request; but sent leanness into their soul (Psalm 106:13-15).

God clearly recorded the Israelites' sins.

- They forgot God's miraculous Works in their behalf.
- They did not wait for God's Counsel concerning their desires.
- They lusted exceedingly in the wilderness.
- They tempted God in the desert.

Ingratitude robs a person's memory of the wonderful things that God has done for him and that others have done for him. A person's forgetfulness of benefits that he has received is a sin!

Israel did not wait for the LORD's Counsel concerning their situations and their desires. The LORD said, "Delight thyself also in the LORD; and *he shall give thee the desires of thine heart*" (Psalm 37:4).

Instead, they lusted exceedingly; that is, they had excessive desires in hopes of gratifying their personal senses and bodily appetites. Their lusts were greater in their sensual souls than in their bodily appetites because they continued to lust after God had satisfied their bodily appetites by sending them quail to eat.

Although God, many times, had proven His Almighty Power and Strength in front of Israel's eyes, she tempted Him; that is, she urged God to prove His Strength. She tested Him and tried Him as though He were the creature and she were the Creator.

In spite of Israel's failure to trust Him, God, in His Mercy and Grace, heard the weeping of the people in their passionate lust for flesh-food, and He did several mighty miracles to bring the Israelites the meat they so desired. He gave them an abundance of quail, causing the birds to fall to the ground like a downpour of rain, despite the fact that birds in flight always are securely airborne. These were two miracles. Then, the fact that God caused the quail to flock round about the camp, although their wild nature would have caused them to flee from man, was a third miracle.

God brought in enough quail for the Israelites to satisfy their cravings, but they ungratefully continued to lust in their sensual souls, craving more and more meat, which confirms the Truth that carnal things cannot satisfy the desires of the soul.

They never paused, in gratitude, to consider the great wonders and miracles God had performed in bringing them the quail. Therefore, they never thanked God for His mighty Mercy and great Grace. No one can wonder, then, at God's Anger being kindled against them. He slew the fattest sinners among them because they had ripened for ruin, which brought God's Judgments upon them.

The lesson to be learned from Israel's experience at Taberah is that man's life is not maintained by satisfying his lust, but by his doing God's Holy Will out of a grateful heart.

God gave the lustful Israelites the flesh-food for their physical satisfaction, but it produced a terrible emaciation of their bodies and a drooping emptiness in their souls. The judgments that befell these excessively lustful people were recorded in God's Word to teach man that the satisfying of the lusts of the flesh produces death instead of life, both naturally and spiritually.

The Israelites' lust for flesh-food was a clear evidence of their refusal to have implicit trust in the LORD to give them the best. They said: "Our soul is dried away" — completely empty of vitality, completely exhausted. In other words, they said, "God has not given us the *best*."

However, the opposite was true. Their excessive lust brought emptiness to their souls and sickness and death to their bodies — not life, health, and strength. If they had laid hold of the *ay-yil* blood, it would have led them to exercise implicit trust in the LORD, and they would have believed, despite their circumstances, that He gives the best to those who leave the choice to Him. Hence, they would have been satisfied, completely, with the LORD's provision of the Manna-Bread, and they would have looked forward to their ultimate destination in the Promised Land.

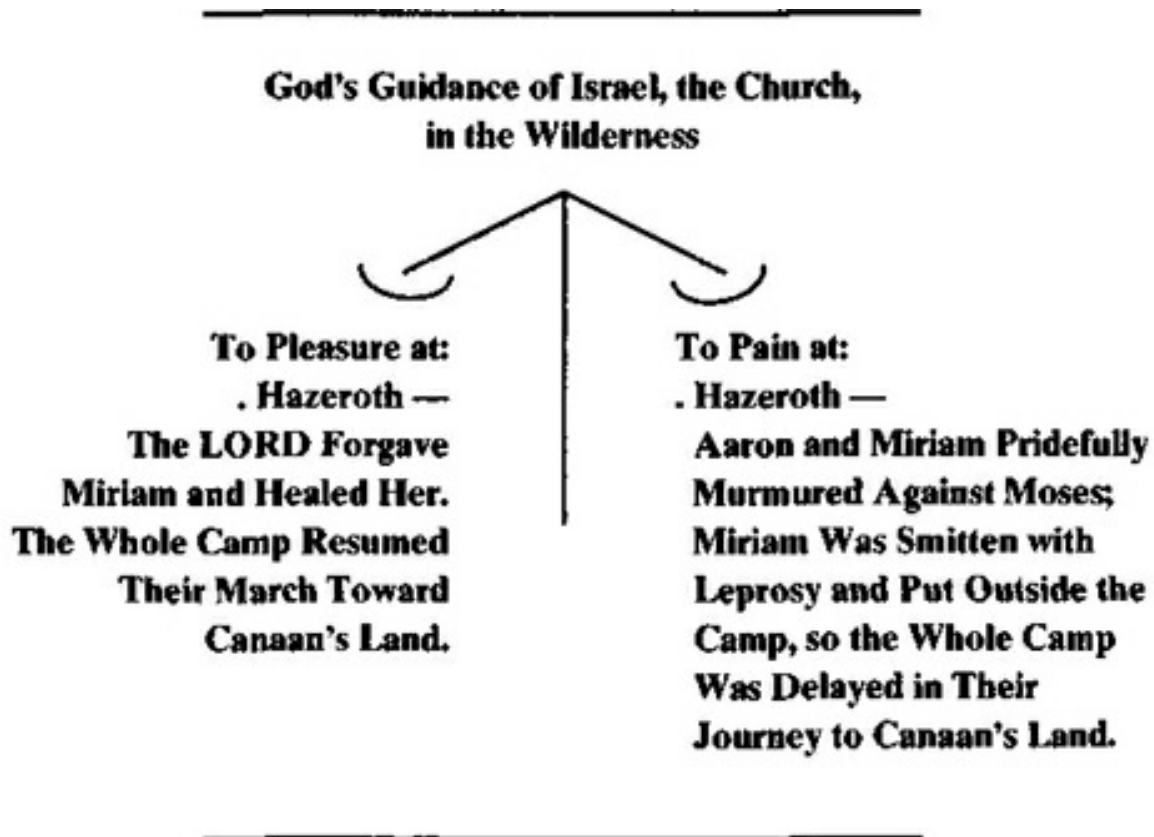
Many died at Taberah or Kibroth-hattaavah, falling short of the Prize of inheriting Canaan's Land, because they failed to learn complete trust in God's Master Plan, Purposive Will, and Holy Headship concerning what was *best* for them in the Way He had chosen to take them to Canaan's Land. Nevertheless, God still gave the remaining Israelites other opportunities to learn implicit trust in Him.

After Israel departed from Kibroth-hattaavah, she abode in Hazeroth.

## X. Stopped in Hazeroth

*And the people journeyed from Kibroth-hattaavah unto Hazeroth; and abode at Hazeroth (Numbers 11:35).*

*And they departed from Kibroth-hattaavah, and encamped at Hazeroth (Numbers 33:17).*



Into every place the LORD led Israel, she experienced pain and pleasure. However, Israel always compounded her pain by continually murmuring and complaining against the LORD's Loving Leadership and Holy Headship.

It was here, at Hazeroth, that the pernicious sins of murmuring and complaining invaded Moses' personal family. Aaron, his only brother, and Miriam, his only sister, became his accusing foes.

*And Miriam and Aaron spake against Moses because of the Ethiopian woman whom he had married: for he had married an Ethiopian woman. And they said, Hath the LORD indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us? And the LORD heard it. (Now the man Moses was very meek, above all the men which were upon the face of the earth.) And the LORD spake suddenly unto Moses, and unto Aaron, and unto Miriam, Come out ye three unto the tabernacle of the congregation. And they three came out. And the LORD came down in the pillar of the cloud, and stood in the door of the tabernacle, and called Aaron and Miriam; and they both came forth. And he said, Hear now my words: If there be a prophet among you, I the LORD will make myself known unto him in a vision, and will speak unto him in a dream. My servant Moses is not so, who is faithful in all mine house. With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses? And the anger of the LORD was kindled against them; and he departed (Numbers 12:1-9).*

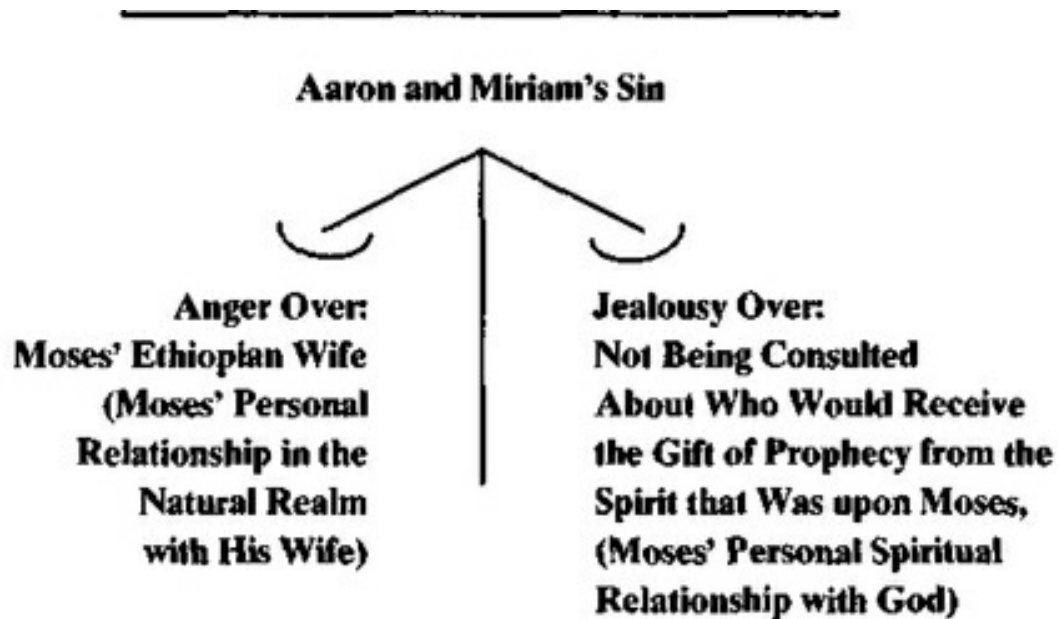
If, by faith, Aaron and Miriam had used the *ah-yil* ram's blood, which had been given to Abram, they would have received strength and power to humble their proud selves before God. Then, He would not have been forced to punish the impudent, impenitent Miriam by severely smiting her with leprosy. If Miriam and Aaron had supported God's appointed leader, instead of trying to tear him down, they would not have had to suffer God's rebuking Judgment.

Who would have thought that Aaron the High Priest and Miriam the Prophetess (both of whom had been appointed to be joint deliverers of Israel [Micah 6:4]) would have risen up against Moses, their brother? Without shame and regret, they put their evil dishonour upon Moses whom God had gloriously honoured.

Much of the shining rays of exaltation that Aaron and Miriam had received in the eyes of the people had come from Moses' Glory reflecting upon them. Aaron's and Miriam's jealous enmity confirmed the fact that Moses' call and advancement to a position of honour in God's Kingdom had not come from an organized compact or collusion with his family. Their jealous enmity proved that they had had no part in Moses' being placed as the leader; on the contrary, they begrudged him his position.

Aaron should have remembered Moses' intervention in his behalf when Aaron had made the golden calf and God was ready to destroy him. Moses had stood for Aaron and had prayed for him on this occasion, and God had spared him (Deuteronomy 9:20).

Aaron and Miriam used their objection to Moses' selection of an Ethiopian wife as a reason to accuse and complain against him; but, the extent of their anger was more than the situation warranted because their *real* problem was that they willingly were jealous over not having been consulted about the selection of the seventy elders. Also, they were upset about Eldad's and Medad's receiving the Spirit of Prophecy. Since Aaron and Miriam also had the Gift of Prophecy, their pride was wounded severely when Moses did not counsel with them over the selection of the seventy Elders. Their being angry about Moses' wife was a coverup for their jealousy over having Moses by-pass them — so they murmured against Moses and accused him.



Aaron and Miriam, because of their anger and jealousy, behaved in a most foolish and ridiculous manner in this instance. Moses' personal, natural life was between him and the LORD. Obviously, the LORD was pleased with Moses' wife since He defended Moses against their unjust accusations. Aaron and Miriam were Moses' helpers, not his governors and guides. Hence, they did not have any business complaining about Moses' personal life.

Likewise, their jealousy over not being consulted about the choice of who should receive the Gift of Prophecy was even more absurd since God was the Royal, Divine Governor and Guide of the whole affair. As in the case of

his personal business, Moses' spiritual business was between him and the LORD.

In Aaron's and Miriam's diseased perception of reality, they falsely imagined that they had a right and a privilege to rule and reign over both their brother's natural life and his spiritual life.

Miriam instigated the whole affair with her leprous, slanderous tongue; therefore, she reaped leprosy in her body.

When God called Aaron and Miriam to account for their offense against their brother, Miriam was smitten with leprosy because she was the leader in the rebellion against Moses. Aaron quickly submitted to Moses; therefore, he was spared, especially since he was not the instigator of the matter. Moses meekly interceded to God for Miriam; and, although God healed Miriam, she was forced to remain in humiliating shame, outside the camp, for seven days.

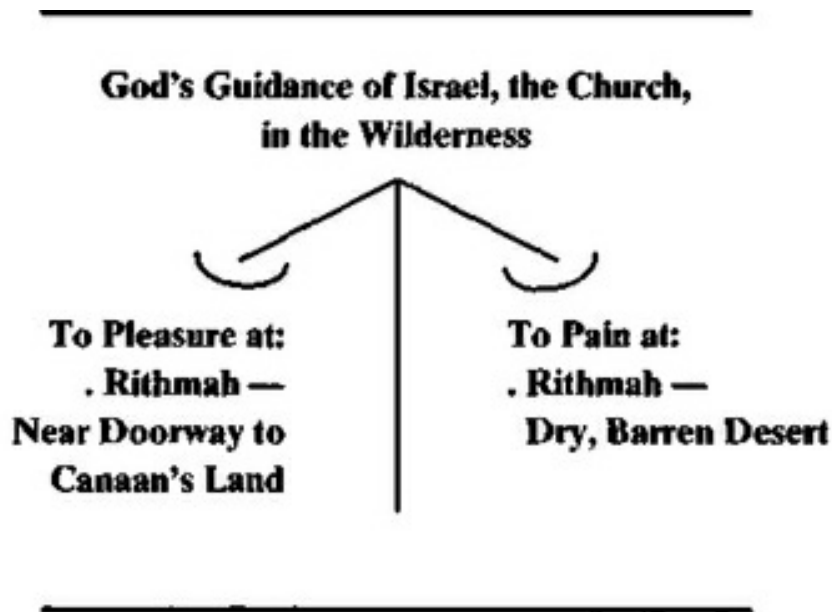
God's Divine lesson, given at Hazeroth, was this: no one was to speak against God's divinely appointed leader. Implicit trust and confidence in God's Holy Headship also produces trust in God's appointed servants, even today, when they are *true* servants, walking under God's Headship.

