

The Headship of Christ



by B. R. Hicks



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Preface

In our study of the Headship of Christ, we find, as in any study of the Scriptures, that many patterns of four fit around the four main points of the Cross, giving us a stature of Truth and revelation of the LORD Jesus Christ since the entire Bible is a beautiful revelation of Him. Because this is true, God is able to say 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: That the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works. (II Timothy 3:16,17).

This book has been written in obedience to Christ's command to share a few of the quickened Truths He so graciously has placed in my heart. He has promised that these Truths will bless the hearts of those who are looking for His soon return from Glory and who have a desire to be ready by having on their spiritual wedding garments. The prayerful desire and motive of my heart is that each reader will receive a new vision and a greater love for the blessed LORD Jesus Christ.

— The Author

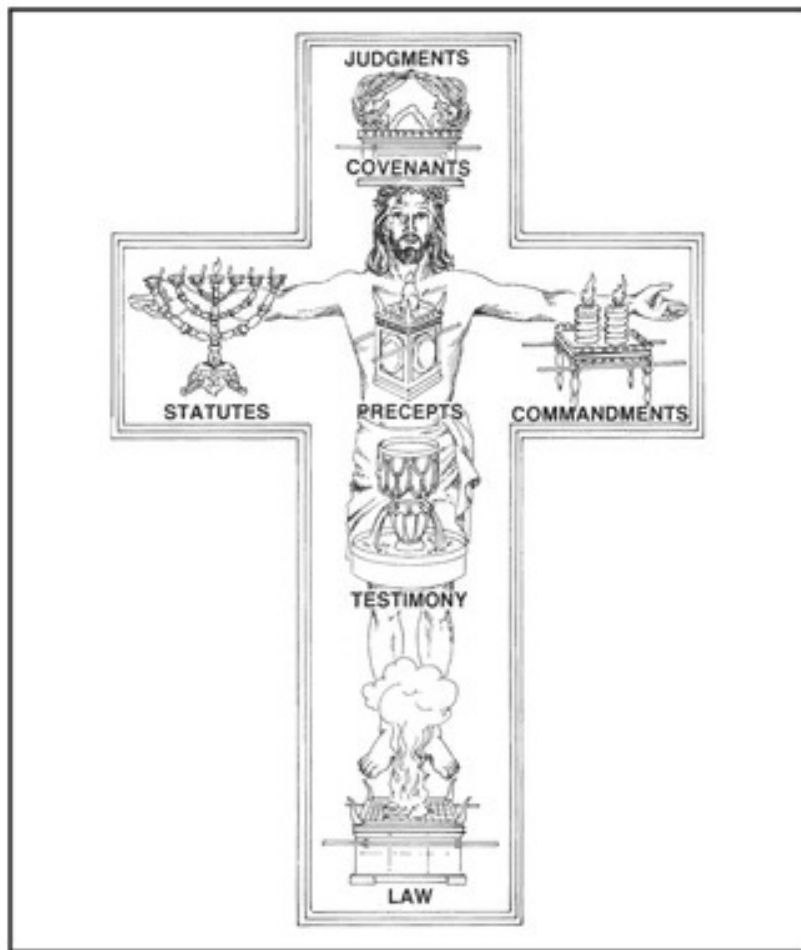
Chapter One

The Mosaic Ark In The Old Testament Presents The Shadow And Type Of The LORD Jesus Christ's Headship In The New Testament

The Mosaic Tabernacle was laid out in the form of the Cross; thus, it portrayed the full Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ. The four points of the Cross are used also to picture God's full Stature of Truth as it is revealed in His Written Word. The Stature (represented by the four points of the Cross) also depicts the spiritual experiences we will know as we grow to spiritual maturity in Jesus Christ. God is the Master Teacher. He uses figures, types, shadows, parables, metaphors and allegories throughout His Word in order to illustrate Divine Truth.

When the children of Israel in the wilderness, for example, needed a way of approach to a Holy God, He provided the Mosaic Tabernacle that was a picture, a shadow, a type of the Son of God, the LORD Jesus Christ.

Which was a figure for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; (Hebrews 9:9).

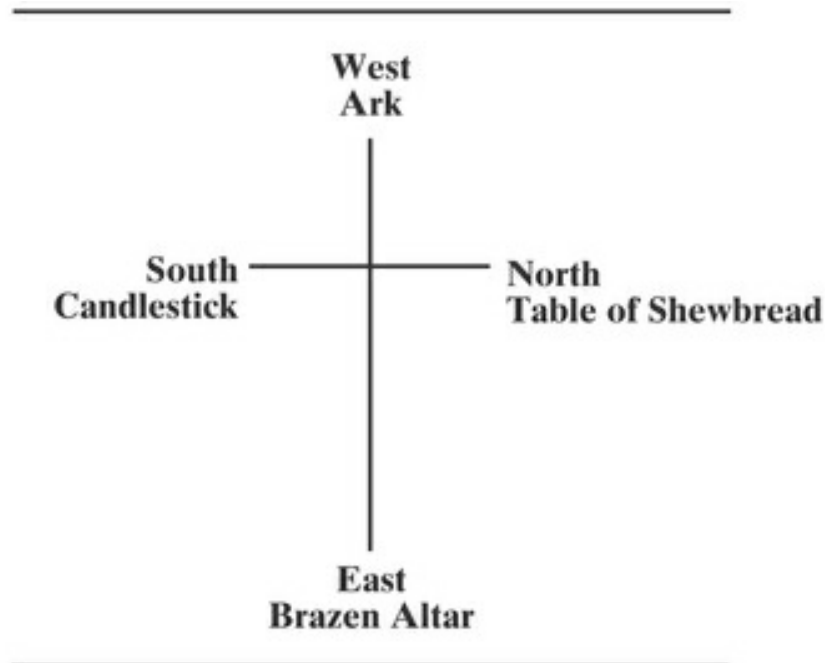


The first Tabernacle, known as the Mosaic Tabernacle, was only a shadow and type, under the old Covenant, of the Stature of Jesus Christ under the new Covenant. The Stature and ministry of the Old Testament Tabernacle was a beautiful picture of the second, greater, and more perfect Tabernacle, Jesus Christ, Who with His Brightness and

Glory caused the Old Testament shadows to flee away and the living Truth to stand revealed as the illuminating splendour of the noonday sun. The Mosaic Tabernacle was a figure, that is an outline or shape of the Stature of Jesus Christ. Thus, God instructed Moses four times to build the Tabernacle after the pattern which was shown to him in the mount.

And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, On the first day of the first month shalt thou set up the tabernacle of the tent of the congregation. And **thou shalt put therein the ark of the testimony**, and cover the ark with the vail. And **thou shalt bring in the table**, and set in order the things that are to be set in order upon it; and **thou shalt bring in the candlestick**, and light the lamps thereof. And **thou shalt set the altar of gold** for the incense **before the ark of the testimony**, and put the hanging of the door to the tabernacle. And **thou shalt set the altar of the burnt offering before the door of the tabernacle** of the tent of the congregation. And **thou shalt set the laver between the tent of the congregation and the altar**, and shalt put water therein... And **he put the table in the tent of the congregation, upon the side of the tabernacle northward**, without the vail. And he set the bread in order upon it before the LORD; as the LORD had commanded Moses. And **he put the candlestick in the tent of the congregation, over against the table, on the side of the tabernacle southward** (Exodus 40:1-7, 22-24).

In their entirety, the pieces of furniture in the Mosaic Tabernacle form a most beautiful picture of the LORD Jesus Christ. This basic pattern is a wonderful help in “rightly dividing the Word of Truth” (II Timothy 2:15), but we need Holy Ghost-anointed eyes to see the hidden structure of the Cross in everything that God has placed in His Word.



The seven pieces of furniture in Moses’ Tabernacle were laid out in the form of a cross because each piece represented a portion of the Stature of Jesus Christ. The Body of Christ’s Tabernacle, which the Holy Ghost conceived as it overshadowed the blessed Virgin, was a new fabric, a new order of building infinitely superior to the earthly structure of Moses’ Tabernacle.

But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; (Hebrews 9:11).

In Moses’ Tabernacle, the Ark and its Mercy Seat pictured the Headship of Jesus Christ. The High Priest stood before the Ark, where God’s Glory dwelt above the Mercy Seat, in order to find God’s Mind and Will for His people. The Ark was filled and crowned with the following things:

- the written *Torah*-Truth,
- Aaron’s Rod that budded,
- the pot of Manna,

- the Mercy Seat.

The word *headship* means the position of being the head or the chief authority, the supreme, sovereign power. God's Word teaches that the LORD Jesus Christ is the supreme, sovereign Head over His Church and that all words and works should conform to the Principles which He taught. Jesus Christ is the Governor and Guide of His people. His rule, management, direction, regulation, control and restraint is according to the *Torah*-Truth that was placed in the Ark. God teaches us that Christ's Headship over our behavior and our manners is according to God's spiritual Principles of Truth that are written in His *Torah*.

Christ's Headship guides and conducts us in our spiritual journey in His Stature, leading us to the place in which we can find the spiritual Manna-Bread of His Truth. God's *Torah*-Truth gives us Light, Life, and Love, just as the Cloud and Fire guided Israel to the place in which the Manna always fell. Christ's Headship always leads and guides us to the place of His Resurrection Life, as pictured by Aaron's Rod that budded. Because Christ preceded us in the Father's Way of Light, Life, and Love, He is able to show us the way. Christ not only is thoroughly familiar with the course, but His continuous Presence also directs us along, according to His supreme, sovereign Headship.

The Ark was crowned with the Mercy Seat which pictures the merciful Headship of Jesus Christ that pushes back the punishment of Death and Hell that we deserve. Thus, the Ark and the Mercy Seat picture the fourfold nature of the Headship of the LORD Jesus Christ.

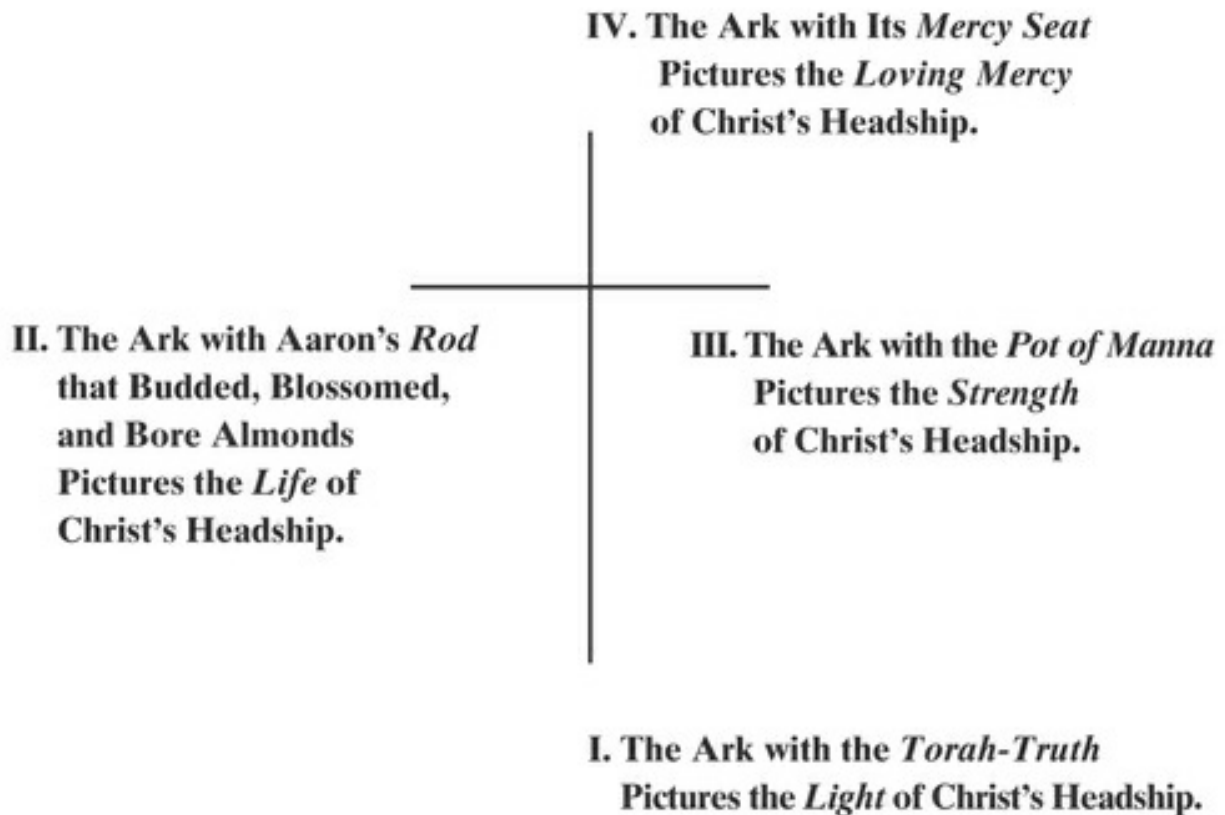
God desires that we grow up into the full Grace of Christ's Light, Life, and Love. God desires that we ripen in all of Christ's Grace, derived from the Fullness of His Spiritual Stature. God desires that every believer be filled with the Fullness of Christ's Stature, which is having all of one's spiritual capacity filled as much as possible. This can only be possible as we allow Christ's supreme, sovereign Headship to be our Governor and Guide. There must be an intimate union, which is an inseparable union, existing between Christ and the heart, in order for Christ to be the Chief Ruler, Governor, and Guide of the heart. With Christ's truly enlightened, living, and loving Headship, our old hearts are purified and influenced in the Way of Truth. As Christ's merciful, truthful Head directs us, it will guide our hearts in paths of righteousness and goodness.

Since the Mosaic Tabernacle was a divine blueprint or outline of the Stature of the Son of God, it also is a guiding Light to reveal to our heart how to grow up unto the measure of the Fullness of Christ.

Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:** (Ephesians 4:13).

Because the Mosaic Tabernacle is a picture of God's Son in Whom is hid all the treasures of Wisdom and Knowledge, we may expect the Wisdom and Knowledge of all other Scripture to fit together, both within the Mosaic Tabernacle (the shadow and type) and within the Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ (the fulfillment of all the shadows and types).

The Mosaic Ark with its *Torah*-Truth, its Rod that budded and blossomed, its Pot of *Manna*, and its Mercy Seat, portrays, in type and shadow, the Light of Christ's Headship, the Life of Christ's Headship, the Strength of Christ's Headship, and the Loving Mercy of Christ's Headship in the New Testament.



The first thing placed inside the Ark was the LORD's *Torah-Truth* or the Ten Commandments, which pictures the Light of Christ's Headship.

I. The Ark with the *Torah- Truth* Pictures the Light of Christ's Headship.

The Ark with the *Torah-Truth* was full of God's illuminating Light of Truth.

And he took and put the testimony into the ark, and set the staves on the ark, and put the mercy seat above upon the ark: (Exodus 40:20).

On her journey from Egypt to Canaan's Land, Israel was known as the Church in the wilderness, and into her midst, God placed the Ark with the divine *Torah-Truth* to be used to fulfill His supreme aim and goal for Israel's moral mission and moral high calling. The Light of God's *Torah-Truth* helped the sincere ones in Israel to maintain freshness in their ever-progressing spiritual education and moral development. As long as Israel, as a nation, kept the Light of the *Torah* as their Governor and Guide, they increased in spiritual and material happiness. As long as Israel dedicated herself to walk in the Light of the *Torah-Truth*, God's Glory descended upon her, bringing her spiritual blessing and protection.

The Ark with its *Torah-Light*, Israel's source of Christ's Headship in the Old Testament, pictured Christ's Headship in the New Testament.

Jesus declared in the New Testament that His Truth would set us free.

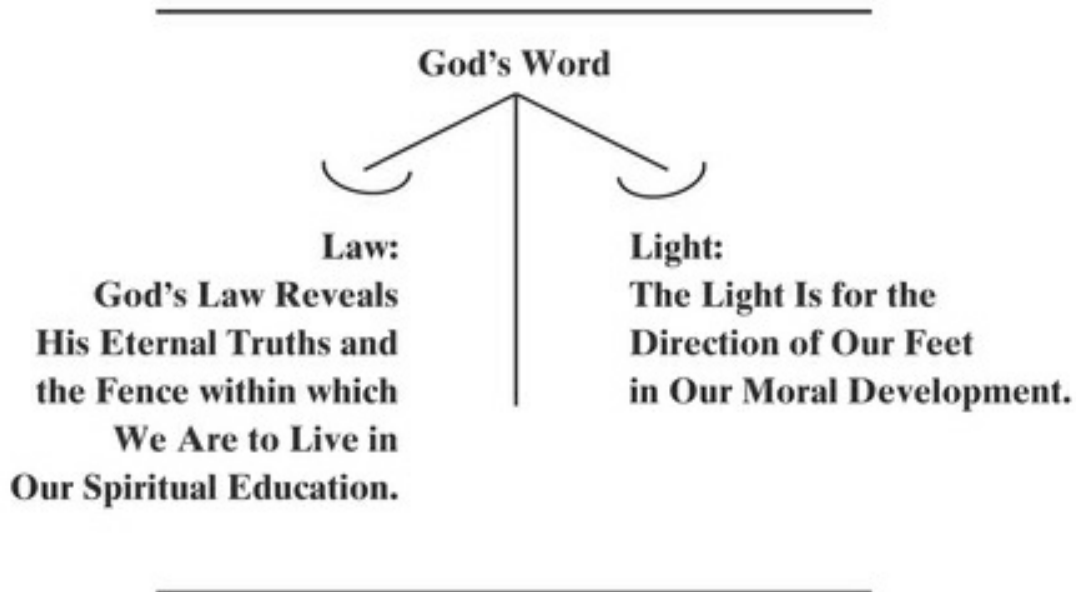
And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free (John 8:32).

The Light of Truth from Christ's Headship frees us from the darkness and destruction of our own headship that causes us to stumble along in the miserable way of hate and to fall into the tormenting pit of wrath and anger.

God's Word reveals that the Commandment of His *Torah*-Truth is Light.

For **the commandment is a lamp; and the law is light**; and reproofs of instruction *are* the way of life: (Proverbs 6:23).

God's Word is both a Law and a Light.



The Law of Truth reveals God's Wisdom and Knowledge that we need to grow up in the Spiritual Stature of the LORD Jesus Christ. The Counsels, Commands, and cautions in God's Words of Truth help us to grow up spiritually.

The Light from the Ark of God's Headship guards and guides our feet in the way of obedience. As we do good deeds that are filled with His Light, people see our good works and magnify both the Father and the Son.

The *Lamp* that illuminates our pathway is God's *Commandments* in His *Torah*-Truth, but the *source* of the Lamp's Light is the *Torah*-Truth.

The LORD's *Torah*-Truth in Christ Jesus is also a Law that fences us in from doing our own will and going our own way; it shows us what to do and what not to do. The burning Lamp of the *Torah*-Truth illuminates our pathway, showing us the works we must do in order to glorify the Father which is in Heaven. As long as we walk in the Light of Christ's Headship, we do not walk in darkness, doing works that glorify ourselves and grieving God's Holy Spirit. The Light of Christ's Headship mentally and spiritually illuminates our minds and hearts as we study God's Word.

II. The Ark with Aaron's Rod that Budded, Blossomed, and Bore Almonds Pictures the Life of Christ's Headship.

The second thing placed within the Ark, Aaron's Rod, pictures the Life of Christ's Headship in the New Testament.

The LORD proved His choice for the office of High Priest and the Priesthood by causing Aaron's Rod to bud, blossom, and bear almonds.

And thou shalt write Aaron's name upon the rod of Levi: for one rod *shall be* for the head of the house of their fathers. **And thou shalt lay them up in the tabernacle of the congregation before the testimony,** where I will meet with you. And it shall come to pass, *that the man's rod, whom I shall choose, shall blossom:* and I will make to cease from me the murmurings of the children of Israel, whereby they murmur against you. And Moses spake unto the children of Israel, and every one of their princes gave him a rod apiece, for each prince one, according to their fathers' houses, *even twelve rods: and the rod of Aaron was among their rods.* And Moses laid up the rods before the LORD in the

tabernacle of witness. And it came to pass, that on the morrow Moses went into the tabernacle of witness; and, behold, **the rod of Aaron for the house of Levi was budded, and brought forth buds, and bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds.** And Moses brought out all the rods from before the LORD unto all the children of Israel: and they looked, and took every man his rod. **And the LORD said unto Moses, bring Aaron's rod again before the testimony, to be kept for a token against the rebels;** and thou shalt quite take away their murmurings from me, that they died not. And Moses did so: as the LORD commanded him, so did he (Numbers 17:3-11).

Many in Israel murmured against the Rod of governmental authority that God had given to Moses and Aaron. This was the reason God instructed Moses to lay before the Ark twelve rods, one for each of the twelve tribes. And he was to lay before the Ark an additional Rod inscribed with Aaron's name as the head of the tribe of Levi. (Remember, Joseph's two sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, counted as two tribes. So Aaron's Rod would have made the thirteenth rod.) These thirteen rods were laid before the Ark to see which rod that God indeed had chosen because its buds and blossoms and almonds would indicate which rod had an intimate union with the LORD's Headship.

The next morning, Aaron's Rod had brought forth buds, bloomed blossoms, and yielded almonds, confirming God's divine choice of the tribe of Levi for the Priesthood and the person of Aaron as the one to have the divine right to be the High Priest, who pictured the LORD Jesus Christ, our Eternal High Priest. Thus, God vindicated Aaron against the ambitious greed for power and the evil murmurings of those from Israel's other tribes.

Aaron's Rod that budded, bloomed blossoms, and brought forth fruit pictures the Beauty, the Fragrant Sweetness, and the Fruitful Life of Christ's Headship.

A. The Buds on Aaron's Rod Portray the Beauty of the LORD's Headship.

In the Old Testament, the LORD's Headship from the Ark of the Covenant (which contained Aaron's Rod) was described as beautiful.

Out of Zion, the perfection of beauty, God hath shined (Psalm 50:2).

