

# Chapter One

## Man's Fourfold Capacity For Gratitude For God's Love

God originally created man's heart with a fourfold capacity for gratitude for the following four aspects of His Love:

- **His Omnipresent Breath of Love;**
- **His Omniscient Name of Love;**
- **His Omnipotent Power of Love;** and
- **His Unified Omnipresent Breath, Omniscient Name, and Omnipotent Power of Love**

Man's gratitude for the LORD's omnipresent Breath of Love; his gratitude for the LORD's omniscient, all-knowing Name of Love; his gratitude for the LORD's omnipotent Power of Love (which God, as the Owner and Master of all things, extends to man); and His Unified Breath, Name, and Power will always enable man to prevail in God's Satisfaction, Security, and Serenity.

### **I. Gratitude for the LORD God's Omnipresent Love**

The LORD God is an omnipresent God; that is, He is present in *all* places at the *same* time. Omnipresence means universal presence or ubiquity. The LORD God has the infinite capacity to be present everywhere at the same time; He is Omnipresent. This Truth rules out the possibility of God's having ever forsaken us. The LORD God's omnipresent Being is always filling *all things* because this is an inseparable property of His divine, infinite Being.

The LORD's omnipresent Love is present everywhere: it is not encompassed by time, limited by space, confined to altars, or chained in temples. The LORD's omnipresent Love is found in all circumstances: in want, wealth, fetters, freedom, dark dungeons, and places of Glory and Light.

The called and chosen always find God's omnipresent Love in Christ Jesus.

He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is **love....** And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is **love**; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him (I John 4:8,16).

Since God's Love is present in all places, His Love is an unsearchable boundless, incomprehensible, and infinite Presence that gives and maintains God's Light and Life.

## **I. Man's Capacity for Gratitude for the Wisdom of the LORD God's Omnipresent Breath of Love**

The first realm of man's capacity for gratitude is gratitude for the LORD's omnipresent *Breath of Love*. The LORD God created man with an *existing, breathing self* so that he could dwell in Unity and Harmony with God and His omnipresent Love that would rule and reign on the throne of man's heart. God intended for the existing, *breathing self* of man constantly to be aware that the LORD's existing, omnipresent Love dwelled upon the throne of his heart. Through man's complete Marriage Union of his *existing breath* with the LORD's *omnipresent Breath of Love*, man then would always dwell in complete satisfaction, security, and serenity. Thus, the first realm of man's created capacity in his heart for gratitude was to be filled with gratitude for the omnipresence of the LORD's Breath of Love. Through this means, his Union with the LORD's Omnipresence would be eternally complete.

## The LORD's Purposive Will for Man's Heart



From the very beginning of His Creation of man, God purposed that the breath of man's existing *self be* one with the Breath of Love of the LORD's existing Omnipresence. God desired and intended for man always to be aware, both consciously and gratefully, that every breath of his existence proceeds from the Breath of Love of the great "I AM the LORD thy God."

The Breath of Love of the great "I AM" is the living, eternal Fountainhead of all Existence from which man draws every breath of his personal existence and his personal "standing up" Light and Life. Man's breath that has been joined to the LORD's holy Breath of Love takes great delight in taking a "standing up" or a vertical, upright position as a witness of the Truth of Christ's Light and Life to the natural and spiritual worlds. How eternally thrilling and satisfying it is when the existing *self* of man, through Christ Jesus, enters back into the overwhelming, grateful awareness of Unity and Harmony with the Breath of Love of the LORD's infinite Omnipresence that man had with Him in the beginning in the *keh-dem* Eternity. The Breath of the Father's Love is a divine foretaste of His eternal, perfect Love, Joy, and Peace that the Bride will enjoy in the New City during the future Eternity of God and the Lamb.

However, we can enjoy a measure of this wonderful consciousness of Love, Joy, and Peace with God and the Lamb, now,

as we journey toward the New City. Through the LORD Jesus Christ, we can obtain, today, this Unity and Harmony between our existing *self*, the "I," and the Omnipresence of the great "I AM," even when our whole universe appears to be quaking upon its very foundation.

When our circumcised *lover* heart\* takes on the spiritual duties and responsibilities that the LORD Jesus Christ, as our Owner, Master, and King, has appointed, we are brought back to the Oneness of the Breath of Love that originally existed between our existing *self* and the LORD's existing *Omnipresence*. What divine Satisfaction, Security, and Serenity!

When man's "I" (his will) and the LORD's "I AM" (God's Purposive Will) become One on the throne in man's *lover* heart, his heart has perfect love, joy and peace because it is continually and constantly filled with grateful awareness in *all things*, of the LORD's omnipresent Breath that makes His Name known.

The LORD's omnipresent Breath of Love constantly leads and guides us, as believers, to His Good and Glory in *all things*. When we have chosen the LORD to be our divine King, He ever watches, governs, and rules upon the throne of our *lover* heart. When our *lover* heart is filled with gratitude for God's true Image, the LORD Jesus Christ, we never again long and lust for the false images of the world. When there is complete awareness and unified gratitude between our existence and the LORD's Existence, our *lover* heart remains continually conscious that every breath of our present existence and every coming moment of our future existence proceeds out of the Breath of the LORD God's Almighty Love! Therefore, our *lover* heart will constrain us to be surrendered in our will to live every present second and every future second of our existence in sole dedication to the service of the LORD Jesus Christ, the great "I AM."

After our existing *self* or "I" has been joined to the great "I AM," the LORD Jesus Christ, we know and acknowledge God as *my* God, or as *my* exclusive Owner, Master, and Bridegroom. When our "I" knows the great "I AM" the "I" knows the Owner and Master has the exclusive right to dispose of *my* faith, to command *my* thoughts, and to guide all *my* acts and deeds. Only with the acceptance of this Truth can we lay a true foundation for an eternal, spiritual Marriage Union with God and the Lamb, the LORD Jesus Christ; only then can we be One with Him in the New City, the New Jerusalem.

Since the Resurrection of the LORD Jesus Christ, He is also *omnipresent* with His Father.

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him (John 14:23).

Jesus promised His Disciples that, after His Resurrection, He and His Father would come to them in the Unity of their existing omnipresent Love and make their abode with them. Jesus promised to reveal the Love of the Father's and the Son's omnipresent, unified Breath, after His Resurrection. On Resurrection Morning, the Father breathed His eternal Unbegotten Breath of existing Omnipresence into His Son, Christ Jesus, thus, lifting Him up from Death, Hell, and the grave. Now the Son shares, with His disciples, the Father's Unbegotten Breath of Love, through His existing Omnipresence.

Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen (Matthew 28:20).

Because the LORD Jesus Christ has been raised or resurrected by the omnipresent Unbegotten Breath of the Father's Love, He has promised His all-Loving Presence to us in all things — in all kinds of weather, both fair and foul — in all kinds of seasons: spring, summer,

autumn, and winter — in all kinds of days, both Sabbath days and weekdays; in all kinds of emotions, both pleasurable and painful — and in all kinds of experiences, both those of Light and those of darkness. While they are on Earth and forever in Eternity, the LORD's children are blessed and will be blessed with Christ's perpetual, Loving Omnipresence. The world has an end, but the "All-Presence" of Christ's Love has no end. Christ personally departed from this world to sit at the Right Hand of God in Heaven, but His perpetual, Loving Omnipresence is with His people.

God purposely created man with a throne in his heart to provide Himself, as Owner and Master, with a Sovereign Place from which to rule and reign over man.

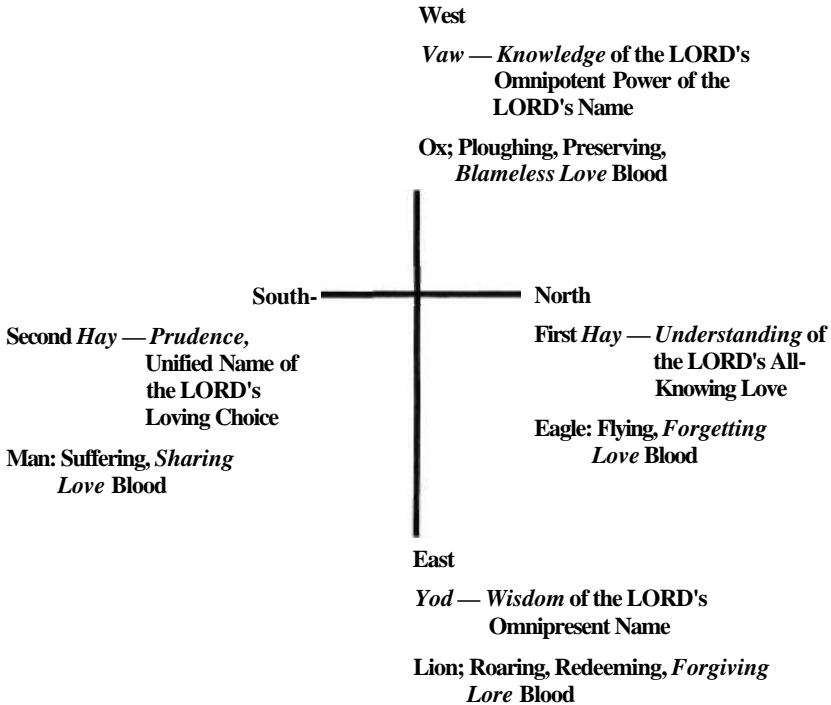
## **II. Gratitude for the LORD God's Omniscient, Understanding Name of Love**

Omniscience means all Knowledge, all-knowing Understanding, boundless or unlimited Knowledge, infinite Knowledge. The infinite God knows and understands *all* things and sees *all* things.