After Aaron and Miriam's painful lesson of humiliation at Hazeroth and Miriam's subsequent, pleasurable healing, Israel journeyed to Rithmah.

## XI. Stopped at Rithmah

And they departed from Hazeroth, and *pitched in Rithmah* (Numbers 33:18).

And afterward the people removed from Hazeroth, and *pitched in the wilderness of Paran* (Numbers 12:16).



The Wilderness of Paran was the location of Israel's next two stops.

The first stop in the wilderness of Paran was Rithmah, which was both a painful place and a pleasurable place. It was a painful place in that it was dry and barren; it was a pleasurable place in that it was *near* the doorway to Canaan's Land.

Rithmah is the dry and barren part of the wilderness of Paran, which is near Kadesh, the green and fruitful part, the doorway to Canaan's Land. The Wilderness of Paran is surrounded by a range of mountains on all sides, except for the north side. It is a high, limestone plateau, crossed by low ranges of hills and intersected by a few watercourses. However, Rithmah always is dry and barren except for a short time in the rainy season.

The village of Rithmah was in this blanched and dreary wasteland of chalk that was covered with coarse gravel, black flint, and shifting sand, upon which a slight coating of vegetation struggled for its life, its very existence.

The Hebrew word for *Rithmah* is *rith-maw*, from the Hebrew word *reh-them*, meaning broom, taken from the pale, broom-like stems of the *reh-them*, which is a species of low bush that grows in the Wilderness of Paran near Rithmah.

The LORD is silent about the events that occurred at this stop. However, since all Scripture is given by

inspiration and is profitable (II Timothy 3:16,17), we can deduct that the recording of the name *Rithmah* is to teach the believer to allow the “broom” or the painful, sharp Sword of the LORD’s Word to sweep or cut out of his being all things that pollute and defile it so that he can be prepared to “spy out” the Promised Land and receive a foretaste of its sweet fruitfulness.

Rithmah, the small village where Israel encamped in the Wilderness of Paran, was a very important stop for Israel since it was so pleasantly *near* the end of their journey to Canaan’s Land. God purposed that, here, Israel would be given the chance to let the Broom of God’s *Torah-Truth* sweep the rebellion out of her unrestrained will and that she would have the opportunity to be cleansed afresh and anew with the ram’s blood, preparing her for her entrance into Canaan’s Land.

While they were at Rithmah, close to Canaan’s Land, twelve men were sent to spy out the conditions there. They were sent as an advanced scouting party to assess the strength of Canaan’s inhabitants and to see if the land was good or bad and what fortified cities there might be.

Ten of the men were distrustful and fearful, so they brought back an evil report. Only two, faithful Caleb and Joshua, looked through eyes of trust in the LORD and gave a true report.

If the ten corrupt spies had laid hold, by faith, of the *ah-yil* blood of Abram’s ram, as Caleb and Joshua had, they would have had the strength and courage to use their horns against their enemies and not against their Master, the LORD, and His leaders. They would have been the courageous leaders that God purposed for them to be in order to help Moses go in and conquer Canaan’s Land. If they would have allowed the LORD’s “Broom” of *Torah-Truth* to sweep out the defiling doubts of their unrestrained wills, which prevented them from exercising implicit trust in the LORD, they would have seen clearly, as Caleb and Joshua could, that they would be able to overcome the enemies in Canaan’s Land.

Rithmah was a painful, barren place; therefore, it was a great pleasure for the Israelites to move on to Kadesh-barnea, the doorway to Canaan’s Land, their next stop.

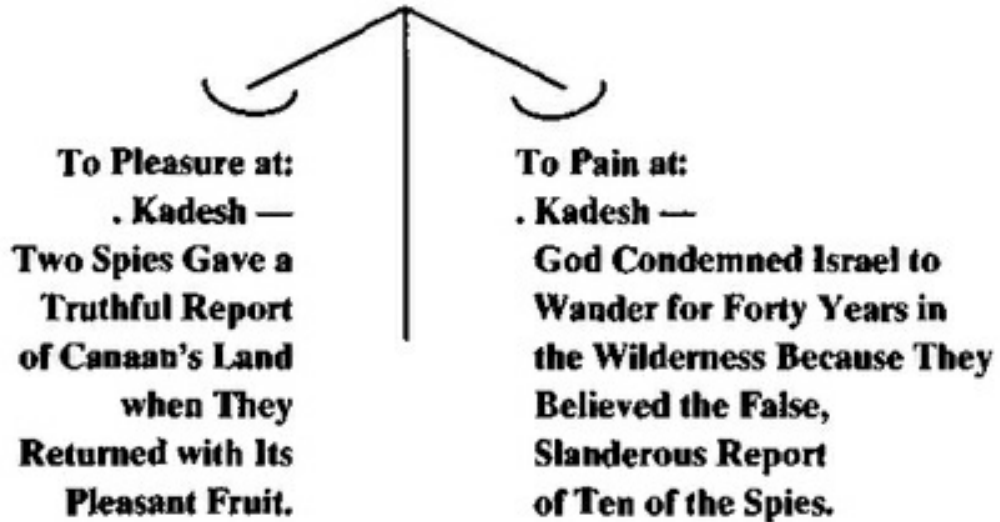
Although the twelve spies were sent out from Rithmah, they returned to Kadesh.

## **XII. Stopped at Kadesh**

*And they went and came to Moses, and to Aaron, and to all the congregation of the children of Israel, unto the wilderness of Paran, to Kadesh, and brought back word unto them, and unto all the congregation, and shewed them the fruit of the land (Numbers 13:26).*

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**God's Guidance of Israel, the Church,  
in the Wilderness**

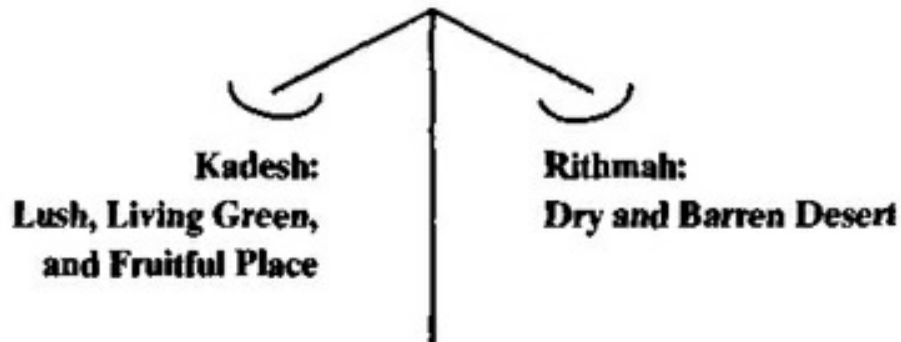


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Upon their return from spying out the land of Canaan, ten men gave a false, slanderous report against Canaan's Land, causing the nation of Israel to reject their opportunity to enter the land and possess it. God, therefore, punished the nation of Israel by condemning it to wander in the wilderness for forty years until all the rebellious ones had died. After God's Divine Decision to bring Judgment upon Israel by refusing them entrance into the Promised Land, the people rebelled further by trying to go on their own to possess Canaan. Israel's rebellious decision caused them to be beaten down to the ground by their enemies in the land because God *did not* go to battle with them.

The Hebrew word for *Kadesh* is *Keh-desh*, meaning sacred, holy, morally clean.

Although Kadesh was, by location, very close to Rithmah in the wilderness of Paran, it was a diametrically different place in nature. Kadesh was an oasis in the wilderness — a sharp contrast to Rithmah.



When Israel came out from the stretch of dry, desolate desert in which Rithmah is located, she came, with suddenness, into a miraculous oasis of living, green beauty.

Kadesh was said to be an unbelievably fruitful place, with water running, bubbling, and gurgling under its green, waving, lush grass. God, in His Wise, Divine Decision, certainly selected a doorway to Canaan's Land comparable to the land itself. Consequently, when the twelve spies returned to this living, lush place, after having spied out the land that flowed with milk and honey, the nation of Israel received a twofold Witness of fruitfulness — from the lushness of the doorway that led into the land and from seeing the large, lush grapes the spies carried out of the land.

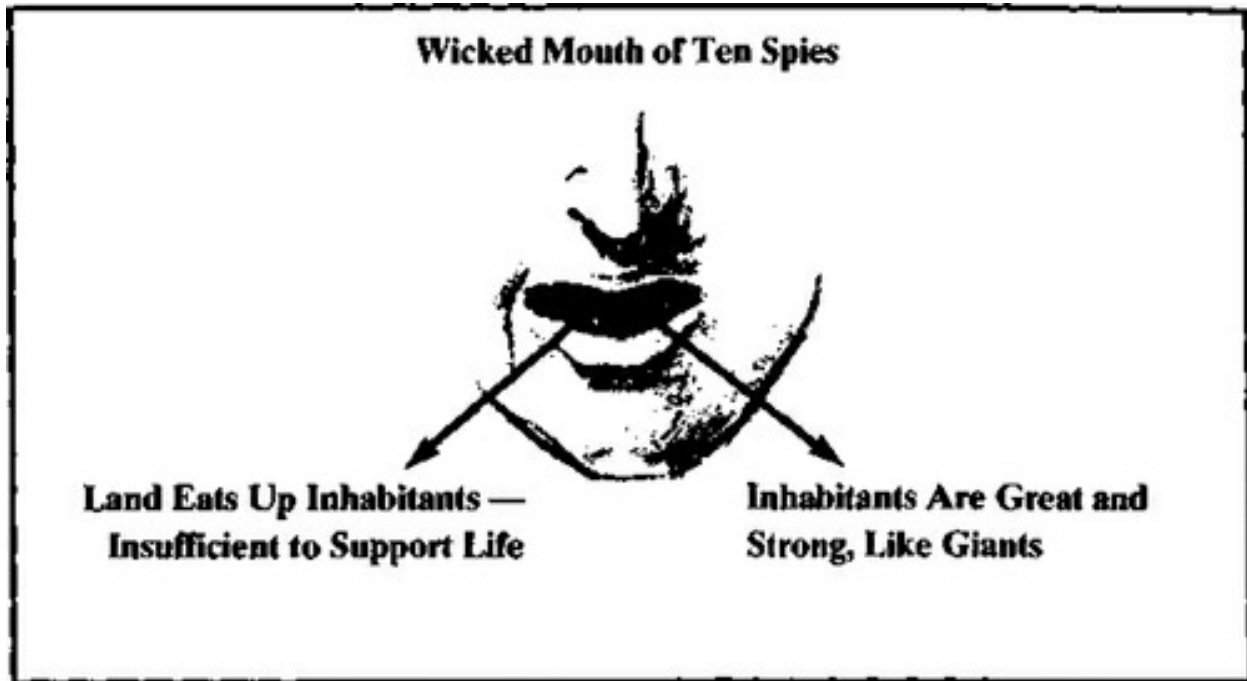
In spite of such positive witnesses of the fruitfulness of the land, ten of the twelve spies who returned slandered the Promised Land. They spread false statements about what they had seen that were both harmful to the land and to the people. They destroyed the character and nature of the fruitful land before the Church, the Congregation, although they had brought back the visible evidence of the unspeakable fruitfulness of the land.

God had purposed that the severe punishment which He had meted out to Miriam be an instructive example to inspire fear, awe, and restraint concerning the slandering of God's creation, but the ten corrupt spies evidently did not learn the lesson so vividly portrayed before their eyes.

Miriam's punishment was for slandering her brother, Moses, *the creature*. Then, in their turn, these ten sinful men, with their wicked tongues, gave an evil report of the Promised Land, thereby slandering God's precious *creation*, the Promised Land.

God truthfully had said that the land flowed with milk and honey. But they made God a liar by saying, "The land eateth up the inhabitants thereof." In other words, they were saying that the land did not produce enough food to nourish and support the people, although they had held in their hands the visible evidence of the land's great fruitfulness. They further continued their evil slander of the land by saying, "The people are giants, great and strong, and we are like grasshoppers in comparison to them."

One can only question how such poor land produced such large clusters of grapes and such great statures of flesh (giants) if it truly were so unproductive.



If the land had eaten up its inhabitants, there would not have been such giants living in the land. Although the ten spies' statements were not logical, their evil, slanderous report caused the people to panic. Since the people had not allowed God's *Torah-Truth* to sweep out the unrestrained rebellion of their wills at Rithmah, and since they had not laid hold of the ram's blood for cleansing, they wailed and rebelled and became a mutinous mob. They believed the lies of the wicked creatures instead of believing their Holy Creator. So, lush, green, beautiful, pleasurable Kadesh was turned into a place of hopeless agony, mental anguish, and intense pain for the Israelites because they believed the ten spies who spoke with slanderous tongues and not the two spies who, at every opportunity, had learned their

lessons and had increased their faith and trust in God.

Because Caleb and Joshua had maintained their faith in the *ah-yil* blood of the ram that God had given to Abram or Abraham, it gave them strength and power to learn their spiritual lessons about God's Holy Headship in all twelve Governmental Stops, including this one at Kadesh. Consequently, God promised Caleb and Joshua that they would yet possess the land. But, the LORD punished the adult people by condemning them to wander for forty years in the wilderness until their carcasses fell and were buried in the wilderness they had hated so much.

This instructive example in Israel's life teaches that whatever a person hates in this life will be joined to him in death.

God mercifully tolerated all the gross insults Israel heaped on Him at all their twelve stops. But, Israel's *greatest* insult to the LORD was when she said that her wicked Egyptian taskmasters had been better to her in Egypt than the LORD had been to her in the wilderness. After all the *best* the LORD had given freely in the wilderness, this accusation against God was the greatest display of Israel's unparalleled ingratitude. God had given Israel the most great and wonderful things. He had given her the Tree of Life; seventy palm trees and twelve wells of water; Bread from Heaven and quails from Earth; Water from the Rock; His *Torah-Truth* from Heaven and from Mount Sinai; the Cloud and Fire to lead and guide by day and night; and His Loving, Protective Care!

The LORD had given Israel *all His Best* in the wilderness, but since there was pain as well as pleasure, Israel perceived it all as pain and believed slanderous human beings instead of God's Promises. But, the LORD did not continue to endure Israel's insulting ingratitude when she slandered His beautiful Promised Land.

After the ten evil spies had heard God's pronouncement about their fate, they even rebelled further by trying to go in and take the Promised Land, by-passing God's Headship.

Moses warned them not to go up and try to possess the land since the LORD had refused to go with them. However, because of their continued rebellion against God and His appointed leaders, their prideful presumption caused them to proceed to fight with the enemies in Canaan's Land. As a result, they were smitten and discomfited even to Hormah.

Thus, the adult generation that had come out of Egypt and had lived through the first wilderness journey failed to lay hold, personally, by faith, of Abram's *go-zawl* fledgling's blood in Egypt that would have given them implicit trust in their Parent's Protective Care; nor did they lay hold of the *ah-yil* ram's blood that would have given them power and strength to walk under the Headship of their Master and be a leading example as an Espoused Bride in the wilderness.