The Beauty of the Light of God's Headship, as it shined out through His *Torah*-Truth, brought the beautiful Light of His Truth to human spirits and souls, just as the beauty of the sunlight brings its beauty of illumination to the Earth.

Out of Zion, out of Jerusalem, and out of His Sanctuary, the perfection of Beauty shined, even God's *Shekinah* Glory that abode upon His *Torah*-Truth in the Ark and His *Kabode* Glory that abode upon the Ark.

The Beauty of the Headship of the Ark in the Old Testament established the works of the LORD's Bridal Nation.

And **let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us;** yea, the work of our hands establish thou it (Psalm 90:17).

The beautiful splendour of the LORD's Headship, the Ark, always led Israel into God's saving power. Jehoshaphat experienced God's saving power as he went forth praising the Beauty of the LORD's Headship that was given forth orally from the Mercy Seat *above* the Ark, according to the LORD's Law and Holy Name written in the Law *inside* the Ark.

And when he had consulted with the people, **he appointed singers unto the LORD, and that should praise the beauty of holiness,** as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the LORD; for his mercy *endureth* for ever. And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten (II Chronicles 20:21,22).

When the children of the Moabites, the Ammonites, and others came against Jehoshaphat to battle, the Israelite's king appointed singers who were clothed with the Beauty and Holiness of the LORD's Headship to praise and thank the LORD for His merciful Headship. Through His gracious Headship, the LORD directly intervened for Israel by doing the following things:

- He brought her deliverance;
- He gave her the spoils from her enemies;

- He gave her blessing to offer to the LORD;
- He allowed her to return home with joy and rejoicing.

David also experienced the beauty of the LORD's Headship.

One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; **that I may dwell in the house of the LORD** all the days of my life, **to behold the beauty of the LORD** and **to enquire in his temple** (Psalm 27:4).

David longed to be a continual guest in the LORD's House and to enjoy the Beauty of His Headship from the Ark, with its *Torah*-Truth and Aaron's Rod that budded.

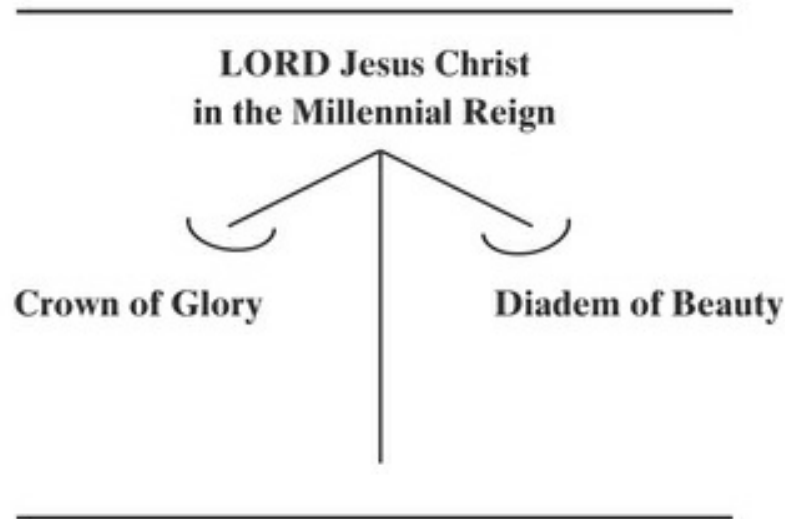
David desired to *inquire* or to ask for the Governance and Guidance of the LORD's Headship. David always won his battles against his enemies, and he always prospered in his kingdom because he always inquired in the LORD's House for the LORD's Headship. God the Father always works through the LORD Jesus Christ, Whom He has made to be Head over all things.

The beautiful buds on Aaron's Rod were a picture of the Beauty of the LORD's Headship, both in the Old and New Testaments.

Isaiah, the Prophet, prophesied about the Beauty of Christ's Headship.

In that day shall the LORD of hosts be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem of beauty, unto the residue of his people, (Isaiah 28:5).

Isaiah prophesied about Christ's Headship in the glorious future, during the Messianic Age or Christ's Millennial Reign on Earth. The LORD will be a Crown of Glory and a Diadem of Beauty in *that* Day.



The Lord Jesus Christ will rule with the Crown of the Sovereignty of His *Kabode* Glory that will imprint and impress God's Eternal Truth upon the hearts of His people. He will rule with the Crown of His *Shekinah* Glory that will influence the hearts of His people to sweetly and humbly submit themselves to His Headship. The LORD Jesus Christ also will rule with His Diadem of Beauty or in the Beauty of His Holy, Kingly Power and Authority. Jesus Christ will wear His Diadem of Beauty of Holiness that pleases and satisfies His Heavenly Father.

The LORD's Diadem of Beauty will be spiritually perfect and pure, untainted by evil or sin, sinless. All the Wisdom and Knowledge of Christ's Counsels and Judgments will be His Diadem of the Beauty of Holiness.

Isaiah further revealed the Beauty of the LORD Jesus Christ as King during His Millennial Reign on Earth.

Thine eyes shall see the king in his beauty: they shall behold the land that is very far off (Isaiah 33:17).

God will bestow great honour and blessing upon the Earth by sending His Son in all the Beauty and Glory of His Kingly Authority to rule and reign over the Earth. Following the Earth's long history of kings whose rule was ugly, greedy, and wicked, the LORD's Rule will shine out in beautiful and glorious contrast.

B. The Blossoms on Aaron’s Rod Portray the Fragrant Sweetness of the LORD’s Headship.

While the *buds* on Aaron’s Rod picture the living *Beauty* of God’s Headship, the *blossoms* signify the Fragrant Sweetness of the LORD’s Headship.

The buds, blossoms, and fruit on Aaron’s Rod remained ever fresh in the Ark as a witness that God had chosen to minister His Headship through the High Priest, a type of Jesus Christ.

The LORD’s Headship, His Governance and Guidance, always is Fragrant and Sweet to a person’s heart and will when that person has made an exclusive surrender to the LORD. The word *fragrant* means to have a sweet, pleasant odour. When a person allows his carnal mind to be mortified and crucified, he will experience a sweet oneness of relationship with Christ’s Rule and Reign in his life.

Israel’s first stop in the wilderness, after leaving the Red Sea, was at Marah. The LORD’s Headship guided Israel to Marah, the place of bitter waters, so that He could prove to her the Fragrant Sweetness of His Headship.

And when they came to marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, what shall we drink? And he cried unto the LORD; **and the LORD shewed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet:** there he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them, (Exodus 15:23-25).

God had shown Israel the Power of His Headship in Egypt by bringing His “firstborn Son” out through the Red Sea. However, it was at Marah that God proved the Fragrant Sweetness of His Headship.

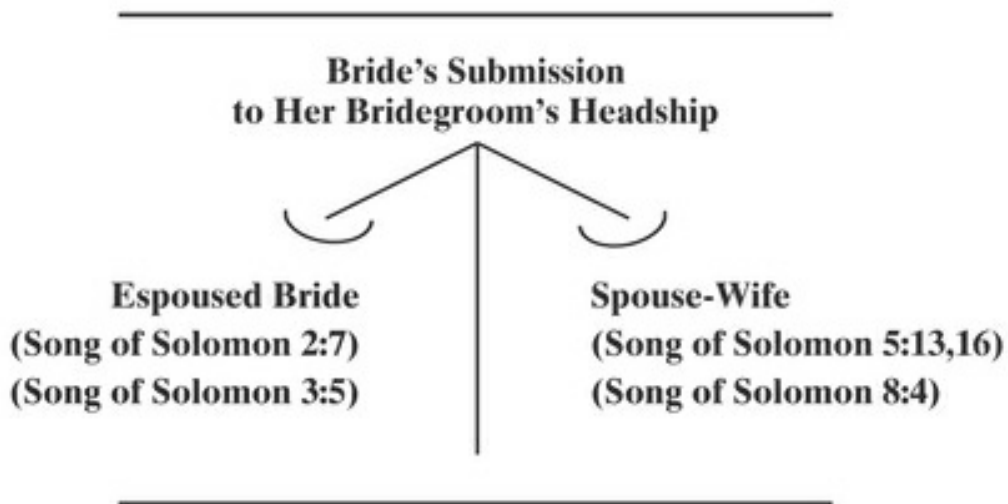
The LORD’s Headship has the power to guide us safely and happily through the most desolate deserts of life, and His Headship has the sweet, fragrant nature to sweeten the bitterest cups that life can offer us.

In the hundred and fourth Psalm, the Psalmist meditated on the LORD and His sweet Governance and Guidance of his life.

My meditation of him shall be sweet: I will be glad in the LORD (Psalm 104:34).

When the Psalmist mused upon his Maker and His Ruling and Reigning over him, he found it Sweet; therefore, he rejoiced with gladness of heart.

Then, there is the Bride in the Song of Solomon who respected her Bridegroom’s Headship, both in her espousal days (engagement) and in her spouse days (marriage). She described Him as being Fragrant and Sweet.



I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye **stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please** (Song of Solomon 2:7).

I charge you, O ye daughters of Jerusalem, by the roes, and by the hinds of the field, that ye **stir not up, nor awake my love, till he please** (Song of Solomon 3:5).

The espoused Bride charged the daughters of Jerusalem not to try to stir up her love unto her espoused Bridegroom before His Headship determined the time had come to awaken her love and affection for Him, through His precious Words of Truth.

The honour and respect that the espoused Bride learned for her espoused Bridegroom's Headship continued to grow after she had become His Spouse-Wife.

I charge you, O daughters of Jerusalem, that **ye stir not up, nor awake my love, until he please** (Song of Solomon 8:4).

The Spouse-Wife had not lost her desire for the Bridegroom to be the Head over her love and affection.

How sweet it is to trust the LORD to stir up our love for His Word, for prayer, and for His Master Plan and Purposive Will for our lives.

When the Spouse-Bride described her Husband's Head or His Headship to the daughters of Jerusalem, she said He was most Fragrant and Sweet.

His cheeks are as a bed of spices, as sweet flowers: his lips like lilies, dropping sweet smelling myrrh.... His mouth is most sweet: yea, he is altogether lovely. This is my beloved, and this is my friend, O daughters of Jerusalem (Song of Solomon 5:13,16).

The Spouse-Bride described Her Bridegroom in this manner:

- the cheeks of His Head were as sweet smelling, fragrant flowers;
- the lips of His Head were as sweet-smelling myrrh;
- the mouth of His Head was sweet and lovely.

So again, we see that the LORD's Headship is depicted in the Song of Solomon as Sweetly Fragrant, just as it is portrayed through the fragrant, sweet blossoms on Aaron's Rod that lay in the Ark.

C. The Almonds on Aaron's Rod Portray the Fruitfulness of the LORD's Headship.

Aaron's Rod also miraculously bore almonds. The almond tree is the first to bloom in the new year. In January, before flowers appear on other trees, flowers appear on the seemingly lifeless boughs of the almond tree. The almond tree hastens to fulfill God's Purposive Will for it, which is for it to become a fruitful tree.

In like manner, the LORD's Headship hastens to work for us, guiding and leading us into the Father's Purposive will for us, which is manifested through *much Fruitfulness*.

The Apostle John recorded Jesus' telling His Disciples that they would bear much Fruit.

Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples (John 15:8).

We cannot bear much spiritual Fruit except we allow Christ's Headship to rule in our lives.

Hence, Aaron's Rod, with its buds, which manifested its Beauty; its blossoms, which manifested its Sweet Fragrance; and its almonds, which manifested its Fruitfulness, was a graphic picture of the LORD's Headship.

Christ Jesus is the Fountain of Life, the Head and the Author of His Beautiful, Sweet, Fruitful Resurrection Life for mankind.

Jesus saith unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? (John 11:25,26).

Christ's Headship always will retrieve us from our grave of sin and spiritual death, if we submit to His Headship and follow it in passive and active obedience. Christ's Living Headship over Death and the darkness of the grave retrieved Lazarus from Death and the grave.

If we will hear the voice of Christ's Headship, as Lazarus did, we, too, will be brought forth from our graves of spiritual Death. Christ Jesus' Headship is the way of Life because He is the Resurrection and the Life.

When Aaron's Rod was laid near the Ark of God or the LORD's Headship, it brought forth buds; it blossomed; and it yielded almonds. We may feel as dead and barren as Aaron's lifeless Rod; however, if we place ourselves under Christ's Headship, as Aaron's Rod was placed near the Ark of the LORD's Headship, we too will experience new Beauty, Sweet Fragrance, and the Fruitfulness of the Resurrection Life of Christ's Headship.

III. The Ark with the Pot of *Manna* Pictures the Strength of the LORD's Headship.

The third item the Ark contained was the Pot of *Manna*, which pictures the Strength of Christ's Headship. The Strength of Christ's Headship gives us endurance and resistance to the darkness of Lucifer's tempting words that would cause us to continue walking in the darkness of our own headship.

The Ark is spoken of in the Scriptures as the "Ark of Strength."

Now therefore arise, O LORD God, into thy resting place, thou, and **the ark of thy strength**: let thy priests, O LORD God, be clothed with salvation, and let thy saints rejoice in goodness (II Chronicles 6:41).

Therefore, the Ark represents the Strength of the LORD's Headship.

The High Priest stood before the Ark and asked for God's Headship or Purposive Will for Israel in battles and in all other difficult choices in their lives. From the Ark of His Strength, the LORD guided His people to victory, causing them to triumph over their oppressing enemies and bringing them salvation, thus vindicating the Righteousness of His Name.

The Ark was God's Throne-Chariot from which He governed and guided Israel. With God as their Head, Israel's Priests could be assured of being clothed with salvation through their prayers, and the saints of being filled with rejoicing over the Goodness of God's Headship.

If we will allow Jesus Christ to be the Head, He will guide us into situations in which He will reveal His Goodness, the excellence of His Kindness, Generosity, and Benevolence in giving us the *best* for our moral high calling and our material high calling.

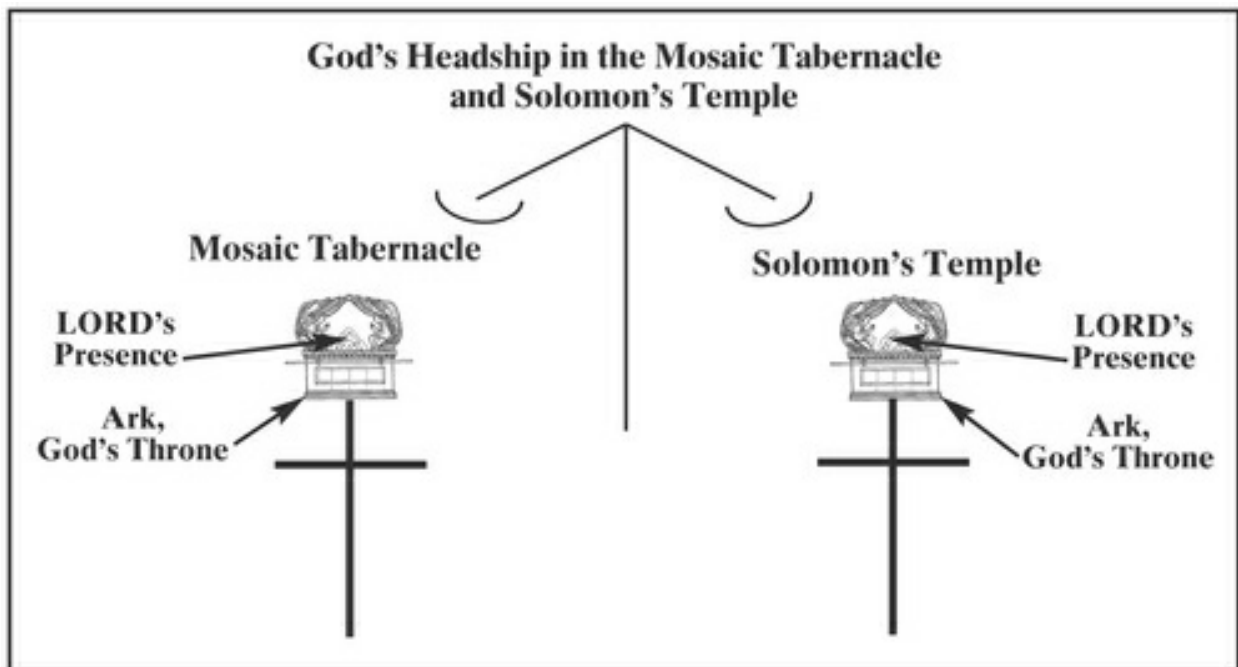
The Psalmist referred to the Ark as God's Strength.

Arise, O LORD, into thy rest; thou, and **the ark of thy strength** (Psalm 132:8).

The LORD's abiding Presence rested on the Ark of the Covenant and manifested the Strength of His Headship in governing and guiding His people.

God took up His abode in the Mosaic Tabernacle or in Solomon's Temple, only after the Tabernacle and the Temple had been set up according to His Master Plan and Purposive Will.

The Ark of the Covenant, with its contents and its Mercy Seat, God's Throne-Chariot, had to be placed in the Holy of Holies. Then, the Sovereign God, the Almighty King, entered in with His Glorious Presence and took up His abode on the Mercy Seat.



The blueprints for both the Mosaic Tabernacle and Solomon's Temple showed them laid out in the form of a Cross, with the Ark of the LORD's Strength always in the Head-realm, which pictured the Headship of God and His Son.

The Pot of Manna inside the Ark bore witness of the Strength of God's Headship that led Israel through the unrestrained wilderness and the bleak, barren desert to Canaan's Land. The Might and Strength of Christ's Headship always assure victory in all things. The impregnability of Christ's Headship in all things guarantees us the victory in all things, if we submit ourselves to His supreme, sovereign Rulership in all things.

The LORD's Headship has the Strength, Force, and Almighty Power to resist all attacks of the enemy. His Headship has all the Moral Might to help us attain our moral high calling in Christ Jesus. Christ's Powerful, Strong Headship always leads us into realms of efficiency and effectiveness.

IV. The Ark with Its Mercy Seat Pictures the Loving Mercy of Christ's Headship.

The fourth aspect of the Ark was the Mercy Seat which crowned it. This made the Ark a picture of the loving Mercy of Christ's Headship.

The Blood of the Atonement was sprinkled upon the Ark and the Mercy Seat in the Mosaic Tabernacle, signifying that the Blood of Jesus Christ would wash away the iniquity, transgression, sin, and trespasses of our own headship, as we repent of usurping Christ's Headship in our lives.

All man's separation from God begins with man's *iniquity*, which is his departure from the one straight way of God's Headship in his life, as he takes up his own crooked, revolting headship. After man has established his independent headship from the LORD, he begins to revolt, to rebel, and to obstinately do wrong out of contempt for God's Headship and His *Torah* because they forbid the way he is taking. Hence, through his willful opposition to God's Headship, man abuses the intimate relationship that he once had with the LORD. Then, man treads on in his sinful way, doing wrong through carelessly forgetting God's Headship and *Torah-Truth*. Thus, he comes to hate the LORD's Headship, considering it a disturber of the joys of his sensual life and an enemy of his unrestrained carnal life. Through his indifference and carelessness toward God's Headship and His *Torah-Truth*, man stumbles on under his own headship, further trespassing against the LORD by his treacherous, faithless attitude toward God's Rule over him.

Nevertheless, the LORD Jesus Christ died so that He could bring man back into a pleasant, harmonious agreement with His Holy Headship.

The Psalmist revealed how God leads by His merciful Headship in sending His Mercy and His Truth before His Face.

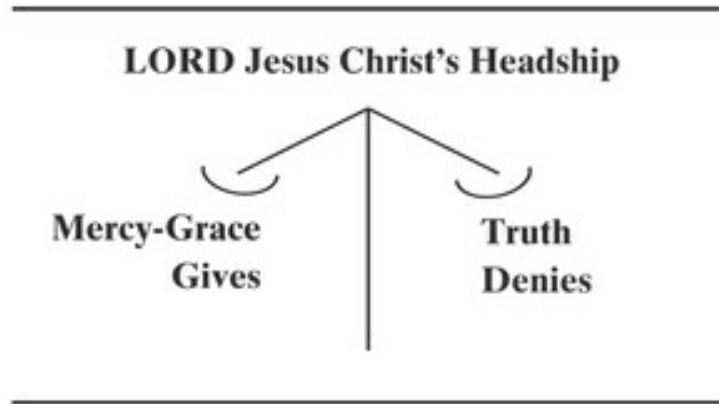
Justice and judgment *are* the habitation of thy throne: **mercy and truth shall go before thy face** (Psalm 89:14).

God's Justice refers to His Righteousness in practice, and His Judgment refers to the Divine Decisions He makes in the process of His Sovereign, Supreme Governing of His creation.

The Sovereignty of God's Headship does not rest upon His Almighty Power apart from His Holy Nature of Mercy and Truth. Mercy and Truth are God's forerunners that precede the Governance and Guidance of His Headship in this world. God is the supreme Sovereign over all His universes, and His Dominion is Eternal. However, He rules and reigns over His creation with His Mercy and His Truth.

God's Mercy and Truth are necessary parts of His Holy Nature that work through His Headship.

God's *merciful* Love pushes back what man *deserves*, and His *gracious* Love abundantly gives penitent man what he *does not deserve*. God's merciful, gracious Headship abundantly *bestows* His Gifts upon those who are striving to stride forth in their spiritual education and moral development. However, God's Headship also is filled with His Truth that *denies* all our wishes and desires that would endanger our spiritual life and our growth in Christ's Spiritual Stature.



God's Headship in *giving* and in *denying* us our wishes and desires is for the sole purpose of helping us to walk successfully in His Spiritual Way, laying hold of the true joys, happiness, and satisfaction that can come only as we allow Him to be the Head, the Master, and the Owner of our lives.

God ministers His Headship over earthly monarchs also by His Mercy and Truth.

Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy (Proverbs 20:28).

