

**God's Threefold Witness to Abram
That He and His Seed
Would Inherit Canaan's Land**

B. R. Hicks

Printed in the United States of America

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter		Page
	Introduction	3
One	The Witness of the Blood Sacrifice and the Word ..	13
Two	The Witness of the Smoking Furnace.	39
Three	The Witness of the Burning Lamp.	44

INTRODUCTION

It is easy when we first start walking with the LORD Jesus Christ to embrace His precious promises which He has revealed to us in His Word. However after we have walked in the way for a while and after we have had our minds battered by our own carnal reasoning and the carnal reasoning of others, we sometimes feel the need for some visible sign that will enable us to know beyond a doubt that God's promises are true and that it is possible for us to possess experientially what God has given to us by promise.

God is mindful of our human frailties and human needs, and He is abundant in mercy. He will give us not just one sign or witness that His Words of promise are true; He will give us three. Because God is a threefold Being, He always works by a threefold witness. In other words, the fullness of the Godhead is always present in the works which God does. God allows man to work by two or three witnesses, but when He, Himself, works, He always gives a threefold witness: 1) the Word witness, 2) the Spirit witness, and 3) the Works or Glory witness.

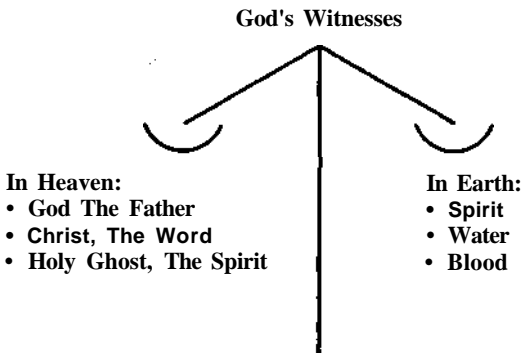
A witness means an attestation of a fact or an event; that which furnishes evidence or proof; one who knows or sees anything; one who is personally present and sees anything; one who sees an instrument and subscribes it for the purpose of confirming its authenticity by his testimony; one who signs his name as evidence of the genuineness of the signature of another. A witness also means to foretell, to presage, to foretoken.

Thus, God is a threefold witness, both in heaven and in earth. He is one, yet He is three. God is three, yet He is one. These two statements present no conflict, for the Word of God clearly reveals

that God is one, and yet He separates Himself into three persons: the Father, the Word (Christ), and the Holy Ghost.

For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one (1 John 5:7,8).

God has a threefold witness in heaven, and He has a threefold witness on earth.



Let us look first at the **threefold witness of the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost.**

GOD'S THREEFOLD WITNESS IN HEAVEN

1. God the Father is a living witness in heaven. He is the first to bear witness of His own Master Plan and Purposive Will that consisted of begetting His only begotten Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, to be the Creator and Redeemer of all creation.

2. Christ, the Word, the Son of God, is the second living witness in heaven Who also bears witness to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will. He came forth from the Father, created all things, came to earth and died on the Cross, rose from the dead, and is

exalted back to His rightful position at the Father's right hand to redeem all things.

3. The Holy Ghost, the Spirit of Truth, is the third living witness in heaven Who bears witness to the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. The Holy Ghost bears witness that the Father begot His Master Plan and Purposive Will and that the Son has implemented and is implementing His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Now let us look at the threefold witness on earth of the Spirit, the Water, and the Blood.

THE THREEFOLD WITNESS ON EARTH

1. The living Spirit of Truth from the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost bears witness in the earth. The Spirit of the Word bears witness with His light of truth to every soul that is born into this world.

He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that Light. That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world (John 1:8,9).

John the Baptist was a "star" that pointed men to Christ, just **as** the star guided the wise men to Him at His birth. But the Spirit of light from Christ, the Sun of righteousness, is the infinite, divine, true light that shines into the conscience of every man, making him to feel the difference between right and wrong.

The Spirit of the Father draws the souls of men to Christ Jesus, His Redeemer-Son.

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: and I will raise him up at the last day (John 6:44).

It is the Father's Spirit that works His drawing grace upon man's will, persuading man's will by bringing him to a willingness in his will to come to God's beloved, only begotten Son.

2. The Water of the Word, the Christ, is the second witness in the earth. Christ's gospel is the vessel of living water that bears life to all that hear and receive, as did the Samaritan woman.

Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. The woman saith unto him, Sir, give me this water, that I thirst not, neither come hither to draw (John 4:13-15).

Jesus Christ witnessed to the Samaritan woman, telling her that the water of His gospel was far superior to the water from Jacob's well. Like any other natural water, the water from Jacob's well quenches present thirst; however, thirst soon returns, and in a few hours a person's need and desire for water will be just as great. Conversely, souls that partake of the water of Christ's everlasting gospel know the eternal supply of satisfaction and comfort. How comforting it is to drink of the truth that Christ is the LORD and Saviour of mankind!

3. Christ's Blood, which was shed on the Cross and which was resurrected on the third day, is the third witness in the earth. The first epistle of the Apostle Peter reveals that we are saved through Christ's precious blood.

Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (I Peter 1:18,19).

Christ's blood is the only substance provided by the Father as a sacrifice and as a redemptive price for man's sins. Christ's blood is the blood of God's innocent Lamb, without spot and without blemish.

The Apostle John was another who bore witness of the saving power of Christ's blood.

And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood (Revelation 1:5).

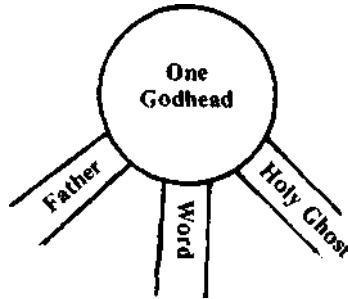
And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book, and to open the seals thereof: for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation (Revelation 5:9).

Sin leaves its stain of guilt and pollution upon the spirit and soul. Nothing but Christ's blood can cleanse out this stain. Christ was willing to die and to give His own blood to obtain man's purchase, pardon, and purity.

The blood of Jesus Christ has redeemed mankind from the bondage of Satan, sin, and guilt, and has redeemed him to God so that in liberty man can serve Him.

God is invisible, divine, and spiritual; fallen man is earth bound, carnally minded, and spiritually blind. Consequently, it is necessary for God, in His infinite mercy and grace, to separate Himself as Father, Son, and Holy Ghost in heaven in order to reveal Himself and to meet man's needs. God the Son condescended to come down in flesh and to manifest Himself to man in a way that man could perceive and, therefore, come to know Him. It is possible for man to comprehend Who God is through the Saviour and the Mediator, the LORD Jesus Christ.

God Is *One*; God Is Three
(He Is One In His Infinite Godhead;
He Is Three In His Manifestation To Man)



God gives a threefold witness for the purpose of establishing a testimony and giving evidence concerning His nature and His power as it is revealed through His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ.

The experience of Abram (or Abraham as he was called later in his life) is a good example of God's working by a threefold witness. God recorded the Old Testament Scriptures not merely as a historical account of the ancient people of Israel, but also for the spiritual growth and admonition of all believers. God's Old Testament Scriptures bear witness of His immutable faithfulness and almighty ability to always fulfill His promises. God's Word teaches us that *all* Scripture is profitable.

All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness (II Timothy 3:16).

All of God's Word is excellent because it is given by His almighty, divine inspiration, which we may depend upon as being infallibly true. The same almighty Spirit that has breathed reason into us can also breath revelation into us. God's Holy Word came from a holy God through holy men, giving us holy laws, testimonies, precepts statutes, commandments, judgments, and covenants to make us holy and to lead us in the way of holy happiness.

All Scripture is profitable, including every word in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. We know, then, that **the** principles of truth about God's threefold witness to Abram are profitable for us today. As we study in the subsequent chapters of this book about the principles that God revealed to Abram through the threefold witness, we will be gaining wisdom and understanding that we need to implement in order to inherit the spiritual Canaan's land that the LORD has promised to us in His Holy Word.

—The Author

Chapter One

THE WITNESS OF THE BLOOD SACRIFICE AND THE WORD

All Scripture is profitable, including every word in both the Old Testament and the New Testament. Hence we know that the principles of truth about God's threefold witness to Abram are profitable for us today.

In obedience to the LORD's command, Abram left his country, his kindred, and his father's house and went into the land of Canaan. When the patriot was in Sichem in the plain of Moreh, the LORD appeared to him and said, "Unto thy seed will I give this land:..." (Genesis 12:7). But after time had passed and Abram still had received no seed from the LORD, he went to inquire of the LORD concerning his childless state.

God gave to Abram a threefold witness to confirm His promise that Abram's seed would, indeed, inherit Canaan's land. This witness was manifested in the following manner: 1.) The blood sacrifice, signifying Christ, the Word; 2.) The smoking furnace, signifying the Holy Ghost; and 3.) the burning lamp, signifying the glory of the Father

And Abram said. Lord GOD, what wilt thou give me, seeing I go childless, and the steward of my house is this Eliezer of Damascus? And Abram said, Behold, to me thou hast given no seed: and, lo, one born in my house is mine heir. And, behold, the word of the LORD came unto him, saying, This shall not be thine heir; but he that shall come forth out of thine own bowels

shall be thine heir. And he brought him forth abroad, and said. Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him. So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the LORD; and he counted it to him for righteousness. And he said unto him, I am the LORD that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And he said, Lord GOD, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? (Genesis 15:2-8).