They also failed to learn their personal spiritual lessons in all the LORD's appointed, twelve Governmental stops, including their lesson at the last stop — Kadesh. They failed to submit themselves to the LORD and to respect and reverence the Words of His Master Plan and Purposive Will for them. They failed to allow the LORD to hallow them and to set them apart for the dedicated purpose of possessing Canaan's Land under the LORD's Holy Headship. Hence, they were condemned to wander for forty years in the wilderness — the place they hated so much.

If believers will not allow the LORD to set them free from their hatred, He will allow them to wander in it and to be buried in it.

Although the children of these sinful parents did not escape the forty years of wandering in the wilderness, they were spared the awful fate of their rebellious parents who ultimately died there.

The children were given an opportunity, personally, to choose not to follow their parents' examples, but to put their trust in the LORD. The new generation submissively surrendered to fulfill the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will for them, which was to enter into the Promised Land and possess it.

The new generation, along with Caleb, Joshua, Eleazar, and Phinehas of the old generation, were the "remnant out of the Church" in the wilderness that, later, were blessed, honoured, and rewarded with the privilege of going into Canaan's Land and possessing it.

Most of the old generation of the Church in the wilderness died there, falling short of possessing the Prize of Canaan's Land for two main reason:

- They never learned implicit trust in the Protective Care of the LORD, as their Heavenly Father, during their Son-stage of growth and during their helpless condition in Egypt.
- They never learned to submit themselves to the Goodness of the LORD's Holy Headship and to the Mercy and Grace of His Holy Name in the wilderness in the midst of their weakness and ignorance.

Israel, the Church in the wilderness, is a picture of the New Testament Church because many in the New

Testament Church are like the Jewish believers in the wilderness Church. Although they have experienced the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Fire of the Holy Ghost, and the Waters of Christ's Name, Death, and Life, they never learn implicit trust in the Heavenly Father's Protective Care in the midst of their helpless conditions. Instead, they become angry and murmur and complain over their helplessness, and they also murmur and complain in the midst of their ignorance about God's Master Plan and in their weakness concerning God's Purposive Will; hence, they never submit themselves exclusively to the LORD's Holy Headship. As a result of their unsubmitiveness, they never grow up in Christ's Spiritual Stature while they are in this worldly, earthly wilderness. They never trust the Goodness of the LORD's Holy Name in all things. They journey through this present, worldly wilderness, murmuring and complaining as did the Old Testament Church in the wilderness. Because of their spiritual immaturity, they will miss the Prize of being in Christ's Bride and dwelling with Him eternally in the New City or in the Heavenly Canaan's Land.

Lessons in Pleasure:	Lessons in Pain:
1. <b>Marah:</b> Bitter Water Changed to Sweet Water by the Tree of Life	1. <b>Marah:</b> Bitter Water
2. <b>Elim:</b> 12 Wells and 70 Palm Trees	2. <b>Elim:</b> Left the Place of Satisfaction and Beauty
3. <b>Red Sea:</b> Rest	3. <b>Red Sea:</b> Same Ingratitude and Complaining Remained in Her Old Heart
4. <b>Wilderness of Sin:</b> God Gave Manna-Bread from Heaven and Quails from the Earth.	4. <b>Wilderness of Sin:</b> Murmured Against Moses and Aaron
5. <b>Dophkah:</b> New Relationship with the LORD Caleb, Joshua, Eleazar, Phinehas	5. <b>Dophkah:</b> Knocked, Pressed, Severely Beaten, and Pushed by God.
6. <b>Alush:</b> Pitching and Camping	6. <b>Alush:</b> Removing and Departing
7. <b>Rephidim:</b> Water from the Rock — Victory Through the Name on the Rod	7. <b>Rephidim:</b> Thirst Attacked by Amalek
8. <b>Mount Sinai:</b> Pleasure of Hearing and Seeing God's Word of Truth	8. <b>Mount Sinai:</b> Fear and Fright from Hearing and Seeing the Torah-Truth
9. <b>Taberah</b> ( <i>Kib-roth-hath-taa-vah</i> ): God's Abundant Goodness and Mercy Sent Quail to the Camp of the Unworthy Israelites.	9. <b>Taberah</b> ( <i>Kib-roth-hath-taa-vah</i> ): God's Displeasure and Fiery Judgment Sent a Plague upon the Murmuring, Complaining, Ungrateful, Lustful Sinners.
10. <b>Hazereth:</b> The LORD Forgave Miriam and Healed Her. The Whole Camp Resumed Their March Toward Canaan's Land.	10. <b>Hazereth:</b> Aaron and Miriam Pridefully Murmured Against Moses; Miriam Was Smitten with Leprosy and Put Outside the Camp, so the Whole Camp Was Delayed in Their Journey to Canaan's Land.
11. <b>Rithmah:</b> Near Doorway to Canaan's Land	11. <b>Rithmah:</b> Dry, Barren Desert
12. <b>Kadesh:</b> Two Spies Gave a Truthful Report of Canaan's Land when They Returned with Its Pleasant Fruit.	12. <b>Kadesh:</b> God Condemned Israel to Wander for Forty years in the Wilderness Because They Believed the False, Slandorous Report of Ten of the Spies.

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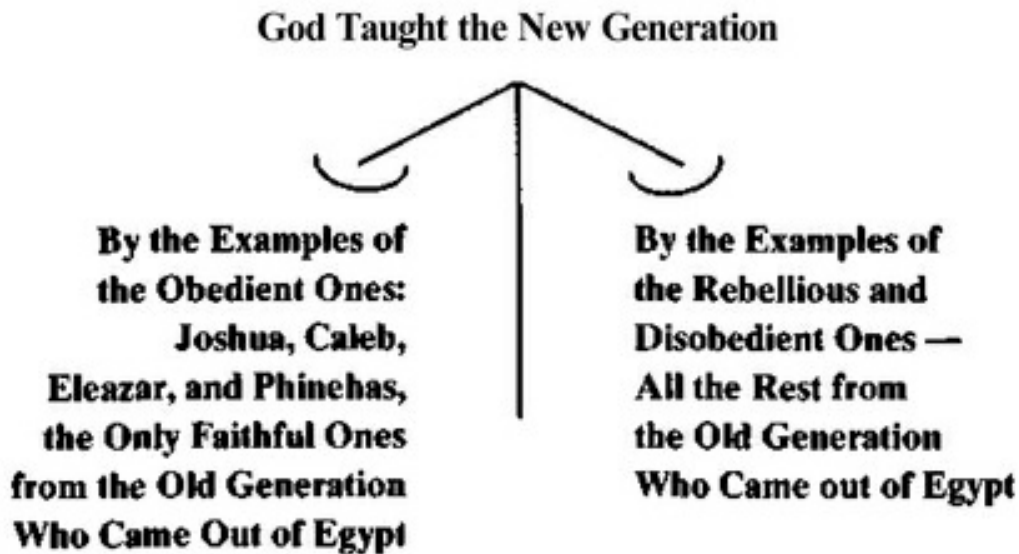
\* B. R. Hicks, [\*Precious Gem in the Tabernacle\*](#) (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l., Inc., 1961).

# Chapter Five

## Israel's Experience in Canaan's Land as a Wife

After all the old generation who had come out of Egypt had died in the wilderness (with the exception of Joshua, Eleazar, Caleb, and Phinehas who, being the only faithful ones, had obtained the Prize of going to Canaan's Land), and after all the old leaders (Moses, Aaron, and Miriam) had died in the wilderness, God commanded Joshua, the new leader, to bring the remaining old and new remnant of the Church into Canaan's Land so that they might possess it. Thus began Israel's third phase of her relationship with her LORD God. Israel was now in her mature state and ready for a Marriage Relationship with her spiritual Husband.

During Israel's forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the *faithful* ones of the old generation — Joshua, Caleb, Eleazar, and Phinehas, taught the new generation, by example, how to trust in the LORD and how to obey Him — or what *to do*. The *faithless* ones of the old generation also taught the new generation by example. Their example, however, taught the new ones how to be rebellious and disobedient — or what *not to do*.



God, in His Omniscient Wisdom and Knowledge and in His Omnipotent Power, allows no creature to thwart His Eternal Master Plan and Purposive Will. He uses all things to work together for His Glory and for the Good of His Kingdom. Through their bad deeds and the punishment they received for doing them, even the obstinate, disobedient ones became teachers, but their lessons taught what *not to do* and what *not to receive*.

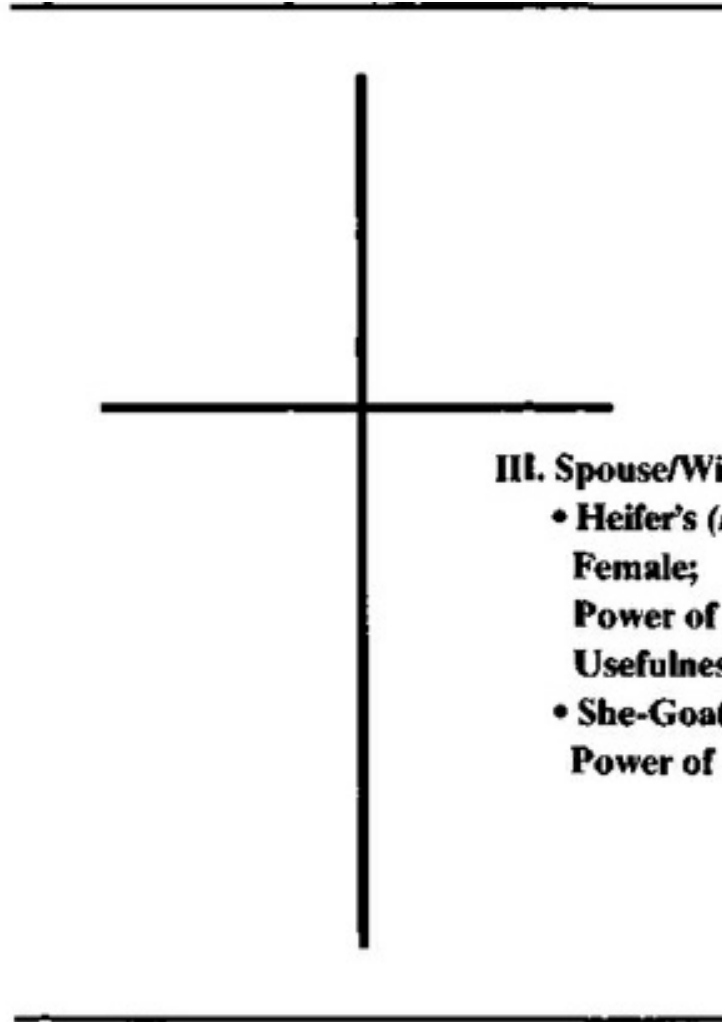
Thus, the *obedient* ones of the *old generation* and the *obedient* ones of the *new generation* went in to possess the land of Canaan.

The Israelites had received the fledgling pigeon's blood to protect them while they were in Egypt and to prepare them for foundational trust in the LORD as their Heavenly Parent, the Father.

Then, in the wilderness, they had been given the ram's blood, the male blood, to give them strength to overcome the enemies, there, and to grow in the Grace and Knowledge of the LORD until they had gained the necessary power

of moral leadership to guide all nations to the LORD's Torah-Truth.

During the stage of Israel's spiritual growth as a Spouse-Wife in Canaan's Land, she had the female blood from the heifer and the she-goat to wash away the uselessness and the rebellious resistance of her flesh because this was what the LORD had shown Abram in a vision that He would do for His chosen people. They had only to appropriate the blood by faith for it to work for them.



As the LORD's Spouse-Wife in Canaan's Land, Israel laid hold of the heifer's blood, by faith; therefore, she experienced having the LORD work His Power and Ability of Usefulness in her, according to His Purposive Will.

Also, as the Spouse-Wife, she laid hold of the she-goat's blood, by faith; therefore, she experienced having the LORD wash away her rebellious resistance against the LORD as her Owner and Master. Through the she-goat's blood, which was a picture of Jesus Christ's precious Blood, the LORD transformed Israel's sinful yielding to Lucifer's strange plans and purposes to sweet submission to His Master Plan and Purposive Will; hence, she was given power and strength to resist all of Lucifer's opposition to God's Holy Will.

As a result of the power and strength she received, Israel was empowered to yield to the LORD's Truthful Plans and Purposes and to acknowledge Him as her Owner and Master.

When the day arrived for Israel to enter the Promised Land, she willingly followed the Ark into the River Jordan as she was commanded; thus, she embraced the LORD and His Holy Headship as her Husband as she passed under the Ark in the midst of Jordan. In Canaan's Land, she became the LORD's Spouse-Wife.

## **The Second Phase of Israel's Journey: As a Church in the Wilderness**



### **Israel Crossed the Jordan River, Passing under the Ark and Embracing the LORD's Holy Headship**

The LORD commanded Joshua to have the Priests take the Ark of the Covenant into the River Jordan, and as soon as the Priests dipped their feet into the brim of Jordan, it's waters were separated into icy walls so that the remnant of the old and the new generations of Israelites could pass over. The Priests stood in the midst of Jordan until all the people had passed under the Ark, which was a picture of taking on both the LORD's Holy Headship and His Holy Name in Holy Matrimony.

After the "wilderness remnant" of Israelites had passed under the Ark, the LORD's Holy Headship, and after they had taken on the LORD's Name and its Glory, both from the Mercy Seat of the Ark and from within the Ark, they were known as the LORD's Spouse-Bride or Wife.

## **The Third Phase of Israel's Journey: As a Wife in Canaan's Land**



### **Israel Possessed the Land Under the Guidance of Her Spiritual Husband's Headship**

The Prophets also revealed that God's spiritual relationship with Israel in the Promised Land was that of a Spiritual Husband to His Wife.

*For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called (Isaiah 54:5).*

This Scripture clearly makes known the intimate Spiritual Union that existed between God and Israel after she had crossed Jordan and after she had taken on the LORD's Spoken and Written Name by passing under the Ark. In the beginning of Israel's Spiritual Marriage Union with the LORD, she served her LORD with unswerving loyalty, undeviating allegiance, and with great usefulness in worshipping the LORD and in working *for Him* and *against* the *enemies* in the land. She used her horns of resistance against the LORD's enemies as she followed His Purposive Will.

In this spiritual relationship between God and Israel, there existed the greatest of God's Divine Love and the Infinity of His Tender Affections. God had the utmost pity and sympathy for His new Spouse-Wife in Canaan's Land.

What humility and condescension the LORD, the Son of God, displayed in presenting Himself unashamedly as a Spiritual Husband, a Governing Head, to Israel — just as He displays to His people, today — the best of whom are just sinful worms, saved by His Mercy and Grace.

The word *husband* means *house-band*, the head or the band of the house. The LORD was Israel's Husband, her Head, her Governor and Guide to aid her in possessing the land. The LORD, her Husband, was Israel's Guiding Mind and Intelligence; He was her highest Power and uppermost Authority — the Source of the Governance and Guidance she needed in possessing the land and in ruling over the land.

As long as Israel, the Spouse-Wife, followed the Headship of her Maker, she always conquered her enemies. As long as Israel allowed the Divine, Infinite Love of her Maker, Her Husband, to be the "band" that bound her affection together with His, she remained loyal, faithful, and true. However, when she removed herself from His Headship, breaking His Head and His "Band," she took on many strange lovers or idols.