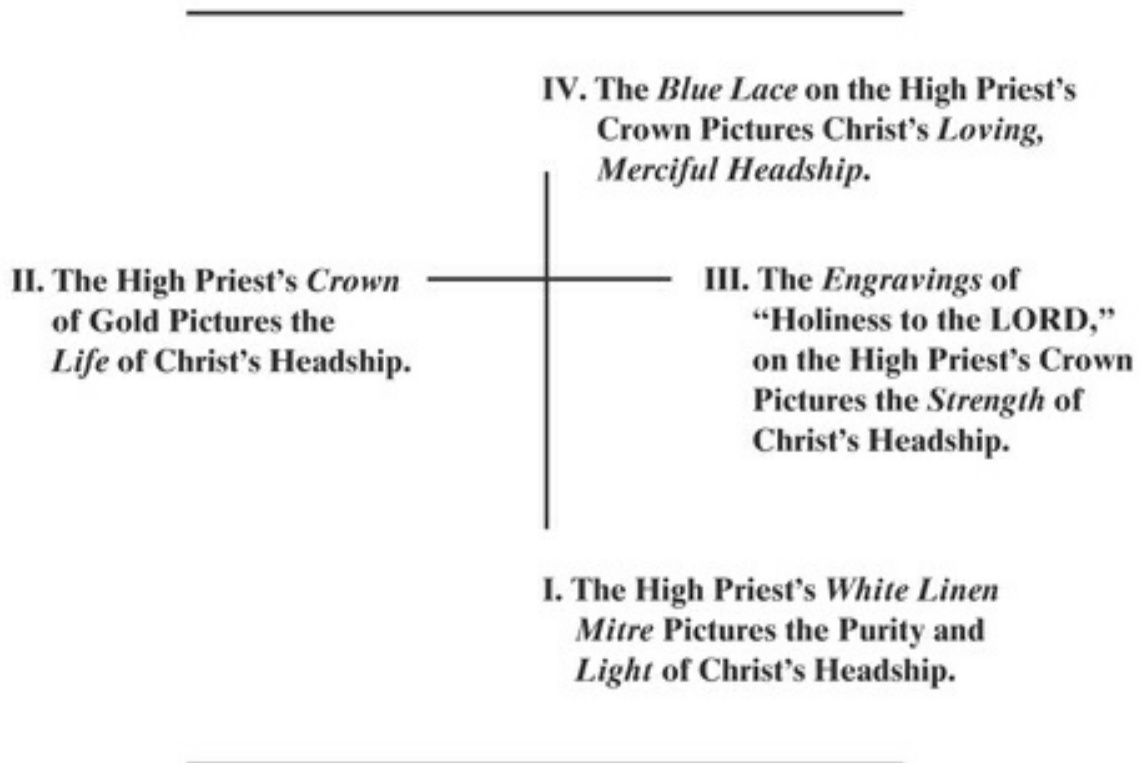
When an earthly king allows God to govern and guide him with His Mercy and Truth, the king, in turn, will govern and guide his subjects with God's Mercy and Truth. His subjects, then, will be happy and contented, and they will not revolt against him. If they do, however, God will overpower them and subdue them by His almighty, governing Headship, just as He did when He overthrew Absalom who tried to steal his father's throne.

Since the LORD Jesus Christ rules in Mercy and Truth, and since He helps monarchs who are guided by His Headship to rule in Mercy and in Truth, we should learn that whatever governance and guidance has been entrusted to us must be performed in the LORD's Mercy and His Truth.

Chapter Two

The High Priest's Headdress In The Old Testament Also Presents The Shadow And Type Of The LORD Jesus Christ's Headship In The New Testament

The fourfold adorning of Aaron's head pictures the same Stature of Truth concerning Christ's Headship as it appears in the New Testament (Exodus 28:4,36,37,39).



The Jewish High Priest wore the official Headdress which was made out of Pure White Linen, signifying the Purity of the *Torah-Truth*, the Light of Christ's Headship. This Turban or Headdress was called a *Mitre*.

I. The High Priest's White Linen Mitre Pictures the Purity and Light of Christ's Headship.

The Mitre was a tall Turban ornamented with a Gold Plate, Engravings, and Blue Lace. The Pure White Linen Mitre signifies the Purity of the *Torah-Truth* in the Ark and the Word that was made Flesh in Christ Jesus. The Psalmist declared that God's Word, His *Torah-Truth*, declared His Light.

Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path (Psalm 119:105).

The Light of the LORD's written *Torah-Truth* gave Light to the feet of those in the Old Testament dispensation who desired to walk in the Light. The *Torah-Truth* explained and made clear the Moral Law by which God's Headship governs and guides. The *Torah-Truth* instructed, informed, and enlightened the hungry, penitent soul who desired to walk in the way of Light.

God, in His wise design, placed all Wisdom and Knowledge in Jesus Christ, His Living Word. Therefore, through His Headship, we can receive all the spiritual enlightenment and instructions we need in order to grow up unto the measure of the Fullness of Christ's Stature.

Christ's pure, illuminating Headship lights up the true way of Life so that His followers do not stumble or err in the darkness of this world. We need the Light of Christ's Headship to give us the long range guidance to the Prize, the Bride of Christ, the New Jerusalem, which is His goal for each believer. Christ's Headship, through His Light of Truth, illuminates the New City, giving us a glimpse or preview of the Prize that awaits us at the end of this life's long road, if we are faithful to run the race and finish the course that He has laid out for us. The LORD Jesus Christ, the Divine Decider determines the direction our life should take in order to help us reach our goal of being in His Bride.

We also need Christ's constant guidance of the Light of His Truth to solve our daily problems and to save our feet from the many pitfalls in our daily existence.

The Light of Truth, through Christ Jesus' Headship enlightens our eyes to see new depths and heights of His revealed Word.

The law of the LORD is perfect, converting the soul: the testimony of the LORD is sure, making wise the simple. The statutes of the LORD are right, rejoicing the heart: the commandment of the LORD is pure, enlightening the eyes (Psalm 19:7,8).

The Pure Light of the Truth that comes through Christ's Headship restores our soul, fortifies our spirit, satisfies the hunger of our heart, and comforts our minds in times of distress. Christ's Headship is a reliable, guiding Light.

The LORD's Written Words are Pure, and the Living Word in Flesh also is Pure.

The words of the LORD are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times (Psalm 12:6).

Because Christ, the Living Word is Pure, we can have utmost confidence in the guiding Light of Christ's Headship. The Pure Mitre of Christ's Headship is unlike the deceitful headship of sinful man. Christ's Words of Light are like Pure Gold that has been freed from all its dross.

If we put on the Mitre of Christ's Headship, it will be our Helmet of Salvation as described by the Apostle Paul in Ephesians (Ephesians 6:17).

II. The High Priest's Golden Crown Pictures the Life of Christ's Headship.

The Jewish High Priest also had a Golden Crown or Plate attached to his Mitre, which signified the Life of Christ's Headship. This Truth also fits with Aaron's Rod that budded, blossomed, and bore almonds.

The Hebrew word for *crown* or *plate* is *tseets*, which is the same word for Aaron's Rod that budded, blossomed, and brought forth fruit.

Tseets means springing into view, breaking into view, a life that pushes from the inside to the outside. Aaron's Golden (*tseets*) Crown or Plate signified the life-giving Fruitfulness of Christ's Headship. The LORD Jesus Christ promised that if we would abide in Him (which means being under His Headship), then we would bring forth much Fruit and that our Fruit would remain.

I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every *branch* that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. Now ye are clean through the word which I have spoken unto you. **Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in me.** I am the vine, ye *are* the branches: **He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing.** If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered: and men gather them, and cast *them* into the fire, and they are burned. If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you. **Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit:** so shall ye be my disciples. As the Father hath loved me, so have I loved you: continue ye in my love. If ye keep my commandments, ye shall abide in my love; even as I have kept my Father's commandments and abide in his love. These things have I spoken unto you, that my joy might remain in you, and *that* your joy might be full. This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever I command you. Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known unto you. **Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you (John 15:1-16).**

If we will abide in Christ; that is, stand fast in Him, submit to His Headship, and continue without changing the Light of His Truth for darkness, we will bear Fruit that will last eternally. Christ gives His Life-giving Power from the Vine to all branches who will abide in Him. The Greek word for *abide* and *remain* is the same, which is *meno*, meaning to stay in a given place, state, relation or expectancy, to continue, dwell, endure, be present, tarry, and to stand.

The words *abide* and *remain (meno)* are used in a twelfold manner in Christ's Parable of the Vine and the Branches. Twelve is the number of perfect government. This teaches us that Christ's Headship is the Ruler over all life. Christ's Headship teaches, purges, and cleanses us through His Word; He teaches us to abide in Him; He teaches us to bear Fruit that will remain. He reveals His Love, His Joy, and the fellowship of His Suffering that we must bear. Christ was made perfect in experience through severe sufferings and trials. If we are to become Christlike, we must expect Christlike trials.

If we put on the Golden Crown of Christ's Life-giving Headship, Christ's Fruitfulness will spring forth in our hearts and lives.

III. The Engravings of "Holiness to the LORD" on the High Priest's Crown Pictures the Strength of Christ's Headship.

The Jewish High Priest also wore in his Crown the Engravings of letters which fit together with the *Manna* and Christ's Strength.

The Golden Plate or Crown upon Aaron's head displayed the engraving "Holiness unto the LORD," signifying that God the Father is Holy; therefore His Son, Jesus Christ, is Holy. All of Jesus Christ's thoughts, feelings, and deeds were Holy unto the LORD, and He desires to clothe our heads with the Strength of His Holy Headship. Thus, we continually will be aware that we are to be dedicated to the LORD's service in all that we do and say. We must be holy, consecrated to the LORD, desiring His Glory and Honour in all we do. Our holiness unto the LORD or Christ's Headship must be worn openly, as it were, on our foreheads, to express our boldness, our unashamedness of being governed and guided by Christ. There is Eternal Strength in Christ's Holy Headship.

IV. The Blue Lace on the High Priest's Crown Pictures Christ's Loving, Merciful Headship.

There was a piece of Sky Blue Lace fastened to the Golden Crown, which also was fastened over the Mitre or White Linen Turban. This Blue Lace pictures the Loving Mercy of Christ's Headship. This Truth fits with the Mercy Seat in the Tabernacle.

The humble, merciful ministry of the Blue Lace was to hold the Golden Crown, with its Engravings of *Holiness unto the LORD*, in place on Aaron's forehead so that Aaron could bear the iniquity of the holy things of the children of Israel. Hence, Aaron could take away Israel's guilt by repenting for her and obtaining merciful pardon and forgiveness for her.

How much more does the "Blue Lace" of Christ's Mercy and Grace bear our iniquities, transgressions, sins, and trespasses, thereby obtaining pardon and forgiveness for us? Christ's Mercy and Grace hold His *Holiness unto the LORD* in place before His Father, while He obtains our pardon and peace.

The Gospels bear witness of those who sought Christ's Merciful Headship and found healing for their needs. The Book of Matthew and the Book of Luke bear witness to Christ's Merciful Headship:

- A woman from Canaan found healing for her daughter who was vexed of a devil. Jesus' Merciful Headship took Power and Authority over the devil, liberating the woman's daughter (Matthew 15:22-28);
- A man, whose son was a lunatic because of a devil that possessed him, found a cure for his son in Christ's Merciful Headship (Matthew 17:14-18);
- Two blind men found healing for their blinded eyes when they cried unto Christ's Merciful Headship (Matthew 9:27-29; Matthew 20:30-34);
- Ten lepers were healed after they had sought Christ's Merciful Headship (Luke 13:12-14).

This teaches us that Christ's Merciful Headship delivers from vexing devils and lunatic devils, heals man's blindness, and heals man's sinful, leprous condition. The LORD Jesus Christ's Merciful Headship continues to lead

all His submissive followers to the goal, the Prize of being in Christ's Bride.

Chapter Three

Christ's Suffering Headship In The New Testament Corresponds To The Light Of Christ's Headship In The Old Testament

While chapters one and two of this study contained an overview of the fourfold picture of Christ's Headship as it was displayed through the Ark of the Covenant with its Mercy Seat and through the Headdress of the High Priest, this chapter presents the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship as it is revealed in the New Testament, which corresponds to the Light of Christ's Headship that is revealed in the Old Testament.

Remember, the Ark of the Covenant contained the following things and was crowned with the Mercy Seat, all of which pictures Christ's Headship in the Old Testament:

- The *Torah-Truth*: a picture the *Light* of Christ's Headship;
- *Aaron's Rod* that budded, blossomed, and brought forth fruit: a picture of the *Life* of Christ's Headship;
- The *Pot of Manna*: a picture of the almighty, governmental *Strength* of Christ's Headship;
- The Ark was crowned with the *Mercy Seat*: a picture of Christ's *Loving, Merciful* Headship.

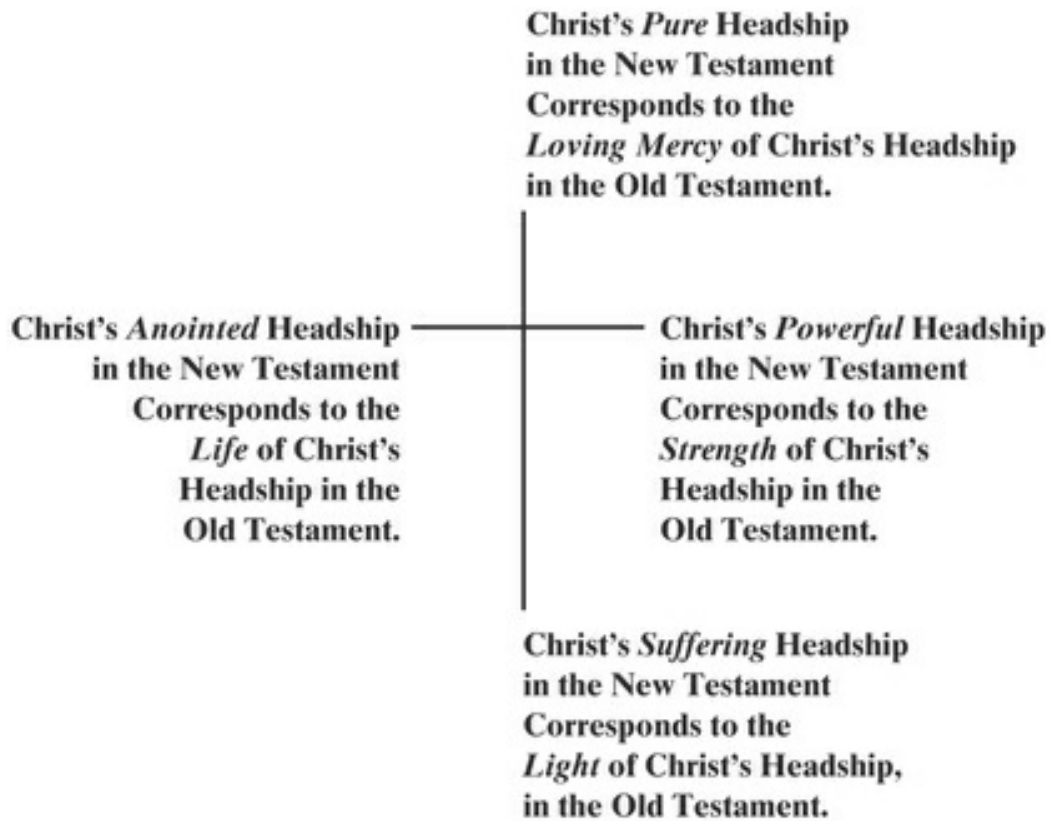
The High Priest's Headdress also pictures Christ's Headship. It consisted of four parts that relate to the same four aspects of Christ's Headship that the Ark and its Mercy Seat do:

- A tall *Mitre* or Turban made of pure *White Linen*: a picture of the pure *Light* of Christ's Headship;
- A *Golden Crown* or Plate of pure gold: a picture of the *Life* of Christ's Headship;
- Engravings of *Holiness to the LORD*: a picture of the Almighty *Strength* of Christ's Headship;
- *Blue Lace*: a picture of the *Heavenly, Loving Mercy* of Christ's Headship.

Christ's Headship, as revealed in the New Testament, corresponds to the same four aspects of His Headship that are revealed in the Old Testament.

- Christ's *Suffering* Headship in the New Testament corresponds to the *Light* of Christ's Headship in the Old Testament;
- Christ's *Anointed* Headship in the New Testament corresponds to the *Life* of Christ's Headship in the Old Testament;
- Christ's *Powerful* Headship in the New Testament corresponds to the *Strength* of Christ's Headship in the Old Testament;
- Christ's *Pure* Headship in the New Testament corresponds to Christ's *Loving, Merciful* Headship in the Old Testament.

This Stature of Truth fits around the four points of the Cross of Jesus Christ in the following way:



Christ, under His Heavenly Father's Governance and Guidance, was led through great realms of suffering in this present evil world. Thus, His Headship suffered mightily under the darkness of man's sin.

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

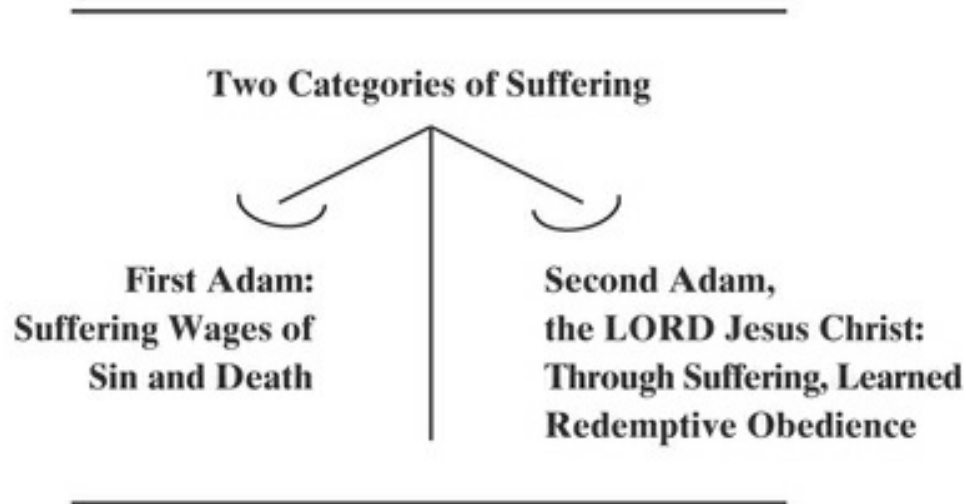
Suffering is God's "School of Obedience." To be obedient means that one is submissive to the person who has authority or control over him.

There are two categories of suffering; one stems from Adam the First; one comes from the LORD Jesus Christ, the Second Adam. In the beginning, suffering was imposed as the wages of sin, which worked death upon all mankind. This suffering began when man made the wrong choice in the Garden. However, through the Second Adam, the LORD Jesus Christ, suffering is a part of the Law of Christ's Redemption; therefore, it becomes a Principle of Cleansing, Perfection, and Completion.

The LORD Jesus Christ never was unclean so that He should be made clean. However, He learned or acquired knowledge about being submissive because He assumed the lower, humble position of a servant. The Son of God, in His exalted position in Heaven, was not a servant as are the Angels; rather, He was the exalted One Whom the Angels worshipped. The LORD Jesus Christ is the exalted Son, by Whom the Father made the worlds; yet, He humbled Himself in the days of His Flesh so that He could suffer. Through His suffering, He learned obedience. Jesus Christ did not come to Earth to learn the Wisdom and Knowledge of Commanding. This He already possessed in Heaven. The Highest, as the Highest Creator, cannot learn obedience as the creatures do, for there is no authority nor power above Him. Christ was One in perfect union with His Father. All Laws were made for the creation, not for God and His Son, the Creator. Jesus Christ could not *learn* the experiential knowledge of obedience from His

Father's Throne; nor could He be *taught* obedience from His Father's Throne. The One Who is sitting on the Throne, creating and making Laws for His creation, cannot empirically *learn* the knowledge of obedience.

In order to learn obedience, the Son of God had to lay aside His Throne and take upon Himself the form of a servant, clothed in human nature. He accepted our duties, trials, troubles, and temptations so that, in the flesh, He could learn obedience to the Father; then, He could fulfill all the Law in our place, both spiritually and ceremonially. He experienced our suffering, and, through it, He learned perfect obedience to the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. Now Jesus Christ comes into willing and penitent hearts and teaches them how to obey, in their hearts and wills, God and His Laws.



Jesus, as a Servant, came down and took on the yoke of obedience to the Commandments which He Himself had written on Mount Sinai. Jesus went through the whole "suffering course of discipline," avoiding nothing, missing nothing, until He crowned His suffering and obedience with His submission to Death on the Cross of Calvary.

Christ, the Light of the World, came to Earth and learned obedience under the yoke of His Humanity. He practiced obedience to His Father's Purposive Will in the midst of this immoral wilderness so that, through the Light of His Suffering Headship, He can redeem us, guide us, and teach us how to fellowship His obedient suffering. In turn, we learn to obey the Father's Holy Will instead of fellowshipping the First Adam's disobedient suffering by obeying the will of fallen Lucifer, the flesh, and the world.

The obedience that Christ learned through His Suffering Headship is a bright and shining Light that leads us and empowers us to do what God's Word commands us to do. The Light of Christ's Suffering Headship teaches us submission, a giving in to God's Divine Orders; it teaches us to open our hearts to His Instructions and to learn that He is the One Who has the Divine Authority and control over us. When we follow the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship, we cease to resist Christ's domination of our life; therefore, we sweetly and easily submit to His control. As we understand this spiritual Principle in a greater way, we always are more willing to fellowship the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship.

This chapter covers the first point of Truth on the Stature of Truth we are studying and deals with Christ's Suffering Headship or the Light of His Headship. Christ's Head suffered in the following ways: He had no place to lay His Head. His Head was pierced with thorns and beaten with a reed. Accusations and mockery were heaped upon His Head. And His Head was bowed under the shame of our sin.