The LORD's Omnipresence, Omniscience, Omnipotence, and Unified Breath of Love in Christ were not forever wrapped in swaddling clothes. Jesus grew up and went to the Cross, the grave, Death, and Hell. On the third day, He arose again, was lifted up to the Right Hand of His Heavenly Father, and, then, was eternally joined to His Father's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and unified Love.

The second realm of man's originally created capacity for gratitude was his gratitude for the LORD's understanding, omniscient *Name* of Love. The Hebrew Name for LORD consists of the four Hebrew Letters *yod*, *hay*, *vaw*, and *hay*. These letters extend in the four points of the Cross and in the four cardinal directions.

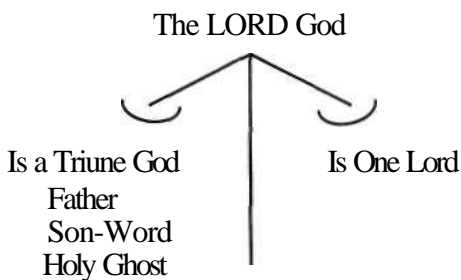
(See stature on following page.)



Through the first three letters — *yod, hay, vaw* — one can see the Trinity of the LORD God, and through the last letter — *hay* — one can see the LORD's Prudent Choice and Unity. There is only *One* Purposive Will of the Father and the Word and the Holy Ghost, and this Unified Will was manifested through Jesus, the Son of Man in Flesh.

As the Name of the LORD extends around the Cross, the first letter, the *yod*, fits with the omnipresent *Wisdom* of the LORD's Redemptive Forgiveness of Love in His Name, at the foot of the Cross. The first *hay*, the second letter of the LORD's tetragrammaton name, fits with the divine, omniscient *Understanding* of the

Flying, Forgetfulness of Love in His Name, The *vow*, the third letter of the LORD's Name, fits with the infinite, omnipotent *Knowledge* of His Ploughing, Preserving Love in His Name. Then, the fourth letter, which is the second *hay*, fits with the LORD's eternal Prudence to choose the Gift of His Suffering, Sharing Love of His Unified Name. Thus, the combined letters *yod*, *hay*, *vaw* and *hay* reveal the LORD's omnipresent *Wisdom* of His Loving Name; His omniscient *Understanding*, all-knowing, all-Loving Name; His omnipotent, all-Powerful *Knowledge* of His Loving Name; and His unified, universal *Prudence* of His Sharing, Loving Name. The LORD's Purpose in revealing the three cords of Love in the *triune* LORD God is so that He then can weave them together into the one eternal, universal, prudent rope of Love in the One LORD God.



There is a Trinity of Heavenly Witnesses of the Omnipresence, Omniscience, and Omnipotence of the Love of the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Ghost.

Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of **the** Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: (Matthew 28:19).

These three: the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Ghost are One LORD.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one (I John 5:7).

The LORD God is One omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Fountain of Love, Light, and Life. He is the One and Only Living and True God; He Only is God, and He is but One.

*Ye are* my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that *I am* he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, *even I, am* the LORD; and beside me *there is* no saviour (Isaiah 43:11).

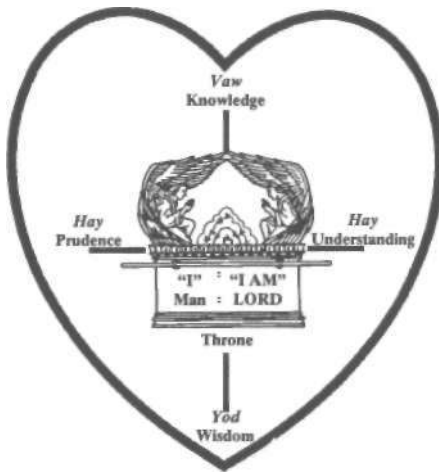
The Uniqueness of God's Divinity is that there never was a God like Him before, nor will there ever be a God like unto Him. "I AM He." He always *is* the same, ever *was* the same, and ever *will be* the same.

The four Natures of God's Love that extend out of His Tetragrammaton Name are pictured in His Word as Four Beasts: a Lion, an Eagle, an Ox, and a Man. The *yod* or the Lion depicts the Wisdom of the LORD's omnipresent, Roaring, Redeeming, *Forgiving* Love Blood. The first *hay* or the Eagle depicts the Understanding of the LORD's All-knowing, Flying, *Forgetting* Love Blood. The *vow* or the Ox depicts the omnipotent Knowledge of the LORD's Ploughing, Preserving, *Blameless* Love Blood. The second *Hay* or the symbol of a Man depicts the Unified Prudent Choice of the LORD's Suffering, *Sharing* Love Blood in Jesus that He shed to share with His whole Creation that needed God's Forgiving, Forgetting, Blameless, Sharing Love.

God also created man with these same four, major cardinal points of the Cross in his heart so that he could, in Christ's Love, express his gratitude for the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient,

omnipotent, unified Name. God filled these four cardinal points of man's heart with four realms of intelligence or Four Living Creatures, as it were, so that man could know and experience the Wisdom, Understanding, Knowledge, and Prudence of the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, unified Name of Love. As a result of getting to know the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, unified Name of Love, man can, in turn, express praise and gratitude to his LORD's Loving Name.

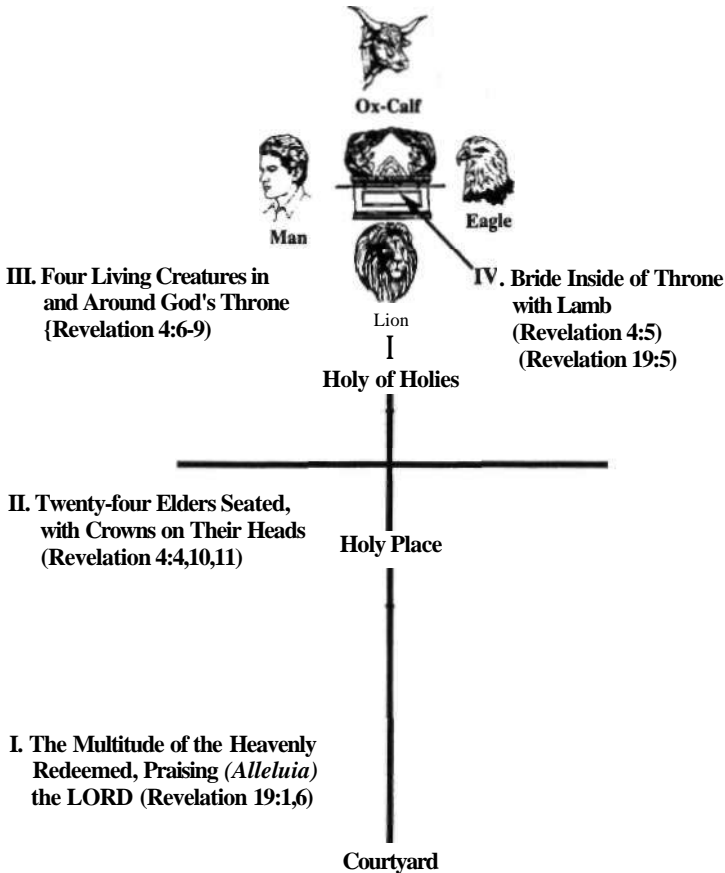
### God's Purposive Will for Man's Heart



God created man with four great moral capacities for gratitude in his *heart* and *will* so that he could gratefully and willingly support the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and unified Name of Love in His Wisdom (the Lion), Understanding (the Eagle), Knowledge (the Ox), and Prudence (the Man).

A look at the Heavenly Temple gives us a clear picture of the great praise and gratitude that the LORD God, through Jesus, will form in the hearts of those who grow up unto the measure of the Fullness of the Spiritual Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ.