God assured Abram that he would have a son, a seed that would come forth from his own loins, and that through his son he would receive numerous offspring. Then the LORD reminded Abram that He is the sovereign LORD of all the earth. He had preserved Abram's life by delivering him from the fire of his idolatrous persecutors in the land of the Chaldeans. Therefore, the almighty LORD is quite capable of preserving Abram's life by delivering him from the cold barrenness of Sarah's womb. God had brought Abram out of Ur of the Chaldees, and He had promised this land to him and to his seed for their inheritance, but Abram asked for a sign or witness, saying, "Whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it?"

Abram's desire for a witness or a sign concerning his inheritance proceeded not from distrust of God's power or promise, but from a desire to strengthen and confirm his own faith. Abram was so concerned about obtaining the promised land that he sought a further witness from God. He also asked for a witness in order that God's promise could be ratified to his posterity so that they, in turn, might be brought to a holy confidence in God's promises.

To confirm the surety of His promises to Abram, God gave Abram a threefold witness of blood, a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp. Earthly Canaan's land is a picture of God's heavenly Canaan's land or promised land. Therefore, since it was important for Abram to have a threefold witness concerning his inheritance of natural Canaan's land, it is also important for us to have a threefold witness concerning our inheritance of heavenly Canaan's land. We

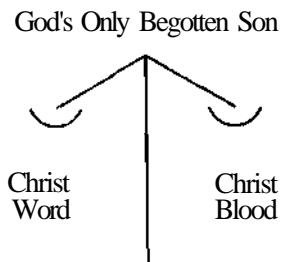
should seek the witness of God's Word, Spirit, and Glory in our hearts and lives as a confirmation concerning our heavenly inheritance.

God first commanded Abram to make preparation for a sacrifice which was to be the beginning of the threefold sign or witness of the surety of His promises.

The three signs or witnesses that God gave to Abram on earth were something that he could feel as well as see. The four classes of blood sacrifices that God commanded Abram to offer were pictures of the blood of Christ the LORD.

Christ the Word poured out His blood on Calvary's Cross so that we can have the very life of the Word. Therefore, the more we take on Christ's blood in repentance, the more His life enters into the promises of His Word. Through His precious blood, His promises stand up alive and strong in our heart. When we take on the covenant of blood through Jesus Christ the Word, then the Holy Ghost (as a smoking furnace) and the Father (as a burning lamp) will quickly join the sacrifice of the Son.

God joined His Word to Abram's sacrifice of blood, picturing the redemption that is in the blood of Christ the Word.



The blood of Christ the Word redeems us and brings us nigh to God.

But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (I Peter 1:19).

But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ (Ephesians 2:13).

God beholds the proud afar off, but those who come to the blood of Christ are made nigh to God through Christ's blood and Christ's Word.

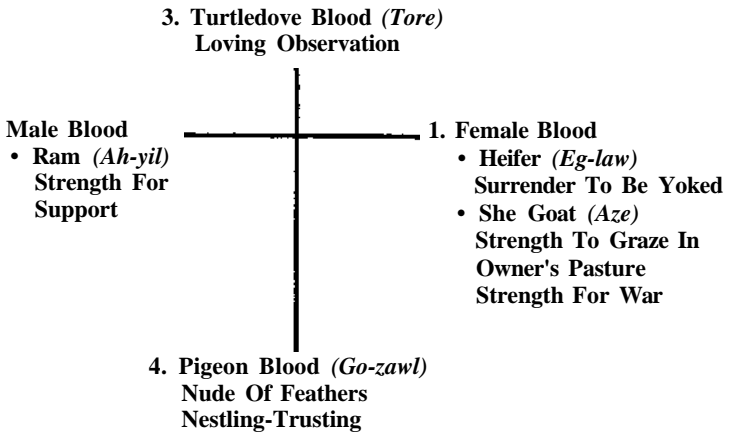
God's first witness to Abram was the witness of His Son. The blood sacrifice, which was joined to God's Word, was a picture of God's only begotten Son.

A. THE WITNESS OF THE BLOOD SACRIFICE

The blood sacrifices that God told Abram to offer were pictures of the sacrificial life and death of Jesus Christ, the living Word in flesh.

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 turtle dove, 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 (Genesis 15:9,10).

The four different classes of blood formed a cross of blood.



After Abram had offered his cross of blood, it was his responsibility to guard his sacrifice from the swooping birds of prey until the sacrifice was joined to the smoking furnace and the burning lamp. God gave Abram a fourfold sacrifice of blood which was a witness of His protection from the overhanging dangers of wretchedness during Israel's future generations of slavery in Egypt. Thus, God's first witness to Abram guaranteed that Abram's seed would live and possess the land.

Through these sacrifices, God made Abram to know that he must start with the blood in order to inherit the land which He had promised him. Abram and his seed also had to have the blood sacrifices in order to drive out the enemies in Canaan's land.

The ten enemies that are named in natural Canaan's land (Genesis 15:18-21) were pictures of the fleshly enemies that must be driven out of our heart, through the powerful workings of the blood of Jesus Christ, in order for us to inherit God's spiritual Canaan's land. These enemies are listed below:

- Kenites - meaning wailing, mourning
- Kenizzites - meaning hunters
- Kadmonites - meaning projected
- Hittites - meaning terror
- Perizzites - meaning open country, unrestrained
- Rephaims - meaning house of giants
- Amorites - meaning to boast, proud
- Canaanites - meaning humiliation, peddler
- Girgashites - meaning to live in clay, dirt
- Jebusites - meaning loathe, pollute

The different animals that God told Abram to take and to offer their blood as sacrifices represented the omnipotent blood of the LORD Jesus Christ.

God's command to Abram for his blood sacrifice began with the feminine blood of the heifer.

1. Female Blood Offerings

The first of the female blood offerings was that of the heifer, the *eg-law* blood.

a. Heifer - Three Years Old

Notice that God specified the blood of a mature heifer which had surrendered to come under the yoke of works and activity. The heifer belonged to the cattle family which is made up of animals that actively worked in the service of their masters.

The heifer blood represented Christ's blood which is able to help His people to surrender to God's Purposive Will and to put on the yoke of usefulness in active work. Christ's blood helps us to surrender and to put on the yoke of usefulness as God's servants in His kingdom. Christ's *Torah* blood gives us the power of action in our moral development.

God blessed the heifer blood of the shadow and type so that it enabled Israel to work actively as slaves in the service of their masters until they had grown as a nation and were ready to go and possess the promised land.

Later, the heifer offering was used in the Mosaic Tabernacle for purification from sin. However, many years before God revealed the blueprints of the Old Testament Tabernacle to Moses, He had revealed to Abram the power of the heifer blood to purify the soul from sin. Thus, by appropriating by faith the heifer blood, Abram and his seed had power to be purified from the sin of rebellion against working and being useful in God's kingdom. Therefore, they inherited the promised land.

The blood of Jesus Christ is still a marvelous witness to us today! In Jesus Christ there is a mature female blood of purification which, if we personally appropriate it by faith, has power to cleanse us from the sinful "enemies" of rebellion in our land, our flesh.

The enemies in natural Canaan's land are pictures of our rebellious attitudes and dispositions which refuse to come under the

yoke of restraint of God's moral law in order do the kind of righteous works that please Him. God desires to drive out these enemies of our flesh so we can grow up into the full stature of Christ Jesus and lay hold of our full inheritance in Him.

The heifer blood of Christ helps us to bend our neck to the yoke of His moral law and become active servants to our LORD and Master.

This brings us to the second aspect of the female blood—the she goat blood—which God commanded Abram to offer.

b. She Goat Blood

The Hebrew word for *goat* is *aze*, meaning to be hard, firm, and strong. The she goat "belongs to the flock of sheep and goats which are pastoral animals. Frequently, the general relationship between people and nations and God is described by the metaphorical terms such as sheep, goats, and the Shepherd. God is the great Shepherd; people and nations are the sheep and goats. The she goat blood provided strength for the offerer to graze, by faith, in the pasture of God's Word.

God is the Owner of the sheep and the goats; therefore. He has a lawful right to say where they will graze in His Word. He sent Israel to graze on His Word in the land of Egypt until Israel grew and multiplied into a nation. The she goat blood that Abram offered by God's command assured him and his seed of the strength to graze in God's provided pasture until they grew unto maturity as a nation.

The she goat blood was a picture of Christ, the Wisdom of God, and His precious blood which strengthens us to graze in God's Word regardless of the places or situations in which God, the Owner, has placed us. The she goat blood also provided strength for Abram and his seed to submit to God, the true Owner, but to war against all strangers.