The Prophet Jeremiah reminded Israel that the LORD was *still* her Husband, although she had broken her marriage covenant with Him.

*Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: (Jeremiah 31:32).*

God, like a loving Father, had led His firstborn Son out of Egypt, guiding his steps to freedom from bondage and slavery. In the wilderness, as an Espoused Bridegroom, God continued leading and guiding Israel, who was now the Church, to each of the twelve Governmental Stops so that the Israelites could learn to overcome their ignorance and weakness and, therefore, become submissive to their Leader and Guide's Holy Headship. Although almost all of the older ones in the Church died in the wilderness, God led the old, faithful remnant and the new generation of Israelites into Canaan's Land where He became a Spiritual Husband to them.

Although many in Israel defected from their True Husband and went after idol worship while they were in Canaan's Land, God remained a True Husband by being faithful and protective of them. Under His protection, a small, faithful remnant remained in Canaan's Land. And, to save another small, faithful remnant of Israel, He sent them into captivity in Babylon. God also dealt with the faithless idolaters, allowing the enemy to kill them and allowing others to die in the land. God will not let His Sovereign Rights as a Creator, a Redeemer, and a Husband be abused and misused.

Later, as a faithful Husband, God led a faithful remnant back to the Promised Land, and He empowered them to rebuild the Temple and the walls of the city and to restore true worship. He also gave them a true Governor to rule over them.

Because natural Israel is God's chosen people, He will not cease working with her until He writes His Law in her heart, causing her to be a faithful Wife unto Him. Someday, Israel shall be a leading spiritual example among all the other nations of the Earth; and then, she will fulfill God's Master Plan and Purposive Will for her.

The Prophet Ezekiel made known to Israel that God considered her entry into idolatry, while she was His Wife, to be the same as adultery.

*How weak is thine heart, saith the Lord GOD, seeing thou doest all these things, the work of an imperious whorish woman; In that thou buildest thine eminent place in the head of every way, and makest thine high place in every street; and hast not been as an harlot, in that thou scornest hire;*

*But as a wife that committeth adultery, which taketh strangers instead of her husband! They give gifts to all whores: but thou givest thy gifts to all thy lovers, and hirest them, that they may come unto thee on every side for thy whoredom. And the contrary is in thee from other women in thy whoredoms, whereas none followeth thee to commit whoredoms: and in that thou givest a reward, and no reward is given unto thee, therefore thou art contrary. Wherefore, O harlot, hear the word of the LORD:... And I will judge thee, as women that break wedlock and shed blood are judged; and I will give thee blood in fury and jealousy (Ezekiel 16:30-35,38).*

A harlot in the natural realm is a rogue and a vagabond who prostitutes herself for gain; she sells herself for the purpose of sexual intercourse; she sells her moral integrity for low, unworthy purposes, giving herself over to corrupt, debased practices.

Instead of Israel being faithful and loyal to the One True God, her Spiritual Husband, she prostituted herself to idols, not for monetary gain, but for the purpose of trying to satisfy her unbridled, unrestrained lust.

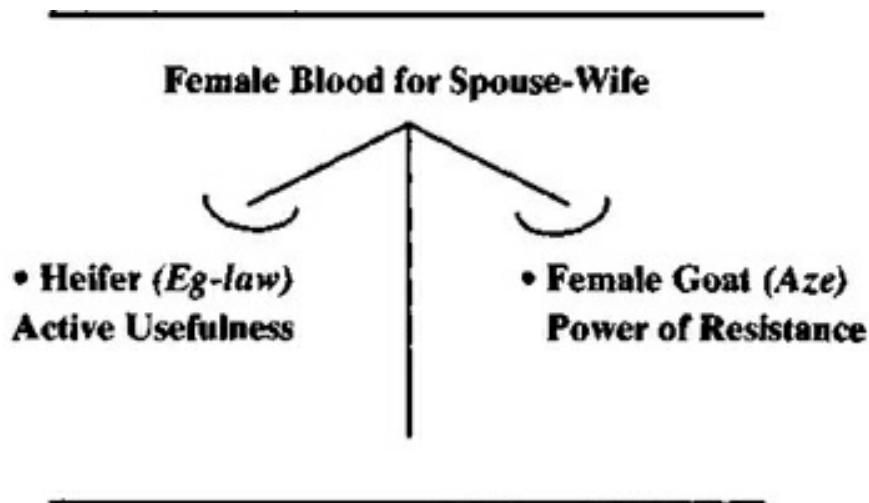
From all the blessings and wealth that God, her true Husband, had given her, she paid tribute to idolatrous nations, hoping to obtain their favour and good will.

Israel was contrary to natural harlots who *receive hire* for their immoral services, in that she solicited these whorish unions with her idolatrous neighbours by *paying them* or hiring them to come to her as her lovers.

God warned Israel that He would judge her as an adulterous wife is judged in the natural realm. He assured her that His Fury, Wrath, and Jealousy would come upon her for being an unfaithful Wife.

If Israel had remembered the blood God had given Abram to be used in possessing the land, the blood being a type of the precious Blood of the LORD Jesus Christ, she never would have gone after the strange lovers of idolatry.

The LORD had given Abram the female blood to help Israel *remain true* to Him as a Wife when the time came that she would possess the Land of Promise. The female blood was the blood of the heifer and the blood of the she-goat.



• **The Heifer (*Eg-law*) Blood**

The Hebrew word for *heifer* is *eg-law*, meaning a calf almost grown, from the root word *ay-ghel*, meaning round, circular, revolve.

The heifer's blood was a picture of Christ's Blood which will wash away prideful, useless rebellion in the human will, transforming it into a submissive "wife" who always will bend in a circular form around the LORD's Holy Headship.

The only way Israel could have been useful to God as a Spouse-Wife was for her to be in passive and active subjection to His Holy Headship.

The heifer's blood (female blood) would have empowered Israel to be useful spiritually. She would have used her energy "to plough" in the LORD's Torah-Truth. Having the Truth worked in her heart would have generated grateful appreciation to the LORD for His Goodness to her, and it would have produced unswerving loyalty to Him as her Spiritual Husband.

God provided Redemptive Blood, even under the shadow and type, whereby Israel could have been a useful Wife.

Israel was helped in possessing the land; therefore, she could have been a useful and serviceable Wife in the land if she had served her Husband in the following ways:

- by living a morally clean life;
- by giving sincere, true worship to the LORD;
- by studying the Torah-Truth;
- by giving grateful appreciation to the LORD for all His Gifts of Mercy and Grace;
- by giving constant offerings of sweet Incense and prayers unto the LORD;
- by doing good deeds of Righteousness;
- by being a Holy example to the heathen nations round about.

Thus, God's blessing of fruitfulness would have been continually upon the land.

- **The She-Goat's (*Aze*) Blood**

Israel needed the female blood of both the heifer and the she-goat in order to use her powerful horns of resistance in the right way against the enemy of temptation.

The Hebrew word for *goat* is *aze*, meaning hard, firm, strong. The goat always is tame and tractable to its owner and master, but it obstinately shows its power of resistance by using its horns against strangers. The goat's blood, even under the Old Testament order, was to help the Israelites firmly resist all internal and external enticements aimed against God, the Master, and to help them faithfully follow the Master's Commands, regardless of any opposition strangers might offer.

The blood of the female goat pictures Jesus Christ's Blood that is hard, firm, and strong, and that always is working within His Spouse-Bride to make her tame and tractable to Christ's Holy Headship and to make her always powerfully obstinate in resisting internal and external enticements against her Husband's Holy Headship and the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will.

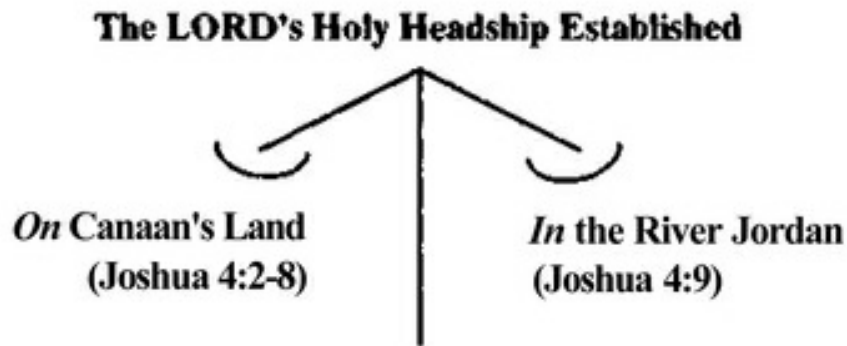
Had Israel used the she-goat's blood (more female blood), it would have cleansed her of her fleshly, rebellious resistance against the LORD, her Spiritual Husband; and it would have given her the true horns of loyalty to the LORD, empowering her to gore down the strange idols, without, and her "strangerlovers" of idolatry within her heart.

When all the remnant of Israel left the wilderness, crossing Jordan under the Ark of the Covenant, they willingly took on the LORD's Name, acknowledging Him as their spiritual Husband. Therefore, they publicly admitted that they were coming under the control of the LORD's Holy Headship. They made a visible demonstration that they willingly were embracing the Headship of the LORD, making Him their Spiritual Husband.

To establish His Headship, visually, so that His Wife would be reminded of the Bridal agreement she had made when she had taken on His Name as she had passed under the Ark, while going through Jordan, God commanded Israel to select a man out of every one of the twelve tribes of Israel; then, each of these men were to take a stone from the river. One stone for each tribe — twelve stones in all — were to be taken out of the midst of Jordan where the Priests' feet had stood firmly while they had held the Ark. Then, the twelve men were to carry the twelve stones to their first night's lodging place in Canaan's Land.

After all Israel had crossed over Jordan and after Joshua had instructed Israel to take twelve stones and set them up on the Promised Land, Joshua placed twelve more stones in the *midst* of Jordan where the Priests had stood lifting up the Ark of the Covenant, which contained the LORD's Holy Name and Headship (Joshua 4:9). The lifting up of the Ark in the *midst* of Jordan was a witness of the LORD's Headship — His Sovereign, Supreme Controlling Power — over Israel, over the Promised Land, over the fruitful waters of Jordan, and over all other creation.

Thus, the twelve stones which Israel carried out of Jordan and placed in Gilgal (Joshua 4:20) and the twelve stones which Joshua set up in Jordan (Joshua 4:9) established the LORD's Holy Headship over Israel, over the land, and over the fructifying waters of Jordan.



Thus, the Almighty God established His Sovereign, Supreme Headship (1) over His people, (2) over the Promised Land, and (3) over the River Jordan (the river of fruitfulness).

Israel's crossing of Jordan was God's appointed time for her Spiritual Marriage with the LORD; therefore, God wanted to leave, *on the land* and *in the water*, a lasting witness of His Eternal Marriage to Israel and His Everlasting, Governmental Headship over her.



- **Twelve Stones on the Land**

The twelve stones on the land were to be a lasting witness to the nation of Israel of her Eternal Spiritual Marriage Union with the LORD. Henceforth, the LORD's dealings with Israel would be that of a Husband to His Wife.

*And the children of Israel did so as Joshua commanded, and took up twelve stones out of the midst of Jordan, as the LORD spake unto Joshua, according to the number of the tribes of the children of Israel, and carried them over with them unto the place where they lodged, and laid them down there.... And those twelve stones, which they took out of Jordan, did Joshua pitch in Gilgal (Joshua 4:8,20).*

The twelve stones in Gilgal were the LORD's continual witness of His Sovereign, Supreme, Governmental Control over Israel, over the land, and over the fructifying waters of the land. God used His Miraculous, Powerful, Governmental Control over the waters of Jordan, driving them back into icy walls so that Israel could embrace His Holy Headship by passing under the Ark and through the River Jordan.

Likewise, the twelve Governmental Stones on the land bore witness that God would use the Miraculous Power of His Sovereign Headship to help Israel conquer the enemies in Canaan's Land, as long as she allowed the heifer's blood to bend her will in an embracing circle around His Holy Headship and as long as she allowed the she-goat's blood to transform her rebellious horns of resistance against the LORD, her Master and Owner, into horns of resistance against all strangers and enemies.

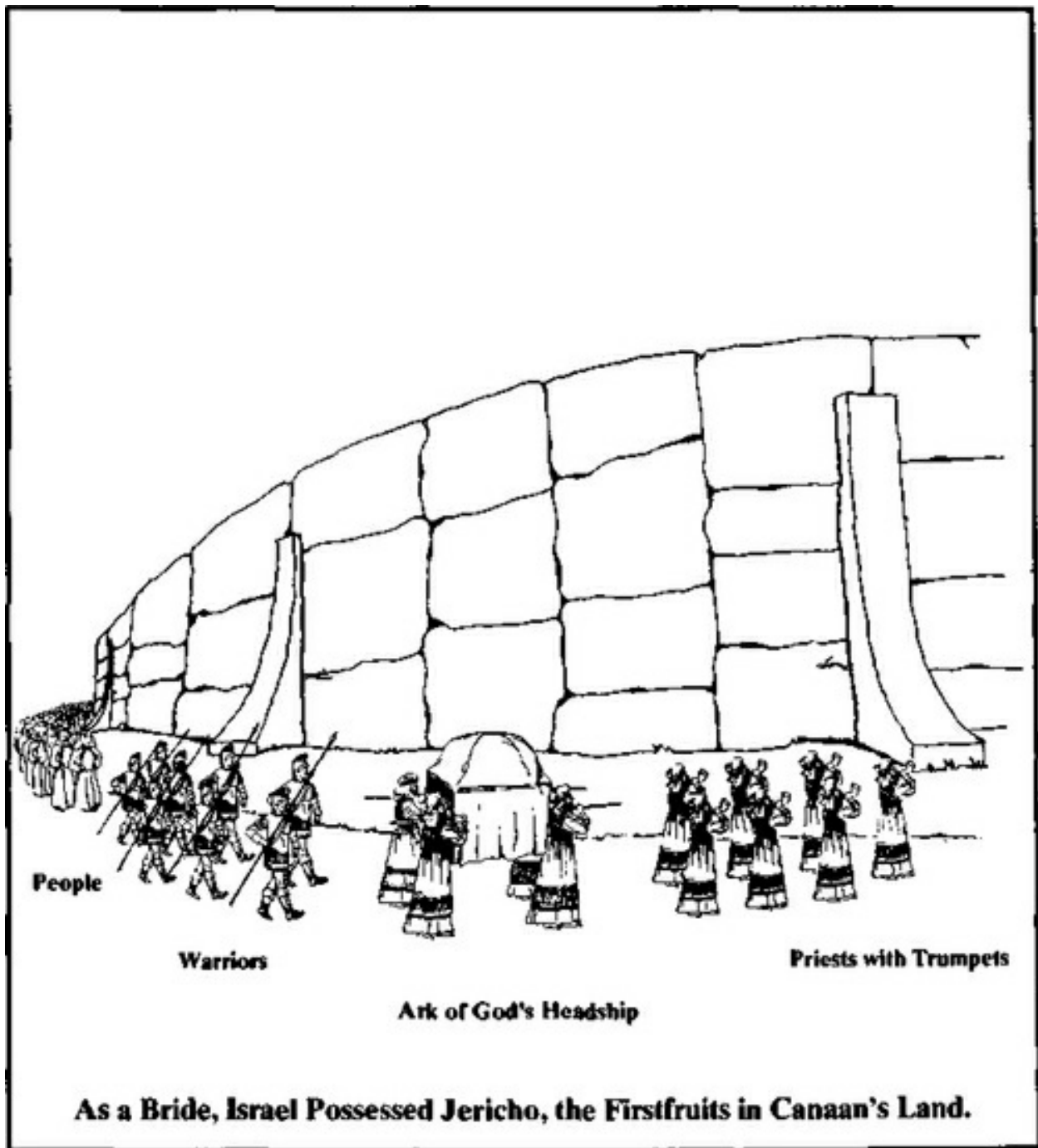
- **Twelve Stones in the Water**

The twelve stones in the River Jordan were to be a lasting witness to Israel of the LORD's Sovereign, Supreme Control over Jordan's fructifying waters. If Israel obeyed the restraints of the *Torah-Truth*, Jordan would minister its fructifying waters. If Israel cast aside the *Torah-Truth* with its restraints, Jordan would withhold its fructifying waters, causing drought and famine in the land. Israel's continued blessing depended upon her submission to her Husband's Headship.