## The Heavenly Temple



### III. Gratitude for the LORD God's Omnipotent Love

Omnipotence is All-Power. The LORD's omnipotent Knowledge is His unlimited, infinite, and almighty Power to change all things into the Image of Jesus Christ. By His omnipotent Knowledge, the LORD's Love supplies all our needs, according to His Purposive Will. The LORD, by His omnipotent Knowledge or His almighty Power, rules over all finite beings and all His other

Creation. The LORD's omnipotent Knowledge or almighty Power enables Him to rule as the Supreme, Sovereign LORD over all the Universes. The LORD God in His infinite *Love Power* guides the Creation below and rules in Heaven above on His eternal Throne.

...and all flesh shall know that I the LORD *am* thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob (Isaiah 49:26).

But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, (Titus 3:4).

The omnipotent God and Saviour's Kindness and Love have appeared to all men in the Person of His only Begotten Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, to deliver penitent man from the misery and wretchedness of his sin. Consequently, God is the great Disposer; that is, He is One Who has the Power and privilege to place in order and to arrange things as He pleases or wishes. He is the Mighty King; there is none greater than He. Only God fills His Throne.

And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth (Matthew 28:18).

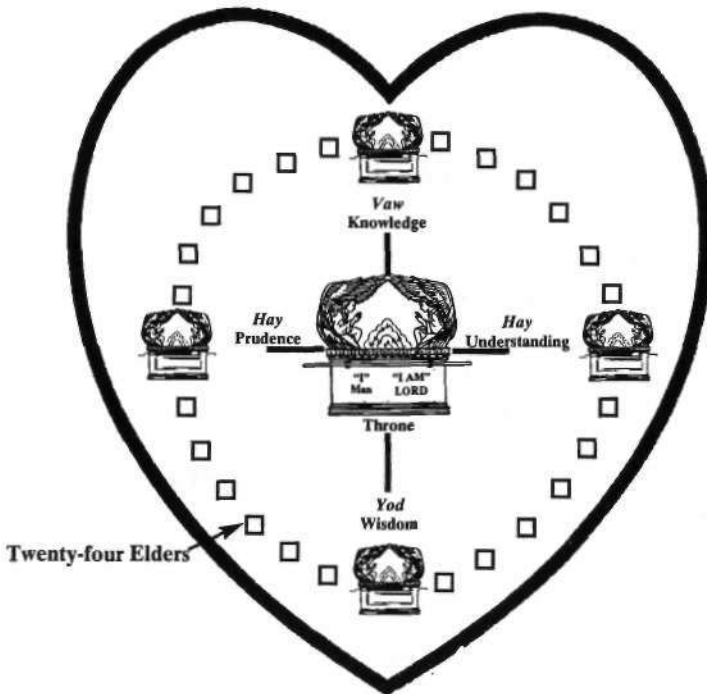
The LORD Jesus Christ is One with His Father's Omnipotent Power of Love to forgive all sins (Matthew 9:6).

# Chapter Two

## The Reason For Man's Existence

In the beginning, God created man with an inner Spiritual Kingdom like unto His Heavenly Kingdom. God desired that man's heart be filled with the same three realms of gratitude for the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and unified Name that is found in His Heavenly Kingdom.

God's Purposive Will for Man's Heart



In this booklet, when we examine the LORD's Throne and His Spiritual Kingdom in Heaven, we discover that not only did God create man with four capacities for gratitude, which relate to the four classes of redeemed people in Heaven and the Four Beasts who support the LORD's Throne in Heaven with their praise and gratitude, but He also created capacities within man's heart and will for these four degrees of praise and gratitude.

The Multitude, the Twenty-four Ruling Elders, the Four Beasts, and the Bride in God's Heavenly Kingdom express gratitude and praise for the multi-uniformity of the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and unified Name of Love as they support His Temple and His Throne. Through this Heavenly Witness, we can perceive and comprehend the LORD's Purposive Will and Master Plan for our own heart and will, as we view the four realms of praise and gratitude that support God's Temple and His Throne.

## **I. The Four Realms of Praise and Gratitude that Support God's Throne in Heaven**

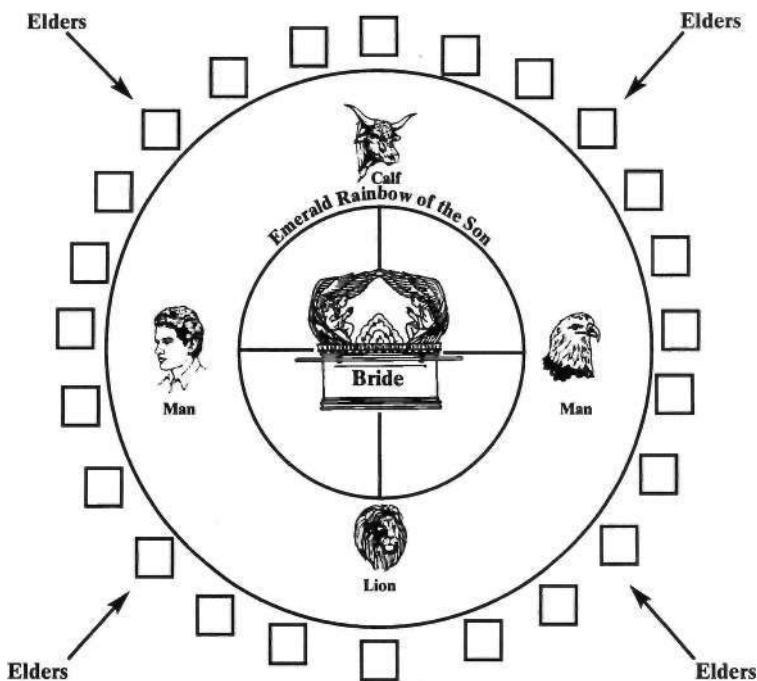
Through the LORD's arrangement and order of His Spiritual Kingdom in His Temple and the placement of His Throne, we can understand His Spiritual Kingdom of Love, Praise, and Gratitude that He desired to establish in Adam-male's and Adam-female's hearts and wills in the beginning.

The LORD's Name in His Temple and Throne in Heaven are supported by the ministries of four different groups: the redeemed Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ inside the Throne in the Holy of Holies;\* the redeemed Four Living Creatures or Beasts in the Holy of Holies; the redeemed Twenty-four Elders in the Holy Place; and the great Multitude in the Heavenly Courtyard, who continually offer up praise and gratitude to the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and unified Name.

\* For a detailed study of the Mosaic Tabernacle, which is a picture of the Heavenly Tabernacle, see: B. R. Hicks, *Precious Gem In The Tabernacle* (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l., Inc., 1961).

And immediately **I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven,** and *one* sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and ***there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald.*** And round about the throne *were* four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices; and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne *there was* a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, *were* four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast *was* like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:2-11).

(See drawing on following page.)



When God's Spirit caught the Apostle John into Heaven, John saw the LORD seated upon His Throne of Glory, Honour, Authority, and Judgment. He saw the Son of God's Rainbow Covenant round about the Throne, which was like unto an emerald stone for brightness and splendour. John heard the *voices* of the redeemed Bride *within* the Throne. He also saw the four redeemed Beasts or Living Creatures that appeared as a Lion, an Eagle, a Calf, and a Man; and he saw the redeemed Four and Twenty Elders who were round about the Throne and the great Multitude in the Courtyard. In their own special places, they all were offering up their praise and gratitude unto the LORD's Holy Name. The arrangement of the redeemed Bride *inside* the Throne and of the

redeemed Four Living Creatures (the Four Beasts) and of the redeemed Twenty-four Elders round about the Throne and of the Multitude in the Courtyard signifies the LORD's divine Order and Purposive Will concerning the Four realms of praise and gratitude that He has chosen for the support and upholding of His Heavenly Temple, His Throne, and His omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent, and unified Name of Love. The LORD's Name of Love and His Throne in His Temple in Heaven are ministered unto and worshipped by His grateful, redeemed creatures.

## II. Man's Corrupted Four Realms or Capacities for Praise to the LORD's Name of Love and His Throne

The LORD desires and demands that His Name of Love in our heart and will be ministered to and served by these same four realms of praise and gratitude. This is how and why we were created. Now that man has sinned and corrupted his four capacities for praise and worship, the LORD Jesus Christ, through His Redeeming Love, enables us to satisfy the desires and demands of His Heavenly Father by circumcising our heart and will of their four realms of ingratitude, as we give our heart and will to His circumcising Knife.

Jesus confirmed the Truth that, in the beginning, God created His Spiritual Kingdom within man's heart and will.

Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you (Luke 17:21).