In the natural realm, the goat (*aze*) is tame and tractable toward its owner and master, but it uses its horns to war against any

stranger. Thus, the goat is the purest characterization of firm and strong resistance. The goat is firm, faithful, and immovable in following the commands of its master and owner. It is strong in the power of resistance and warfare against all words of strangers. The goat is deaf to all external and internal enticements, listening only for the voice of its master and its owner.

The she goat blood gave Abram and his seed the powerful strength to turn a deaf ear to all idolatrous voices of strangers and to war against them, both in Canaan's land and in Egypt. The she goat blood was a witness to Abram and his small seed that they would have firmness and strength to war and to resist all idolatrous strangers in Canaan's land and in Egypt.

The she goat blood is a wonderful picture of Christ's wisdom-blood which strengthens us to war and to resist all other voices and words of idolatrous strangers. Christ's wisdom-blood strengthens us to turn a deaf ear to all external and internal enticements and *to* choose against all idolatrous thoughts from others and from our own carnal flesh. The wisdom-blood of Christ empowers us to remain true to Him as our LORD, our Owner, and our Master.

Thus, God commanded Abram to offer the blood of a mature she goat, three years old, as a witness of His power and strength to keep him and his seed in idolatrous lands until they became a mighty nation that He could use to possess Canaan's land.

God was very careful in the Old Testament to paint a perfect picture of the blood of Jesus Christ. If the she goat, the shadow and type, was as powerful in the Old Testament, then much greater and more powerful is Christ's blood, the fulfillment in the New Testament! God made it known to Abram that if he would inherit the land he must do so through the she goat. The female aspect of the she goat represented subjection to God, as the Owner and Master. Christ Jesus, our she goat, was in perfect submission and subjection to His Father as His Owner and Master. Therefore, if Abram and his seed were to possess Canaan's land by warring and driving out the enemies, they must have both the female blood of subjection to bring him completely under God's headship, and they

must have female blood of strong resistance and determination to continue on their long journey with God until they obtained God's promises to them.

Likewise, we must practice the same principle today. We need Christ's female blood of subjection to bring us under His headship. We also need the strength and firmness of His precious female blood of determination to cleanse us from all weakness and discouragement. Through the powerful strength and resistance of Christ's she goat blood, we can fight the good fight of faith, driving out of our hearts and lives all the false gods, idols, and strangers in the land—all the "ites" of wailing, the complainers, the hunters of criticism, the projected self-exalters, the terrorizers, the unrestrained ones, the bullying giants, the proud boasters, the humiliating peddlers, the lovers of dirt and clay, and the hateful polluters of our flesh—until we possess the full stature of Jesus Christ and our spiritual Canaan's land.

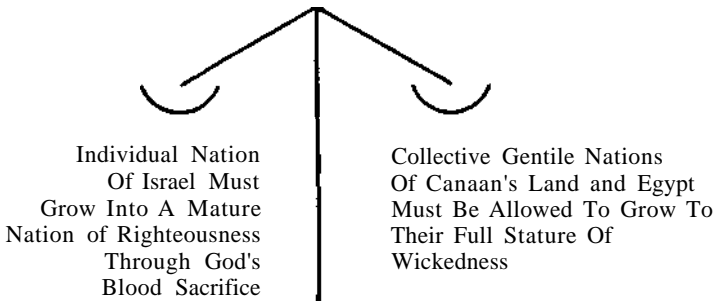
This brings us to the second class of blood that God commanded Abram to offer—the male blood of a ram.

2. Male Blood Offering

The Hebrew word for *yam* is *ah-yil*, meaning strength for support. *Ah-yil* is the name of a strong ram or buck because of the strength of his horns. *Ah-yil* also is used as a name for mighty, foremost men, the nobles of the land (II Kings 24:15). Since the Hebrew word *ah-yil* is used as the characterization of a great man of property, *ah-yil* was the most typically used animal in offerings where expiation for sins was sought in relation to property, position, and privilege.

God has an appointed time in His Master Plan for all things. His appointed time for us, individually, in His Master Plan is also connected, collectively, to others in His Master Plan. Likewise, God's Master Plan for Israel as an individual nation was connected to the collective Gentile nations of Canaan's land and of Egypt.

God's Master Plan Connected

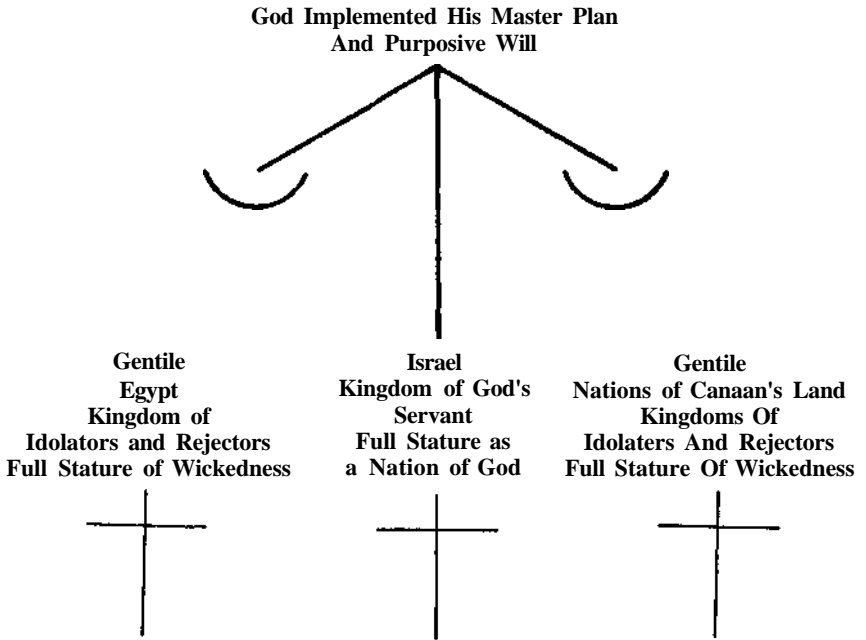


First God placed Abram and his seed in Canaan's land as aliens and strangers to be a witness to all the Gentile nations in it that the LORD is the true Creator, Owner, and Master of all mankind. After these nations rejected the true witness of Abram and his seed, God sent Abram's seed to Egypt to be a true witness there of the LORD God, the Creator, Owner, and Master, while the Gentile nations in Canaan's land were left to their moral degeneration. Therefore, when the inhabitants of Canaan's land reached the utmost depths of moral degeneration, God imposed the death sentence upon them by bringing Israel up out of Egypt to kill them and to possess the land.

God did not bring Israel up to kill the Gentile nations in Canaan's land until they had ripened in their luxurious wantonness and moral degeneration. While the heathen nations in Canaan's land were ripening toward their condemned generation, the nation of Israel was growing and maturing in her humility as a nation in the midst of her poverty, slavery, bondage, and wretchedness.

The tiny, humble nation was a true witness of the LORD God in the midst of the ever-prospering good fortunes of the nation of Egypt. The nation of Egypt not only rejected Israel's true witness of the LORD, but Pharaoh and the Egyptians also rejected the mission and the message of the LORD God's servants, Moses and Aaron, and the visible display of the LORD God's almighty power which was manifested through His wonders and miracles. Therefore, when the Gentile nations in Canaan's land had filled up their cup of

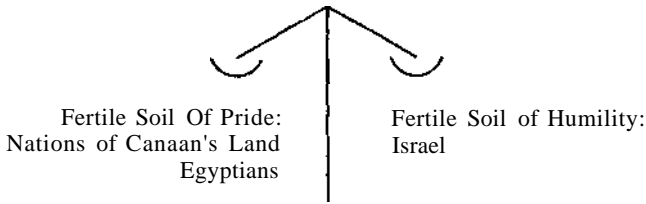
iniquity by growing to full stature of wickedness, and when Egypt had grown to her full stature of wickedness, and when Israel—as aliens, slaves, maltreated, without a homeland, freedom or power of resistance for 400 years—grew up as a nation, God began implementing His Master Plan upon three nations.



Subsequently, God could not allow Israel to possess Canaan's land until she grew to maturity as a nation in the fertile soil of humility and until the other Gentile nations matured in their wickedness in the fertile soil of pride.

The sins of God's noble people, as possessors of great spiritual possessions, power, and privilege, are the sinful thoughts and feelings that they are worthy of more. When they compare their fertile soil of humility—as aliens, slaves, without homeland, freedom, or power of resistance—to the fertile soil of pride of their enemies, they feel that God is unfair.

God's Children Compare



But when we consider the difference in the end between the soil of pride and the soil of humility, it is easy to accept the male ram's blood of Christ to cleanse us from sinful, accusing thoughts that we have had in the beginning against God and against our spiritual possessions, power, and privilege.

Beginning	Israel	End	
Way Of Soil Of Humility			
Aliens, Slaves, Maltreated			Life
No Freedom			God's Servants
No Homeland			Freedom
Wretchedness			Homeland
			Happiness
Beginning	Gentile Nations	End	
Way of Soil Of Pride			
			Death
			Destruction
			Bondage
			Sorrow
			Wretchedness

In the beginning, our carnal mind points out the fact that with all our spiritual powers, privilege, and possessions, we should be kings ruling in Canaan's land, not slaves planted in the soil of humility in some lowly Egyptian village, as it were. However, the male ram's blood of Christ will cleanse us and support us so that we can remain planted in the fertile soil of humility in the situations and circumstances of life until God's Master Plan has prepared all things for our transplanting into spiritual Canaan's land.