*And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests which bare the ark of the covenant stood: and they are there unto this day (Joshua 4:9).*

The number twelve is the number of perfect government. God had the twelve stones piled up high in the midst of Jordan so that the top of the stones could be seen above the waters, once the waters had returned to their normal flow. Through this continual witness, God wanted the parents of each succeeding generation to teach their children the Truth of Israel's Spiritual Marriage Union with the LORD and His Holy Headship over them so that each new generation personally could embrace this Marriage Union with the LORD, accept His Holy Headship over them and, hence, become a part of His Spiritual Bride.

The Principle of the LORD's Holy Headship over Israel and the land was clearly demonstrated by the LORD's miraculous taking of the city of Jericho.



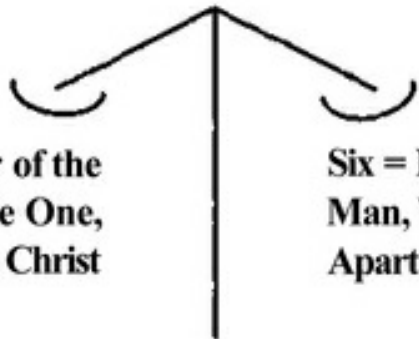
God's Master Plan and Purposive Will for taking Jericho consisted in having the LORD's *special* Priests bear the Ark of the Covenant (the symbol of the Holy Headship of the LORD Jesus Christ), as they led Israel's mighty men of valour, men of war, around the city, while the other Priests marched in front of the people, holding ram's horns. At the appropriate time, the Priests would blow their ram's horns, and God's Headship would give Israel the victory over Jericho.

The Israelites were to march around the city a total of thirteen times as a symbol of Israel's Spiritual Marriage with the LORD.

Thirteen is the number of the Marriage of the Bridegroom and the Bride. Seven is the number of Jesus Christ, the complete, Perfect One, and six is the number of man, the one who is incomplete, apart from the LORD.

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## **Thirteen, the Number of Spiritual Marriage Union**



**Seven = Number of the  
Perfect, Complete One,  
the LORD Jesus Christ**

**Six = Number of  
Man, Who Is Incomplete,  
Apart from the LORD**

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The Israelites silently marched around the city once each day for six days. Then, on the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times.

After Israel had made a thirteenfold demonstration of her Spiritual Marriage Union with God's Headship, the Priests blew the ram's horns, and the people shouted with a great shout. And, after Israel had obeyed the LORD by doing all these things in the exact manner in which He had commanded, God caused the walls of Jericho to sink down into the ground.

Jericho was Israel's first victory over the enemies in Canaan's Land; therefore, it was her first possession in the land. Because Jericho was the *firstfruits* of victory and possession, they belonged especially unto the LORD. By reason of this fact, God forbade Israel to take any of the contents of the city since they were wholly dedicated to the LORD.

But, someone disobeyed God's Command. However, if Achan, the guilty one, had laid hold, by faith, of the female blood of the heifer and the she-goat that had been given to his father Abram, he could have had spiritual "horns of resistance" with which to overcome the temptation to steal God's firstfruits, the dedicated things in Jericho; hence, he would not have become a useless, worthless vessel of wrath.

And Joshua said unto Achan, My son, give, I pray thee, glory to the LORD God of Israel, and make confession unto him; and tell me now what thou hast done; hide it not from me. And Achan answered Joshua, and said, Indeed I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and thus and thus have I done: *When I saw among the spoils a goodly Babylonish garment, and two hundred shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold of fifty shekels weight, then I coveted them, and took them; and, behold, they are hid in the earth in the midst of my tent, and the silver under it.* So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran unto the tent; and, behold, it was hid in his tent, and the silver under it. And they took them out of the midst of the tent, and brought them unto Joshua, and unto all the children of Israel, and laid them out before the LORD. And Joshua, and all Israel with him, took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had: and they brought them unto the valley of Achor. And Joshua said, Why hast thou troubled us? the LORD shall trouble thee this day. And all Israel stoned him with stones, and burned them with fire, after they had stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones unto this day. So the LORD turned from the fierceness of his anger. Wherefore the name of that place was called The valley of Achor, unto this day (Joshua 7:19-26).

Joshua compelled Achan to vindicate the LORD's Justice and Righteousness by making him confess he had used his horns of resistance *against* the LORD's Holy Headship instead of obstinately using them to resist his internal temptation, caused by his fleshly greed, and the Devil's external temptation to steal what belonged to God.

Achan took the following forbidden items from Jericho: a Babylonish garment; two hundred shekels of silver; and a wedge of gold worth fifty shekels.

Achan saw the gorgeous, brilliant Babylonish robe, the silver and the gold, and he stole them from the LORD's firstfruits. After Achan had made his confession, Joshua had the stolen property brought to him and all Israel, and they laid them before the LORD.

Actually, God already had given His Righteous Verdict against the guilty ones.

And it shall be, that *he that is taken with the accursed [devoted, dedicated] thing shall be burnt with fire, he and all that he hath*: because he hath transgressed the covenant of the LORD and because he hath wrought folly in Israel (Joshua 7:15).

Joshua and all Israel took Achan, his family, and his possessions and stoned them with stones and, then, burned them with fire.

Since Achan's family was included in his judgment, this reveals that they were accomplices to his dastardly deeds. Achan lusted after God's dedicated firstfruits in Canaan's Land, but God rejected all Achan's defiled possessions.

God already had provided the female-calf's blood that would have bent Achan's will firmly around God's Holy Headship, if he had laid hold of it by faith. Likewise, through their father, Abram, God already had provided the redemptive female-goat's blood that would have made Achan strong and firmly resolved to use his horns of resistance against the flesh and the Devil, the strange masters and enemies of God. But, how unspeakably sad to know that Achan obstinately turned his horns of resistance against his true Owner and Master and involved his whole family in carrying out his pernicious plan.

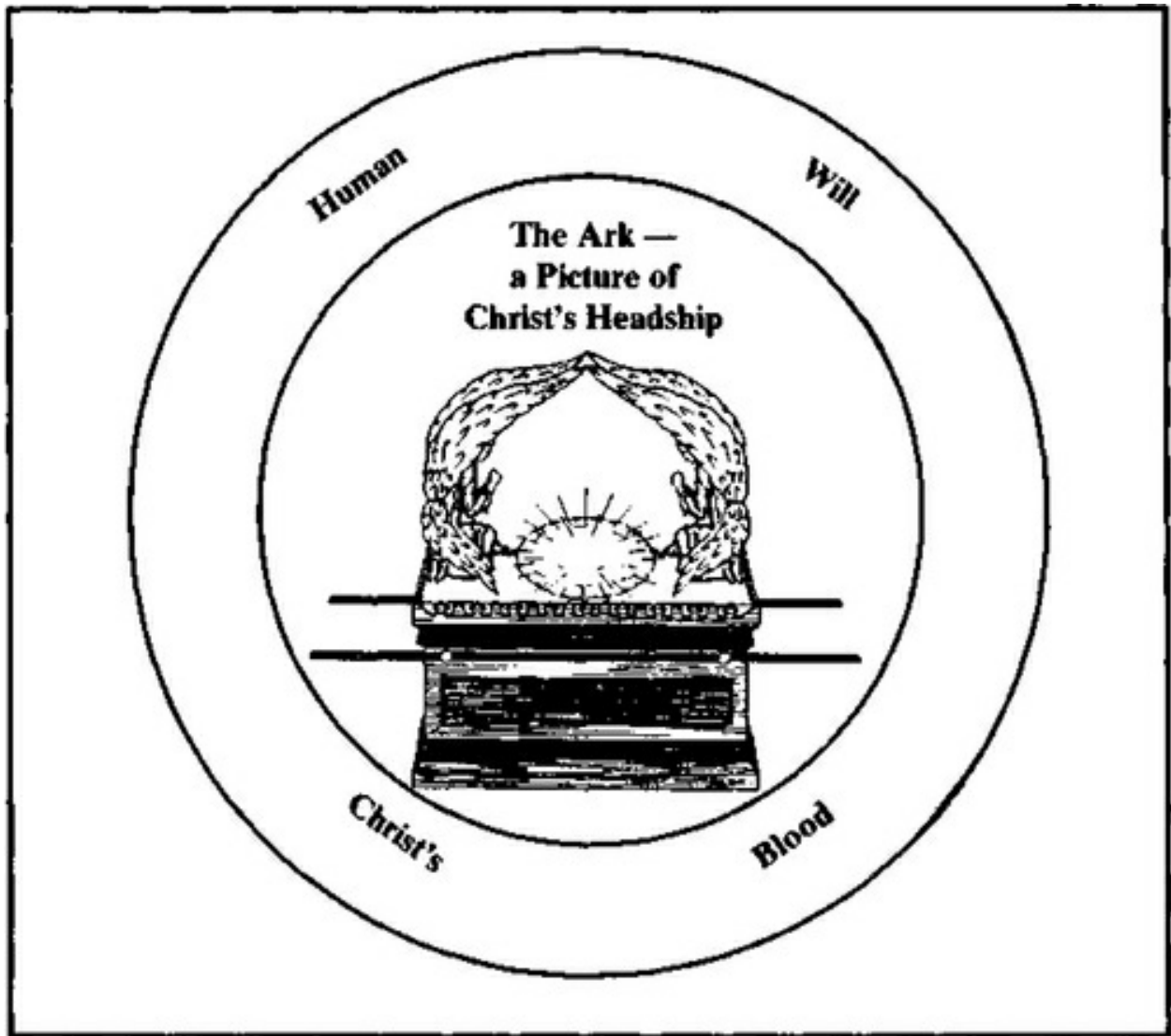
Since all Scripture *is given by inspiration of God and is profitable* (II Timothy 3:16,17), this lesson is a great instructive example to teach the believer what to do and what not to do.

God revealed, from the beginning, that in order for Israel, His Spouse-Wife, to possess the land, she continually had to embrace His Holy Headship, and she continually had to be submissive to His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Joshua always was God's faithful servant; he was one of the four from the old generation out of Egypt who made it into Canaan's Land. Therefore, God appointed him to take Moses' place in helping the LORD's Spouse-Wife to possess the Promised Land.

Joshua was a faithful leader; his will always was bent around the LORD's Holy Headship because he had faith in the Power of the female blood of the heifer and the she-goat. He always used his spiritual horns, his powers of resistance, against the enemy — never against His LORD and Master. Before his life's end, Joshua helped Israel, the LORD's Spouse-Bride, to possess much of the Promised Land.

Likewise, if the believer wants to attain the Prize of being in Christ's spiritual Bride, he must allow Christ's Submissive (Female) Blood to bend his will, transforming it into exclusive surrender, around His Holy Headship.



The believer's will must willingly embrace the Headship (the Governance and Guidance) of the LORD Jesus Christ. Otherwise, he, like Achan, will become a useless, worthless, ineffectual vessel in God's Kingdom, a vessel of dishonour instead of a vessel of honour.

## Chapter Six

### **Israel's Experience in Earthly Jerusalem as a Spiritual Mother — and God's Chosen Bride's Experience in Heavenly Jerusalem as a Spiritual Mother**

Under the leadership of Joshua, Israel possessed much of the land. In her experience as a Wife, the LORD's Holy Headship worked for her, driving out her enemies. Under the Leadership of her Spiritual Husband, she became a useful vessel to do His Purposive Will; and, as her Husband, He washed away her resistance to Him, giving her power and strength to resist Lucifer's attempts to thwart God's Master Plan for her as a nation.

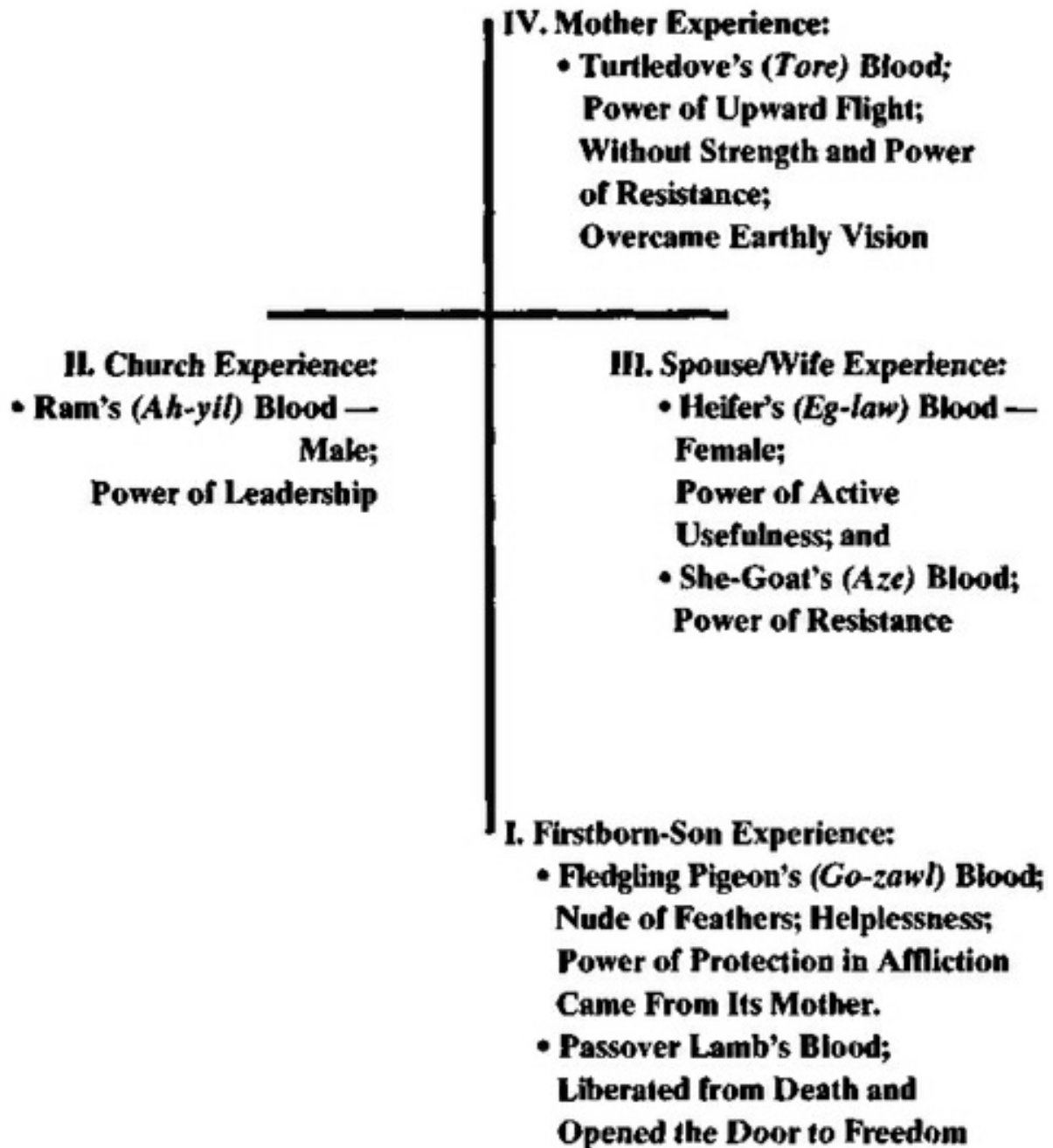
Israel's mature spiritual growth as a nation, according to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will, at last brought her into the highest spiritual experience — she became a spiritual Mother to all other nations. Being a Mother was the fourth and ultimate phase of Israel's spiritual relationship to God.