But when man sinned against God, he corrupted God's Kingdom within his heart and will. Therefore, the LORD, as rightful Owner, Master, and King, was removed from the throne of man's heart and will. Sinful man put his corrupt, ungrateful "I" or *self* upon the throne of his heart and will in place of the LORD and His Purposive Will, although it is the LORD Who is man's rightful King. Man supports the stolen and corrupt kingdom in his

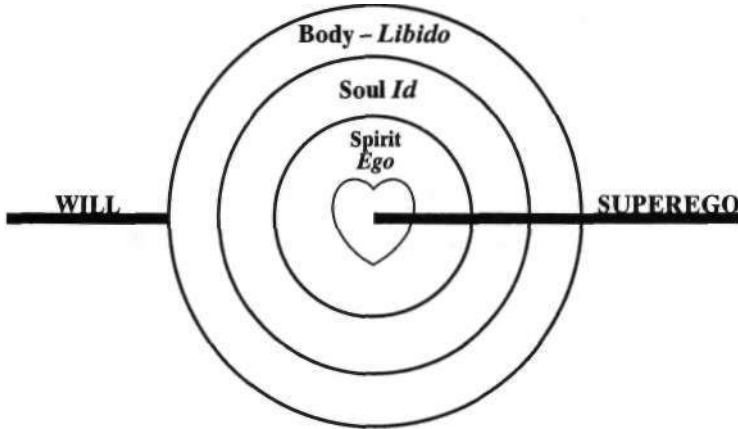
heart and will with the help of (1) his false bridegroom, fallen Lucifer, (2) his four corrupt, ungrateful beasts, (3) his twenty-four corrupt, ungrateful, idolatrous elders, and (4) the multitude of mundane things in his "courtyard." Man's king, the ungrateful "I," the four ungrateful beasts, the twenty-four ungrateful elders, and the multitude of earthly things in the "courtyard" of man's temple are corrupt; hence, Man needs the All-Powerful Name of the LORD Jesus Christ to circumcise or cut away the hate, darkness, and Death from his *lover* heart and will so that he can give God His rightful praise and gratitude.

Man's *self* (the "I,") the four beasts, the twenty-four elders, and the multitude in the courtyard, as it were, are corrupt as the result of man's passive and active disobedience to God's Word and the Holy, Righteous Name of the LORD. When man sinned, his rightful Owner, Master, and King was forced to abdicate from His position as the Ruler of His Kingdom within man's heart and will. In his disobedience to God's Will, man then usurped the LORD's place on the Throne in his heart and will. Once man was corrupted by sin, his ungrateful "I," the corrupt, ungrateful beasts or living creatures, the corrupt, ungrateful elders, and the corrupt multitude abandoned their support of the LORD God's Name of Love. So instead of the Father and Christ His Son, the True Image, remaining the True Ruler and King on the throne in man's heart and will, man made the choice, in his heart and will, for the false bridegroom, images, idols, and gods of hate, darkness and Death to be the cruel king of his being. The eternal Good News is that the LORD Jesus Christ has come to circumcise, to purify, and to cleanse man's heart and will so that all false images, idols, and gods of moral corruption can be cut out of his heart.

### III. The Four Realms of Man's Being

God created man with a will, spirit, soul and body, which are expressed in modern psychology as the *superego*, the *ego*, the *id*, and the *libido*. These four realms of man's being were created for

the expression of (1) his wishing mind or will (will or *superego*), (2) His worshipping mind (spirit or *ego*), (3) his waking mind (his soul or *id*), and (4) his working mind (his body or *libido*).



### **A. Man's *Superego* — His Will**

Man's will or *superego* has the power and authority within itself to wish, to choose, to desire, to long, to command, to decree, to purpose, to intend, to determine, to direct, and to control.

### **B. Man's *Ego* — His Spirit**

Man's spirit or *ego* is a Breath of Life from God, through which man can express his praise and gratitude to God for all things. The LORD put His absolute Spiritual Substance of Breath in man and called it *spirit*, upon which man can superimpose his spiritual experiences. Consequently, each day, a person writes upon his spirit with either his experiences of praise and gratitude or with his criticism and ingratitude. The *epistle* of man's spirit will

be an open book in the Day of Judgment, and it will either bear witness against him or for him, depending on how much he has allowed Jesus Christ to circumcise his heart in his spirit.

### **C. *Man's Id*— His Soul**

Man's soul or *id* is for communicating with and responding to the Creation round about him. It is the reservoir, round about, for the body or *libido*. The soul stores up instinctive energy of thoughts, feelings, and impulses of pleasure and pain from the body or *libido*. However, the LORD wishes to circumcise or cut away from us all immoral thoughts, feelings, and deeds of hate, darkness, and Death and, in their place, put His infinite Love and glorious Light and Life.

### **D. *Man's Libido* — His Body**

Man's outward, physical body or *libido* is one whole structure of natural material, but it also consists of inward Spiritual Substance. The body or *libido*, supplies the driving force behind human actions. It contains the urges and instincts of pleasure, pain, wantonness, and lust. Christ desires to sanctify and cleanse our bodies so that He can present them to His Heavenly Father as living sacrifices to praise and to thank Him for the unspeakable Gift of His Son, the LORD Jesus Christ.

Since sinful man has clothed himself with the corruption of the *superego* (the "I" of his will); his *ego* (the four living creatures in his *spirit*); His *id* (the twenty-four elders with their immoral, false images, idols, and gods in his *soul*), he continually struggles, strives, and wars against the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name. Man's sinful "I" contends violently against God's omnipotent Power of Love, Light, Life to retain its immoral independence of hate, darkness, and Death. Man's immoral spirit, like four great beasts, fights hard to overcome the LORD's convicting, convincing Holy Spirit of omniscient, all-knowing Love. Man's immoral soul is continually engaged in active hostility toward God, as it wars as twenty-four military commanders

against the LORD's omnipresent Love and His Master Plan for man's soul, which is for it to be a servant to bear the LORD's Holy Name.

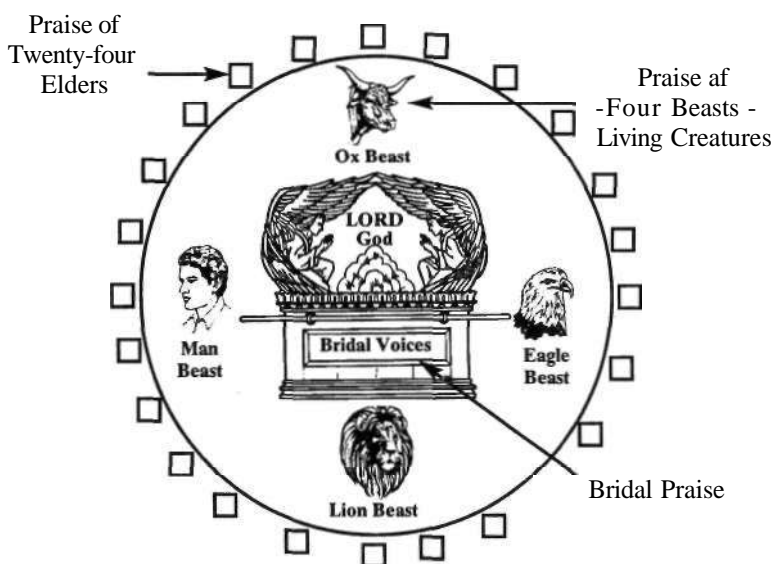
In a vain effort to hold onto his false ownership, mastership, and kingship, sinful man continually resists and rebels against God and His Son, the True Owner, Master, and King. Thus, corrupt man completely ignores the Truth that God is the Eternal Cause of all things and that His Only Begotten Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, is the Eternal Redemptive Effect of all things. Sinful man forgets that he has been bought with the price of Christ's Blood and that he is to glorify the LORD's Holy Name in praise and gratitude in his body, soul, spirit, and will.

The LORD intended that man's will or "I," his *superego*, be joined to His Holy Purposive Will in Jesus Christ, the Tree of Life. When man's will is filled with the LORD's living Purposive Will to make His All-Presence, All-Knowing, All-Powerful, and Prudent Name of Love known, it becomes an exceeding great joy to praise His Holy Name, both in adversity and prosperity.

# Chapter Three

## The Three Classes Of Praise And Gratitude In The Holy Place And The Holy Of Holies In The Heavenly Temple

God's Word reveals the order of praise and gratitude that is given in God's Heavenly Temple. From our earlier diagram, we saw that the Twenty-four Elders had reached the Holy Place in spiritual growth and that the Four Living Creatures and the Bride had attained mature Spiritual Stature, which gave them the privilege of being in the Holy of Holies. Thus, the praises of these three groups of people filled the Holy Place and the Holy of Holies.



And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunders and voices: and *there were* seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God (Revelation 4:5).

And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great (Revelation 19:5).

The Bride's praises and gratitude to the LORD's All-Present, All-Knowing, All-Powerful, and Unified Name of Love were accompanied by the LORD's Lightning that bore witness that the Bride had praised and thanked the LORD in her earthly journey for all the situations He had used to separate her unto Himself.

The individual voices of the Bride were also accompanied by Thunder that bore witness to her many personal, individual experiences of Union with Jesus Christ in His Word and Spirit as she grew up into His Full Stature during her earthly journey.