Now, we can understand why God told Abram to offer the male blood of the mature ram. The male ram's blood was a witness of God's support of life while Israel was maturing as a nation. In the Old Testament the ram was offered as a peace offering. Thus, God made Abram to understand that if he and his seed were going to mature and to inherit the land they must have the blood of consecration and peace in order to remain planted in the fertile soil of humility until God's appointed day of transplanting in Canaan's land.

What a glorious day it was when God gave to Abram the fourfold witness of the blood, assuring him that through the blood he and his seed would possess the promised land! Without the support of the cleansing, consecrating power of the male ram's blood, Abram and his seed could never have possessed the land; but with this blood, nothing could prevent them from inheriting God's promised land. Hallelujah!

So it is with us today. With the support of Christ's precious, male ram's blood of cleansing, consecration, and peace, nothing can prevent us from going on for the LORD and laying hold of the mark of the prize of His moral high calling. What a precious promise! What a powerful blood witness!

3. Turtledove Blood

The Hebrew word for *turtledove* is *tore*, meaning a ringdove, a term of endearment; it comes from the root word *toor*, meaning to go about as a merchant, to spy out, to search out, explore, investigate, to purpose, and abundance.

God made Abram to know that it was not enough for him and his seed to have the female blood of the heifer and the she goat and the male blood of the ram; they must also have the blood of the turtledove bird in order to inherit the land.

The dove and the pigeon are in contrast to birds of prey that have beaks and claws to use as tools for defense and weapons for aggression. The turtledove is a living creature without power and

strength of beak and claws to resist man's power and violence. However, through the strength of the turtledove's wings and its upward flight, it is able to escape from man's sinful realm of power and violence. This shy fugitive, whose free existence is constantly threatened by man's nets and snares, escapes by its loving observation and by its soaring flight. Through the turtledove's loving observation of man's nets and snares and by the use of the strength of its wings, it is able to soar above to a freedom of existence, happiness, and protection.

The turtledove, a migrating bird whose return heralds also the return of the spring season (Song of Solomon 2:12), pictures the person of Christ Jesus Who was stripped of all worldly power and positions and just enjoyed bare existence in this world, and yet He escaped from the bonds of death, hell, and the grave, regaining His fresh, free life by the glory of His Father. By His upward flight, He returned to His Father's right hand, the place of fresh, free existence.

Likewise, when our free existence is threatened by the merciless, violent nets and snares of the enemy, we can escape, through Christ's turtledove blood, and soar upward to be seated in the heavenlies with Christ (Colossians 3:1-3).

The turtledove blood was a witness and an assurance to Abram and his seed that it would give them power to soar above all of man's destructive nets and violent snares to where they could experience the freedom of existence, happiness, and oneness of relationship with God in Canaan's land. Beloved, we do not need to use the beak and claws of the flesh to fight for happiness and freedom of existence; we need only Christ's turtledove blood that will help us soar upward into spiritual freedom, happiness, and oneness of relationship with God and the Lamb.

The turtledove blood of the LORD Jesus Christ gives us loving observation to see the nets, snares, and pitfalls of the enemy, and it gives us the wings of strength to soar above them into a happy, free existence.

When Abram and his seed laid hold of this blood by faith, it was a witness that nothing could prevent them from inheriting the land because they would have the power to soar above all hindering obstacles. The turtledove was a sure witness and a sure sign of Israel's return to his inheritance in Canaan's land.

When, by faith, we lay hold of the turtledove blood of love in Jesus Christ, it will wash out all other loves of people, places, and things, and help us to soar above them to the Bridegroom's love, our full inheritance in the LORD Jesus Christ. When, by faith, we lay hold of Christ's love blood, it will wash away all our bitterness and unforgiveness that prevent us from soaring upward to free and happy existence in Christ and to a full possession of Canaan's land.

This brings us to the fourth class of blood, the pigeon blood, that God gave to Abram and his seed as a witness of His promise that they would inherit Canaan's land.

4. Pigeon Blood Offering

The Hebrew word for *pigeon* here is *go-zawl*, meaning a nestling, a fledging, as a bird nude of feathers. *Go-zawl* is a nestling, a young bird in the nest that still requires the care and protection of the mother and father birds. *Go-zawl* refers to young birds in the nest from the day they hatch in the nudity to the day they grow feathers and are taken out of the nest by their parents.

Because the *go-zawl* pictured perfect, child-like trust in the parents for care, protection, food, and instructions on how to fly, God compared the newly born nation of Israel to a *go-zawl* bird.

As an eagle stirreth up her nest, fluttereth over her young (*go-zawl*), 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 (Deuteronomy 32: 11,12).

An eagle does not bear its young aloft while the baby bird is sleeping or in a passive condition. First, the mature eagle stirs up the

nest. Then, with tender, loving care, the parent spreads its wings above the nestling (the *go-zawl*), inviting the nestling to make a courageous choice to fly up and to rest on its waiting, outspread wings. The nestling must freely, consciously, and bravely make its own decision to trust its parent and to trust itself to the new, upward flight into the heights. The nestling, {*go-zawl*}, must fly up out of the nest by itself and set itself upon the wings of its parent. Before the parent can teach the nestling the art of flying, the nestling must completely trust itself and its safety to the care and protection of its parent.

Likewise, when Israel was still a tiny, newly born nestling living in Egypt, God first awakened them to freely and consciously trust themselves to His care, protection, and guidance. Israel's conscious, free-willed trust in the LORD God's governance and guidance was the beginning condition of her whole future governance and nestling trust in the LORD God that would make Israel worthy, fit, and suitable to inherit the promised land.

God has given to the nestling in the natural realm an innate trust in its parent so that when it sees the outstretched wings of its parent above it, the little nestling is filled with courage to leave the firm, warm, secure nest and trust itself to its parent's upward flight and soaring guidance in the isolating heights above.

Mankind everywhere are "nestlings" that feel secure and comfortable in their nest that has been built out of the greatness of human power and human intelligence. They cannot envision leaving their nest of human greatness and imagined security for an upward flight that leads into unknown realms. Yet, there are some hearts that find Christ's pigeon blood of complete trust which gives them courage to sacrifice the warm human nest to fly upward to the wings of the Holy Ghost dove, trusting themselves to His soaring guidance in the isolating heavenly heights. Christ's pigeon blood strengthens us with courage to deny ourselves the security of our earthly nests and to fly upward to God's moral, lofty heights.

It takes Christ's pigeon blood of trust to wash away doubts and fears which prevent us from soaring upward to our moral high

calling. It is a glorious and great moment when the believer, by faith, gives himself over to the almighty wings of the one unique Holy Ghost. It is a day of freedom and happiness when the pigeon blood of Christ and the Word of Christ imparts to the believer firm, rock-like trust in God's guidance.

God's Purposive Will in allowing Israel to wander in the wilderness was to awaken her, to educate her, and to train her to exercise complete trust in God's care, protection, and guidance. The uplifting, soaring power of the eagle separates its nestlings from their earthly nest, bearing them up into the isolating, heavenly heights above.

Likewise, God separates His people from all earthly powers and union when they choose to fly up in trust to His divine wings, bearing them up to the heights of His moral high calling in Christ Jesus.

God gave Abram and his seed the pigeon blood as a witness that they would inherit Canaan's land. If the pigeon blood under the type and shadow had power to separate Israel from all the nations in Canaan's land and Egypt and to bring her to the heights of God's moral high calling as His wife with the *Torah* in Canaan's land, certainly, then, the pigeon blood of Christ, under the new covenant, possesses even greater power to separate us from all strangers, to fill our hearts and minds with His *Torah*, and to bring us to the heights of His moral high calling as His Bride!

While we cannot save ourselves from the evil plots and plan of our enemies round about, we can, without carnal power and weapons, save our spiritual life by constantly drinking of Christ's pigeon blood by faith and by choosing to fly upward to the wings of the Holy Ghost, trusting ourselves to His soaring guidance in the isolating moral heights.

When a priest was consecrated for service in the Tabernacle, the blood was placed upon his right thumb, his right ear, and the great toe of his right foot. These different kinds and applications of blood in the natural realm are significant and meaningful because they are all pictures that show us the different degrees or uses of the

blood of the LORD Jesus Christ. Praise the wonderful Name of the LORD for the witness of the blood!