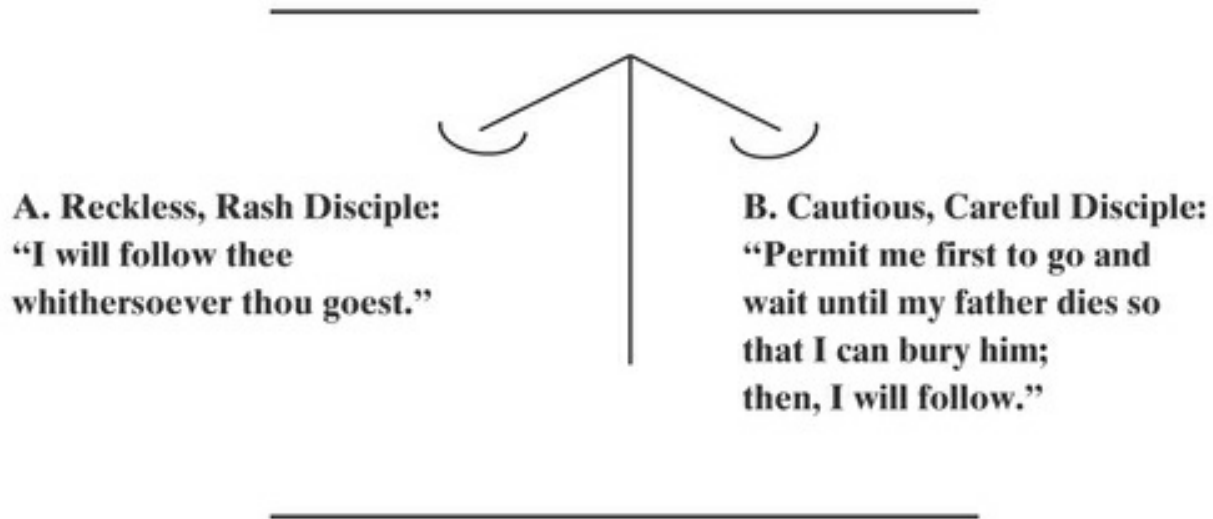
I. Jesus Christ Had Nowhere to Lay His Suffering Head.

Following Jesus Christ all the way requires exclusive surrender to Him, which is a willingness to fellowship His suffering of "nowhere to lay His Head." Jesus Christ, the Creator and Divine Son of God, provided homes, shelters and mates for all His creation in this world, but as the poor, humble Son of Man, He had nowhere to lay His own Head.

And a certain scribe came, and said unto Him, Master, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, The foxes have

holes, and the birds of the air *have* nests; but **the Son of man hath not where to lay his head**. And another of his disciples said unto him, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. And Jesus said unto him, Follow me; and let the dead bury their dead (Matthew 8:19-22).

On this occasion related by Matthew, two classes of disciples said they wanted to follow Jesus Christ: the reckless, rash disciple and the cautious, careful disciple.



A. A Reckless, Rash Disciple Refused Christ’s Suffering Headship.

The reckless, rash disciple hastily declared that he would follow Christ all the way, “whithersoever Thou goest.” This was before he had received the Light or revelation about Christ’s Suffering Headship. Because of his intense eagerness to be near Jesus, and because he was without any knowledge of the crucified Christ and His humility, he carelessly volunteered to follow Jesus “whithersoever Thou goest.”

Without excitement or confusion, Christ hastened to reveal His Suffering Headship to this reckless, rash disciple. Thus, Christ sifted and tested the sincerity of the man’s statement. Jesus revealed that He had no permanent shelter or abode in this world. He had no mate, as the foxes do in their dens, and as the birds do in their nests.

Jesus lived alone with His Heavenly Father. He often sought lonely, remote, unfrequented places to pray and to be alone with His Father. The Heavenly Father was Christ’s All; hence, He was happily contented to be separated from all creatures, according to His Father’s Purposive Will. In Christ’s heart, He was completely alone with the Father. He was, in His heart, completely attached to His Father and totally detached from creatures. On the other side of the scales, Jesus Christ loved all His creation and was ready to lay down His Life on the Cross for its redemption.

Hasty, high sounding words of promise from the rash, reckless disciple was no sign that he had a fixed purpose and choice that had been brought to birth because he had received illumination in his understanding of Christ’s Suffering Headship.

After Jesus had dealt with the rash, reckless scribe about His solitary Suffering Headship, as a pilgrim and a stranger in this world, we do not hear any further commitment from him to follow Jesus.

Many Christians, in the darkness of their understanding, often make glowing promises and apparent commitments to follow Christ and to serve Him. However, when the burning Light of Christ’s Suffering Headship appears, their desire to follow Christ’s Headship melts and disappears like the morning dew under the burning rays of the noonday sun.

B. A Cautious, Careful Disciple Refused Christ’s Suffering Headship.

After the cautious, careful disciple had listened to Jesus’ Counsel with the first disciple, he decided not to be rash and reckless, but to take more forethought and to be more heedful. Therefore, in his diseased perception of reality,

he placed his lower duty toward the creature before his higher duty for his Creator and said, "I'll follow you after I go and live with my father and bury him." He carefully thought that if he could perform the inferior task of taking care of the creature, first, that it would prepare him to perform the superior task, later, in serving the Creator. He deceitfully imagined that, if he put his selfish interest of caring for his household of creatures above the place of Christ, the Creator, and His Kingdom, he would be better prepared to follow the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship in agreeing to "whithersoever Thou goest."

This poor man was spiritually blind to the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship. He neither perceived nor saw that making Christ's Eternal Kingdom subordinate to his little earthly kingdom would crush out Christ's Light, leaving him in the dark, not knowing the way to go. He did not discern nor take notice that He was putting his finite plan and purpose above the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will. He never once asked the LORD Jesus Christ to show him the conditions or the way that he should take to do the LORD's Will. In simple words, he said, "Let me boss my life, first; then, afterward, I'll let You be the Boss." This cannot be since God never can put Himself second to the creature nor let the corrupt creature be the Master.

If we constantly prefer the lower, inferior, earthly kingdom of our corrupt human will to Christ's higher, superior, Eternal Kingdom of His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will, our wills will be filled with such prideful deceit and our souls will become so filled with misrepresentation of the Truth that we never will have the spiritual strength to make the right choice for Christ's Kingdom and the Father's Plans and Purposes.

The flesh always says "Suffer me first; let me boss first." And after we finish one thing, there always is another "suffer me first" promise or another "let me boss again," until our life and its time and energies have been spent on the inferior, earthly things of our corrupt human will instead of in following the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship that leads us to the Prize of being in His Bride.

As disciples who have chosen to follow the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship, we, too, will fellowship Christ's Suffering Headship by experiencing this class of solitary suffering in the natural realm when God allows our friends to be busy when we need them; to be blind to the fact that we need them; to be far away; and to be caught up in their selfish world of troubles.

God allows these things to happen to teach us to find our ALL in ALL in the Creator rather than foolishly expecting creatures to meet our needs. Our disappointments are witnesses against us that our expectations are in the creature instead of in the Creator.

I praise and thank my LORD for sending me to His "school of suffering," which consisted of multitudes of disappointments in creatures, in order to learn that the LORD Jesus Christ, my Creator, Redeemer, and Bridegroom, is my ALL in ALL.

Likewise, we definitely will experience solitary suffering spiritually. On our spiritual journey, we will walk in places where no one understands but Jesus Christ, as we stride forward in the LORD's Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Jesus told the rash, reckless disciple that the foxes have holes and the birds have nests during their mating seasons, and they enjoy union and fellowship with each other as they work to build their dens and nests so that they can produce new life, according to the Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will. However, Jesus humbled Himself beyond the animal creation who have homes and mates. He did not have the comforts of an earthly companion when He went to Calvary's Cross in order to produce new Redemptive Life for His creation, according to His Father's Purposive Will.

And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore mine own arm brought salvation unto me; and my fury, it upheld me. And I will tread down the people in mine anger, and make them drunk in my fury, and I will bring down their strength to the earth (Isaiah 63:5,6).

Jesus Christ went to the Cross without one earthly companion who understood. He walked alone up Calvary's hill; He hung alone on the Cross; and He went alone to Death and Hell.

Likewise, when Jesus Christ treads out the grapes, the wicked fruits of sinful man's works, in God's Winepress in Heaven, He treads the winepress alone. There are no other earthly feet worthy to tread with Him.

Since Jesus Christ has suffered so much *alone* for us, the least we can do, although we are unworthy, is to be willing to fellowship bits of His "alone-suffering."

Jesus Christ had to walk alone because He is the only Begotten Son of God. There was no creature worthy to walk with Him. Jesus walked in the Light of His Suffering Headship that came from His Father, knowing that He would redeem His fallen creation and that one day the Father would prepare Him a Bride out of the ones who would

grow up to the measure of the Spiritual Stature of His Fullness. Those who grow up unto Christ's Head will have a love and appreciation for the privilege of fellowshipping the Sufferings of the Crucified Christ.

Jesus was not speaking against marriage here, for God Himself instituted marriage. However, He explained the Spiritual Principle of being willing to walk alone with God and the Lamb, in our mind and in our soul, in order to grow up into the measure of the Spiritual Stature of Christ's Fullness. Although we are married, there are times we must walk alone: in the LORD's Word; in Holy Ghost prayers of intercession and travail; and in our spiritual life, in order to be made one with Christ Jesus.

Since Jesus Christ has walked completely alone in this world, He knows the loneliness of the human heart. Therefore, He is able to succour both the married and the unmarried in their loneliness, in their longing for friends and loved ones. At times, the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship brings us to places and circumstances in which we must stand apart from others. We are isolated; we feel empty and alone. We long for the company of a special loved one or friend. But it is in this time of suffering alone that we learn to draw nearer to Jesus and to lean on Him instead of leaning on the creature.

In this time of suffering, we learn to fall in love with Jesus Christ, as He was in love with His Father. We learn, through Christ's Suffering Headship, the Father's Almighty Sufficiency and His Eternal Love. Hence, we come forth from these experiences with a new, fresh willingness to give sacrificially and to share rather than to receive.

In our human immaturity and diseased perception of reality, we dream of the time we will find the love of our life, the one who will fulfill our every wish and longing. We expect this person to be the fulfillment of our natural desire for happiness, comfort, and human understanding. Sadly, we are always greatly disappointed. The poor creature whom we love fails to satisfy our hopes and our expectations. We make ourselves unhappy by the failure of our own expectations and false belief that a creature can take the place of the Creator. Oh, how happy our heart becomes the day Christ's Suffering Headship sets us free!

Remember, the faithfulness of the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship comes to us with "nowhere to lay His Head," preventing us from placing our hearts in the comforting words of creatures, which forces us to go to Christ and join our hearts to His Heart for comfort and consolation. How good God is not to allow us to find comfort in the creature. His Goodness does not allow us to remain in the darkness of our diseased perception of reality, nor to continue to live in the quagmire of our false expectations and disappointments. God's is Good not to allow us to continue to blame others for our own created misery, woe, and afflictions.

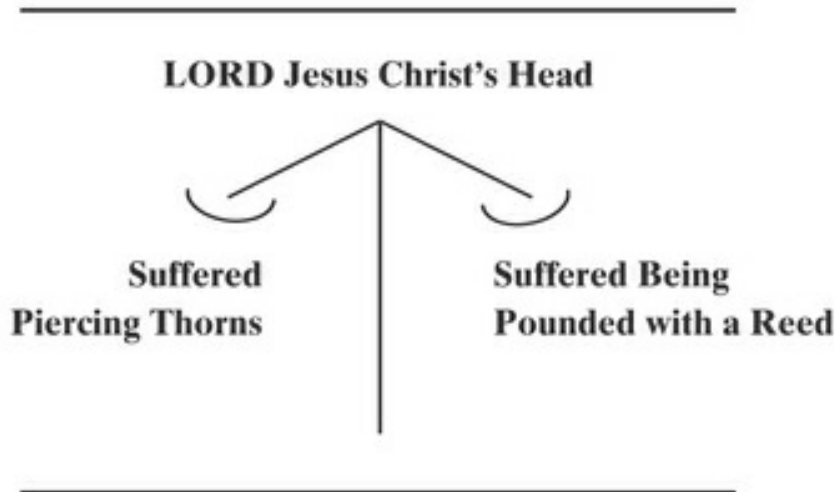
Christ's Suffering Headship liberates our hearts from all these entrapments of fallen Lucifer; then, we can know a happy, loving union with Jesus Christ, the Bridegroom. Set free by the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship, we can willingly and willfully follow the Lamb "whithersoever He goeth."

Although a person may be married and have a home, he or she still will walk alone at times in his or her mind and heart. This is part of God's Master Plan and Purposive Will. This is to teach us that no creature is capable of satisfying our spirit and soul except the Creator. There is a particular spiritual aloneness which we shall suffer as we walk alone with Jesus Christ in the Light of His Suffering Headship. But this aloneness is good for us because it brings us closer to Him as our Espoused Bridegroom.

II. Jesus Christ's Suffering Head Was Pierced with Thorns and Beaten with a Reed.

Before Jesus Christ's crucifixion, soldiers placed a crown of piercing thorns upon His Head and used a reed to pound and deliver cruel blows upon His Head.

And when they had platted **a crown of thorns, they put it upon his head**, and a reed in his right hand: and they bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, hail, King of the Jews! And they spit upon him, **and took the reed, and smote him on the head** (Matthew 27:29,30).



How our Lord's Head suffered! Roman soldiers went to the utmost in their derision to mock Jesus. There was no element of scorn lacking in their mockery. What a shameful spectacle! Roman soldiers, ignorant of all mercy, compassion, and tenderness, used their brutal, cruel instruments of thorns and a reed to lacerate and wound Jesus' precious Head. See what our sin deserved? See how our sins were laid on Him? See how the Light of the Father's Headship led Jesus to stoop low for our sakes? Look how Jesus, the Holy One, became the bruised, wounded Substitute for foolish, sinful man.

The creation, the ground, was cursed for the First Adam's sinful sake; therefore, it brought forth thorns as a result of Adam's original sin. **Sinful Adam had to work** to till the cursed, thorny soil in order **to obtain his bread by the sweat of his brow**. But **Jesus, the Holy One, toiled** in His Suffering Body on the Cross, wearing the Crown of Thorns, bearing the curse of the ground and the corruption of man's sin in order to redeem us and **to give us Spiritual Bread by the Blood of His Brow**.

For us, Jesus, the Holy One, bore these thorns, the curse of the ground, which pierced, pricked, and penetrated His precious Head, causing Him intense suffering as well as unspeakable shame.

By force, Adam the First extracted his bread from the thorny ground. Jesus, the Second Adam, extracted Salvation and the Bread of Life by His own Blood that came from the wounds made by the thorns on His Brow. What an unparalleled contrast!

Adam the First, because of his *disobedience*, caused the whole human race to eat bread from the thorny ground. But the Second Adam, Jesus the Holy One, because of His *obedience*, causes the human race to receive Salvation and to eat the Bread of Life through the Blood that flowed from the wounds made by the thorns upon His Brow.

The thorn-cursed ground, with its bread of disobedience from Adam the First, also pricks the soul, driving it with ceaseless ambition to possess the glitter of earthly gold and the vain glories of the glamour of this present evil world. But when the soul feeds on Christ's Bread of Obedience, it becomes an enlightened soul that is filled with the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship. The Light we receive from obedience makes us willing to fellowship Christ's Suffering Head that was pierced by thorns and beaten with a reed. As a result, all the glitter of human pomp and all the glamour of worldly achievements turn to smoke and ashes. No imperial purple compares to the Redemptive-Red Glory of Christ's Blood that poured forth from His throbbing, agonizing wounds made by thorns and a reed. No royal crown of earthly gems compares to the divine excellence of Christ's eternal jewels of humility that adorned His crown of thorns He wore the day He procured our redemption from sin, Death, and Hell. Christ's eternal jewels of humility are seen and beheld only by the enlightened eyes of our understanding. O, what a Saviour! Should we wear a crown of glamour and gold in this present world when our Saviour's brow throbbed under a crown of painful thorns that He wore for us that day?

Only on the outside could the fierce wicked Roman soldiers crown Christ's Head with the cursed earth's thorns. But the Father crowned Christ's Heart on the inside with the love, joy, and triumph of His Master Plan and Purposive Will that has brought redemption and salvation to mankind. The LORD Jesus Christ was crowned with the curse of thorns so that He could bear our curse of thorns which came through disobedience and which continue to beget disobedience. Jesus took away the curse of thorns that we inherited from Adam the First so that we can be free from disobedience to the LORD's Truth and so that we can feed upon Christ's Bread of Obedience, which will

make us submissive and obedient to the LORD's Truth.

To dishonour a person's head is to cast reflection upon the whole person. In some Eastern countries, people consider that even touching a person's head is a great insult to that person. What insult and injury Jesus suffered that day! His Head was penetrated by thorns and pounded by a reed. As we walk in Jesus Christ's Footsteps, following the Light of His Suffering Headship, fellowshipping His thorns and reed, we, too, will suffer the injuries of vicious men, as their words pierce and prick us, and as their ungodly deeds pound upon us.

Before Jesus Christ could wear that delightful, exalted Crown of Crowns, as King of King and LORD of LORDS, mentioned in the Book of Revelation, He had to suffer pain by wearing the humility crown of thorns. Likewise, before we can enjoy the pleasure of reigning with Christ, we first must endure the suffering we receive from fellowshipping Christ's crown of thorns and the beating He endured by the reed.

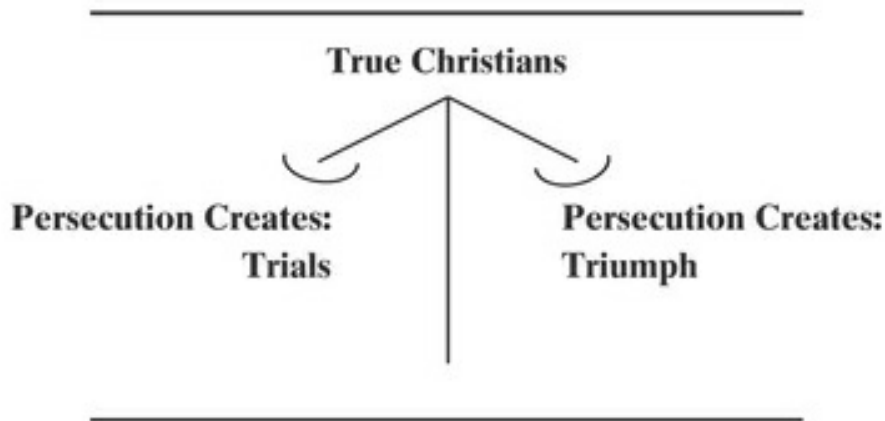
Paul confirmed this infinite, divine Truth to his spiritual son, Timothy.

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).

After Adam's fall into sin, God placed enmity between the woman's Seed (Christ and His children) and the Serpent and his seed (Lucifer's children). Consequently, Christ's true children who live godly in Him suffer persecution, but the suffering is temporal, lasting for just a short, brief season. However, the reward they receive is eternal, for they get to reign with Christ in the New City, for ever and ever. In the meantime, we must learn Christ's royal humility power and authority over all opposition of the flesh, the world, and fallen Lucifer. Jesus Christ must reign over our inward, fleshly, unChristlike nature, regenerating it, converting it, conforming it, and transforming it into His own Image and Likeness, if we expect to be in His Bride and dwell with him in the New City. As we suffer persecution for Christ's sake, now, it causes our fleshly, unChristlike nature to manifest itself so that we can repent of it and give it over to the LORD Jesus Christ's mortifying, crucifying, changing power.

When a sinful heart is alienated from God, it hates and persecutes those who live Godly in Christ Jesus because the saints' presence causes them to remember God, which brings fresh, new conviction upon their hearts for their defection from God. The saints' Godly conduct and holy conversations reprove and upbraid the wicked, which disturbs them in their sins and prevents them from fully enjoying the sensual pleasures of the flesh. This fills the ungodly with vengeful wrath toward Christ's Godly saints. Therefore, the ungodly endeavour to destroy the Godly on all sides. Ungodly people are upset by the glorious, resurrected Light of Christ's Suffering Headship that shines through Christ's saints with its penetrating, radiating rays that convict and condemn the ungodly in their worldly wicked ways. However, the persecution that true Christians receive creates both their trials and their triumphs.



A. Persecution Creates Trials.

Persecution is God's process of trying, testing, and proving the depth of the roots of Christ's Truth in our hearts. Persecution establishes our actual worth in performing Christlike deeds in our moral development, when we are in painful suffering.

The Apostle Paul and Silas are beautiful examples of ones who established their spiritual worth by performing Christlike deeds when they were in painful sufferings. After they had been beaten and cast into prison for Christ's sake, they prayed and sang praises to God while blood oozed from the stripes on their backs. Paul and Silas were Christ's precious servants! In their suffering, they were tremendous instructive examples to us in the midst of our suffering.

Persecution under God's Headship is good because it puts us to the test so that, on one side, we clearly can see the spiritual growth we have attained in Christ Jesus, while on the other side, we can see what we have not attained.

B. Persecution Creates Triumph.

Persecution also creates triumph for the true believer, giving him an occasion to express joyful exultation for the victory achieved through his trial. Although we may fail in the beginning of a test or trial, we can repent and lay hold of Christ's All-triumphant Power, which always gives us the victory, the supremacy, and the superiority in our battle with the flesh, the world, and fallen Lucifer. Christ's All-triumphant Power always gives success in any contest or struggle with the flesh and any other of Christ's opponents. He always brings defeat to the enemy and helps us to overcome all obstacles. Hence, through Christ's All-triumphant Power, we always can win in every contest, struggle, and battle. Through Christ's complete, supreme, superior Power, we always can come forth victorious from our trials and tests and from any battle with the world, the flesh, and the Devil. We can march forth triumphantly in any spiritual military conflict or struggle as long as we follow Christ's Headship, both the crucified Christ's and the resurrected Christ's Headship. We always can defeat our opponents and overcome all obstacles as long as the LORD Jesus Christ, with His All-triumphant Headship, is our General and our Captain.

In the dark night of persecution, Christ's illuminating, starry Grace shines with more brilliance and splendour, showing us the way in which we should go so that we do not stumble spiritually in the midst of persecution. Jesus Christ, through His All-triumphant Power, clothes us with His victorious Love and Favour in the midst of persecution.