The unified voice of the Bride bore witness of the voice of her individual *unity* with the *Oneness* of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Each individual in Christ's Bride will have this unified voice. Hence, they all will be able to join in *one* voice to the One LORD God on the Throne!

## II. The Four Beast's Praises and Thanksgiving

John also saw the Four Beasts or Living Creatures giving praise and thanksgiving for the Spiritual Stature they had acquired, although their Stature was not equivalent to the Bride's Stature.

And the four beasts had each of them six wings about *him*; and *they were* full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which

was, and is, and is to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, (Revelation 4:8,9).

### III. The Twenty-four Elders' Praise

The Twenty-four Elders also were giving praise and thanksgiving to the LORD for the Spiritual Stature they had acquired during their earthly journey.

The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:10,11).

The Twenty-four Elders will express, to all God's Creation, their praise and gratitude for the LORD's *omnipresent* Love in His Name. In order to educate all people and lead them ultimately to bow their knees and confess with their tongues that Jesus Christ is LORD (Philippians 2:10,11), the Four Beasts or Four Living Creatures will express their praises and gratitude for the LORD's *omnipresent* Love, His *omniscient*, all-knowing Understanding Love, His omnipotent Knowledge of His Love, and His unified, Prudent Love.

The Bride in the Throne will express her gratitude and praise for the LORD's unified Voice of one, omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent Name of Love and the Prudent choice of His Name of Love that has united her human will with His divine Will so that she can be One with the One LORD. It was to this end that Jesus prayed for His twelve Disciples.

And the glory which thou gavest me I have given them; that they may be one, even as we are one: I in them, and

**thou in me, that they may be made perfect in one;** and that the world may know that thou hast sent me, and hast loved them, as thou hast loved me (John 17:22,23).

What a reward to be one with the LORD's Purposive Will in Love, Mercy, Truth, and Faithfulness! All these expressions of praise and gratitude for the LORD's Name of Love, His Loving Kindness or Mercy, Truth, and Faithfulness will be enjoyed in all the Universes.

God is Love! His Loving Kindness is expressed in His infinity of Actions of Love that give us *all things* in Jesus Christ and that satisfy all our longings and desires. The LORD's Mercy is the expression of His generosity of Love, which drives back the punishment we deserve, and the Faithfulness of the LORD's Name is the expression of the constancy of His Love; consequently, **the LORD's sole purpose for man's existence was, is, and shall be to praise and thank the LORD's Omnipresent, Omniscient, and Omnipotent and Unified Name of Love. In his heart and will, every man is to give the LORD praise and thanksgiving for all things. This is God's Perfect Will for man in everything.**

**Pray without ceasing. In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you** (I Thessalonians 5:17,18).

We must, in everything, give thanks to the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Trinity Name of Love and to the Unified Oneness of His Name of Love through Christ Jesus. The Father, the LORD God, is the Eternal Cause of all things, and the Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, is the Redemptive Effect of all things. Consequently, the Father and the Son deserve and merit our praise, gratitude, and thanksgiving in everything. If we pray without ceasing, we shall be praising and thanking Him for all things. We shall be grateful to Him in adversity, as well as in prosperity, since the LORD Jesus Christ and His Salvation is the same

in all things. The intrinsic excellence of the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name of Love demands our praise and gratitude in every adversity, as well as in every instance of prosperity. If we have our natural and spiritual Breath of Life, which has proceeded from the Eternal Cause and the Eternal Redemptive Effect, we have every reason to be grateful and thankful unto the Name of the LORD God and the LORD Jesus Christ.

# Chapter Four

## The Spiritual Circumcision Of Man's *Lover Heart*

The general Multitude in the Heavenly Temple in Eternity will praise and thank God, by gift, for their Salvation. But we have the opportunity, while here on Earth, to surpass this group and give God a greater level of praise by working to attain greater growth in the Spiritual Stature of Christ Jesus. In order to progress in our spiritual growth unto the measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Jesus Christ, we must circumcise our *lover heart* on the *outside* and, then, allow Jesus Christ to circumcise our *lover heart* on the *inside*.

For example, the believers who have only the spiritual experiences found in the Courtyard of the Mosaic Tabernacle are a great Multitude in the Heavenly Temple.

And after these things I heard a great voice of much people in heaven, saying, Alleluia; Salvation, and glory, and honour, and power, unto the Lord our God: For true and righteous *are* his judgments: for he hath judged the great whore, which did corrupt the earth with her fornication, and hath avenged the blood of his servants at her hand... And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth (Revelation 19:1,2,6).

The concert of Heavenly music by the Multitude, who are saved people from the Earth, is *large* and *loud*, like the voice of many waters and like mighty thunders.

It is obvious that the Twenty-four Elders were closer to God's Throne because of their growth in Spiritual Stature. The Four Beasts were still closer to God's Throne than the Twenty-four Elders, and the Bride was closer yet, being *inside* the Throne with her Spiritual Husband, the Lamb of God.

God created man's heart as the very center or hub of the wheel of his being in his spirit realm. God intended for man's heart or hub, with its shaft or will, to be joined to His Will, which was to be the controlling center of his being. Therefore, man would have had good thoughts, good feelings, good words, and good works forever. However, after man fell into the pit of sin, his will and heart became totally depraved and wicked, so his heart now produces only evil thoughts, evil emotions, evil words, and evil works.

The heart *is* deceitful above all *things*, and desperately wicked: who can know it? I the LORD search the heart, I try the reins, even to give every man according to his ways, *and* according to the fruit of his doings (Jeremiah 17:9,10).

For from within, out of the heart of men, proceed evil thoughts, adulteries, fornications, murders, Thefts, covetousness, wickedness, deceit, lasciviousness, an evil eye, blasphemy, pride, foolishness: All these evil things come from within, and defile the man (Mark 7:21-23).

These verses declare the doctrine of the total depravity of man's heart and the doctrine of reward and punishment. We are not aware of the depravity in our own sinful heart until God, through Jesus Christ, in His All-Present Love, All-Knowing Love, All-Powerful Love, and All-Prudent Love reveals it to us. When we repent of the sin and guilt in our deceitful heart and will, Christ rewards us with His cleansing, healing, and Forgiveness, If we permit Jesus Christ to circumcise or cut away the foreskin of hate, darkness, and Death from around our old heart, we will receive His

glorious Love, Light, and Life into our heart that will allow us to see all the smallest, unChristlike thoughts, feelings, and attitudes in our heart that need to be rooted out and cast down. If we allow our old heart to remain obstinate and stubborn against the conviction of the Holy Spirit, the LORD Jesus Christ will chastise and correct us, according to the evil fruit of our thoughts, feelings, and attitudes that produce evil deeds. The evil fruit of man's doings is the effect of a cause, which is the sin in his heart.

The LORD Jesus Christ came to Earth and died on the Cross to cleanse and free us from sin. He was buried, and on the third day, He arose again to take away sin from our deceitful heart and to heal us. The LORD Jesus Christ forgives sin in man's heart when man chooses to repent and to turn to Him. The LORD Jesus Christ is the Way, the Truth, and the Life; through Him, we can return to God as the rightful Owner, Master, and King and allow Him to rule and reign on the throne of our heart. Christ Jesus prepares the Way for us to return to His Father and for Him to return to us as our Heavenly Father. By cleansing our penitent heart from sin, and by circumcising our heart from our ungrateful, corrupt spirit (*ego*) and our will (*superego*), the LORD creates room in our old heart and will for Christ's New Heart and Will to grow. Then, the false images of the ingratitude that have corrupted our Twenty-four Elders, our Four Beasts or Living Creatures, and our "I" will be removed; thus, Christ's Love, Light, and Life will be left in our heart to give ceaseless praise and gratitude to the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, omnipotent Name of Love. To God be all the Glory!

As a man reckons or thinks within his heart, so he feels and does, according to whether his thoughts are good or evil.

For as he thinketh in his heart, so is he: Eat and drink, saith he to thee; but his heart is not with thee (Proverbs 23:7).