In our daily lives we need to learn to apply the blood of Jesus Christ generally and particularly. For example, we can apply the blood generally by praying, "LORD, sanctify me afresh and anew with Your precious blood." Immediately, then, we can feel the pleasing omnipresence of the blood of Jesus Christ overshadowing us. Sometimes, however, we need to be more specific about applying the blood. When we are aware of a particular conviction of wrong or need, we should apply the blood by faith to the particular need or wrong. For example, we should pray, "LORD, I have sinned with my tongue; I have said this and that. Please forgive me for the ugliness of my disposition and attitude; redeem me for Your great Name's sake." In so doing, we can lay the specific matter before the LORD and separate that certain portion of the blood of Jesus, whether it be the blood of the heifer, the she goat, the ram, the turtledove, or the pigeon and, by faith, place it on the particular thing we need. Thus, through the workings of the blood of Jesus Christ, we can possess spiritual Canaan's land.

God used Abram's experience to demonstrate to us how God's Word always comes to us after the blood sacrifice has been made. After Abram made the blood sacrifice, the LORD's Word came to him. God's Purposive Will always joins the blood and the Word. God joined Christ, the Word, to Jesus, the Lamb, Who had the spotless blood.

After placing his blood sacrifices on the altar, Abram had to protect them from the birds of prey until God's Word came to Him.

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 (Genesis 15:11,12).

Abram miraculously drove away the unclean birds before he received God's Word. The Hebrew word for *drove* is *naw-shab*,

meaning to blow. Just imagine what miraculous degree of blowing Abram had to do in order to drive away these unclean birds of prey.

These birds are a picture of the Devil's birds or spirits that we, through the breath of prayer in Jesus' Name, must rebuke and drive away from our sacrifices until Christ brings the light of truth to us. When, by faith, we lay hold of Christ's sacrifice before the LORD, we can be sure that the Devil's birds will come to try to destroy and to defile our sacrifices of consecration to the LORD. Even after we have, by faith, applied Jesus Christ's blood before the LORD, we must go to battle, pressing back the powers of darkness that try to devour our sacrifice before God's Word comes to us. But if we hold steady and rebuke the powers of darkness (the unclean birds) in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ, God's Word will come to us with new illumination and fresh revelation, as it did to Abram.

After Abram had offered the blood sacrifices upon his altar, God's Word came to him, showing him the circumstances in which his seed must be placed before they could inherit the land.

Thus far in this chapter, we have seen God's fourfold witness of blood that He gave to Abram and his seed to confirm His promises to them that they would inherit Canaan's land. The female blood of the heifer was for surrender to bear the yoke; the female blood of the she goat was for strength to graze in the owner's pasture and for strength to war. The male blood of the ram was for support until Abram's seed possessed the land. The turtledove blood with its loving observation and strength was to help them escape the nets and snares of the enemy by soaring upward into the heights of fresh, free existence alone with God in Canaan's land. The strength of the pigeon blood was to impart complete trust in God's soaring guidance until they reached Canaan's land.

B. THE WITNESS OF THE WORD

When the sun was going down, the LORD caused a deep sleep, a divine ecstasy, to fall upon Abram so that Abram might be separated from all natural things and so that he might be wholly

taken up with God's prophetic Word that was about to be given. The wisdom of God's witness to Abram gave him the truth that "now is." Abram must know that his promised seed that would inherit the promised land would be persecuted.

God's Word bore witness to Abram that before his seed should reign over Canaan's land they must suffer in Egypt. Before Israel could be exalted and honoured as "lords" over Canaan's land, they must be slaves in Egypt. God witnessed to Abram and his seed about the humility that was to come before honour and exaltation. Therefore, Abram's seed should not be surprised when the humility suffering came.

This spiritual principle is clearly expressed in other places in the Word of God. The wise man in the Book of Proverbs, for example, was one who declared this principle.

The fear of the LORD is the instruction of wisdom; and *before honour is humility* (Proverbs 15:33).

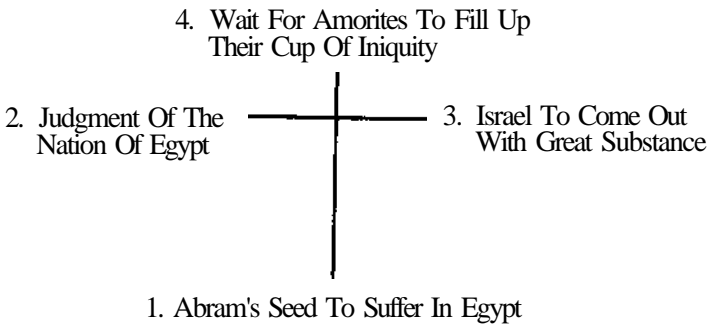
Before destruction the heart of man is haughty, and *before honour is humility* (Proverbs 18:12).

Humility is the humble acceptance of God's discipline that guides us in fulfilling His Master Plan and Purposive Will. Wisdom instructs the heart and mind to respect God's plan and to humbly accept His discipline. Humility, the fear of the LORD, must precede the honour which occurs to one who is instructed by wisdom and in wisdom. Without humility, the honour of God's ruling and reigning power is impossible. God's Word is a faithful witness to us that we can always expect persecution, suffering, and a cross before we receive the honour of a crown.

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 (Genesis 15:13-16).

God's immutable Word gave Abram a fourfold witness that his seed would inherit the promised land.



God's Word witnessed to Abram that his seed must first suffer in Egypt.

1. Abram's Seed To Suffer In Egypt

Abram was made to know that his seed would experience three classes of suffering while they were in Egypt. Their first suffering was that of being strangers.

a. Israel Must Suffer As Strangers In Egypt

Israel first suffered as strangers in their own promised land. Then they suffered as strangers in the strange land of Egypt. When they went down into Egypt, they suffered as aliens, without property rights or social rights. Before they could reign as lords over Canaan's land, they must be clothed with humble wisdom by being strangers in a strange land. During their time in Egypt, Israel gained

a firsthand understanding of the feelings and sufferings of strangers. Later, after they were in their own land, they would know how to be merciful and kind to strangers who would come to Canaan's land seeking to learn the *Torah*.

b. Israel Must Suffer As Slaves In Egypt

Israel served the Egyptians as their slave-servants. They helped, aided, worked, and provided whatever class of service the Egyptians demanded. The Israelites' work was hard demeaning on one side of the scales, but on the other side of the scales, Israel was serving under the blessing of God's prophetic Word. When one considers the end of Pharaoh, one realizes that it is far better to be a slave-servant under God's blessing than to be a ruler and a king under God's curse.

c. Israel Must Be Afflicted Four Hundred Years in Egypt

The Egyptians regarded the Israelites as foreigners who did not belong to their land. They declared the Jews to be just objects of revenue for the country. By setting fiscal officers over the Israelites to afflict them with burdens, Egypt tried to extort as much revenue out of the Jews as possible. The Egyptians afflicted the Jews with excessive burdens of work that had to be done for the state and excessive legal taxes as a means of extortion and vexation. However, because the Jews were under God's prophetic Word of blessing, the more the Egyptians tried to weaken the Jews and limit their growth, the more the Jews multiplied and grew. In spite of the Egyptians' crushing harshness and ruthlessness, the Jews spread and became more numerous. The Egyptians' efforts to crush the Jews were in vain; they could not eradicate the people who had been blessed by the witness of God's Word.

Thus, God's Word witnessed to Abram that his seed must *suffer* as strangers, must *serve* as slaves, and must be *afflicted under* cruel oppression in a strange land for four hundred years in

preparation for their exaltation and honour of becoming lords and rulers over their inheritance in Canaan's land.

Likewise, if we desire to inherit spiritual Canaan's land and to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ, beloved, it is not enough for us to take the cleansing power and life of the precious blood of Jesus Christ. We must also accept the humility of suffering as strangers in this world, the humility of serving as a servant, and the humility of bearing afflictions and persecution for Christ's sake which God's Word has witnessed we should suffer.

If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us: (II Timothy 2:12).

Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution (II Timothy 3:12).

Although we are called to suffer for Christ, we will not lose by that. Those who suffer all the way with Christ Jesus on earth will reign with God and the Lamb in the New City.

God's Word witnesses that *all* who live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution. Those who live godly must expect to be despised by Satan's cruel crew. Those who wear the humility armour of the Crucified Christ and lift up His Name can expect suffering.

Christ and His apostles are our instructive examples of this truth. Christ Jesus left the golden portal of heaven, coming down to earth where He served as a servant and suffered in our place and was afflicted on Calvary's cross, so that we might inherit the heavenly Canaan's land. Remember, God's Word reveals that suffering, serving, and afflictions are joined to Christ's blood-life and power. It is through the union of these two that we will possess spiritual Canaan's land, just as Israel possessed natural Canaan's land through these two things.

This brings us to the second witness of God's Word to Abram and his seed—that God's judgment would be poured out upon the

nation of Egypt for their shameful oppression of God's people.

2. Judgment Of The Nation Of Egypt

God's Word witnessed to Abram of His faithfulness to judge Israel's enemies in due season. God ultimately sent upon Egypt great plagues by which He constrained the Egyptians to release the Jews and by which He also punished them for all the crushing and ruthless harshness that they had used to afflict His people.

Although God allows ruthless persecutors to oppress and to afflict His people for a season to help His people to put on their humility garments, He certainly reckons with the persecutors in the end. He faithfully judges and punishes the persecutors and oppressors who trample upon His people. In His righteousness, God always vindicates His people by recompensing tribulation to those who have troubled them.