To function as the spiritual Mother to other nations, Israel needed the fourth class of blood that God had given Abram, which was the turtledove's blood. This blood would help her overcome her selfish, earthly vision of living just for herself, thus saving her from being insular in her attitude. She was to reach out to other peoples to teach them about the One True God.

God had assured Abram that, by appropriating all four classes of blood, Israel would possess the Promised Land and become the leader and Mother of all nations, nurturing them in the Milk and Meat of God's *Torah-Truth*. God gave Abram the turtledove's blood to help Israel become a spiritual Mother, who would have a heavenly vision of the Truth for *herself and for all nations*.

The dove in the natural realm is a bird without strength and power of resistance. In contrast to the eagle, the dove has no aggressive beak nor claws with which to resist its enemies. The power of the dove is found in its upward flight. Its strength and power are realized in its ability to soar upward, into the heavens, to freedom.

The dove's blood completes the Stature of Truth about the four kinds of blood that God gave Abram.



Later in Israel's history, when it was God's time for the city of Jerusalem to be conquered, it was the turtledove's blood that gave King David power to soar above all the blasphemous, opposing threats of the enemy who had said that David did not have the ability to conquer Jerusalem and to lead Israel into the spiritual place of being the Mother among all nations.

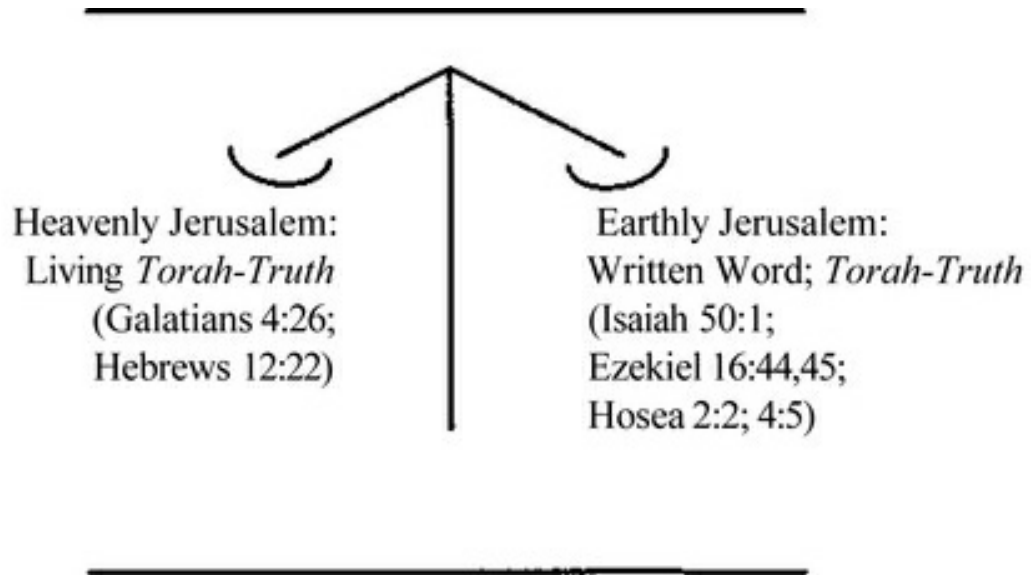
**The Fourth Phase of Israel's Journey:  
As a Spiritual Mother in Canaan's Land**



**God's Ultimate Goal for Israel in the New Earthly Jerusalem:  
As a Mother of the Nations of the World**

Jerusalem was the place in which God had chosen to put His Holy Name, His Holy Temple, and His Holy *Torah-Truth*, permanently, and from which God planned for His *Torah-Truth* to flow out to all nations. God's Master Plan included having His *Written Torah* go to all nations through the nation of Israel and having His *Living Torah-Truth*, the LORD Jesus Christ, go to all nations through the preaching of the Gospel by Christ's Disciples. Thus, God purposed that Jerusalem would be the Mother of the whole Earth, both in the days of the Old Testament and in the New Testament.

There are two Jerusalems — a Heavenly Jerusalem and an earthly Jerusalem; they both are called "Mothers."



- **Heavenly Jerusalem**

The Heavenly Jerusalem is the Mother of all spirits and souls that have existed from the beginning, from the time they were begotten in seed-form in the Loins of God. The Heavenly Jerusalem, through the Living Word, the LORD Jesus Christ, is the One Who has given birth to the believer's New Heart or New Man.

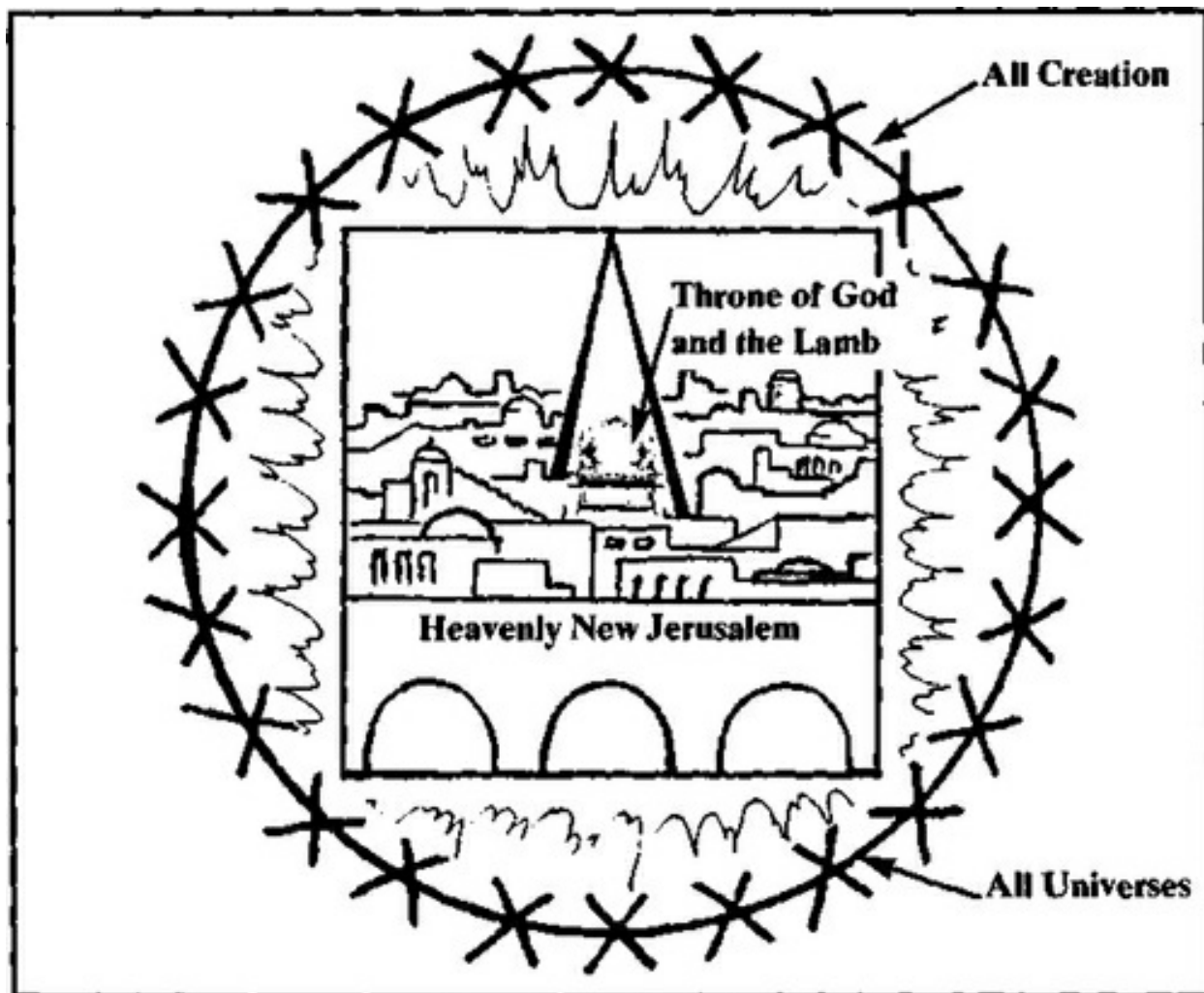
*But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all (Galatians 4:26)*

The Heavenly Jerusalem, through God's Grace and Mercy, is the Mother of us all.

*But ye are come unto mount Sion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, (Hebrews 12:22).*

When a person comes to Christ Jesus, the Living *Torah-Truth*, full of Grace and Truth in the Heavenly Jerusalem, He frees the person from the penalty of sin, which is Death and Hell. As the believer grows in spiritual stature, Christ also frees him from his obstinate flesh that rebels against God's Holy Headship and Holy Will. Then, as the believer feeds, by faith, on Christ's Living Word in the Heavenly Jerusalem, he grows in Christ's Grace and Knowledge which brings the believer's New Man unto the measure of the fullness of Christ's Stature and which prepares the believer to be in Christ's Bride, giving him the High and Holy privilege of dwelling eternally with God and the Lamb in the Heavenly New Jerusalem.

God has ordained that the *Heavenly New Jerusalem* be the *hub* of all God's creation or of all His Universes since the Throne of God and the Lamb will be there.



The Heavenly Jerusalem is the Eternal Mother that will continue to nourish, feed, and lead all creation into a peaceful harmonious relationship with God and the Lamb.

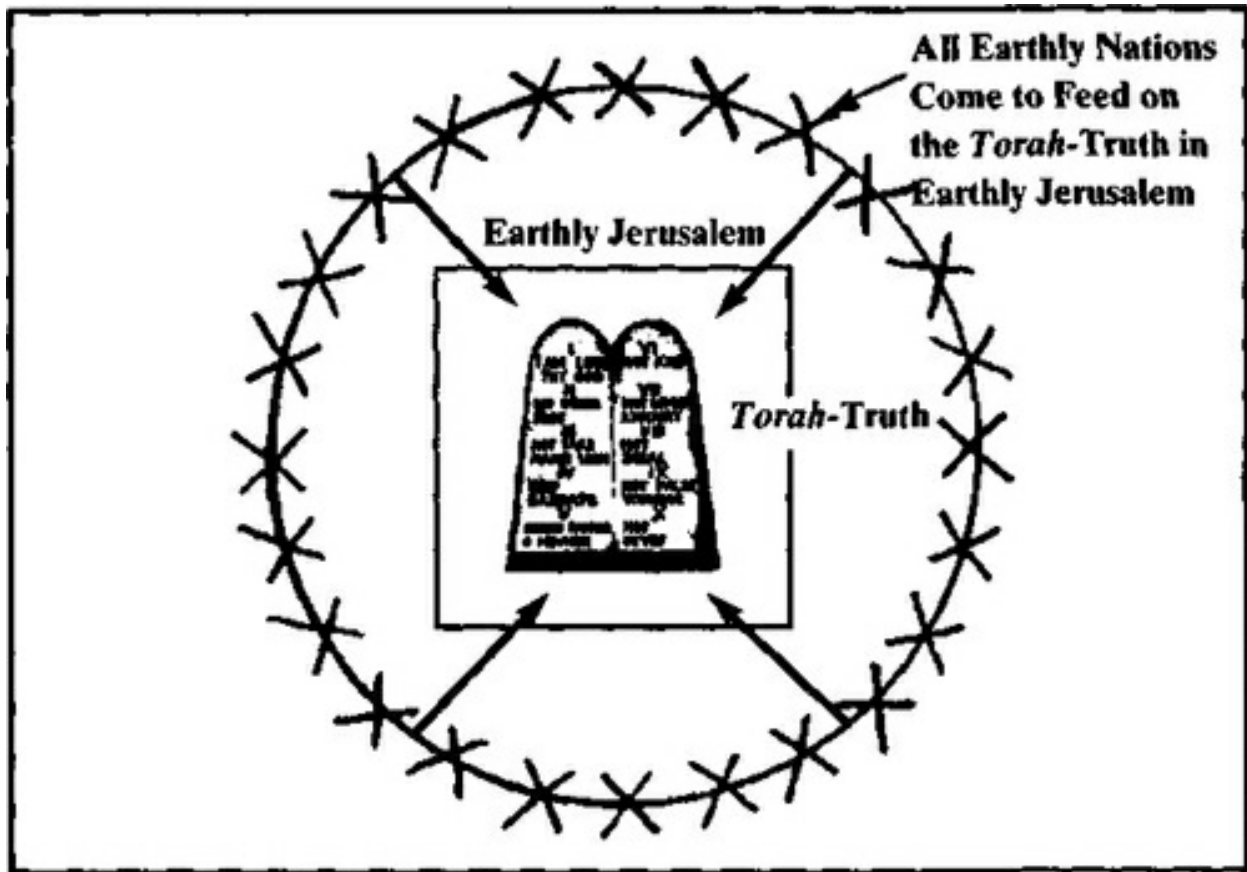
Wherein he hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: *That in the dispensation of the fulness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:* (Ephesians 1:8-10).

God's ultimate Purpose is to bring *all things* in Heaven and in Earth into unity and harmony in Christ Jesus. Since God is the Almighty, Sovereign, Supreme One, He is able to implement His Master Plan and Purposive Will for all His creation.

God intended that the earthly Jerusalem be a picture of the Heavenly Jerusalem, who is a true Mother in Marriage Union with God's Word, her Spiritual Husband, and who, as a true Mother, begets true, loyal children to God and the Lamb, the LORD Jesus Christ.

- **Earthly Jerusalem**

God intended that earthly Jerusalem and all Israel ultimately become a true Mother of all the earthly nations by feeding them His *Torah-Truth* as they come to Jerusalem to learn of God and His Son.