Salvation is a gift from God through His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, but ruling and reigning with Jesus Christ in the New City is a result of the spiritual works and growth of those who have lived Godly and have suffered persecutions. The New City is for those who have put off the old man, through the crucified Christ and His powerful mortification and crucifixion of the flesh, and have put on the New Man, Christ Jesus, with His Unbegotten Resurrection Power.

In this Laodicean Church Age, much spiritual pride permeates the hearts of God's people who falsely imagine that they will reign with Christ when they get to Heaven, although they have bypassed the Way of the Cross, the fellowship of Christ's Suffering, and the mortification and crucifixion of their flesh while here on Earth.

Remember, beloved, it was first necessary for the LORD Jesus Christ to suffer having cruel Roman soldiers pierce His Head with thorns and having them pound His Head with a reed before He could rule as the exalted, resurrected Christ with His Sceptre of Righteousness in His Hand. His Heavenly Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will always demand suffering and humility before glory and honour (Proverbs 15:33).

Are we also willing to follow the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship, which includes the piercing thorns and the pounding reed of persecution that He received from wicked creatures so that we also might inherit His Sceptre of Righteousness and rule and reign with Him in the New City? The Apostle Paul longed to know Christ, both in His resurrection and in His crucifixion.

That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead (Philippians 3:10,11).

The Apostle Paul was as zealous to be sanctified as he was to be justified. Paul desired to know or to be made one with the transforming efficacy and virtue of both the resurrected Christ and the crucified Christ. He wanted the power of Christ's Death and resurrection Life to kill sin in him through his mortification, crucifixion, and resurrection. Paul desired to die daily so that He could walk daily in newness of Life with Christ.

III. Jesus Christ's Suffering Head Was Heaped with Accusation and Mockery.

In the final hours of Jesus Christ's human Life, as He hung suspended on the Cross, He had to suffer additional

pain in the form of accusation and mockery, which cruel men heaped upon His Head.

And set over his head his accusation written, THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS (Matthew 27:37).

Using false witnesses, the Jews deceitfully established, in their evil, earthly court, that Jesus was guilty of blasphemy because He acknowledged the Truth that He was God's Divine, Royal, Kingly Son. After establishing a false case against Him, they ordered Him brought to trial, and they demanded His crucifixion by the Roman government. So Pilate granted their wishes and wrote upon Jesus' Cross, "This is Jesus the King of the Jews."

The title of *King* was used as a mocking accusation by the following people:

- The Roman soldiers: "...bowed the knee before him, and mocked him, saying, Hail, King of the Jews!" (Matthew 27:29).
- The common Jews: "And they that passed by reviled him, wagging their heads, And saying, Thou that destroyest the temple, and buildest it in three days, save thyself. If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross" (Matthew 27:39,40).
- The Chief Priests, Scribes, and Elders: " He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him" (Matthew 27:42).
- The Thieves: "The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth" (Matthew 27:44).

Their mockery and accusation were charges of wrongdoing. In other words, *if* Jesus Christ were a King, the Divine Son of God, then He would not be hanging upon a Cross. This was a blatant attempt to hold Jesus Christ up to scorn, contempt, and ridicule, presenting Him to the world as an imitation and a counterfeit, although the Jewish Their mockery and accusation were charges of wrongdoing. In other leaders knew all the time Who He was because they had the Witness of the Urim and Thummim.

The fact that Jesus Christ remained on the Cross, according to His Father's Purposive Will, and forgave them of their unparalleled crime, proved that He, indeed, was God's Divine, Kingly Son.

How little they understood Christ's triumphant victory, achieved through His Suffering Headship, as He bruised the Serpent's head with His crucified heel, taking victory over sin and Death. He was *lifted up* in Death on the Cross as Jesus, the King of the Jews, but He also was the King over fallen Lucifer, the Serpent.

Faithful, sincere believers who have embraced the Truth of Christ's Crucified Way often suffer ridicule from others. Those who try, by God's Grace and by the Power of the Holy Ghost, to lay aside everything that is unChristlike also suffer accusations and mockeries because of their Godly appearance and their separation from worldly things.

We have not yet attained the Goal or the Prize of being in Christ's resurrected Bride, but because Jesus has done so much for us spiritually, we also must bear the accusations and the mockery from those who still are blinded by the gods of this world. Beloved, we must, in grateful appreciation, praise God for the glorious privilege we have to fellowship the LORD Jesus Christ's Sufferings. Remember, we are not worthy to live; we are not worthy to serve; and we are not worthy to suffer for Christ's sake. Nor are we worthy to run this spiritual race and gain the Prize of being in His Bride. And until we become willing to know and to fellowship the crucified Christ's Sufferings, we will be unable to know the ruling and reigning power of the resurrected Christ. If we reject the accused, mocked, humble Headship of the crucified Christ, we will not be able to know the exalted Headship of the resurrected Christ.

IV. Jesus Christ's Suffering Head Was Bowed under the Shame of Man's Sins.

After Jesus had suffered all the accusation and mockery from His enemies, He bowed His Head, surrendering, submitting, and embracing all the unparalleled shame which had been heaped upon Him.

When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and **he bowed his head**, and gave up the ghost (John 19:30).

Jesus received the vinegar and said, "It is finished." Then He bowed His Head and died. Christ's bowed Head was a symbol of the inexpressible shame He felt as our sin-bearer. Not *His* shame but *our* sinful shame was laid upon Jesus at Calvary's Cross. Christ's bowed Head signified His submission to the authority of His persecutors, which He accepted as the Father's Plan and Purpose for Him.

Are we willing to fellowship the Suffering of Christ's bowed Head? The reason many Christians refuse to walk

openly in the Crucified Way is because Christ's Cross still carries shame, dis-honour, and disgrace to the flesh. Why should we refuse Christ's shame since it was *our shame* which He bore for us? What kind of despicable deniers are we? How terrible to think that Jesus Christ would take our shame in order to save us and to redeem us, while we are unwilling to fellowship *His* Sufferings of *our* shame so that we may gain a greater experiential knowledge of what He did for us at Calvary's Cross! What unparalleled, impudent ingratitude! Jesus Christ had no shame of His own, but He willingly took ours. The Apostle Peter said the following:

Forasmuch then as **Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind:** for he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin (1 Peter 4:1).

In other words, we must arm ourselves with the protective covering of a resolute determination and a firmness of purpose, and we must gird up our minds and hearts, encircling and enclosing them with a willing submissiveness to sweetly fellowship the fourfold Suffering of the Light of Christ's Headship when He experienced the following:

- He had nowhere to lay His Head.
- His Head was pierced with thorns and beaten with a reed.
- Accusation and mockery were heaped on His Head.
- His Head was bowed under our shame.

Jesus Christ was a Sufferer. He was a "...man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief" (Isaiah 53:3). "...Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses." Christ's sensitiveness to man's physical pain and his mental and moral agonies must have been unimaginable and, thus, unspeakable. However, Jesus did not wait until He was hanging on the Cross to begin bearing our infirmities and sickness.

When the even was come, they brought unto him many that were possessed with devils: and he cast out the spirits with *his* word, and healed all that were sick: That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by Esaias the prophet, saying, **Himself took our infirmities, and bare our sicknesses** (Matthew 8:16,17).

All the infirm and sick who came to Jesus during His Ministry had their maladies taken upon Himself. Therefore, He personally knows how we feel in every kind of infirmity and sickness. His sympathy with our infirmities and sickness is most precious.

The Apostle Paul confirmed the Truth of Christ's identifying with our feelings of suffering.

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as *we are, yet* without sin (Hebrews 4:15).

Christ is *touched* with our feelings of pain. He perceives our pain by His experiential sense of feeling because He took all of man's infirmities and sicknesses upon Himself. How precious and priceless is Christ's tender sympathy for our pains. He knows and understands because He carried them all in a human Body, yet without sin! Jesus Christ carried the effects of our sins: our infirmities, our sicknesses, and our Death.

To hear about pain or to see pain is one kind of experience, but it is another thing to feel pain and to endure pain. The purity and perfection of Christ's human Nature allows Him to respond with perfect tenderness and sympathy when He feels our pain. Christ suffered for all the pains and sorrows that are the effects of sin. He died to take away our sins and their effects. Hence, let us come boldly to His Throne so that we may obtain Mercy and find Grace to help us in the time of our need.

Christ suffered in the Flesh in order to become a merciful and faithful High Priest. Therefore, let us also arm ourselves with the same resolute mind so that we, too, may minister with great tenderness and sympathy while bearing the burdens of others. Let us feed on Christ's sinless Flesh, the Bread of Life, and His perfect obedience to the Father's Will so that we can put off our sinful flesh. Then, we will become more Christlike in our passive and active obedience to the Father's Purposive Will. Christ suffered in His sinless Flesh in order to display His human Holiness, Perfection, and Obedience to the Father's Will so that He could help us put off our sinful flesh. As our sinful flesh is crucified with Christ, we can cease living in our former rebellion against God's Purposive Will; cease degrading ourselves; and cease injuring others.

Through a spiritual marriage union with Christ's Suffering Headship, we can live in exclusive surrender unto the LORD's Holy, Perfect Will.

Chapter Four

Christ's Anointed Headship In The New Testament Corresponds To The Life Of Christ's Headship In The Old Testament

Just as we receive the Light of understanding through Christ's *Suffering* Headship, we receive His *Life* through His *Anointed* Headship.

God's Word reveals how both Jesus Christ's Head and His Feet were anointed. However, in this lesson, we especially want to study what the Bible says about the anointing of His head.

And it came to pass, when Jesus had finished all these sayings, he said unto his disciples, Ye know that after two days is *the feast of the passover*, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified. Then assembled together the chief priests, and the scribes, and the elders of the people, unto the palace of the high priest, who was called Caiaphas, And consulted that they might take Jesus by subtilty, and kill *him*. But they said, Not on the feast *day*, lest there be an uproar among the people. Now when Jesus was in Bethany, in the house of Simon the leper, **There came unto him a woman having an alabaster box of very precious ointment, and poured it on his head**, as he sat *at meat*. But when his disciples saw *it*, they had indignation, saying, To what purpose *is* this waste? For this ointment might have been sold for much, and given to the poor. When Jesus understood *it*, he said unto them, **Why trouble ye the woman? for she hath wrought a good work upon me**. For ye have the poor always with you; but me ye have not always. For in that she hath poured this ointment on my body, she did *it* for my burial. Verily I say unto you, Wheresoever this gospel shall be preached in the whole world, **there shall also this, that this woman hath done, be told for a memorial of her** (Matthew 26:1-13).

Mary of Bethany took her box of very precious ointment and poured it upon Christ's Head as He sat at meat. Being anointed with ointment refreshed the receiver's head and produced a very satisfying smell for all who were in the house. When Mary anointed the Christ, the Messiah, she anointed Him as her Priest, Prophet, and King.

Two Hebrew words are used in Mary's *anointing* of Jesus' Head and Feet: one is *yaw-tsak*, meaning to pour out by implying to melt, to overflow, run out, and the other is *maw-shakh*, meaning to rub with oil, to anoint, to consecrate, to paint.

The anointing of persons, places, and things with oil or ointment of a particular composition was a mode of consecration prescribed by Divine Authority and practiced extensively among the Hebrews (Exodus 28:11). The ingredients of the ointment, embracing the most exquisite perfumes and balsams, are minutely given in Exodus, chapter thirty, verses twenty-three through thirty-three. The common use of this anointing oil was expressly forbidden (Exodus 30:33).

Customarily, people at festivals and on other great and joyful occasions anointed their heads with fragrant oils. Hence, the anointing oil became a sign of joy and happiness, and its omission was a sign of grief.

This Truth teaches us that Mary of Bethany had a revelation of Christ's Death, burial, and resurrection, so when she anointed Jesus, her act signified that this was a glad occasion for Jesus and her. The Father already had anointed Jesus with the Oil of Gladness by His Spirit; then, Mary poured the fragrant spikenard oil on His Head and anointed His Feet, consecrating Him to give His Life, His Flesh, for the redemption of the world.

The Psalmist prophesied of the gladness and delight that Jesus Christ had in doing His Father's Will.

Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book *it is* written of me, **I delight to do thy will, O my God**: yea, thy law *is* within my heart (Psalm 40:7,8).

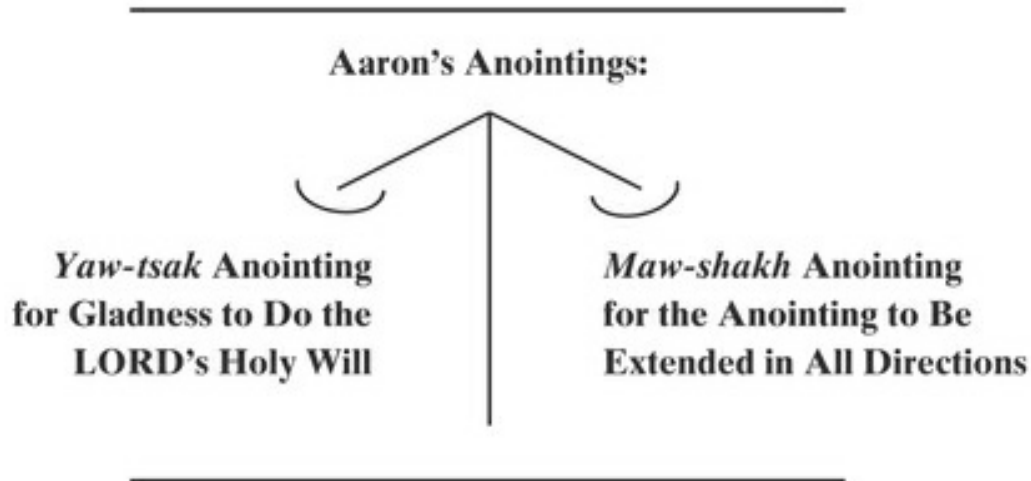
Jesus Christ came into the world with a delightful readiness to obey His Father's Purposive Will and to implement His Master Plan. Since true delight is active and positive obedience to the Father's Will, and since true obedience (active and passive) is prompted neither by dread of God's punishment nor expectation of His reward, then true delight consists of the pleasurable delight of doing the Father's Will apart from either His punishment or His reward.

Hence, it was Christ's delight and joy to do His Father's Will just for the loving delight of being in union with His Father's Holy Will. The influential, joyful Light of Christ's Knowledge of His Father's Master Plan gave Him

exquisite delight and joy to implement His Father's Master Plan by fulfilling His Father's Purposive Will.

Mary of Bethany joyfully poured out her expensive spikenard on Jesus' Head and anointed His Feet with it. She was not ashamed to anoint the crucified Christ as Her Priest, Prophet, and King. She was the only person who had the revelation of Christ's Death, burial, and resurrection. Hence, Mary of Bethany never came weeping and looking for Jesus in the tomb because she knew He would not be there.

In the Old Testament Tabernacle, the High Priest, a type of Jesus Christ, also had the consecrating oil of both the *yaw-tsak* anointing (which was *poured* upon his head) and the *maw-shakh* anointing on his head to prepare him for his separated ministry unto the LORD.



I. The *Yaw-tsak* Anointing Is for Gladness to Do the LORD's Holy Will.

Then shalt thou **take the anointing oil, and pour [*yaw-tsak*] it upon his head, and anoint [*maw-shakh*] him** (Exodus 29:7).

The consecrating oil was *poured* (*yaw-tsak*) upon Aaron's head, picturing the Oil of Gladness of God's Spirit that was poured on Christ's Head without measure (John 3:34).

II. The *Maw-shakh* Anointing Is to Be Extended in All Directions.

Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God, **thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness** above thy fellows (Psalm 45:7).

Christ was anointed with the Oil of Gladness, which prepared Him to be happy in performing His Father's Will in all directions.

Aaron's head also was *anointed* (*maw-shakh*) or besmeared with the consecrating oil, indicating that the effect of the anointing oil was to be extended in all directions: east, west, north, and south. How precious is this Truth! The lesson we learn from this is that whatever spiritual season we are in, whether it be the burning heat of summer on the east side, the autumn rains on the west, the winter cold on the north, or the warmth of spring on the south, the overflowing Oil of Gladness and the Consecrating Oil of the crucified Christ always reaches out to us wherever we are.

The Prophets in the Old Testament also were anointed for their office and their ministry.

And Jehu the son of Nimshi shalt thou anoint *to be* king over Israel: **and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah shalt thou anoint *to be* prophet** in thy room (I Kings 19:16).

Just before Elijah was translated, God commanded him to anoint Elisha to take his place and his ministry. God always has prepared vessels to take the place of His great soldiers, after they have finished God's Purposive Will for them on Earth.

The Kings in the Old Testament always were anointed for their office and ministry. David, the son of Jesse, was anointed three times to be King of Israel. First, David was anointed privately by Samuel, before Saul's death, to give him claim to the throne of Israel.

And he sent, and brought him in. Now he was ruddy, and withal of a beautiful countenance, and goodly to look to. **And the LORD said, Arise, anoint him: for this is he. Then Samuel** took the horn of oil, and **anointed him in the midst of his brethren:** and the Spirit of the LORD came upon David from that day forward. so Samuel rose up, and went to Ramah (I Samuel 16:12,13).

David was anointed to be king in the presence and in the midst of his brethren, and from that time on, the Spirit of the LORD came upon him mightily. However, subsequent history shows that they were completely blind to their brother's high destiny. Their eyes were not opened to whom God had placed in their midst.

Likewise, Jesus' Disciples were completely blind to Who Jesus Christ really was; hence, they did not comprehend the great purpose of the anointing oil that Mary poured upon Him.

Second, David was anointed again, publicly, as king over Judah in Hebron.

And the men of Judah came, and there **they anointed David King over the house of Judah.** And they told David, saying, *That* the men of Jabesh-gilead were they that buried Saul (II Samuel 2:4).

David was publicly inaugurated in Hebron as king over Judah by a second anointing, giving him the right to act in an official capacity on behalf of all the people in the tribe of Judah. Judah boldly acknowledged that David was God's chosen king and redeemer for them at that particular time.

Mary also publicly proclaimed the LORD Jesus Christ as her King and Redeemer at the beginning of the inauguration of His humility reign over sin, Death, Hell, and the grave.

Third, David was anointed king over all Israel by *all* the tribes in Hebron.

Then came all the tribes of Israel to David unto Hebron, and spake, saying, behold, we are thy bone and thy flesh. And in time past, when Saul was king over us, thou wast he that leddest out and broughtest in Israel: and the LORD said to thee, Thou shalt feed my people Israel, and thou shalt be a captain over Israel. **So all the elders of Israel came to the King to Hebron;** and king David made a league with them in Hebron before the LORD: **and they anointed David king over Israel** (II Samuel 5:1-3).

David already had proven himself to be God's anointed prince. He victoriously had led Israel in and out of battles during Saul's reign. Moreover, the LORD was with David, proving and confirming his divine right to the throne, and God also had said that David, as a kingly shepherd, would feed His people.

Likewise, Christ's triumphant Words and Works proved that His Father was with Him. Jesus Christ had the Divine Right to the throne of humility at the Cross in doing His Father's Will to redeem fallen mankind.

God revealed His Truth in Mary's heart and enlightened the eyes of her understanding concerning Christ's Death, burial, and resurrection. On this occasion, Mary stood as a bright, shining, solitary witness. No doubt she learned the great secret of Christ's Death, burial, and resurrection as she sat at His Feet listening to His Words of Life (Luke 10:39). As she poured out her spikenard on Jesus' Head and anointed His Feet, as her King, Mary knew that His royal Headship would lead her to a new realm of resurrection Life in Him. By her act of anointing Christ's Head, Mary expressed her utter faith in Christ's Death, His burial, and in the Father's Almighty, Unbegotten Resurrection Glory to raise Him from the dead.

Mary of Bethany's act of faith proved that she had walked with Jesus Christ in the Light of His Suffering, His rejection, and His persecution during His earthly Ministry. Mary's house, where she lived with her sister Martha and her brother Lazarus, always was open to Jesus. Jesus often accepted their hospitality, and during His visits, Mary took advantage of her special privilege by sitting at Jesus' Feet and learning His Words of Truth. Because Jesus Christ was a frequent visitor in their home, Mary learned much about Jesus's Death, burial, and resurrection, which was evidenced in her faithful behaviour when Christ Jesus was crucified and buried.

Mary anointed Jesus Christ as her King and Redeemer, seeing that God had sent Him as His Anointed King and Saviour of the world.

When Mary anointed Jesus Christ's Feet and Head, the whole house was filled with the fragrance of the anointing of Mary's King. When we take on the Life of Christ's Anointed Headship, others will be blessed by His satisfying fragrance, as we minister to Him in His Perfect Will.

Jesus Christ's Living Headship was not forced from Him; He voluntarily laid down His Life under the Anointed Headship that He had received from His Father. The strength of His persecutors could not overpower Him, nor

could their deceitful subtlety surprise Him.

Bethany was the place Jesus Christ had displayed the resurrection Life of His Headship by raising Lazarus from the dead. He came again, just before He laid down His Life, to give His friends Life-giving Words of comfort and consolation. Mary's sister Martha served the creatures at this great supper in Bethany, but Mary served Her Anointed King, the Creator. In her loving affection for Jesus, Mary willingly poured out her priceless spikenard on Christ's Head and Feet.

Lazarus did not retire into a desert or a wilderness after Jesus had resurrected him from the dead, but he boldly displayed the resurrected Life that he had received from Christ's Life-giving Headship; hence, he caused many to believe on Jesus, while others, in their jealous frenzy, consulted with each other about putting Lazarus to death.

God's Anointed King should be our Anointed King. We should be submissive to God's wise design, which has appointed Christ as the Head over all things, including us. The LORD Jesus Christ also will be the Head over Judah and Israel when He returns again.

Then **shall the children of Judah and the children of Israel** be gathered together, and **appoint themselves one head**, and they shall come up out of the land: for great *shall be* the day of Jezreel (Hosea 1:11).

When Jesus Christ, the Messiah, returns again, Judah and Israel will be reunited in peace and harmony. They will be filled with Christ's resurrected Living Headship which, by the anointing of His Spirit, will cause brotherly feelings of peace and love to spring up between Judah and Israel. Therefore, they will stride forward in their spiritual education and in their moral development under Jesus Christ and His One, Divine, Anointed Headship.