Therefore, God's Word witnessed to Abram that his seed would have to be patient in the land of Egypt until the appointed time for Him to visit judgment upon that nation. Notice how many years—four hundred—that the seed of Abram had to suffer, serve, and be afflicted while they waited for God's judgment to be poured out upon the land of Egypt.

If we, as Christians, want to inherit God's spiritual promised land, we first must take the blood-life and power of Jesus Christ, and then we must also take His Word which reveals to us how to suffer, how to serve, and how to be afflicted, and how to wait patiently for God's judgment on our enemies. God knows how and when to bring glory to His Name through His judgments upon the ungodly. God knows how and when to deal with the enemies of doubt, distrust, fear, anger, and hate in our own flesh and also in the flesh of those round about us. Therefore, let us leave the judgment to God and busy ourselves with putting on Christ's humility garments in the midst of our sufferings, serving, and affliction.

This brings us to the third witness that God's Word gave to Abram and to his seed that they would be delivered out of Egypt with great substance.

3. Israel To Come Out With Great Substance

God said that after Israel's designated time of suffering, serving, and being afflicted was over they would come out of Egypt with great substance. This was God's prophetic promise to them. After Israel's days of suffering, servitude, and affliction had been fulfilled, and after the Egyptians had been judged and plagued, they knew that they would surely come out with great substance, and God was faithful to see that Israel did, indeed, leave Egypt with great substance (Exodus 12:35,36).

The destruction of the oppressors is always the redemption of God's oppressed. The Egyptians had abused and misused their Jewish slaves for four hundred years, but in the end God saw to it that they were at last paid legal wages for their work. Israel was going to a good land, so God gave them good possessions, for which they had worked, to carry with them to the good land.

God joined the witness of His Word to the witness of Abram's sacrifice, showing Abram that through suffering, serving, and affliction that the nation of Israel would ultimately come out of the land of Egypt with great and good substance to take into the wilderness and into Canaan's land. They came out of Egypt with excellent growth as a nation and with national treasures with which to build a Tabernacle of worship (picturing the full spiritual stature of Jesus Christ) and with which to possess the good land.

How precious it is to receive God's Word as a witness for the way, along with the LORD Jesus Christ's blood-life and power which give us the assurance of life, strength, and patience to possess the good land. If we obey God's Word in suffering, serving, and affliction, and in waiting for God to judge our enemies and to reward us for our works, we, too, will come out of these places of experience with great substance. Therefore, we will be prepared to inherit the promised land.

This brings us to the fourth witness of God's Word to Abram and his seed—that when the Amorites' cup of iniquity was full, He would drive them out of Canaan's land.

4. Wait For The Amorites To Fill Up Their Cup Of Iniquity

God's Word witnessed to Abram that his seed must wait in the land of Egypt until the Amorites had filled up their cup of iniquity in order for God to be justified in driving them out of the land. God is a merciful and a good God; therefore. He waits patiently for any nation or individual to repent and turn to Him. However, if they refuse to repent and choose instead to fill their cups full of iniquity and sin, then God is justified in driving them out of the land and consuming them from off the face of the earth.

So it is in our lives! We, too, have little "Amorites" and all the other "ites" that live in our land, our flesh—from the boasting pride of the Amorites to the loathing, polluting, and hate of the Jebusites which are enemies of the nature of Christ. However, God will wait patiently until the appointed time, until our boasting pride really shows itself in our conduct and behaviour and until we see it and desire for God to drive it out of our hearts; then He will be faithful to visit us with His judgment and drive out the fleshly Amorite so that we can inherit the spiritual land of promise.

God gave Abram a witness of the blood for life and support and His Word for the revelation of His Master Plan so that his seed could inherit Canaan's land. Since God is not a respecter of persons, we know that He will give us the same witness today if we are willing to lay hold, by faith, of the blood which He has provided for us through the sacrificial life and death of the LORD Jesus Christ.

In the *next* chapter we shall study about the second major witness that God gave to Abram—the smoking furnace which was a picture of the Holy Ghost.

Chapter Two

THE WITNESS OF THE SMOKING FURNACE

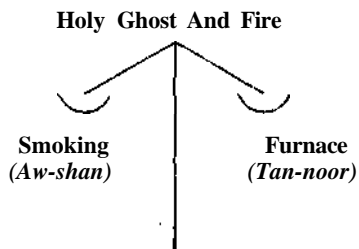
God is a threefold Being; therefore, He always gives a threefold witness when He, Himself, is working. The smoking furnace was the second witness that God gave to Abram to confirm that he would inherit the land of promise.

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: (Genesis 15:17,18).

The smoking furnace was a picture of the witness of the Holy Ghost. Thus, God witnessed to Abram that the ministry of the Holy Ghost was necessary in order for him and his seed to inherit the land of promise. It was not enough for Abram to have the witness of the blood and the Word; he must also have the smoking furnace to pass between the pieces of the sacrifice.

After Abram offered his sacrifices and after he laid each of the divided parts opposite to its corresponding part, he waited for them to all be joined together by the smoking furnace (a picture of the Holy Ghost) and a burning lamp (a picture of the Father's glory).

The Holy Ghost and fire, pictured by the smoking furnace, has two sides:



The Hebrew word for *smoking* in *aw-shan*, meaning to be angry, vapor, dust. The Hebrew word for *furnace* is *tan-noor*, meaning a fire pot or oven. Some of God's meat or bread offerings were cooked in an oven or furnace as a picture of the work of God's Holy Ghost and fire. The Holy Ghost is also like an oven in that when we are alone with Him and the fire of His presence, He takes the written Word and, by His revealing, quickening Spirit (John 16:13,14), turns it into fresh baked bread.

During the wilderness phase of Israel's journey, the Holy Ghost led them in a pillar of smoke or cloud by day and a pillar of fire by night. Wherever the pillar of smoke and fire abode, the manna fell as though God were serving fresh daily bread out of His smoking furnace or oven.

The smoking furnace of God's Spirit moved in and out through Abram's sacrifice as a witness to him and to his seed that He would accompany Israel by leading them to Canaan's land. Later, when God gave His law at Mount Sinai, it was accompanied by His Spirit, the Holy Ghost. Israel saw all of nature trembling at the approach of God's Word and Spirit. Man alone remained standing upright to receive God's Word and to come under its sovereign headship and supreme authority. The whole of nature roared, lightning flashed, thunder rolled, mountains quaked and moved, and the air wafted the calls of the shofar trumpet. Yet Israel stood upright under Mount Sinai and heard and accepted God's Word.

And all the people saw the thunderings, 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 (Exodus 20:18).

The glorious majesty of the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost generated an extraordinary terror in the minds and hearts of God's people. After Moses had offered the blood sacrifice at Mount Sinai, God joined the Word, the smoking furnace, and the burning lamp of fire to the sacrifice, just as He did after Abram offered his blood sacrifices.

The smoke pictured the fragrance of the LORD's Name that is released by the power of the Holy Ghost and fire. When Israel, the LORD's espoused Bride, came up out of the wilderness, she was pictured as having pillars of smoke.

Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant? (Song of Solomon 3:6).

Israel, the LORD's espoused Bride, came out of the wilderness with pillars of smoke upon her Golden Altar as she journeyed toward Canaan's land.

The smoking furnace of God's Spirit witnessed to Abram that He would be with him and his seed. So, Israel's experiences at Mount Sinai and in the wilderness confirmed the faithfulness of the smoking furnace to accompany Israel to Canaan's land.

The furnace (*tan-noor*) refers to the ovens in which Israel baked her holy bread.

And if thou bring an oblation of a meat-offering baken in the oven, it shall be unleavened cakes of fine flour mingled with oil, or unleavened wafers anointed with oil (Leviticus 2:4).

And all the meat-offering that is baken in the oven, and all that is dressed in the fryingpan, and in the pan, shall be the priest's that offereth it (Leviticus 7:9).

The oven or furnace produced bread that Israel could offer to God; this bread represented the flesh of Christ's body. Christ declared Himself to be bread.

I am the bread of life (John 6:48).

Christ is the spiritual bread of life to the soul, just as natural bread is life to the body. Christ's bread nourishes and supports the spiritual lives of His believers.

Christ, the true bread from heaven, came down to be bruised and baked in the oven or furnace of suffering into which the Holy Ghost led Him. Christ is God's bruised bread (Isaiah 28:28). He is God's divine, true bread from heaven. He is the ever-living, everlasting bread of life.

The furnace or oven that was joined to the sacrifice was a witness that God would make Israel "brown bread" in the oven of suffering in Egypt. When Israel grew as a nation and was made into "baked bread" that could be offered as a sacrifice to God, He brought her forth out of Egypt to Canaan's land.

John prophesied that the Messiah, Christ Jesus, would give this smoking furnace, the Holy Ghost baptism and fire, when He came. Smoke is also a witness of God's holy anger and jealousy.

The LORD will not spare him, but then the anger of the LORD and his jealousy shall *smoke* against that man (Deuteronomy 29:20).