God purposed that earthly Jerusalem and natural Israel be a true spiritual Mother or Parent in the midst of all nations, feeding them with His *Torah-Truth* that drives out all error, false worship, and idolatry.

If earthly Jerusalem, as a Mother of nations, would have laid hold, by faith, of the turtledove's blood that God had given to Abram, she could have soared upward with the LORD into total spiritual freedom, far above all the error, false worship, and idolatry of this present, evil world. Although the enemy, fallen Lucifer, has worked unceasingly to try to thwart God's Purpose and Plan concerning the Motherhood of earthly Jerusalem, God, ultimately, will implement His Purpose and Plan for her as the Mother of Nations.

The history of the earthly Jerusalem reveals that, in the beginning, before earthly Jerusalem was God's Abode, it was called Jebus, which means a place trodden down or a threshing-floor. It was occupied by the Jebusites who were descendants of Canaan, the son of Ham.

Joshua partially subdued the Jebusites in the first stages of possessing the land (Joshua 10:23,40; 12:10; 15:63; Numbers 13:29). However, before the strong, impudent Jebusites could be *completely* conquered, the tiny nation of Israel had to grow until it became a mature, warring nation under the rule and reign of King David. Then, the name *Jebus* was changed to *Jerusalem*, meaning the inheritance of peace.

Throughout the rule of the Judges and the reign of King Saul, the stronghold of Jebus remained in the possession of the Jebusites. After David had become King of all Israel, the city of the Jebusites was taken by David's chief captain, Joab. Then, it became Jerusalem, the stronghold of Zion or the City of David.

Eventually, David brought the Ark of the Covenant, with its *Torah-Truth* and the Name of the LORD, to Jerusalem. From this time, the rising grandeur and glory of Jerusalem spread forth into all the known world.

Jerusalem became the spiritual and the political capital of the nation of Israel. It was here, in Jerusalem, that the LORD chose to put His Holy Name.

Moreover he refused the tabernacle of Joseph, and chose not the tribe of Ephraim: But chose the tribe of Judah, *the mount Zion which he loved* (Psalm 78:67,68).

God chose Mount Zion and Jerusalem for the place of His permanent Temple and the place of His Holy Name.

First, God's Tabernacle, with its Ark of the Covenant, abode in Gilgal for a season; then, it abode for a season in Shiloh, which was in the territory of Ephraim, the son of Joseph. However, God rejected both of these locations as a permanent dwelling place for His Ark and for His Holy Name, preferring and selecting the territory of the tribe of Judah as its permanent Abode because Mount Zion and Jerusalem were there.

God placed His Holy Name and *Torah-Truth* in Jerusalem so that Israel could mother the *Torah-Truth* by personally feeding upon it and by lifting up the LORD's Holy Name in praise and thanksgiving. Therefore, through her theoretical Knowledge and empirical Knowledge as a Mother of the *Torah-Truth*, the city of Jerusalem could share the LORD's Holy Name and His *Torah-Truth* with the nations of the whole world.

*To declare the name of the LORD in Zion, and his praise in Jerusalem; When the people are gathered together, and the kingdoms, to serve the LORD (Psalm 102:21,22).*

The LORD desires that the greatness of His Name be published in Zion and in Jerusalem. The LORD's Ineffable and Holy Name deserves praise and thanksgiving from those who have been given the following opportunities: to mother His Holy Name by praising it, and to mother His *Torah-Truth* by feeding upon it and sharing it with others.

After King David had gathered a large portion of the wealth and the materials that were required for erecting a magnificent Sanctuary for the LORD's Holy Name and for His *Torah-Truth*, God forbade him to build His Sanctuary because David had been a mighty man of war, fighting to subdue Israel's enemies on all sides.

Instead, God commanded Solomon, David's son, to build this splendid, superior Temple on Mount Zion in Jerusalem. Thus, Jerusalem contained the magnificence and brilliancy of the LORD's Temple and the splendour of Solomon's Court, as well, making the city's beauty and glory unsurpassed by any of the noted capitals of the world.

So great was Jerusalem's fame that it reached to the land of Sheba, whose Queen came to behold the glory and the beauty of it; and, after she had seen it, she declared that the half had not been told.

*And she said to the king, It was a true report that I heard in mine own land of thy acts and of thy wisdom. Howbeit I believed not the words, until I came, and mine eyes had seen it: and, behold, the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard. Happy are thy men, happy are these thy servants, which stand continually before thee, and that hear thy wisdom. Blessed be the LORD thy God, which delighted in thee, to set thee on the throne of Israel: because the LORD loved Israel for ever, therefore made he thee king, to do judgment and justice (I Kings 10:6-9).*

For a short time, Solomon fulfilled the LORD God's Purposive Will by being faithful to make Zion the center of dispersing the Wisdom of God's Holy *Torah* and His Holy Name to all the world. However, because Solomon allowed his many foreign wives to continue in their idolatrous ways, he, too, eventually forsook his first love for the *Torah*.

Consequently, after Solomon's death, jealousy and greed caused the Kingdom of Israel to be divided, and the pernicious seed of idolatry began to take root downward and to bear abundant fruit upward in the whole nation of Israel. Many of Israel's leaders — the Priests, the Prophets, and the Kings — became idolatrous "harlot-mothers," as it were. Instead of teaching the *Torah-Truth* and feeding the family of Israel with the Divine Wisdom of God's *Torah-Truth*, and instead of teaching the people to lift up the LORD's Holy Name in praise and thanksgiving, these "harlot-mothers" led the people into idolatry or spiritual whoredom.

*Thus saith the LORD, Where is the bill of your mother's divorcement, whom I have put away? or which of my creditors is it to whom I have sold you? Behold, for your iniquities have ye sold yourselves, and for your transgressions is your mother put away (Isaiah 50:1).*

Although Israel's leaders had become a group of "harlotmothers," the LORD never divorced His natural Bridal Nation. He only separated Himself from her for a season by casting her into captivity so that she could learn the error of her way.

Hosea confirmed God's unswerving affection for Israel, who was His spiritual Wife and the Mother of His children. The LORD, in His Mercy and Grace, punished Israel until she separated herself from idolatry and returned to Him, reclaiming Him as her first and only true Husband.

*Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband; let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts; Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst. And I will not have mercy upon her children; for they be the children of whoredoms. For their mother hath played the harlot: she that conceived them hath done shamefully: for she said, I will go after my lovers, that give me my bread and my water,*

and my wool and my flax, mine oil and my drink. Therefore, behold, I will hedge up thy way with thorns, and make a wall, that she shall not find her paths. And she shall follow after her lovers, but she shall not overtake them; and she shall seek them, but shall not find them: *then shall she say, I will go and return to my first husband; for then was it better with me than now* (Hosea 2:2-7).

Therefore shalt thou fall in the day, and the prophet also shall fall with thee in the night, and I *will destroy thy mother* (Hosea 4:5).

Hosea, the true Prophet, beseeched the people to plead or rebuke their “mother,” the leaders in Jerusalem, for their idolatry.

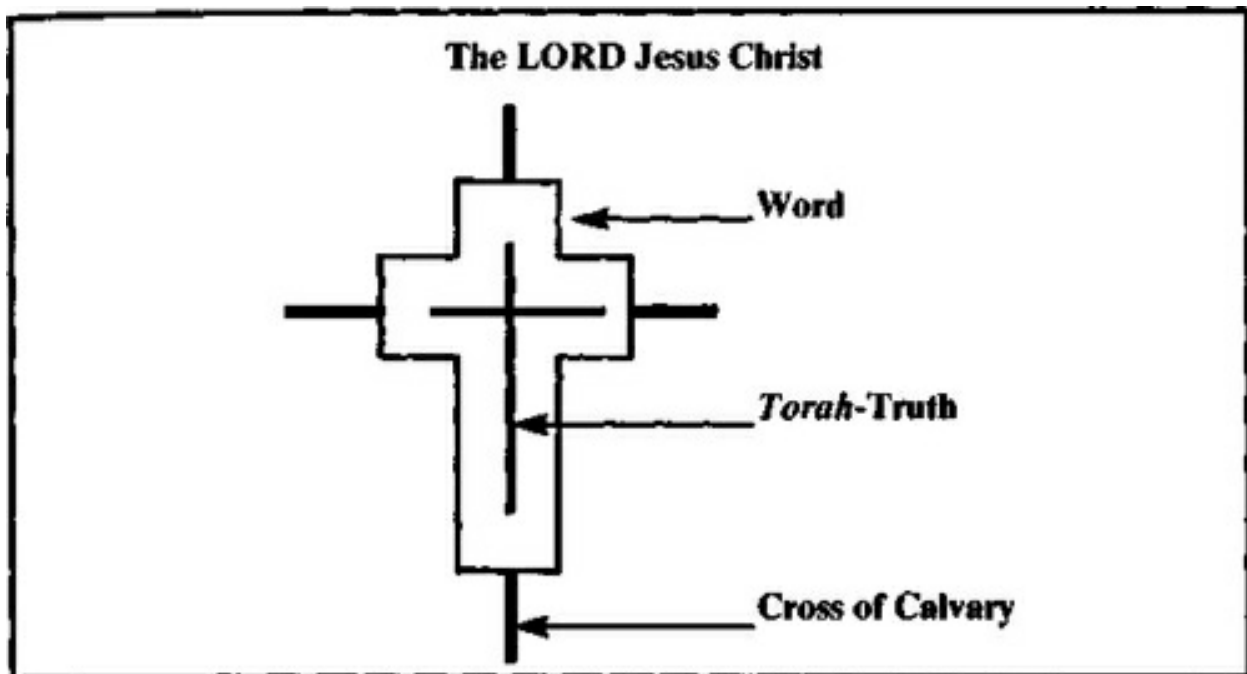
Just as *adultery* destroys the marriage bond in the natural realm, so does *idolatry* destroy one’s intimate Marriage Relationship with the LORD in the spiritual realm. God warned Israel that if she did not return to the virtue of His *Torah-Truth* and to His Holy Name that He would punish her sorely.

God warned Israel that unless she abandoned her idolatrous practices, and unless she acknowledged God’s Sovereign, Holy Headship, she would be stripped naked and bare. God would make her land barren and desolate and cause her harvest to fail. He further said that He would depopulate her nation and drive her into exile.

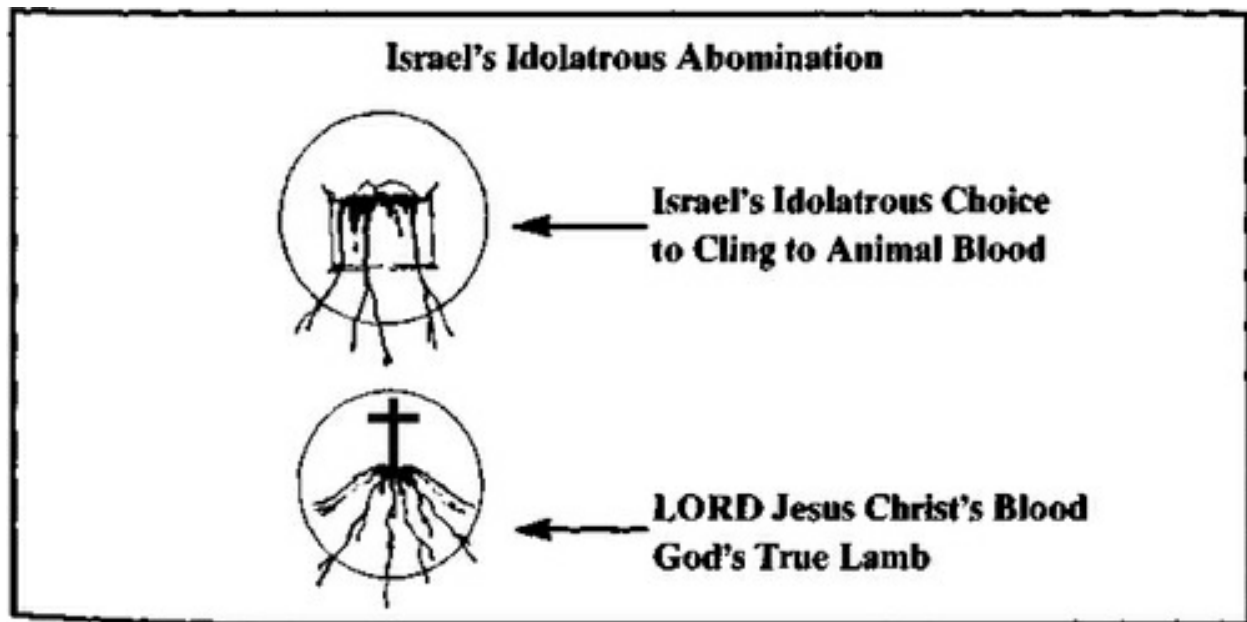
And, the LORD did exactly these things until a new remnant in Israel returned to Him, reclaiming Him as her first and only true Husband.

Old Testament history records Israel’s continual defections from God’s Written Word, the *Torah-Truth*, and from His Holy Name; yet, God, in His unparalleled Mercy and Grace, sent His only Begotten Son, the Living Word, Who bore His Father’s Holy Name — the LORD Jesus Christ — to the lost sheep of Israel, hoping to turn the nation back to the LORD, her first Husband.

Nevertheless, the Harlot-Mother, earthly Jerusalem, rejected God’s Living Word, the Living *Torah-Truth*, the LORD Jesus Christ, and His Holy Name, by demanding that the Romans nail Him to a Cross and crucify Him.



Furthermore, after the Blood of Christ Jesus had been shed for the remission of the sins of all mankind, the Harlot-Mother trod underfoot the precious Blood of God’s Son by casting Christ’s Blood to the ground, as it were, preferring to cling to her ceremonial sacrifices, thereby lifting animal blood up above Christ’s Blood. The offering of animal sacrifices was an idolatrous abomination in God’s sight since Jesus Christ, by fulfilling them, had done away with the animal sacrifices, which were only a shadow and type of the eventual, perfect Sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the Cross.



For this overspreading of abomination, God stripped earthly Jerusalem naked and bare of her natural Temple and scattered His people, the Harlot-Mother, into many nations of the Earth, just as He said He would do.

*And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes. For the days shall come upon thee, that thine enemies shall cast a trench about thee, and compass thee round, and keep thee in on every side. And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation (Luke 19:41-44).*

When Jesus Christ, the great Messiah and Ambassador from the Father, made His public entrance into the city of earthly Jerusalem, He wept over her because He knew she would reject Him; then, God would destroy the city and scatter its people. Earthly Jerusalem was the place that God had chosen to put His Written Word (the *Torah-Truth*) and His Living *Torah-Truth*, the LORD Jesus Christ, and His Holy Name so that Jerusalem could mother His Word by feeding Israel and the world with His *Torah-Truth* and His Holy Name. God had chosen Jerusalem to be the place in which His Name was to be praised and magnified. It was the place in which the Living Word, the LORD Jesus Christ, personally would live and teach most of His Revealed Truth and perform many of His miraculous acts. But, Jerusalem also was the place in which He would be hated, rejected, falsely accused, cruelly scourged, and, finally, condemned to death on the Cross.