By humbly bowing down in exclusive surrender to Christ's Life-giving, Anointed Headship, we can, like Mary, anoint Him as our King.

By anointing Christ Jesus as our Priest, Prophet, and King, we fulfill the command in the second Psalm to "Kiss the Son."

Kiss the Son, lest he be angry, and ye perish *from* the way, when his wrath is kindled but a little. Blessed *are* all they that put their trust in him (Psalm 2:12).

When we, in purity of heart, bow to Christ Jesus, acknowledging Him as God's Anointed, we avoid incurring His Holy Anger. Purity of heart means to bow down in worship to Christ's Life-giving, Anointed Headship.

The Father also anointed His Son with the Oil of Gladness *above* His fellows.

Thou has loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, **even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows** (Hebrews 1:9).

God has anointed His Son with the Oil of Gladness or with His Holy Dove Spirit, *without* measure (John 3:34), far above His fellows or His brethren, according to His humanity. God has sent His Holy Spirit to us *with* measure so that we can continue anointing His Son's Head by kissing His Son in sweet submission and in exclusive surrender to His glorious Headship. As we continue pouring out our anointed praise and thanksgiving to Christ for His Life-giving Headship that governs and guides our lives by His Word of Life and His Spirit of Life, we grow in Grace and Knowledge of Him; therefore, we are brought into a closer, more spiritual, intimate union with Him. By putting our heads under Christ's precious nail-scarred Feet and, through faith, allowing Him to tread out all our plots and plans of death and darkness, we learn the joy and delight of exclusive surrender to Him.

Although Mary's great revelation, unswerving loyalty, and undying affection for the crucified Christ and His Headship prompted her to perform such a prophetic act of unforgettable honour and reverence to the LORD Jesus Christ, the Disciples took offense and were filled with great indignation toward Mary. In their ignorance and in the darkness of their unenlightened understanding, they considered Mary's anointing of Christ a dire waste. They had lived with the LORD Jesus Christ; they knew He was dead to the pleasures of the human senses; therefore, they assumed that Mary, through her loving prophetic act, had squandered her precious ointment without need, profit, or proper reward for her deed. The Disciples pretended great concern for the poor, when in reality, they always had tried to cast away the poor who sought help from Jesus for their many needs.

Jesus reproved and rebuked His Disciples for their offense and indignation toward Mary. Although Christ explained to them that her anointing was for His burial, for His descension to the redemptive Throne of Grace at Calvary's Cross, they still did not comprehend the meaning of His Words. Later, they displayed their ignorance of Christ's Words by their behaviour. They were sad and disbelieving when they thought Jesus Christ was dead

forever. They thought they never again would have Him for a leader. However, after Jesus had risen from the dead and had appeared to the two sad, disbelieving Disciples, who were walking along on the road to Emmaus, their hearts burned within them, as Christ, with His freshly Anointed, Resurrected Headship, opened their understanding of the Scriptures by sharing the Word with them. Mary, on the other hand, after her understanding had been illuminated concerning Christ's Death and burial, was completely misunderstood.

There always are those who misunderstand the good things that are done for Christ out of unswerving loyalty and loving devotion to Him. This precious soul, Mary, had come to anoint Jesus because of the revelation she had received from Him while she had sat at His Feet and learned about His Word. She had heard her Saviour, Christ the LORD, foretell His Death, His burial, and His resurrection. And being moved by this revelation and being led by God's Spirit, she came to pour oil on His Head and to anoint His Feet to walk through the paths of Death and Hell. The Disciples esteemed this as an unprofitable act; in fact, they considered it a dire waste. But Jesus accepted her sacrificial sharing, commending her for her righteous deed.

Beloved, we need our heads anointed with Christ's Anointing Oil and our eyes anointed with the Eyesalve of the Holy Ghost so that we can see our need for the death and burial of our flesh and our carnal mind, which are at enmity with God's Plans and Purposes. We cannot see how to die to our self-life with our own human eyesight. We must have the anointing power of Christ's Anointed Headship and the Fire of the Holy Ghost upon us in order to see what we must give up in our flesh to the divine, purging Fire of Christ's mortification and crucifixion. When our heads become anointed with Christ's Anointed Headship, and when our eyes become enlightened by the Holy Ghost, the Holy Ghost will flow through us in His intercessory and travailing prayer, which purges our wills and brings to birth the LORD's Purposive Will in our hearts. Remember, it takes both the anointing power of Christ's Headship in His Word and the power of the Holy Ghost in prayer in order for us to grow in the Spiritual Stature of Jesus Christ. Until we are willing and glad to be anointed by the Anointed Headship of the crucified Christ to suffer and to die, we never can know the exalted Life-giving Headship of the resurrected Christ.

Chapter Five

Christ's Powerful Headship In The New Testament Corresponds To The Strength Of Christ's Headship In The Old Testament

The *Light* of Christ's *Suffering Headship* and the *Life* of Christ's *Anointed Headship* were revealed in chapters three and four of our study. The *Strength* of Christ's Powerful Headship is revealed in this chapter. These aspects of Christ's Headship in the New Testament were foreshadowed in the Mosaic Ark and in the Headdress of the High Priest.

The Strength of the LORD Jesus Christ's Headship gives us the force, power, and vigour to do God's Holy Will — *whatever* His Will may be for us. Christ's Strength from His Headship gives us power to resist all opposition that we encounter from fallen Lucifer, the world, and the flesh as we follow Christ's Headship or His Divine Governance and Guidance.

Christ's Headship is "being in the midst of," as a strong shaft is in the midst of a wheel. A wheel cannot be turned without the strength of its central shaft. The relationship between the strong shaft and the wheel is like the relationship between the mental strength of our head and our body. The strength of our head controls and guides our body. Likewise, the Strength of Christ's Headship is for controlling the Christian man, the Church, Principalities and Powers, and the Corner of all Spiritual Building.

Through the Strength of Christ's Headship, we not only resist attacks from the enemy, but we become impregnable because God's Word says, "...greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world" (I John 4:4).

The Strength of Christ's Headship gives us moral force and spiritual intelligence so that we can learn His Words of Truth and practice them in all the places into which He leads us, just as the Cloud and Fire and Ark always led Israel to the place in which God had sent the Manna and the Rock that furnished their Bread and Drink in the wilderness. There the Cloud and Fire stopped, which shows us that we always effectively can endure and resist if we follow Christ's Headship.

I. The Strength of Christ's Powerful Resurrected Headship Has Four Aspects.

God's Word gives us a Stature (four points) of Truth that describes Christ's Resurrected Headship. His Resurrected Headship consists of (1) what He is the Ruler *of*; (2) what He is the Ruler *over*; (3) the *Golden Crown* He wears; and (4) the *Many Crowns* He wears.

God's Word makes a distinction between what Christ is Head *of* and what He is Head *over*. There is a difference in the meanings of these two words. The preposition *of* means akin to through having, possessing, relating to, having to do with. The word *over* means above, beyond, higher than, superior to, above in authority, power, and position.

First, let us give careful attention to what Christ is the Head *of*: He is the Head of the man, the Church, Principality and Power, and the Corner.

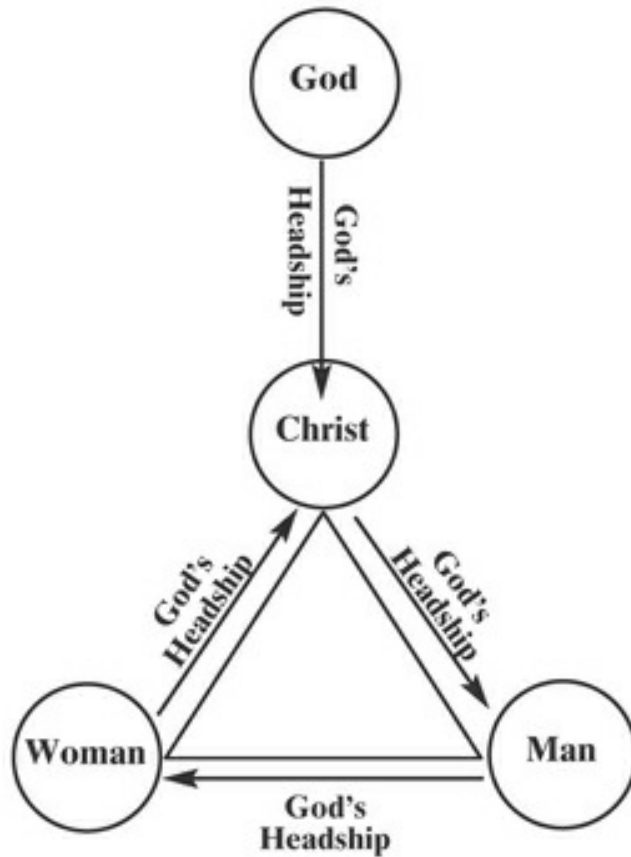
A. Christ Is the Head *of* the Christian Man.

Because Christ is the Head *of* the Christian man, whether or not a Christian man accepts Christ's Headship, he must give an account to God for his acceptance or rejection of Christ's Headship in his life.

But I would have you know, that **the head of every man is Christ**; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God (I Corinthians 11:3).

Verse three shows that God is the Head of every man and that man is the head of the woman. According to God's Divine Order, then, we have just one Headship in a true Christian home, which is God's Headship manifested through Christ Jesus and, then, through the man to the woman.

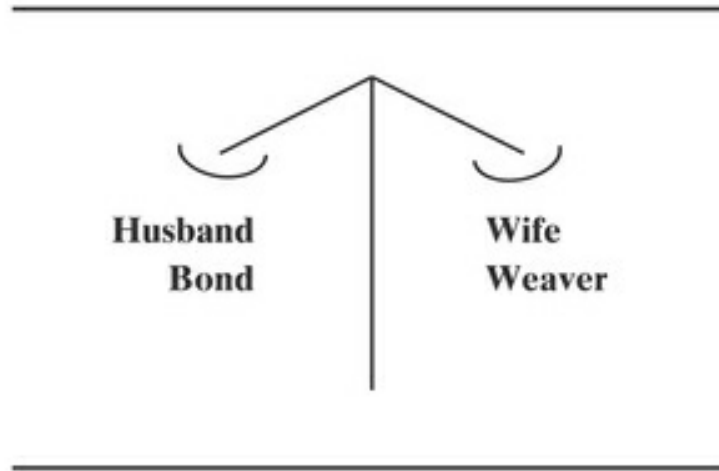
The Perfect Headship in the New Testament



The LORD Jesus Christ has received His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will, which is His Headship, His sovereign controlling Power, and His supreme Authority. Having received His Father's Headship, Christ passes God's Plans and Purposes down to the true Christian husband, who then passes them on to his wife; thus, the true Christian husband and wife can implement God's Master Plan and Purposive Will in their home because Christ has given them His Father's Headship. Ultimately, God's fulfilled Plans and Purposes or Headship returns through the wife to Christ and, then, to God, bringing Glory and Honour to Him. Hence, God's Headship is only *One* Strong, Divine Headship in the true Christian home.

The word *husband* means *the bond of the house*. The husband is to keep the house together, as a band keeps a shock of corn together. The true husband is the band of the house because he supplies the necessities for the household. The true wife also helps to keep the house together by using the materials that the husband has provided for the welfare of the household.

The word *wife* means *weaver*.



In early history, it was the wife who produced the fabric for clothing her family. In other words, the husband provided the wool, flax, and cotton by the sweat of his brow, as he shepherded his flocks and cultivated his fields, but the wife converted the wool, flax, and cotton, spinning it into threads so that she could weave them into fabric and make garments for her family. However, God was the Provider of it all.

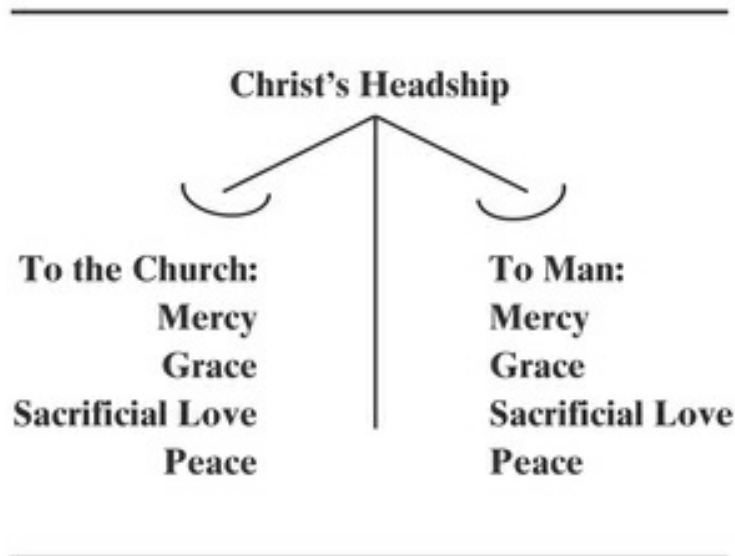
The true wife does not waste her time in idleness, but she does things that help her husband hold the household together. The bond (husband) and the wife (weaver) keep the family together through their unified work, according to God's Purposive Will.

A true Christian man is unable to cling to the plans and purposes of his own carnal headship and at the same time hold on to the Strength of Christ's Headship. In Ephesians, the Apostle Paul again confirmed the husband's headship of his wife.

Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as unto the Lord. For **the husband is the head of the wife**, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the saviour of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so *let* the wives *be* to their own husbands in every thing (Ephesians 5:22-24).

God required that the wife submit herself unto her Christian husband as unto the LORD. (This assumes that the man has taken on the LORD's Headship.) The Christian wife is to reverently (inwardly) and obediently (outwardly) submit to her Christian husband's headship, which is Christ's Headship, which is God's Headship. A true Christian wife willfully submits, yields, and surrenders to the Headship that her husband has received from Christ.

A Christian man dishonours Christ when he does not allow Christ to be the *Head* of his life and his family. He manifests his dishonour of Christ by his carelessness in his spiritual life, by his intemperance, and by his beastly behaviour toward Christ and his family. Christ's Headship has the same nature, whether it is manifested to the Church or to the man. Toward any person, Christ's Headship is full of Mercy, Grace, Love, and Peace.



When a Christian husband manifests Christ's merciful, gracious, loving, and peaceful Headship to his wife and family, it is easy for the wife to bend in sweet submission, reverence, and obedience to him. However, just as wives are to obey their husbands, husbands must love their wives as Christ loved the Church. The husband's right attitude makes the wifely duty of submission a pleasurable joy.

Christ loved the Church by giving Himself on the Cross. Christ sacrificially suffered upon the Cross to redeem the Church. Therefore, accepting Jesus Christ and serving Him is a pleasurable joy. Likewise, serving a sacrificially sharing husband is a pleasurable joy for his wife.

A Spirit-filled home where Christ is the Head and where the husband and the wife have given up their own carnal headships and where the husband and the wife have accepted God's Headship through Christ Jesus is a home that brings joy to God the Father, to Christ, to the husband and the wife, and to the whole household.

In this way, Christ's almighty, powerful, resurrected Headship is the Strong Governing and Guiding Shaft that turns the wheel of affairs in the true Christian home, according to God's Master Plan and Purposive Will.

True Christian wives ought to pray that their Christian husbands will acquire the Strength of Christ's Headship because, by doing so, they will learn the joy and peace of letting Christ be the Divine Decider. Then God's Heavenly Harmony and Unity will fill their Christian homes, and they will enjoy unity and agreement of feelings, thoughts, actions, and peaceable, friendly relations.

A Christian husband has a great responsibility before Almighty God to forsake and lay aside the mind of his own carnal headship from Adam the First and to receive the Mind of Christ's Headship and to give it to his wife. If the husband is not a Christian, then, for herself, the believing wife must find Christ's Mind, through His Word, and walk in the Strength of Christ's Headship in spiritual matters. Christ is to be the Divine, Sovereign Ruler in her spiritual life, but in natural matters, she is to reverence and to obey her husband, as long as he is not leading her in immoral and dishonest ways.

The Apostle Peter, by God's Holy Spirit, advised a believing wife how to behave in the presence of an unbelieving husband.

Likewise, **ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands**; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives; While they behold your **chaste conversation coupled with fear** (1 Peter 3:1,2).

After Peter had explained the duties of sovereigns, servants, and masters, he dealt with the duties of a believing wife toward an unbelieving husband. She is to be in subjection to her husband; chaste in her conversation or behaviour; and she is to fear or reverence her husband.

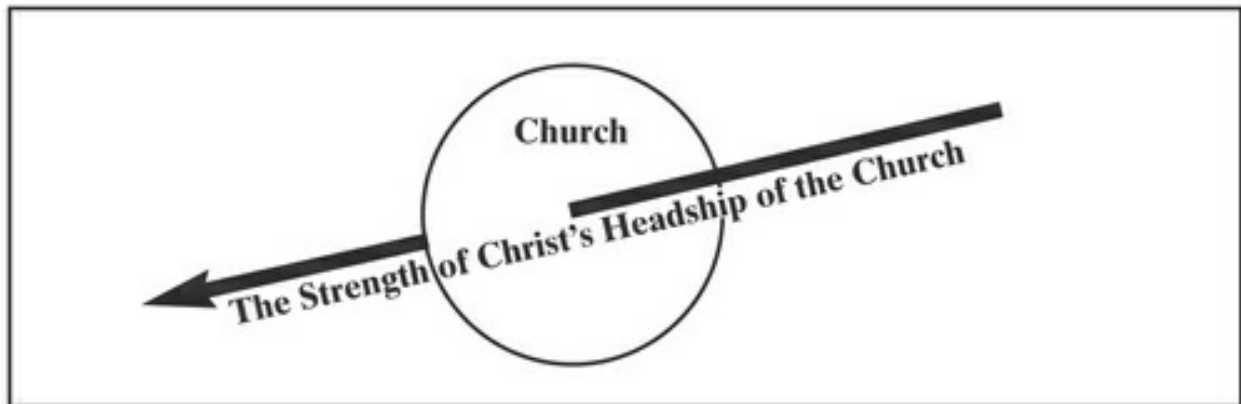
A wife's subjection or sweet submission toward her unbelieving husband in natural matters is one of the best ways to win him to Christ. If the unbelieving husband is so obstinate that he will not hear God's Word, the next most powerful epistle to him will be the Christ that he "reads and sees" through his wife's holy behaviour. Through the believing wife's chaste behaviour and moral excellence, which are manifested by her forbearance from thoughts

and acts that are not in accord with unswerving marital fidelity, the husband will read the Strength and Power of Christ's Headship in the "epistle" of her chaste behaviour. Hence, Christ's Strong, Powerful Headship, through the chaste wife, will influence the husband's heart and mind toward Christ and His Salvation.

If the believing wife will display feelings of deep respect, love, and reverence toward her unbelieving husband, he will feel Christ's love and be constrained to receive Christ. Thus, even through the believing wife, Christ can become the *Head* of the man.

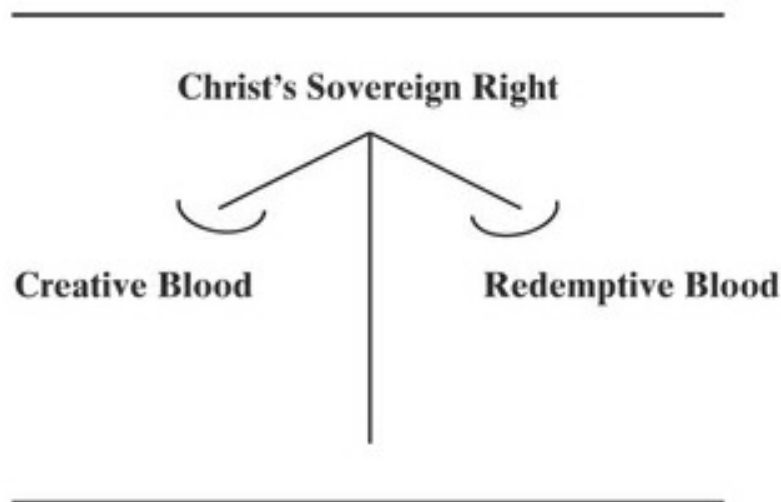
B. Christ Is the Head of the Church.

In addition to being Head of the Christian man, Jesus Christ is also the Head of His Church. God desires for His Son, Jesus Christ, to be the strong guiding Shaft of His Church so that He can freely turn the Wheel of the Church according to God's Purposive Will.



For the husband is the head of the wife, **even as Christ is the head of the church**; and he is the saviour of the body (Ephesians 5:23).

Jesus Christ has the Sovereign Right to rule and reign in His Church because of the Strength of His creative Blood and the Strength of His redemptive Blood.



Christ's creative Blood provided the Substance out of which all things were created, and His redemptive Blood at the Cross provided the Substance for all cleansing from sin and Salvation from sin.