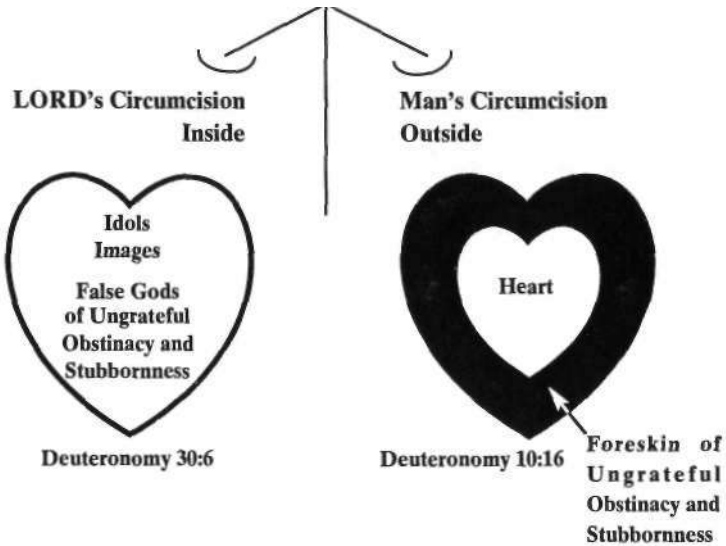
A generous host gives willingly and generously to his guest, not calculating what it costs him. But, according to this verse, a

miserly, stingy host begrudges every bit of food his guests eat, although he was the one who outwardly extended a sweet, cordial invitation to his guests. This verse contains God's instructive Wisdom to show us that we need to search out the secret thoughts and feelings in our heart so that we can repent of them. For example, when we invite Jesus to come and feed on our table of praise and gratitude that we give in order to make His Name Known, let us not *secretly* begrudge the time and energy we expend, or we will be like the miserly host who resents having to entertain anyone other than himself.

When Jesus Christ cleanses and circumcises a host's heart from the false images of ingratitude and greed, his heart is filled with Christ's Love and Generosity. Consequently, the circumcised heart gives gratefully, willingly, and selflessly to Christ and His Kingdom, without calculating the cost of time, energy, and money. But the miserly heart that is filled with the false images of ingratitude, greed, and selfishness counts everything he does for Jesus and forgets all that Jesus has done for Him! Hence, he resists and rebels against the LORD's Headship in His Kingdom because he considers it to be unjust and unfair, esteeming himself worth more than the LORD is rewarding him. Let us not extend a cordial invitation to Jesus to eat and drink heartily at our table of time, energy, and possessions and, then, allow our miserly old heart always to be thinking, worrying, and calculating what it costs us. Let us think in praise and gratitude for what it cost Him at the Cross to give us the eternal privilege to share with Him what He has given us,

God desires to circumcise and cut away the wicked and deceitful images, idols, and gods of ingratitude in our heart. The obstinacy and stubbornness dwelling within His people's hearts coerce them to be greedy and miserly. First, the LORD asks His people to circumcise away the foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness that surround their old hearts like a thick barrier so that Christ's Seeds of Light and Truth can then enter into their hearts.

The LORD desires that His people's old hearts be clean within and without.



First, as believers, we must choose to use Christ's Grace to cut off, from without, the foreskin of ungrateful obstinacy and stubbornness from our heart so that we can grow in our spiritual education and moral development. Then, Jesus Christ's Stature will grow in our heart and change it so that we can be filled with His generous, unselfish, and liberal Love, as we share with others our righteous deeds in our moral development.

After we have circumcised our heart of the obstinacy and stubbornness from *without*, by Christ's Mercy, we must sincerely seek the LORD and beseech Him, by His Grace, to circumcise or to cut out the many ungrateful idols, images, gods, and forms of obstinacy and stubbornness from *within* our heart. As believers, we must experience circumcision without and within our old heart in order for us to grow in our spiritual education and so that we can practice the Spiritual Principles we have learned in our moral development. Our temples must be built upon the Gifts of Christ Jesus' Foundation of Blood, Fire, and Water. We must build with the Gold of Christ's Wisdom, the Silver of His Redemptive Understanding, and the Precious Stones of

His Humility Knowledge. Thus, by using Christ's Gold, Silver, and Precious Stones, our good works or Spiritual Building will endure God's Judgment Fire. Our Foundation must be Christ Jesus' Gift of Salvation, and our spiritual growth or Spiritual Temple must be in the True Image of the LORD Jesus Christ. Hence, our Foundation and our works must bear Jesus Christ's True Image!

The LORD demands that, to begin our good works, we first circumcise the foreskin of our ungrateful obstinacy and stubbornness.

In the Book of Deuteronomy, we find God's command to circumcise our own heart.

Circumcise therefore the foreskin of your heart, and be no more stiffnecked (Deuteronomy 10:16).

Through Moses, the LORD besought Israel to circumcise the foreskins of their innermost hearts and no longer stiffen their necks. The Hebrew word for stiff is *kaw-sheh*, meaning to be severe, grievous, cruel, hard, heavy, impudent, obstinate, stubborn, to prevail, sorrow, rough, and trouble. Being *stiffnecked* is the same as being obstinate and stubborn.

By freewill choice, and by Christ Jesus' Grace, God's people can cut away the foreskins of ungrateful obstinacy and stubbornness that outwardly surround their hearts. By their outward circumcision, they prepare their hearts for God's inward circumcision. Through the Prophet Jeremiah, God besought Israel to circumcise the foreskins of their hearts in order to remove the hard, unrestrained, superfluous growth of obstinacy and stubbornness that prevented them from hearing, seeing, and feeling the Truth of God's Word.

The corrupt foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness around the heart is the product of an ungrateful attitude, a fixed will, and a resolute opinion that makes one determined neither to be shaken at all by the conviction of God's Spirit nor influenced by the reproofs of God's Word concerning the deceitful desires and pleasurable lusts of the heart.

Our obstinate and stubborn foreskin consists of a firm adherence to our ungrateful attitudes that results in our refusal to remember all the former blessings of God's Spirit and Word. A stubborn foreskin causes us to maintain a will that is fixed in its own purposes and plans and that never yields to the truthful persuasion of God's Spirit and Word. Entrenched in its own carnal opinion, an obstinate and stubborn foreskin refuses to yield either to the truthful arguments of God's Word or to the spiritual influences of God's servants, the Prophets.

Filled with the persistence of its own evil desires, an obstinate and stubborn foreskin refuses all remedy and treatment that can be had through Christ's Love, Light, and Life. A stubborn heart always resists the remedies available through the remedial measures of Christ's Redemptive Will, Revelation Will, and Satisfying Will.

God has given His people the responsibility of choosing to make their hearts obedient to Him by circumcising or cutting away the obstinate and stubborn foreskins around the outside of their old hearts that cause them to hate Christ's Love, Light, and Life. Consequently, the obedient believer who prepares his old heart outwardly will also experience the LORD's circumcising of his old heart inwardly, which will make room for Christ's Stature of Truth to grow to spiritual maturity in his heart.

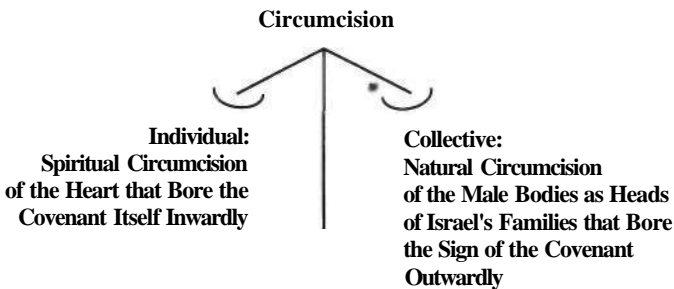
It is our duty to choose to assume our responsibility to do away with the foreskin of the intractability and insubordination of our old heart outwardly, thus bringing our conscious feelings and desires under God's Mastership and Ownership. By our choosing to cut off our stubbornness and self-willed obstinacy, we demonstrate to God that we are submitting to Him as our Owner and Master.

When we free ourselves from *without* of the obstinacy and stubbornness of our self-will that has stolen God's Ownership and Mastership, the LORD God, the rightful Owner and Master, comes to circumcise and to cut out the hidden idols, images, and gods *within* our hearts.

Jeremiah the Prophet pleaded earnestly with the people of his day to take away the obstinate foreskins of their hearts.

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

The Hebrew root word for *foreskin* is *aw-rale*, which means to strip, to uncover, to undress, to remove the covering, to refrain from using. God's Spirit in Jeremiah earnestly urged the people to circumcise their old hearts by willingly removing the hard covering of obstinacy and stubbornness that had overgrown their hearts because their stiff necks had prevented the Light of His *Torah-Truth* from entering into their old hearts. The hardness of their hearts had prevented them from being influenced by the glorious exhortations of God's Word that declared the True LORD God as the great "I AM." God's Word denounced all idols and images as false gods, yet their hard foreskins did not allow the LORD's Light of Truth an entrance into their old hearts, so He could not circumcise their old hearts from within. God required Israel's *men*, as heads of their families, to circumcise their physical bodies as a token of his Covenant with them. But God required both the *men* and *women* in *all* Israel to circumcise their old hearts as individual, spiritual demonstrations of their personal acceptance of the spiritual circumcision of the LORD God's omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Name.