Jesus wept over Jerusalem's ignorance, her idolatrous condition, her sinful, earthly vision of pride and greed, and her rejection of God's Holy Headship and His only Begotten Son. He wept because God had concealed the Living Truth from the eyes of the Israelites because they had no desire to mother His Truth. Jesus also wept because He saw the coming day of the destruction, desolation, and ruin of Jerusalem.

For almost two thousand years, God's people, known as His earthly Wife — the Jews who had had the privilege of mothering the LORD's *Torah-Truth* — were wanderers, pilgrims, and strangers in foreign lands.

However, in the year 1947, God allowed Israel to be reestablished as a nation so that she can build a temple in which the Antichrist will sit. Because Israel rejected her true Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ, the LORD will give her over to her own prideful delusion; therefore, she will accept the Antichrist as her Messiah. By committing this abominable deed, Israel will finish filling up her cup of wickedness as a Mother of Harlots (Revelation 17:1-6).

Israel rejected God's True, Living Word, Jesus Christ, refusing to take His Words into her heart and mother them, as a natural mother nurtures and protects the fetus that grows within her womb.

God recorded Israel's history to give man an instructive example of what he *should do* and what he *should not do*. Believers must learn how to take Christ's Words and become a "mother" to them, *protecting* them in their hearts, *nurturing* them with their prayers in order to gain more understanding of them, and *watering* them with their *tears of gratitude* and appreciation for the Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge they give the believers' spirits and souls and for the restraining they offer the believers' flesh that is filled with errors and falsehoods.

Believers can mother God's Word in the following ways:

- by taking it into their hearts and protecting it;
- by praying for more understanding of it;
- by weeping tears of gratitude over it;
- by meditating upon it and studying it;
- by obeying its demands in their moral development;
- by sharing its strength and nourishment with others.

Instead of treating Christ's Living Word of Truth in this manner, Jerusalem rejected God's Living Word and had Him crucified upon a Cross, preferring to mother her traditions and Ceremonial Laws rather than mothering the Words of Life from God's only Begotten Son. Even after Christ fulfilled the Ceremonial Law, nullifying it by nailing it to the Cross, the Harlot-Mother still kept mothering her traditions and ceremonies, which was blatant, obstinate, willful rebellion against God's Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Jesus warned the Israelites about rejecting Him and His Name (which was His Father's Name) and, then, receiving another, the Antichrist, who will come in his own name.

*I am come in my Father's name, and ye receive me not: if another shall come in his own name, him ye will receive (John 5:43).*

The LORD Jesus Christ, the Heavenly Father's legal Son, came in His Father's Name, and they rejected Him because they knew not His Father.

However, when the Antichrist, Judas Iscariot, comes in his own prideful name and claims to be the Messiah, Jerusalem, the Mother of Harlots, will receive him and will ride upon his back to worldly fame and exaltation. Thus, old Jerusalem will fill up her cup of wickedness as a Harlot-Mother.

*So he carried me away in the spirit into the wilderness: and I saw a woman sit upon a scarlet coloured beast, full of names of blasphemy, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet colour, and decked with gold and precious stones and pearls, having a golden cup in her hand full of abominations and filthiness of her fornication: And upon her forehead was a name written, MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH (Revelation 17:3-5).*

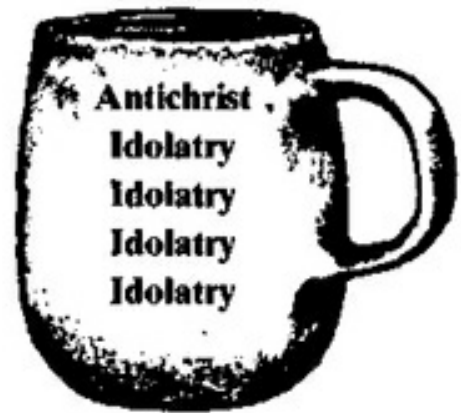
Earthly Jerusalem not only rejected the Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ, and had Him crucified, but she also gave birth to the spirit of rejection of Him. She has shared this spirit of rejection of Christ with the whole world, when she should have been sharing the LORD's *Torah* -Truth, the Christ, with it. Thus, she has not obeyed the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. Moreover, earthly Jerusalem, the Mother of Harlots, also will give birth to the spirit of *acceptance* of the Antichrist, causing the whole world to accept him while making them drunk with the wine of her spiritual idolatry and fornication.

If blind hearts look at God's Master Plan and Purposive Will for earthly Jerusalem, and if they look at earthly Jerusalem's obstinate, willful rebellion against the true Messiah, the LORD Jesus Christ, and if they look at her full cup of idolatry, which she fills up as a Mother-Harlot by accepting the Antichrist, they will think that God has failed in implementing His Master Plan and Purposive Will for earthly Jerusalem. But, of course, God never fails, and someday Israel will be the Mother-nation of this Earth.

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**God's Master Plan  
and Purposive Will  
for Earthly Old Jerusalem:  
As Mother of the *Torah*  
and the LORD's Holy Name**

**Old Earthly Jerusalem's  
Dastardly Deeds as a  
Mother-Harlot**



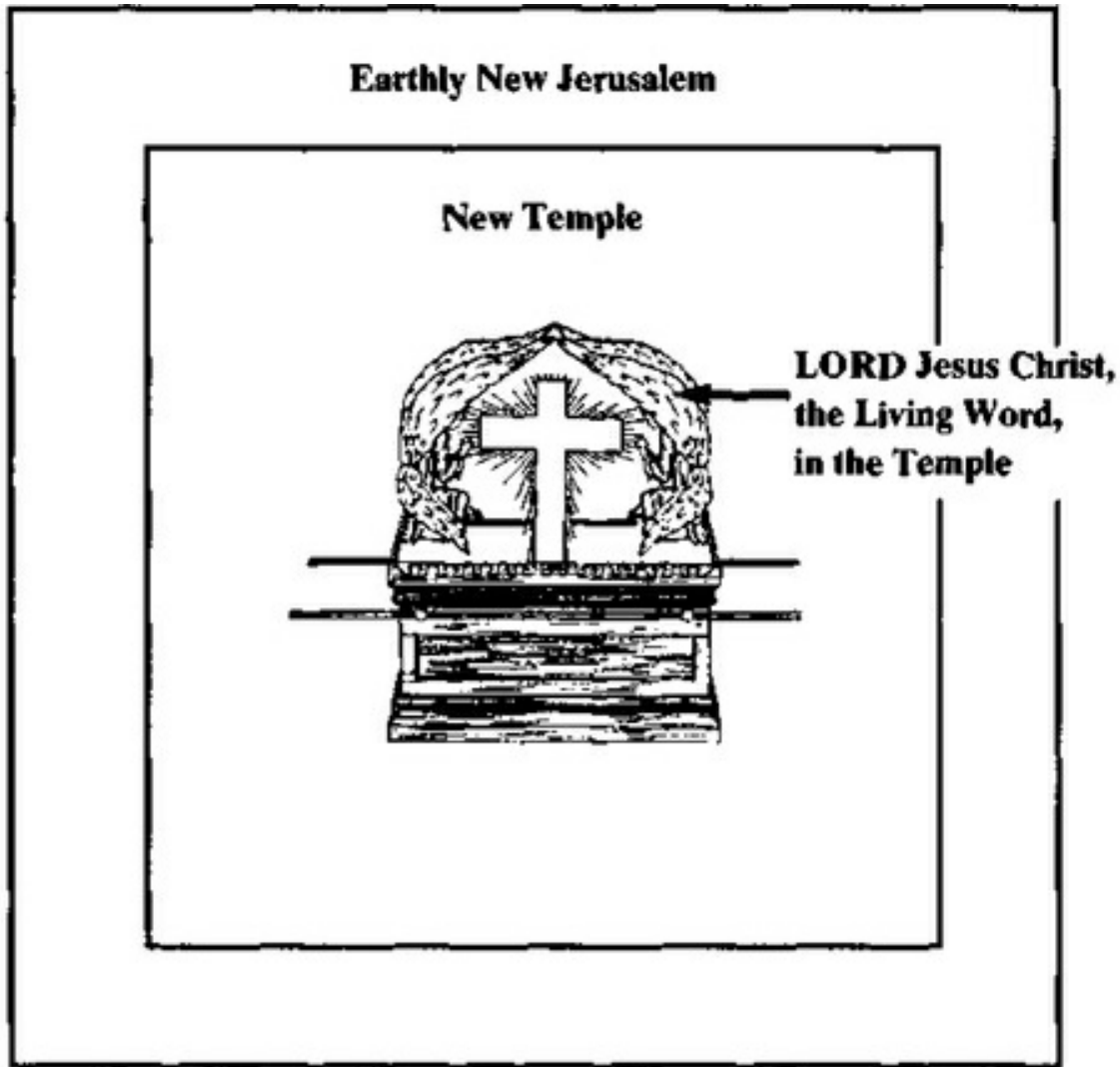
**Wicked Cup**

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What an unparalleled, unmatched mystery! How could earthly Jerusalem, with her possession and knowledge of the Written *Torah*, reject the free privilege of embracing her Holy Creator, the Living Word of Truth, and His Holy Name, the LORD Jesus Christ, for the Eternal dishonour of accepting and embracing the wicked creature, the Antichrist, with his deceit and lies?

This is not the end of Israel's story, however; the LORD Jesus Christ still will implement His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will in earthly Jerusalem by coming back to the Earth the second time, by judging the Antichrist, and by casting him into the Lake of Fire. The LORD also will judge the old earthly Jerusalem, the Mother of Harlots, by reducing her to dust and ashes; and He will purge and purify the whole Earth by burning up all the works of man.

Then, upon the purified ruins of Old Jerusalem, the LORD Jesus Christ will build a new earthly Jerusalem, and He will build a new Temple. *He* will sit in the new Temple as the True Christ, the Living Word of Truth, bearing His Father's Holy Name, the LORD Jesus Christ. Then, the new earthly Jerusalem will be a true Mother of the Truth, and she will share the LORD Jesus Christ and His *Torah-Truth* with all the nations of the New Earth.



At last, through the LORD Jesus Christ, Jerusalem will implement God's Master Plan for her, and she will fulfill His Purposive Will for her by becoming the Mother of all nations.

In a prophetic vision, Isaiah saw the newly built Jerusalem fulfilling God's Purposive Will during the Millennial Reign of Christ Jesus.

*The word that Isaiah the son of Amoz saw concerning Judah and Jerusalem. And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the LORD's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. O house of Jacob, come ye, and let us walk in the light of the LORD (Isaiah 2:1-5).*

Because God chose Jerusalem for the place of His Holy Temple, His Holy *Torah-Truth*, and His Holy Name, He will not cease working, through Jesus Christ, until He fulfills His Plans and Purposes for Jerusalem.

During Christ's Millennial Reign, the new earthly Jerusalem on Mount Zion will become God's Spiritual School of Truth for all nations, and it will be His political Supreme Court for all nations, with the LORD Jesus Christ serving as the Master Teacher and the Just Judge.

In the end of days, Christ's Rule and Reign will cause wickedness to disappear from the Earth. When Christ's Kingdom is established in its rightful place above all Kingdoms of the Earth, Christ's eminence as a Moral Teacher

and a Political Judge will be known in the whole Earth.

Jerusalem shall be so full of love, joy, and peace, and so full of the LORD's Glory and Truth that all nations shall flow into her; they shall stream into her like a river, in order to learn the LORD's *Torah-Truth* and to embrace the LORD's Holy Name.



While the nations of the Earth flow into Jerusalem, the LORD's Love and Truth and Name shall flow out of Jerusalem through those who come to hear, to learn, and to receive the Truth. And, they shall go forth and share the *Torah-Truth* in the uttermost parts of the Earth.

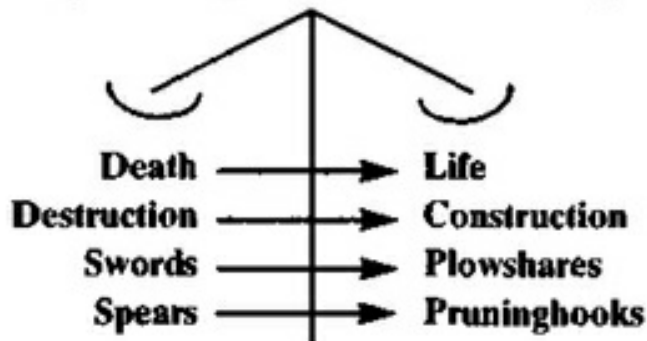
In His Holy Sovereignty, the LORD Jesus Christ, the Master Teacher, the Just Judge, and the Divine Decider, will abolish all warfare in the Earth. Swords shall become plowshares; spears shall become pruning hooks. Instruments of destruction shall be exchanged for instruments of construction.

This Truth was confirmed by the Prophet Micah.

And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their *swords into plowshares*, and their *spears into pruning hooks*: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Micah 4:3).

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### **Changes During Christ's Millennial Reign**



Instead of swords being used to bring death and destruction, they shall be changed into plowshares. A plowshare is a farm implement used to cut, turn up and break up the soil, and to make furrows in the earth so that the earth can receive living seeds to make it fruitful. Spears also shall be changed from being used as instruments of death and destruction and shall be made into pruning shears, which are used to cut away superfluous parts from a plant in order

to increase its fruitfulness.

Although the Prophets, Isaiah and Micah, gave a grand and glorious description of how the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will will be fulfilled during Christ's Millennial Reign, Isaiah returned in his prophecy to the dark, drab reality of this present world in which each person has an opportunity to embrace the LORD's *Torah* -Truth in his heart and to embrace Jesus Christ's Holy Name in his will.

Let us, therefore, put away all idolatrous thoughts and unChrist-like images so that we may become a mother of Truth and begin, here and now, to walk in the LORD's Light of Truth. Let us beseech Christ Jesus to break all forms of the vices of idolatry in our mind and heart so that we can give our heart to Christ Jesus in exclusive surrender and in unswerving loyalty to His *Torah-Truth*.

What the LORD Jesus Christ will do for old earthly Jerusalem in the future, He can do, now, for our City of Pride in our old heart; He can reduce it to dust and ashes. Then, He can build a New City within us that will embrace the LORD's *Torah-Truth* and His Holy Name in all things.

Those who know Jesus Christ as their Bridegroom and who believe in His Holy Word enjoy the thrill and excitement of knowing that the LORD Jesus Christ has a Master Plan and Purposive Will which nothing can thwart. They know the LORD has unparalleled Long-suffering toward revolting, rebellious man who has a long history of rejecting the LORD's Plans and Purposes for him; but they know, too, that the LORD, in His appointed time, always implements His Master Plan and fulfills His Purposive Will in man's heart.

As believers, who make the choice to possess the Heavenly Promised Land, travel in their spiritual journey, they, too, will have the same experiences that Israel had: as a firstborn Son in Egypt; as a Church in the wilderness; as a Wife in Canaan's Land; and as a spiritual Mother in Jerusalem.

My prayer is that this book will help those who are traveling from the Egypt of this world to Heavenly Canaan's Land to find enlightenment for their souls which will help them each step of the way.