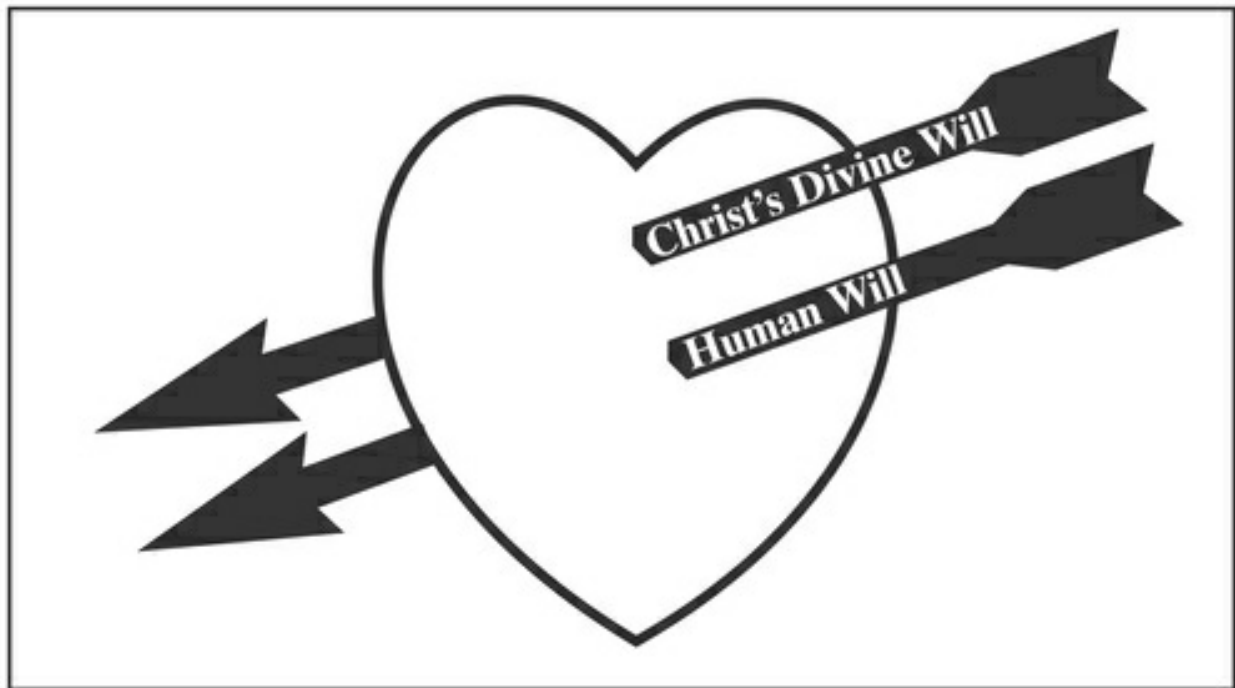
The Strength of Christ's Headship of His redeemed Church is exercised through His Ministry as a Saviour, as He saves the Church from evil errors and supplies her with His Wisdom and Knowledge of Truth and Righteousness.

Christ's sacrificial Love in giving Himself for the Church has earned Him the right to be *Head* of the Church.

Christ's strong Headship of the Church leads her to sanctification in this present world and glorification in the future world. Christ desires to sanctify and to cleanse the Church by washing her with the Waters of God's Word. Christ's Strong Headship of the Church delivers her members from sin, guilt, and defilement in this present evil world and leads her in the paths of His Holiness in her spiritual education and moral development.

Christ is the Head *of* the Church, and He is Head *over* the Church, as we will see later in this chapter. Christ is the Strong, Governing Shaft of the Wheel of His Church for the purpose of His Church's developing a personal relationship with God's Purposive Will.

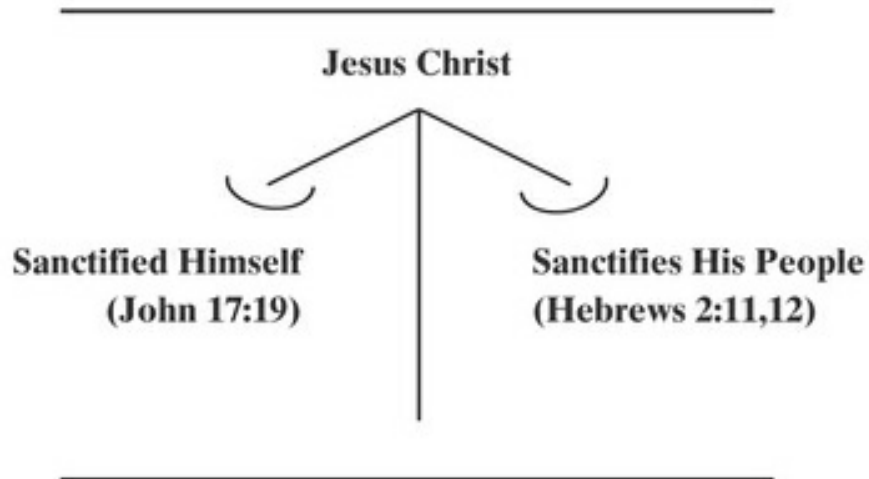
Christ comes into the wheel of our being with the Father's Headship in order to join the Strong, Governing Shaft of His Will to our will.



Thus, through the personal union of Christ's Will with our will in the midst of the wheel of our being, He governs and guides us according to the Father's Master Plan. Likewise, God, through His personal relationship with His Christ, governs and guides the Church in His Truth and His Holiness.

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee (Hebrews 2:11,12)

The word *sanctify* has a dual meaning: to set apart and to purge and make clean. Jesus sanctified Himself, and He sanctifies His people.



For the sake of His redemptive Ministry, Christ set Himself apart as a Living Sacrifice for sin. Thus, He sanctified Himself. By His shed Blood, He sanctifies His people, making them one with Himself.

To what a great extent Jesus Christ condescended in order to give His precious Blood to save us and to sanctify us so that He can unashamedly declare us “brethren”!

The LORD declares His Father’s Name or Nature to His brethren so that He can magnify and glorify God in the *midst of the Church*. Jesus Christ was made Flesh. In His Flesh, He was a Pure, Holy Human Being so that He could sanctify and purge our sinful humanity, making it like unto His own Flesh. For this victory, He praises God in the *midst of the Church*. As the strong Head of the Church, He turns our reverse “wheel” around from its obstinate, opposing turning, causing it to revolve submissively around the Strength of His Headship; thus, He becomes our Governing Shaft.

Jesus, in the *midst of the Church*, sings praises unto the Father. This is Christ’s rightful position and relationship to the Church. He is the *Head of (in the midst of) the Church*.

The Strength of Christ’s Headship of the Church also is confirmed in the Book of Colossians.

And **He is the head of the body, the church**; who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all *things* he might have the preeminence (Colossians 1:18).

Jesus Christ is the Head of the Body, the Church. He not only is the Head of Government and Direction, having the legal right to make Laws for His Church and to enforce these Laws, but He also is the Head of His Spiritual Body, sending forth the Strength of His Mercy and Grace from His Fountainhead. He governs and guides His Body, the Church, out of a personal relationship with it, just as the head governs and guides the body out of a personal union in the natural realm.

Christ does not stand over us as a ruling tyrant, governing us as would a cruel, oppressive despot. Rather, Christ lives within us, and He grows in Spiritual Stature as we study His Word, pray, and put off the old man and put on the New Man. Christ’s Will also grows within us as a Strong, Governing Shaft, joining itself to our will as we grow in exclusive surrender to Him. Thus, out of His personal relationship with us, He performs His Will through us as we yield to Him. Christ does not ask us to do the Father’s Will in our own strength, but He does ask our permission to allow Him to accomplish the Father’s Will in us through the Strength of His Headship. He wants to have the preeminence as the Controlling Shaft within the wheel of our being in order to govern and to guide our wheel in the way it should go.

C. Christ Is the Head of All Principality and Power.

Jesus Christ is not only the Head of the Christian man and of His Church, but He is also the Head of all Principality and Power, which includes God’s Divine Power and fallen Lucifer’s corrupt power, as it is manifested through Satan, the Devil, the Serpent, and the Dragon.

Paul revealed this Truth in the Book of Colossians:

For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And **ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power:**
(Colossians 2:9,10).

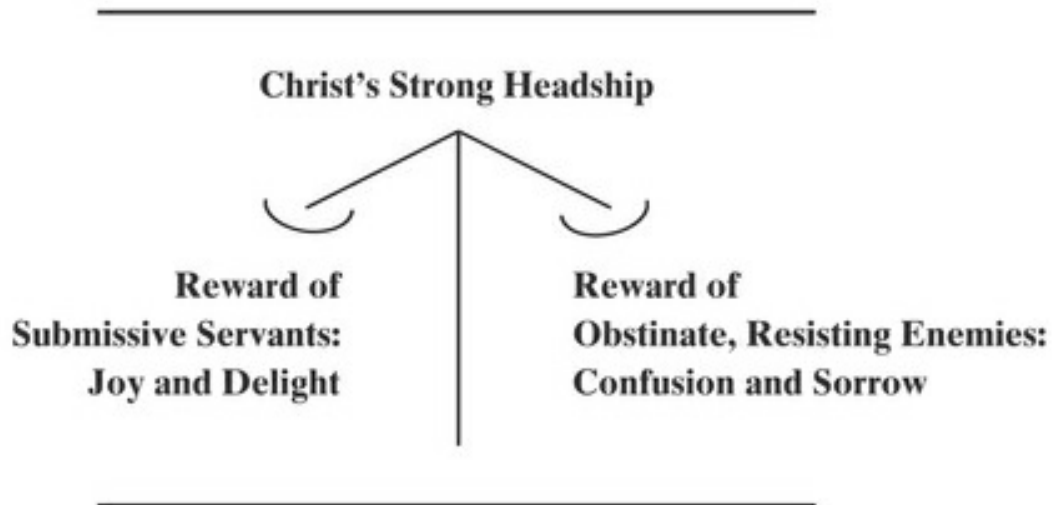
In the Old Testament dispensation, God's Presence dwelt in a Cloud that rested on the Mercy Seat between the Cherubim. But now, in the New Testament dispensation, God's Presence dwells in the Person of the LORD Jesus Christ, Our Redeemer and our Saviour. God's Presence dwells in Christ bodily, as opposed to how it dwelled in the Cloud on the Mercy Seat during the dispensation of the shadow and type.

We are complete in Christ Jesus by His purging and sanctifying of our human nature and by His restoration of God's Divine Spirit and Presence in our physical temple. Christ has supplied all we need to rectify all our defects by personally coming into our temples and by His complete Sacrifice for sin. And by the Strength of His Powerful Headship, He reveals God's Master Plan and Purposive Will to us.

The LORD Jesus Christ is also the Powerful Head *of* all Principality and Power, both in Heaven and in the Earth. All Angels, Authorities, and Powers are subject to Him.

Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; **angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him** (1 Peter 3:22).

After Jesus Christ had finished His labouering and sufferings on Earth, He ascended into Heaven to be enthroned at the Father's right Hand. All Power in Heaven and Earth has been given unto Him, which means that all Angels, Authorities, and Powers are made subject to Him. Christ has All Power to give Laws, issue Commands, and pronounce all Judgments. His servants will find eternal joy and delight as a reward for submitting to His Strong Headship, while His enemies will find eternal confusion and sorrow as their reward for obstinately resisting the Strength of His Headship while in their earthly bodies.



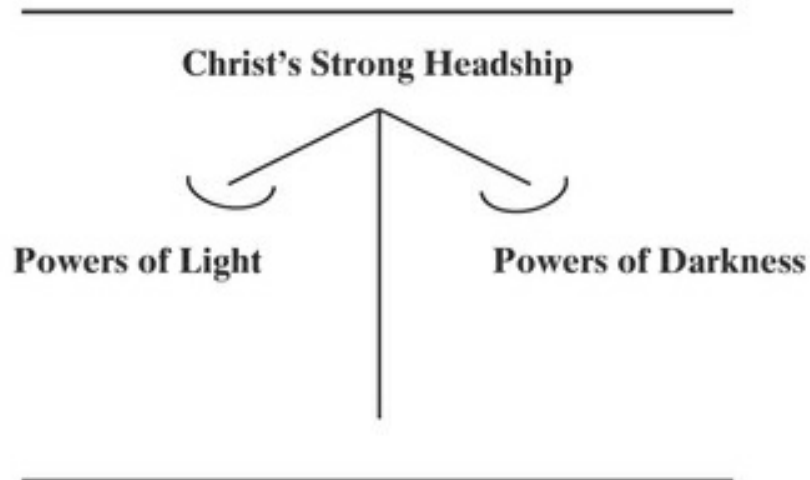
How foolish to trade Christ's eternal joy and delight for His confusion and sorrow. The choice is ours! We can be submissive servants, or we can be obstinate, resisting enemies. Christ's strong Headship will reward us according to our choices.

However, in the meantime, Christ Jesus uses the Strength of His Powerful Headship to intercede for His saints and to prepare mansions for them.

The Truth of the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship revolutionizes our life when it is believed, received, and obeyed. Understanding the Light of this Truth conquers our gloomy fears and anxieties.

According to the Authority of God's Word, fallen Lucifer (Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon) can do nothing without God's permission. If this were not true, God, the Creator, would not have ALL Power; but God *does* have ALL Power, and He has given this ALL Power to His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, Whom He has raised from the dead by His Unbegotten Resurrection Glory.

Since Jesus Christ is *the Head of* ALL Principality and Power, both God's Power of Light and Lucifer's power of darkness, we should recognize the full significance of the attacks and the power of darkness unleashed against us.



The LORD Jesus Christ permits the enemy to war against us with his power of darkness because He has counted us worthy to be tested in order to show the Strength of His glorious Powerful Headship in the fight between the “powers of darkness” and the “Powers of Light.” Our Heavenly Father knows and sees the unmortified flesh in us; He knows the hidden weaknesses and flaws in our spiritual life. However, because we are so blind to our faults, weaknesses, and failures, He sends testings and trials to reveal to us our fleshly nature. This is the reason He permits the powers of darkness and principalities to come against us.

Christ knows the Strength of His Powerful Headship; therefore, He does not send us into a battle to lose, but to win. We only lose when we forsake the LORD’s Strong, Powerful Headship, following, instead, our own weak, powerless, ignorant headship.

Many times, we deceitfully think that we have more spiritual growth than we actually possess. In reality, the LORD’s Goodness removes our protective hedge of ignorance, allowing us to be sifted, tested, and tried. The Apostle James revealed the advantage of testings and trials and what our attitude should be concerning them.

My brethren, **count it all joy when you fall into divers temptations** [testings and trials], knowing *this*, that **the trying of your faith worketh patience**. But let patience have *her* perfect work, **that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing** (James 1:2-4).

God’s motive in allowing sufferings, afflictions, and temptations is to use them as fertilizer for the “plants” of Truth in our hearts. Therefore, we should count it all joy when these things come because this means that we are in a new season for spiritual growth.

Our testings and trials are new opportunities to experience the Strength of Christ’s Powerful Headship in our lives, as we watch Him expose our hidden pride, weaknesses, and sins of the flesh; then, He can remove them if we go to Him for His mortification and crucifixion of our exposed flesh. The hindrances in our lives are removed as we see new revelations of Christ’s Truth. The Power of the Light of Truth sets us free from the powers of darkness. The Power of the Light of Truth causes our Spiritual Man to grow in Christ’s Image and Likeness.

However, fallen Lucifer and His powers of darkness endeavour, by bringing sufferings, afflictions, testings, and trials into our lives, to cause our minds to sink into his darkness and deceit. When we sink into Lucifer’s powerful darkness and deceit, we feel discouraged, and we will faint under our temptations and trials unless we find a new union with the Strength of Christ’s Powerful Headship.

Temptations beset us on every side; consequently, we must put on the whole Armour of Christ’s Strong Headship on every side in order to overcome the powers of darkness. We should desire that God test us and try us now, while we have an opportunity to forsake our own carnal headship and to grow to spiritual maturity in the Strength of Jesus Christ’s Powerful Headship.

The Apostle James revealed that God tempts no man to sin:

But **every man is tempted when he is drawn away of his own lust and enticed** (James 1:14).

God’s Purpose in allowing temptation and trials to come our way is for the purpose of bringing us to a higher realm in Christ, not to take us into sin. There is nothing in God’s Holy Nature upon which man can lay the blame for

his sinning. All of man's moral evil is due to the sinful lusts and desires that are hidden within his old heart. God is not a promoter of what is contrary and hateful to His Holy Nature. The evil coals of fire of sinful lust and desires lie within man's bosom. Lucifer, the outward tempter, merely fans the coals of fire into flames.

Sin never stands still. If we do not resist it and retreat from it, we will continue to advance into it. The further a soul continues in sin, the more distance he has to recover when he decides to return to the LORD.

The LORD allows the tempter to come our way so that we will rely on God's Word of Truth to protect us from the enemy's attack. If we allow Jesus Christ's cold Waters of His Obedient Death to quench the first coals of fire of sinful lust and desire in our hearts, Lucifer cannot fan them into flames.

God has promised the believer that He will make a way of escape in all temptations.

There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but **God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape**, that ye may be able to bear it (1 Corinthians 10:13).

We know theoretically and empirically, in our hearts as well as in our heads, that our precious LORD Jesus Christ is the Head of ALL Principality and Power. We are not helpless, hopeless victims of the onslaught of Lucifer's demonic powers; we are safely hedged in by the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship, by God's Love, and by the Workings of His Purposive Will. When trials, temptations, and spiritual darkness come upon us, we must remember that Jesus Christ is the Head of all these powers and that He is in the midst of every "fiery furnace" experience that crosses our pathway and that He, through the Strength, Power, Wisdom, and Knowledge of His Headship, makes a way of escape. The way of escape always is through the Cross of Calvary.

Trials and temptations are for the purpose of revealing what needs to be crucified in our flesh. The moment we see what God is after and, by faith, give it over to Christ to be nailed to His Cross, He removes the trials and temptations. Christ's Cross is the Way of escape!

As the Head of all Principality and Power, Christ can cause His Blessing, Glory, and Power to come upon us when we are in the low place. When Christ's Blessing comes upon us, we may feel unworthy and think, "LORD, what did I do to deserve this?" The Truth is that we do not deserve any blessings whatsoever; we deserve Death and Hell. Remember, we do not deserve to live in Christ, to serve Christ, to suffer for Christ, or to grow up to be in Christ's Bride. However, because Christ is the Head of all Powers, His Mercy drives back what we deserve, and His Grace gives us what we do not deserve. Therefore, because of God's manifold Mercy and great Grace, He abundantly sends His showers of Blessings upon us in the midst of our sufferings, trials, and afflictions. Remember, the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship is the controller of ALL Principality and Power.

D. Christ Is the Head of the Corner, Being the Chief Cornerstone.

In his first Epistle, the Apostle Peter referred to the *Foundation* of the Church; and Jesus Christ Himself is the *Chief Cornerstone* of His Church.

Unto you therefore which believe *he is precious*: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which **the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner** (1 Peter 2:7).

A cornerstone, which is a stone at the corner of a building, is the stone that formally begins the erection of a building. As the basic essential, it is the most important part of the foundation. If the beginning of the foundation is not correct, the ending will not be correct.

In order to build the superstructure of a building, the cornerstone must be laid properly. Jesus is pictured here as the Foundation, the Cornerstone, of the whole building. If we give Him His proper place in the foundation of our Spiritual Building, as the Perfect Stone, the Precious Stone, the Tried Stone, then the rest of our building will be in order.

Peter was explaining in this verse that the children of Israel were trying to build a Spiritual Building, but because they had rejected God's precious Cornerstone, the LORD Jesus Christ, God could not allow their Building to remain standing. God's Chief Cornerstone was His Divine Truth in Flesh, which the builders rejected. They deliberately chose to become blind builders because of their worldliness, prejudices, and spiritual pride. Concerned about outwardly displaying their spiritual pride, they made long prayers in the marketplace and disfigured their faces so that they appeared to be on long fasts. The weightier matters of having Mercy and Truth in their hearts were not their primary concern. In regard to their praying, almsgiving, and tithing, Jesus said, "These *ought* ye to have done,

and not to leave the other undone” (Matthew 23:23).

We cannot build a Spiritual Building of Truth unless the Truth in the interior part of our hearts is congruous with the exterior Truth that comes from our mouths. Some people are so concerned about the outward sins of others that they neglect their own inner, sinful attitudes and dispositions. Their criterion for building spiritually is outward conformity while they, like the Pharisees, reject the precious Cornerstone of Truth in their hearts.

All true spiritual building must be done with God’s Divine Blocks of Truth. Some people appear to be concerned primarily with the inward Truth, while they adopt the attitude that outward appearances mean nothing to the LORD. This excuses them, they think, from having to come under subjection to the Truth concerning their outward appearance. If we expect to build a Spiritual House that will endure God’s Judgment Fire, it must be done with the Silver, Gold, and Precious Stones of God’s Truth.

God’s Word shows us that Jesus is the Head *of* the Christian man, the Church, all Principality and Power, and that He is the Head of the Corner, being the Chief Cornerstone. Christ also is the Head *over* all things.

II. Christ Is the Head *Over* All Things.

The Apostle Paul wrote in the Book of Romans that Jesus is Head *over all things*.

And we know that **all things work together for good to them that love God**, to them who are the called according to *his* purpose (Romans 8:28).

The word *over* means above, beyond, higher than, superior to, above in authority, power, and position. The Strength of the Powerful Resurrected Headship of Christ is a great subject.

Christ is Head *over* all things, both in Heaven and in Earth, and He desires to teach us His Truth through these *all things* so that we might grow up in Christ and live under His Headship in all things. Through realizing Christ’s Headship in all things, we can call on Christ to mortify and crucify all unChristlike feelings and actions so that we can manifest Christ’s Likeness and Image.

Having “*All things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose*” is possible because the LORD Jesus Christ is the Head *over* all things. If we will humble ourselves and reach up to Christ for the Wisdom and Knowledge of His Strong Headship, He can make even our mistakes and our failures work together for good. By seeing our weakness and nothingness in negative experiences, we can come into greater Knowledge of the reality of Christ and His transforming Power. Christ and the Headship of His Power will do the work in us, transforming our weakness into strength, failure into success, and error into right and Truth so that “no flesh should glory in his presence.”

If we fail to grow up into Christ’s Headship in all things, we will murmur and complain about God’s Way in our lives, and we will ask, “Why did this happen to me?” We will feel sick and depressed in the depths of our souls when trials and afflictions come our way because we will be blind to the good that Christ’s Strong Headship has planned for us through them. These feelings do not come from Jesus Christ; they are the result of our lack of surrender to Christ’s Headship in our lives. Our flesh and our carnal mind produce unjust thoughts and feelings against Christ’s Strong Headship in our lives.

Christ desires that we grow up into a personal relationship with Him where His perfect Love and Trust cast out our fears, distrust, and anxieties. When we recognize Christ as LORD in each experience, He will minister to us and teach us the good in all things, bringing us into a closer love union with Himself. Jesus Christ has a Holy Purpose in all the things He sends across our pathway. When we have mature confidence in our LORD, and when we accept His Powerful Headship in all things in our life, we will receive His Joy, Love, and Peace in all things, and we will discover His Divine Purpose in all experiences. Thus, we will grow in spiritual maturity.