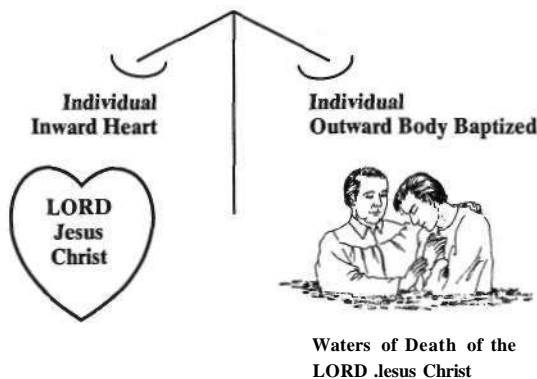
In the natural realm, circumcision consists of the cutting off of the outward, superfluous flesh of the male organ of generation. This natural condition pictures the corrupt foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness that surrounds our old heart that each one of us has inherited from Adam the Erst. We are born with this corrupt foreskin because we are conceived in sin and born in sin (Psalm 51:5, Psalm 58:3). The sinful foreskin of our old heart must be cut away.

### **I. Natural Circumcision—The Sign of Israel's Covenant with God**

In order to picture the severance from nature's defilement to a state of consecrated fellowship and Union with Him, God commanded His people to practice natural circumcision. Natural circumcision signified Israel's collective taking on of the sign of God's Covenant with them, outwardly, through the males who were destined to be the heads Israel's families.

### **II. Spiritual Circumcision — A Separation from All Worldly Images, Idols, and Gods, Without and Within the Heart**

Today, when individual believers enter into Water Baptism in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ, this is the outward sign of their inner Covenant of Circumcision of the Heart.



Under the Old Covenant of Circumcision, only the male children were physically circumcised as collective representatives of the Nation of Israel, but each individual, both male and female, were commanded to circumcise their spiritual *hearts* outwardly, in order to allow the LORD God to circumcise their old hearts inwardly. Under the New Covenant of Circumcision, each individual believer, both male and female, is commanded to be baptized in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ as an outward sign of spiritual circumcision, and each individual is also commanded to allow Jesus Christ to circumcise or crucify the obstinacy and stubbornness within his old heart. This is why God's Word calls it a "circumcision made without hands in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh," not merely the foreskin. Christ desires to circumcise, by the Power of His Holy Name, the whole heart, with its fleshly nature of sin.

In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ (Colossians 2:11).

For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither *is that* circumcision, which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision *is that* of the heart, in the spirit, *and* not in the letter; whose praise *is* not of men, but of God (Romans 2:28,29).

True circumcision is not that which is outward, in the flesh; fleshly circumcision alone can never change the evil nature of fallen man's old heart. Therefore, we are not to trust our spiritual circumcision to be accomplished through the outward circumcision of our flesh nor the ordinances of the letter. Rather, we are to trust, rest, and lean upon the Faith, Grace, and Power of the Mighty Name of the LORD Jesus Christ! His inward circumcision of the old heart is what makes us acceptable to God. It is the infinite, divine Grace of the LORD Jesus Christ that makes us acceptable to God, not the outward circumcision that has been performed by finite human hands.

To the praise of the glory of his grace, wherein he hath made us accepted in the beloved (Ephesians 1:6).

Jesus is not only the Beloved of His Father (Matthew 3:17), but also of the Angels and the saints. It is our eternal privilege to be accepted by the Father for Jesus Christ's sake. Jesus has loved us and has assumed the responsibility of circumcising our old heart through His Redemption and Remission of sins. All our spiritual blessings, including spiritual circumcision of the old heart, have been dearly bought and paid for by Jesus Christ and His precious Blood.

However, God's circumcision, both naturally and spiritually under the Old and the New Covenants, was and is a notable mark that distinguishes God's people from all worldly images, idols, and gods — from without and from within — and that separates man unto the LORD as His peculiar treasure. By circumcising man's heart, God causes it to become obedient, tractable, and docile.

The Apostle James encouraged the saints of his day to cut off the foreskins of their flesh, called filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness.

Wherefore lay apart all filthiness and superfluity of naughtiness, and receive with meekness the engrafted word, which is able to save your souls (James 1:21).

The foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness is a filthy thing that causes a person to be morally filthy and foul in his attitudes and dispositions and in his ungrateful thoughts, feelings, and actions. As believers in Christ, we need to be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. God desires that we be cleansed from our moral pollution, defilements, and impurities through the LORD Jesus Christ's Blood, Fire, and Water. God also urged His people, the Israelites, to repent of their disobedience and reform their ways, when they failed to circumcise their hearts, "lest My fury come forth like fire."

Like Israel, we can choose to be obedient to the LORD and receive the blessings of His Holy Fire and become a living sacrifice that is a sweet smelling savour unto the LORD, or we can choose to

be disobedient to the LORD and receive the Judgment of His fiery Fury and become a sacrifice that is a stinking savour in His Nostrils because of the evil of our doings.

We should dread God's fiery Fury more than we dread being restrained from our evil ways. Remember, the unrepented evil of our doings kindles God's fiery Fury against us. We have the power, privilege, and command, by God's Grace, to repent and to circumcise the foreskin of our heart.

God told Israel that He would continue to circumcise their old hearts until they, as a nation, could love Him with all their hearts and souls.

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

The LORD God assured Israel that when He had finished her circumcision as a nation, her whole heart and soul would be absorbed in Love of Him and His Light and Life in His *Torah-Truth*.

### **III. God's Will for the Circumcised Heart To Be Filled with Christ's Word of Truth**

Once we allow the LORD to circumcise our old heart, He will fill our cleansed heart with the Stature of His Word of Truth so that Christ's Love, light, and Life become one with our life: then, we can truly make His Name known. Just as our breath is an indispensable part of our natural life, we discover, through Christ's circumcision, that the Love, Light, and Life of God's Word is our very Spiritual Breath; it is an indispensable part of our spiritual life.

To seek the Life of Christ's Revealed Word through study and prayer is a daily essential for the newly circumcised heart. The wonderful feeling of Christ's living awareness, consciousness, and nearness of His precious *Torah* makes us seek Him daily for the cutting away of any and all foreign intrusions. After our old heart has been circumcised outwardly and

inwardly, our cleansed heart makes us truly realize that, indeed, we do not live by bread alone, but by every Word that proceedeth out of the Mouth of God. The Living Revealed Word of God causes our whole heart and soul to be absorbed in love of Him and for Him.

God demands complete obedience, both active and passive, from the cleansed heart and soul. This obedience can be accomplished only because of the infinite Principle of God's divine Love that is manifested through His Mercy, Grace, and Goodness. Our old heart must be emptied of all false images, idols, and gods so that God's Love can completely fill it; then, we can love Him with all our heart and all our soul! Once our love is all-consuming, we will be constrained to obey the LORD, actively and willingly, from all parts of our heart and from all the senses of our soul. God requires all of our heart and all of our soul for Himself and for His Good Pleasure. For this purpose, we were created. Remember, God is a jealous God; therefore, He will not compete with false images, idols, and gods in our old heart.

The LORD Jesus Christ has given us His All-Sufficient Grace that empowers us with His divine, resurrected Strength so that we can cut away the outward foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness from our old heart, if we choose to do so. Then, by His Grace, He also will circumcise our old heart inwardly. God desires to fill our old heart with His Word of Love from within so that He can shed abroad His Love from our heart to God and to others. God freely gives Circumcising Grace to all who seek it in sincerity and Truth. Only through the circumcising of our old heart can we be empowered to love the LORD our God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength or might (Mark 12:30).

#### **IV. The Power of God's Word to Keep a Newly Circumcised Heart**

After God fills our old heart with His Truth and Love, He also strengthens us to fulfill our duty in loving Him continually, in obeying His Word, and in doing His Will by giving thanks in everything and by sharing His Love, light, and life with our neighbor. If we safeguard God's precious Word in our circumcised heart, we will not sin against the LORD.

Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee (Psalm 119:11).

After we have circumcised our heart outwardly and after God has circumcised our heart inwardly, we must hide His Word of Truth in our heart. If we diligently study the LORD's Word, we will not forget the precious Treasures of Truth that we have learned. Hence, we will not err and sin against the LORD. Lucifer's evil power in our flesh will have no power to harm our heart and to lead astray the heart and soul that are filled with God's Holy Word.

If we treasure the LORD's Spiritual Principles of Truth in His Word, with which He has surrounded us without, and with which He has filled our heart, within, during our spiritual education, we will not sin against Him by failing to allow His living Word of Love within our circumcised heart to be put into practice in our moral development. God's Word in our heart is our secret Sword to use against all enemies that rise up against us. It is our ready weapon in our spiritual warfare.