God gave Abram and his seed a witness that through the power of the Holy Ghost and His holy anger and jealousy God would cause him to inherit the land. God's holy, jealous anger smoked against the depraved, degenerated idolaters of Canaan's land, driving them out of the land by death and destruction.

Likewise, we cannot inherit God's spiritual Canaan's land without the faithfulness of God's holy anger and jealousy smoking

and burning up our fleshly chaff and the false gods of our wrong thoughts, images, and ideas in our land.

The cloud of smoke like a furnace was indeed a witness to Abram that God's holy anger and jealousy would protect the blood sacrifice and His Word and bring him and his seed to Canaan's land. God again gave Israel the same witness of this same cloud of smoke when He gave them the cloud and fire to lead them to Canaan's land.

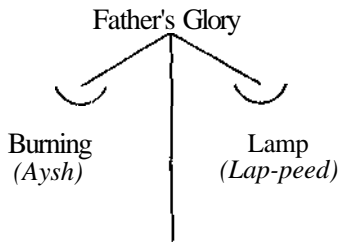
What a precious comfort it is to know that the Holy Ghost and fire with its smoke of God's holy anger and jealousy, which He has placed within us, will protect His true image, Christ Jesus, and His blood and His Word and will consume anything that stands in our way of inheriting the heavenly Canaan's land as we surrender to Him and yield to Him.

In the first chapter we saw the witness of God the Son (the blood and the Word). Now in this chapter we have seen the witness of Holy Ghost (the smoking furnace) concerning God's confirmation to Abram and to his seed that they would inherit Canaan's land. In the next chapter we will study about the third major witness—the burning lamp—that God gave to Abram and his seed as a confirmation and an assurance that they would inherit Canaan's land.

Chapter Three

THE WITNESS OF THE BURNING LAMP

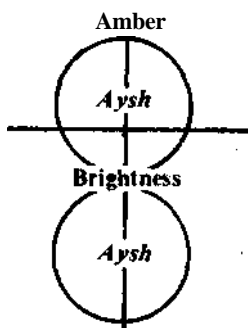
The burning lamp, the third witness that God gave to Abram to confirm His promise to him and to his seed concerning their inheritance of Canaan's land, is a picture of the light and illumination of the Father's glory. The Father's glory, like the Holy Ghost and fire, has dual sides.



The Hebrew word that is used to describe one side of the Father's glory is *aysh*, meaning burning, flaming, fire, hot, fiery. The second Hebrew word that is used to describe the Father's glory is *lap-peed*, meaning to shine, a flambeau, lamp, flame, firebrand, lightning, torch. These two words, *aysh* and *lap-peed*, describe the blessing and the judgment of the Father's glory.

And I saw as the colour of amber, as the appearance of fire round about within it, from the appearance of his loins even upward, and from the appearance of his loins even downward, I saw as it were the appearance of fire, and it had brightness round about (Ezekiel 1:27).

When Ezekiel saw a vision of Christ, the Son of God upon the throne, he saw the *aysh fire* within the amber from His loins upward and within the brightness of His loins downward.



Christ said, "...he that hath seen me hath seen the Father;..." (John 14:9). Therefore, since the -aysh fire is within the Son, as Ezekiel saw Him, the aysh fire is also with the Father.

The *aysh* fire is a revealing fire within the LORD's Name. When the *aysh* first appeared to Moses, it was in the form of a flame *within* the bush (Exodus 3:2), revealing the LORD's deliverance and His great Name—"I AM THAT I AM" or "I SHALL BE THAT WHICH I WISH TO BE." All other creatures are that which they have to be because, at their coming into existence, God bound them by His will. And at this moment that the LORD spoke to Moses, He desired by His own free will to be their Deliverer. God mightily used His *aysh* fire to punish the Egyptians and to liberate His people.

When the LORD appeared on Mount Sinai to reveal His Law, the *Torah*, and to reveal the picture or stature of His Son in the Mosaic Tabernacle, He appeared in the fire of His glory.

And the sight of the glory of the LORD was like devouring fire on the top of the mount in the eyes of the children of Israel. And Moses went into the midst of the cloud, and gat him up into the mount: and Moses was in the mount forty days and forty nights (Exodus 24:17,18).

And ye came near and stood under the mountain; and the mountain burned with fire unto the midst of heaven, with darkness, clouds, and thick darkness. And the LORD spake unto you out of the midst of the fire: ye heard the voice of the words, but saw no similitude; only ye heard a voice (Deuteronomy 4; 11,12).

Moses went into the fire of the LORD's glory to receive the revelation of His written Word, the *Torah*, and the revelation of the Tabernacle. Israel came near and stood under the mountain that burned with *aysh* fire and listened to the LORD's Word.

Later, when the Father came out of heaven to resurrect and to deliver His Son Jesus Christ out of death, hell, and the grave. He came with the *aysh* coals of fire of His unbegotten, resurrection glory.

There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth devoured: coals were kindled by it.... At the brightness that was before him his thick clouds passed, hail stones and coals of fire (Psalm 18:8,12).

A devouring *aysh* fire came forth from the Father's mouth to devour His Son's enemies and to lift His Son out of death, hell, and the grave.

In the Book of Ezekiel, the living creatures, the bearers of God's throne-chariot of glory, were clothed with the coals of fire of the Father's glory.

As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning (Ezekiel 1:13).

The splendor and brightness of the living coals of fire, the clothing of the living creatures, reveal their arduous love for God,

their fervent zeal in His service, and their readiness to devour His adversaries. These living coals of fire from God's glory are a terror to His enemies. It was some of these coals of fire that God commanded to be dropped upon idolatrous Jerusalem.

God's *aysh* fire destroys His enemies while it protects Israel, His Bride. The Prophet Zechariah foretold that God's *aysh* fire will be a wall of protection to Israel after she receives Christ as her Messiah in the millennial reign.

For I, saith the LORD, will be unto her a wall of fire round about, and will be the glory in the midst of her (Zechariah 2:5).

God's wall of protective *aysh* fire around Jerusalem will not be broken, nor scaled, nor undermined, nor will the foundation of it be sopped, but it will devour all approaching inimical assailants.

When Christ Jesus, the Messiah, comes again. He will be wearing the fire of His Father's resurrected glory.

But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: (Malachi 3:2).

The LORD Jesus Christ is a refiner's fire that separates the gold of our new man from the dross of our old man. the flesh. The refining fire of the Father's glory discovers the unChrist-like thoughts and attitudes of our hearts and burns them in His fire. He separates the precious from the vile so that we might be purified in order to inherit spiritual Canaan's land.

The *aysh* fire was the burning that passed through the pieces of Abram's sacrifice, bearing witness that the fire of the Father's glory would refine, purify, and set free the hearts of His people from impurities and imperfections in preparation for their journey to Canaan's land, while it devoured and consumed all hindering forces and enemies.

The other side of the Father's glory is the *lap-peed* lamp or

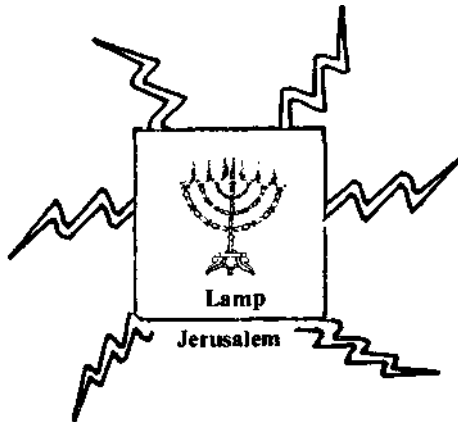
lightning which is the revealing, separating power of His Word of salvation.

And all the people saw the thunderings, 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 (Exodus 20:18).

When Israel saw the lightning of the lap-peed lamp of the LORD, they trembled and removed themselves afar off. When they saw the sounds of thunder, the separating flames of the lightning, the noise of the shofar trumpet, and the mountains smoking, they involuntarily stepped backward. God's lightning lamp separated Israel from their curious desire to step forward and to gaze at the LORD's glory. When Israel saw God's Words flashing with lightning, they stepped backward in reverential awe.

In the millennial reign, when Christ the Messiah establishes His throne in Jerusalem, the lightning lamp of God's glory and salvation will shine forth from Jerusalem.

For Zion's sake will I not hold my peace, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until the righteousness thereof go forth as brightness, and the salvation thereof as a lamp that burneth (Isaiah 62:1).

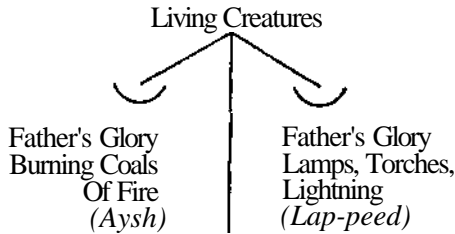


As the burning torch can be seen far and wide, so will the glory of the Father's lightning lamp of triumphant truth be made visible out of Jerusalem to the whole world.

The living creatures, the bearers of the Father's glory, are also clothed with the lightning of the Father's glory.