# Chapter Five

## God's Reproof And Correction For The Uncircumcised Heart

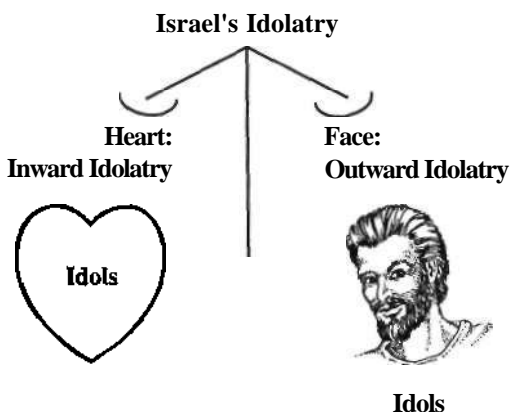
God forbids the presence of all false images, idols, and gods in our heart, and He also offers to circumcise or cut them out when we do discover their existence.

God rebuked Israel over and over again, both for her inward idolatry of heart that caused her to delight secretly in false images, idols, and gods, and for her outward, idolatrous eyes that looked toward false images, idols, and gods instead of toward the One True LORD God.

When the Israelites failed to circumcise the foreskins of their hearts outwardly, they prevented God from circumcising their hearts inwardly. Therefore, Israel's heart, as a nation, remained obstinate and stubborn, both outwardly and inwardly.

And they that escape of you shall remember me among the nations whither they shall be carried captives, because I am broken with their whorish heart, which hath departed from me, and with their eyes, which go a whoring after their idols: and they shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations (Ezekiel 6:9).

With her idolatrous heart, Israel sinned inwardly against God. And with the idolatrous eyes of her face, she sinned outwardly against God.



God's Heart had been broken and grieved by Israel's whorish heart and straying face or lustful eyes. God likened Israel's idolatrous heart and lustful eyes to that of a whorish woman who has prostituted her body and who has debauched herself by adulterous and fornicating acts that are a result of her idolatrous heart and lustful eyes, God considers man's choice for idolatry as spiritual whoredom, when man chooses to worship false images, idols, and man-made gods, in preference to worshipping Him.

Raising his voice in dauntless courage, Hosea, God's fearless and selfless Prophet, denounced, in flaming words of Truth, Israel's spiritual whoredom, lawlessness, violence, and forgetfulness of the One and Only True God.

They will not frame their doings to turn unto their God:  
 for the spirit of whoredoms *is* in the midst of them, and  
 they have not known the LORD (Hosea 5:4).

When Israel turned from her LORD God to false idols, she sank deeper and deeper into the vileness of idolatrous practices until she lost all thought and desire to return to Him. So Israel sank into the hatred, darkness, and Death of spiritual ignorance and knew not the LORD God as her True Owner and Master.

Israel's slavery to her filthy images, idols, and gods brought agony, grief, and pain to God's Holy Heart, so He cast her out of the land into exile among the idolatrous heathen so that she could learn reproof and correction, and, therefore, return to the True LORD.

Likewise, when a believer's heart departs from the LORD Jesus Christ, the True Image, and he follows his eyes that lust for false images, idols, and gods of this world, it brings great anguish, sorrow, and brokenness to Christ's Heart and to God's Holy Spirit.

God faithfully sends reproof and correction to His erring ones and ultimately brings their obstinate and stubborn hearts and straying eyes to a place of loathing and sobbing over their disgusting deeds of inward and outward idolatry.

Man cannot enjoy the idolatry of his heart and eyes and expect to have joy and satisfaction with the LORD God at the same time. The LORD will not stay in man's heart and compete with false gods — one or the other must go.

Son of man, these men have set up their idols in their heart, and put the stumblingblock of their iniquity before their face: should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Every man of the house of Israel that setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to the multitude of his idols; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me through their idols. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Repent, and turn *yourselves* from your idols; and turn away your faces from all your abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, and setteth up his idols in his heart, and putteth the stumblingblock of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him

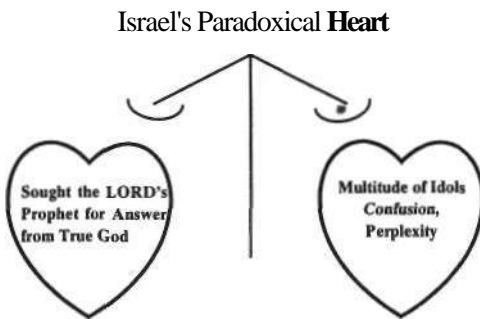
concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and ye shall know that I *am* the LORD (Ezekiel 14:3-8).

When, in her heart, Israel embraced the pagan ideas and images of the heathen, she followed their magical spells and divinations in the land, which became stumbling blocks of sin before her face and caused her to lose her spiritual relationship with the One True LORD God.

Israel willfully placed these ideas, idols, and images in her heart and mind with the intention of serving them; consequently, they caused the eyes of her face to lust after the iniquitous Death and darkness of their dastardly deeds.

Israel idolatrous obstinacy and her lustful eyes caused her to stray from the LORD as her Owner and Master. Thus, in their hearts and in their eyes, they secretly and openly longed for and lusted to join in the heathen's idolatrous worship. When Israel's heart remained uncircumcised, she constantly viewed earthly idols and images as gods to be feared instead of fearing the True LORD God in Heaven.

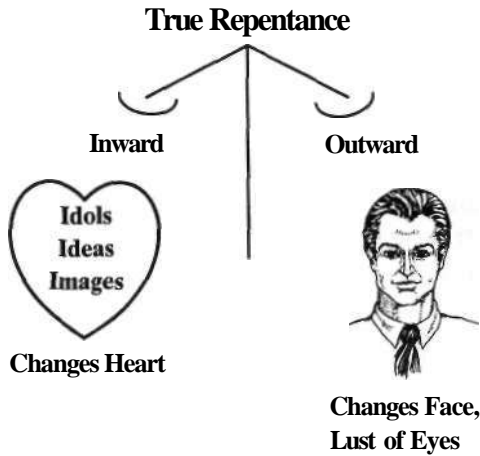
On one side of the Scales, Israel's paradoxical heart was filled with the multitude of her idols, while on the other side of the Scales, she went to the Prophet for an answer from the One True God so that, in her confusion and perplexity, she could be guided by Him.



Israel displayed her unparalleled impudence before God's Face by giving the love, loyalty, and worship of her heart to idols, on one side, and by returning to the LORD's Prophets, on the other side, because, in her confusion and perplexity, she hoped to receive an answer from Him. God's answer to idolatrous Israel was according to the Truth that He already had given her in His *Torah*, where He had forbidden idolatry and where He had warned of the punishment or retribution that would overwhelm the disobedient.

In the midst of Israel's whorish condition, both naturally and spiritually, the LORD besought her to abandon the pagan ideas and images of her heart, forsake the lust of the eyes of her face, and return to Him. God desired that Israel repent completely over the sins of her heart and the sins of her face.

Likewise, God desires that we, too, return to Him in complete repentance concerning the sins of our heart and of our face.



When Israel did not circumcise her heart from without nor allow God to circumcise her heart from within, God placed her in the same class of degeneration as the heathen nations round about.

Egypt, and Judah, and Edom, and the children of Ammon, and Moab, and all *that are* in the utmost corners, that dwell in the wilderness: for **all *these nations are uncircumcised, and all the house of Israel are uncircumcised in the heart*** (Jeremiah 9:26).

When the heart is uncircumcised, the foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness prevents the Light of Understanding from entering into the heart. If man voluntarily chooses to take away the foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness from his heart, the LORD will come and circumcise his heart from all inward idolatry and ingratitude. Man may tenaciously cleave to his foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness, now, but in Eternity, God shall circumcise man's heart and force him, by Hrs Breath of Fire, to give up his idolatry and ingratitude. It will be God's Hot Breath that eventually will kindle the Lake of Fire. God will not stop cutting away sin from the human heart until every knee bows and every tongue confesses that Jesus Christ is LORD, to the Glory of God the Father (Philippians 2:9-11).

Just as during the Millennial Reign, the LORD Jesus Christ will circumcise the idolatry from the hearts of the Gentile Nations and Israel, the LORD God will also circumcise all hearts in the Lake of Fire, regardless of whether or not they give him their consent. This should give us great comfort, now, to know that He which has begun His work of circumcision in us will perform it unto the day of Christ.

May the LORD quicken to your heart the wonderful Truth in this lesson regarding the Omnipresence or Wisdom, the Omniscience or Understanding, and the Omnipotence or Knowledge of the LORD's Name of Love (which are learned through the first three letters of the LORD's Tetragrammaton Name — the *yod, hay, vaw* — on the Trinitarian side of God); and may He quicken the Truth of the Unified Prudence of the LORD's Name of Love (which is learned in the second *hay* or in the total Oneness of the Godhead) so that your heart and will can be joined as One with the LORD's Name of Love in the New City.

Thank God for the LORD's Spiritual Circumcision of our *lover* heart and will since this is the road to the LORD's Name of Love in all its Unsearchable Infinity!