As for the likeness of the living creatures, their appearance was like burning coals of fire, and like the appearance of lamps: it went up and down among the living creatures; and the fire was bright, and out of the fire went forth lightning. And the living creatures ran and returned as the appearance of a flash of lightning (Ezekiel 1:13,14).

The living creatures are clothed with both *the aysh* fire of God's glory and the *lap-peed* lightning of God's glory.

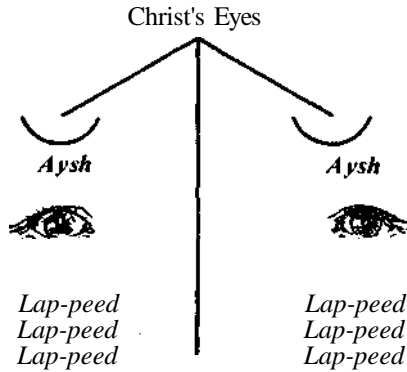


The living creatures, the *khayos*, were charged with the mission of using their coals of fire to burn the temple and the king's palace which had become defiled places of idolatrous worship. With His coals of fire, God vented His wrath upon Israel's idolatrous forms of wood and stone. However, His kindness constrained Him to not abandon His people Israel, but to purify and to purge them with the lightning flames of His triumphant truth.

After fasting for three full weeks, Daniel the prophet was privileged to behold a vision of Christ the LORD, the eternal Word, clothed in His Father's resurrection fire and lightning.

His body also was like the beryl, and his face as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire, and his arms and his feet like in colour to polished brass, and the voice of his words like the voice of a multitude (Daniel 10:6).

The eyes of Christ the Word were like fire and lightning.

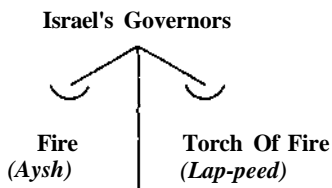


Filled with the fire and lightning of the Father's resurrected glory, Christ's eyes are awesome and terrifying, dazzling the eyes of the beholder, both frightening and threatening. His eyes glow with the coals of fire and shine with the lightning lamps with the revelation of the triumphant truth and with the defense of it.

God makes His leaders like unto Christ, His beloved Son.

In that day will I make the governors of Judah like an hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left: and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own place, even in Jerusalem (Zechariah 12:6).

Israel's leaders or governors will one day be like the risen, glorified Christ.



Israel's governors will be like a hearth or pan of *aysh* fire in the midst of wood, and they will consume her enemies on all sides as though they were faggots of wood. The governors will also be like *lap-peed* torches of fire that will be seen far and wide as avengers of God's righteous cause.

These few instructive examples of the Father's *aysh* fire and *lap-peed* lamp give us a great respect and understanding for their witness to Abram and to his seed concerning their inheritance of Canaan's land. Thus, we can see that it is necessary to have not only the blood of the Son and the Word, the Holy Ghost and fire, but we must also have the *aysh* fire and the *lap-peed* lamp of the Father's glory.

God the Father fulfilled the witness of His glory that He gave to Abram by giving His glory to his seed in the wilderness.

And it came to pass, as Aaron spake unto the whole congregation of the children of Israel, that they looked toward the wilderness, and, behold, the glory of the LORD appeared in the cloud (Exodus 16:10).

The glory of God's *aysh* fire and lightning *lap-peed* lamps descended in the cloud to purge and purify the Israelites' hearts of their evil murmuring against Him. He assured them of a supply of food to support their life until they reached the land of promise. God, in His merciful and gracious glory, condescended to give help and sustenance even to the murmurers. Shall we, as children of God, not also willingly condescend to give help and sustenance to those who murmur and complain against us?

On this particular day that the burning lamp, the *aysh* and *lap-peed*, of God's glory appeared in the cloud or the smoking furnace, God gave meat and manna to the children of Israel to strengthen them while they were journeying to Canaan's land. God's meat and bread from His glory are a witness to His children that they will inherit the land.

God also said that the *aysh* fire and the *lap-peed* lightning of His glory would sanctify the Tabernacle of Israel.

And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory (Exodus 29:43).

The burning lamp of God's glory sanctified Abram of his doubts and fears about having a seed and about how he and his seed would inherit Canaan's land; the same burning lamp of God's glory sanctified man's defiling touch upon Israel's visible Tabernacle.

So also will the burning lamp of God's glory sanctify and consecrate our personal tabernacle as a witness that we will inherit spiritual Canaan's land, the land of promise which is the New City, the New Jerusalem.

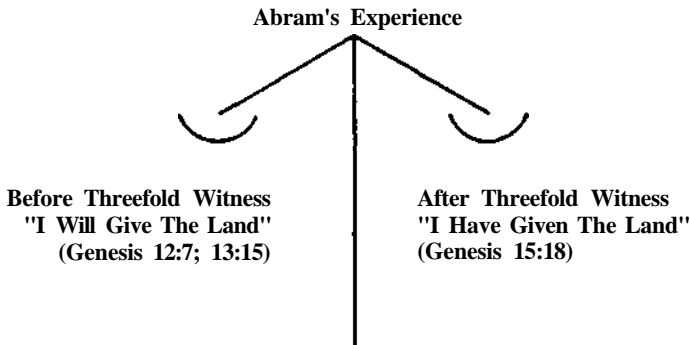
Without the burning lamp of God's glory fire and lightning, which also judges and separates all hindering forces, we can never make it to the promised land. God's glory constantly judged and separated the hindering forces in Israel which prevented them from striding forward in their spiritual education and moral development and in their journey toward Canaan's land as a nation. The camp of Israel had to be cleansed of rebellion by God's glory in order for them to continually stride forward to Canaan's land.

And Korah gathered all the congregation against them unto the door of the tabernacle of the congregation: and the glory of the LORD appeared unto all the congregation (Numbers 16:19).

When Korah, Dathan, and Abiram rebelled against God and against His appointed leaders, Moses and Aaron, God's glory *aysh*

fire and *lap-peed* lightning came to visit judgment and separation upon the guilty rebels. The earth opened up her mouth and swallowed up the deserving sinners, separating them from the congregation of Israel. Whatever God promises. He is able to perform! Thus, no rebellious resistance of a revolting rebel can keep us from the promised land, for God's mercy, grace, and faithfulness will send the burning (*aysh*) lamp (*lap-peed*) of His glory to consume and devour both the rebel and his rebellion.

We have seen that God gave to Abram a threefold witness of the Son, the Holy Ghost, and the Father *to* show Abram how his seed would inherit the land. After God gave Abram the threefold witness of the blood-Word of the Son, the smoking furnace of the Holy Ghost, and the burning lamp of the Father, the LORD God made a covenant with Abram, saying, "...Unto thy seed have I given this land,... (Genesis 15:18). Before this time, God had said, "For all the land which thou seest, *to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever*" (Genesis 13:15). But after the threefold witness was given, God said, "...I have given the land."



God's promise and witness to Abram assured him and his seed that they would surely possess the promised land. God's eternal witness of His Son (Blood-Word), the Holy Ghost (the smoking furnace), and the Father's glory (the burning lamp) guaranteed Abram and his seed the legal title to Canaan's land.

Since God is the same yesterday, today, and forever. He also has a threefold witness to confirm to us that we, too, can inherit the spiritual Canaan's land, the land of marriage relationship with the beloved Bridegroom, the LORD Jesus Christ if we lay hold of the same spiritual substance that Abram did. Growing up into the full stature of the LORD Jesus Christ and being in the Bride of Christ is a promise that God has given to every believer who is willing to lay hold of God's threefold witness: 1) the blood of the LORD Jesus Christ and His Word: 2) the power of the Holy Ghost: and 3) the glory of the Father. This threefold witness assures us that the promise of God's heavenly Canaan's land can be ours. God's provisions in Christ Jesus are sufficient to take every believer from the beginning experience of the gift of salvation at the foot of the Cross all the way up in Christ's spiritual stature by growth in Christ Jesus to a spiritual marriage union with and a oneness of relationship with the Father. Just as Abram was promised the possession of natural Canaan's land and was given a threefold witness to confirm it, so we also have been given the promise of spiritual Canaan's land. God will also give us the threefold witness of the blood and Word of His Son, the Holy Ghost, and the glory of the Father if we are willing to do our part, and that is to lay hold of the female blood of Christ Jesus, by faith, as it was typified through the heifer and the she goat, and to appropriate the male blood of the ram, the dove's blood, and the pigeon blood that He has provided for us in Christ Jesus.

Beloved, it is not the time to become discouraged in our spiritual walk with the LORD. God's Word teaches us that Jesus Christ is the Author and the Finisher of our faith. Therefore, we need to remind ourselves daily of the blessed truth that the Apostle Paul wrote to the believers in the church of Philippi: "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ" (Philippians 1:6). Therefore, if we have Jesus Christ's blood of salvation, we know He has begun His good work of grace in our hearts. May we allow His work of grace to continue until we receive His threefold witness by

surrendering to the Son, the Holy Ghost, and the Father so they can finish the good work of grace in our hearts and lead us to heavenly Canaan's land. Hallelujah!