A Stature of Truth about Jesus Christ’s Headship reveals that He is Head *over* giving things, choosing things, preparing things, and ruling things.

A. Christ Is the Head *Over Giving* Things, both Pleasurable Things and Painful Things.

What shall we then say to these things? If God *be* for us, who *can be* against us? He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how **shall he not with him also freely give us all things**? Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God’s elect? *It is* God that justifieth. Who is he that condemneth? *It is* Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. **Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors** through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord (Romans 8:31-39).

Christ is the Sovereign Head over all the things He gives to us. On one side of the Scales, He freely gives us pleasurable things, and, on the other side of the Scales, He freely gives us painful things, according to His Purposive Will. He freely gives us all these “things” so that, through them, we might gain victory in our lives.

The Divine Light of the LORD’s Supreme, Sovereign Headship wonderfully influences and purifies man’s lover heart*, causing it to be a diligent follower of His Holy Head and Its direction. The Apostle Paul had great wonder and admiration for God’s Divine Headship over all things — for His infinite Love in all things and for God’s Almighty Power to make all things work together for good. Paul deemed that God’s Purposive Will is the cause of all things and that God’s Eternal Master Plan is the pre-plan of all things.

What shall we say, then, to all these things that God gives us? Since God is for us and is reconciled to us and since He has a covenant with us, through Jesus Christ in us, and since He is our

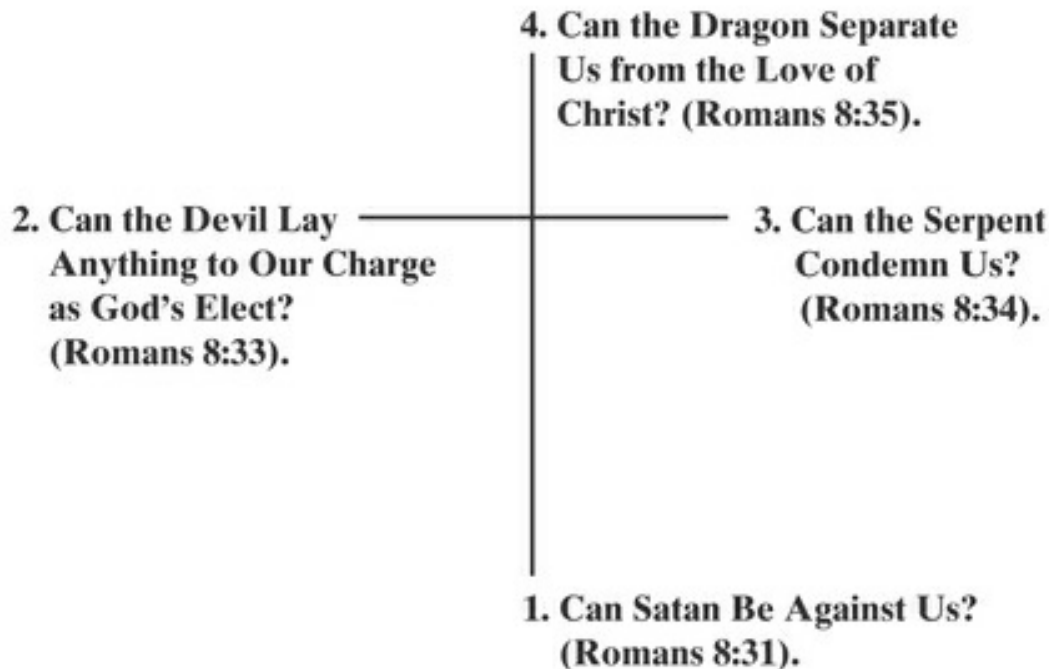
Commander and Chief in all battles, performing His Promise and prevailing for us in all warfare, who, then, can be against us? Since all these things are true, who is against us becomes an inconsequential state of affairs. God’s Almighty Headship will prevail over all strength and power of the enemy! Who can fight against us if God is fighting for us? God freely *gives all things* through His Purposive Will and Master Plan, and He, with His Almighty Power, *defends all things* that He gives us. We are God’s possession, and His gifts are also His possessions. In the light of these Truths, the question of who is able to fight against the Eternal God and take His possessions is clearly answered, “No one”!

God’s glorious Headship provided His only Begotten Son for us all as a sacrificial Atonement to be a propitiation for our sins. Therefore, God, through His Divine, Infinite Headship in Jesus Christ, freely *gives us all good things*, both pleasurable and painful.

Favourable things confirm God’s Love for us, while unpleasurable things that involve suffering purify us.

Forasmuch then as **Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh**, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: for **he that hath suffered in the flesh hath ceased from sin;** (I Peter 4:1).

In the eighth chapter of Romans, the Apostle Paul gave a Stature of complete creature opposition, in which Lucifer comes against us in all his forms in an attempt to defeat us, but the LORD Jesus Christ is more than a Conqueror in all things.



1. Can Satan Be Against Us?

The word *against* denotes intense opposition, such as in fighting against us in our course or direction toward the Prize of being in Christ's Bride. God allows Satan to continue his contrary motion against God's Holy Headship for a sufficient length of time until Satan produces a spiritual collision in believers' minds or hearts; then, they can choose in this present world whom they desire as their master — God, the Creator, or fallen Lucifer, the creature.

It is important to remember that Satan's contrary motion seeks to turn the soul away from the forward motion of God's Headship. So, while Satan goes in reverse, God's Divine Governmental Motion moves forward toward His Goal and Purposive Will for us. If we choose to follow fallen Lucifer's satanic leading, we will discover ourselves going down into darkness and death and away from God's Light and Life. Ultimately, we will be eternal losers! But, if we choose the forward motion of God's Holy Headship, we will win Christ's Eternal Prize of being in His Bride.

2. Can the Devil Lay Anything to the Charge of God's Elect?

As the Devil, fallen Lucifer desires to bring false charges against God's people, as he tries to incriminate them by his accusations and questions. The Devil tries to devour God's people by loading them with blame and censuring and accusing them falsely. He likes to charge them with negligence and make them liable for his false accusations. He tries to incriminate them with guilt, blame, and crimes that the blessed Saviour already has borne for them.

It is God Who justifies the righteous. The Devil's evil motion goes backward, but God's good, righteous motion goes forward under His Holy Headship. God justifies us and frees us from blame and guilt based on Christ's sacrificial gift of Atonement for us at Calvary's Cross.

The LORD Jesus Christ and His precious shed Blood declares us guiltless and blameless. Jesus Christ justifies, acquits, and absolves from sin and death on the legal grounds of His acceptable Sacrifice before the Just Judge of the whole world. Thus, we are accepted in God's Beloved.

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

Thus, we should give all the praise to the glory of God's Grace in Christ Jesus because it is He Who makes us acceptable to the Father, the Creator.

3. Can the Serpent Condemn Us?

The word *condemn* means to judge against, to sentence, or to damn. Fallen Lucifer, the Serpent, fights a believer through the believer's own condemnation of himself and through others' condemnation of him. But, God is the only qualified Judge because He is the only One Who possesses the "all Knowledge" or Omniscience of His creation.

The Serpent's motive in causing creatures to accuse and blame one another is to try and rob God of His Position, Power, and Privilege of being the Just Judge over them. What diseased perception of reality! God is the Just Judge *before* creatures accuse and blame each other and God; He is the Just Judge *while* they are engaged in their blaming and accusing; and He is the Just Judge *after* they have finished their blaming and accusing.

Moreover, Christ Jesus has died and is risen again and is at the right Hand of God, making intercession for us. Christ Jesus is entreating the Heavenly Father for us and standing against fallen Lucifer in our behalf.

The creature's evil condemnation of us cannot win against Christ's intercession to the Father, as He asks for His favourable Headship for us.

4. Can the Dragon Separate Us from the Love of Christ?

God's Holy Headship allows fallen Lucifer to come against us in all manner of painful ways to prove that whatever Lucifer sends cannot separate us from God's Divine, Infinite Love in Christ Jesus.

The enemy cannot create room nor space in our hearts and minds to separate us from God's Love and His merciful, gracious Headship. God allows fallen Lucifer, the Dragon, to bring distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, and the sword to prove that no evil activity of the creature can separate nor sever us from our Creator's Love. Moreover, we are more than conquerors through Christ Jesus and His Love for us.

The Dragon cannot separate nor part us from the union and joining of God's Love in Christ Jesus. Lucifer sends painful things our way as he makes violent efforts to split, tear, or wrench us apart from Christ's immutable Love, but we know theoretically from God's Word that He loves us, so we have to know that what God sends us, or allows Lucifer to send us, is for our good and His Glory. For it is in life's heart-wrenching pain that we discover the experiential knowledge of the immutability of God's Love.

Furthermore, God's Love is changeless, in spite of death, life, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, height, depth, or any other creature. Nothing can separate us from the Love of God in Christ Jesus.

The summation of these questions posed by Paul in his letter to the saints in Rome is that none of fallen Lucifer's four natures — Satan, Devil, Serpent, or Dragon — can win in the battle against us when we are under God's Loving Headship. We are more than conquerors in Christ Jesus, through the *all things* He freely *gives* us.

B. Christ Is the Head Over Choosing Things.

By choosing the foolish things to confound the wise, Christ reveals His Headship *over* all things.

But **God hath chosen the foolish things** of the world to confound the wise; and **God hath chosen the weak things** of the world to confound the things which are mighty; (I Corinthians 1:27).

The Strength of Christ's Wise, Powerful Headship chooses the foolish things, the weak things, the base, despicable things of this world, persons of low rank and of humble birth, to be messengers and missionaries of His Gospel. In this manner, the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship beats down the pride and vanity of the flesh.

Most of the early Apostles were poor and humble, and so were their converts. Christ, through foolish, humble people who were joined in a personal relationship with the Strength of His Headship, have built, are building, and will build His Kingdom so that no flesh will glory in His sight. Thus, men who are of no worldly learning but who have acquired Christ's Wisdom, confound the wise of this world. The lowly servants of Christ, with His Divine, Eternal Wisdom, pour contempt and disgrace upon all the temporal, worldly wisdom of the proud.

The LORD also knows how to put base, contemptible, foolish things across our pathway in order to confound our proud wisdom and bring it down. For example, many years ago, my little girl found a stray cat that someone apparently had thrown from a car; as a result, it was crippled. Its hind legs were useless. My little one came to me crying and said, "Please, pray for my cat. You pray for people, and God heals them. I know God can heal my cat, too." Needless to say, I prayed for the cat, and in a few days God healed it. From then on, it ran, played, and climbed in a normal way.

But, one day I came into my living room and saw that the cat had climbed up onto a table and chewed to pieces all the ruffles on the sugar-starched, fluted doily that lay on the table. At once, my proud judgment pronounced the verdict that the little cat needed to be taught a lesson in not chewing doilies to pieces. So I folded up a piece of paper to swat the cat. But the LORD rebuked me immediately and said, "Why do you wish to hit the cat?" In a matter of moments, I could see my merciless pride that expected a cat, which I had allowed inside the house, to understand what a sugar-starched doily was. Of course, I laid down my paper and repented. I never have forgotten the eternal lesson on pride that God chose to teach me through a foolish cat. Yes, the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship rules *over* all things.

Until we are confounded by foolish things, we do not know the depths of our own foolish pride which prevent us from seeking Him. Pride causes us to lightly esteem the Wisdom of the LORD's still, small Voice that tries to direct us in the right way. Since our pride needs to be exposed so that we can repent of it, God uses foolish things to gain our attention.

C. Christ Is the Head Over Preparing Things to Further Our Spiritual Growth.

Jesus not only *gives* and *chooses* all things, but He *prepares* them to reveal His merciful, gracious Headship *over* all things.

But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, **the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.** But God hath revealed *them* unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that **we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.** Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know *them*, because they are spiritually discerned. But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man (I Corinthians 2:9-15).

On one hand, these verses relate primarily to things in the future world that God has prepared for those who love Him. However, our poor, finite senses never can comprehend the glorious beauty and splendour of the eternal *things* that God has prepared for us in the future world.

On the other hand, since ALL Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God and *is* profitable to us now (II Timothy 3:16,17), these Scriptures also apply, in Principle, to us now. The LORD Jesus Christ, in the Strength of His Wise, Powerful Headship, prepares both suitable pleasures and suitable pains in this present world, setting them in order for the specific purpose of helping us to stride forward in our spiritual education and moral development, which helps us to make ourselves ready for the Prize of being in His Bride. Nevertheless, until Christ joins us to the Strength and Wisdom of His Powerful Headship, we are blind builders. We like the exalted blocks of Truth that come to us on the pleasure side of the scales, but in our proud blindness, we are unable to see the needed value of the humility blocks of Truth that Christ's Headship has specifically prepared for us on the pain side of the scales. Oh, the heights and the depths of the Strength, Wisdom, and Power of Christ's Divine, Infinite Headship!

In His Loving-kindness, Jesus Christ prepares painful *things* to expose our proud carnal nature so that we can repent and allow Him to pardon, forgive, and minister His regenerating, converting, conforming, and transforming Power to our old man (our old heart), changing it into His Image and Likeness. He faithfully reproduces His own Image and Likeness in the penitent heart of every person who will follow on to know Him.

D. Christ Is the Head Over Ruling Over ALL Things.

The LORD Jesus Christ is not only the Head over giving, choosing, and preparing things, but He also is the Ruler *over ALL* things. All things include the whole extent and quantity of everything possible. When we fully understand

this Truth, it is impossible for us to continue our murmuring and complaining in the midst of our painful circumstances. It is impossible to be angry and bitter toward the vessels that Jesus Christ, the Head *over* ALL things, has allowed to injure and to persecute us.

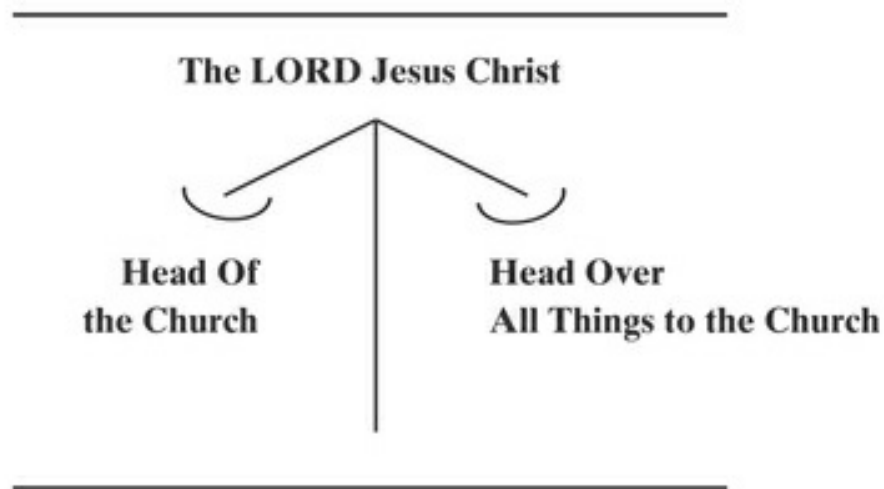
However, before the eyes of our understanding have been enlightened, it is easy to plunge into a fleshly fit of complaining and express our pain and dissatisfaction by finding fault with Christ's Just, Righteous Headship and by accusing it of being unjust and unfair and by declaring our angry annoyance at the vessels He has used to stir up our unChristlike attitudes and disposition. We can indulge in self-pity for days and feel sorrowful because of our sufferings and misfortunes as we go on our blind way, ignoring the Strength, Wisdom, and Power of Christ's Headship that has precious humility blocks of Truth that He has prepared to give us in the midst of our quarry of pain.

These blind reactions will continue to occur in our temple until we recognize that Christ is the Head *over* ALL things. After we have become more spiritually mature in our union with Christ's Humility, we can deal quickly with our opposing flesh. A well-made-up mind to go on for God deals immediately with unChristlike attitudes.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and what is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places, Far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and every name that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come: **And hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church**, Which is his body, the fulness of him that filleth all in all (Ephesians 1:18-23).

Christ Jesus is not only Head *of* the Church, but He also is Head *over* ALL things that touch it. It is pleasantly satisfying to grow into a mature spiritual union with the Strength and Wisdom of Christ's Headship until our hearts and minds know that He is Head *of* and Head *over* all things and that He has prepared humility building blocks for us in the midst of all things, although we have not yet found the blocks. This is the Peace of God that goes beyond our human understanding. This is the spiritual romance we can have with Christ!

How peacefully satisfying and how gratifying to know that Christ is the Ruling Head over all things. It is a great day in our spiritual education and moral development when we realize that our needs, wishes, and expectations are completely satisfied with just the knowledge that He is the Head *of* and the Head *over* All things.



When we have reached the place of marriage union with Christ's Headship, all strife and struggle ceases in our hearts and minds, leaving within our hearts God's peace that passeth all understanding because we know that the Strength and Wisdom of His Glorious Headship give the best to those who leave the choice to Him. In the verses we have just quoted in Ephesians, Paul prayed for four specific things for the saints:

- enlightened eyes of understanding;
- knowing the hope of His calling;
- what are the riches of the Glory of His inheritance in the saints;

- what is the exceeding greatness of His Power to us-ward.

The eyes of your understanding being enlightened;... (Ephesians 1:18).

Paul prayed that the eyes of their understanding be enlightened so that they could see the Light of the Truth he was giving; thus, they would be free from blindness, prejudice, and superstition.

...that ye may know what is the hope of his calling,... (Ephesians 1:18).

Our hope or expectation of God's calling is that we grow up in the knowledge of Christ's Spiritual Stature, both in our spiritual education and in our moral development. Hence, we will be liberated from our ignorance, darkness, and lack of spiritual knowledge and experience. Being in union with Christ Jesus, our Head, then we can run and attain the Prize of being in the LORD Jesus Christ's Bride.

Paul was not referring, here, to sinners and their initial experience of Salvation; he was speaking to Christians about their growing up in the knowledge of Christ's Spiritual Stature in their spiritual education and in their moral development.

...and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, (Ephesians 1:18).

God desires that we not remain ignorant about Christ's inheritance in us. He wants us to know the legacy of Christ's Glory, of which we have become the owner by virtue of our birthright in Christ. He wants us to know the blessing and the possession of His Glory that we have received as a gift and the privilege we have inherited of growing up in Christ's Spiritual Stature. May we use and not abuse and misuse our privileges in Christ.

Beloved, if we could fully understand the Glory of Jesus Christ, Whose Spirit and Nature have been deposited within us by gift, we willingly would permit Him to be our Head, our Governor, and our Guide in ALL things. We would willingly let Him have His Way within us until He fully possesses our entire being: spirit, soul, and body.

And what is **the exceeding greatness of his power** to us-ward who believe, according to the working of his mighty power, **Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead,**... (Ephesians 1:19,20).

God wrought His Unbegotten Resurrection Power in Christ when He raised Him from the dead. The LORD Jesus Christ has been exalted above all principality, power, might, dominion, and every name that is named in this world and in the world to come. All things have been put under His feet! HE IS HEAD OVER ALL THINGS to the Church! We need to recognize the Strength of His Powerful Headship and come under subjection to its control.

When others have received special gifts, we sometimes feel that we deserve them too; then, we are tempted to feel that the LORD is unjust in His dealings with us. But we must remember that Christ is the Head over all things, which include all spiritual things and all natural things. The perfecting of the Church and everything that concerns it is in His Hands. We are not to question His Just Judgment. He gives each of us the gifts, talents, and abilities we need in order to serve Him and to fulfill His Master Plan and Purposive Will for our individual lives.

God works all things after the Counsel of His Holy Will.

In whom [speaking of Christ] also we have obtained an inheritance, being predestinated according to the purpose of Him **who worketh all things after the counsel of his own will** (Ephesians 1:11).

God works all things based on the deliberation and advice of His Master Plan and Purposive Will. Therefore, Christ knows what is best for us in all things, according to the Father's Master Plan and Purpose. He knows what to *give* us, and He knows what to *deny* us in order for us to stride forward in our spiritual education and in our moral development. He knows what we need in order to serve Him according to His Holy Will. He also knows what kind of suffering to put across our pathway in order to purge and purify us. He knows what to do that will reveal His Eternal Blocks of Spiritual Truth to our hearts. In His infinite Omniscience, Jesus Christ knows ALL about all things; therefore, He is qualified to be over all things and minister them according to His Holy Will.

What unspeakable rest awaits the children of God, after they have become joined to Christ's Headship in all things (Hebrews 4:8,9).

In the Book of Ephesians, the Apostle Paul revealed the purpose for all the gifts and ministries that the Church receives to help her children grow in the Stature of Christ Jesus and obey His Headship in all things.

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man [a mature man], unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ: **That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine,** by the slight of men, *and* cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; But speaking the truth in love, **may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ;** from whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love (Ephesians 4:11-16).

Paul said that one benefit of growth to spiritual maturity is that we will not be “tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine.” This means that when we have reached spiritual adulthood, we will not follow after every new thing we hear, for we will know enough about the Word of God to know its veracity and not be confused.

Paul further exhorted us to grow up “into Him in all things.” We must boldly acknowledge and submissively accept everything we encounter as being sent by the Headship of the LORD Jesus Christ. What unparalleled rest, what emotional calm, and what peaceful tranquility we enjoy in Christ Jesus after we have ceased from our distressing, disturbing, annoying, and tiring mental works of trying to rule and reign in all things and trying to figure out all things. What satisfying calm fills our hearts and minds after we give all things over to the rightful, Powerful Headship of Jesus Christ.

If we humbly seek Jesus Christ as our Head, He will give us clear understanding of His Purpose as to why He has sent some of the ALL THINGS our way. He always has dual Purposes in mind. One of His Purposes is the *destruction* of our vanity and pride, and His other Purpose is for *construction* of new spiritual Truth in our hearts and lives.

Christ Jesus always is faithful to reveal the proud rebellion in our wills, exposing it so that we can repent and allow Jesus Christ to tear it down, bringing an end to it through His Crucifixion and His Blood and, then, conforming it to His own glorious Image of submission and subjection to the Father’s Will.

Paul revealed four great Truths about God’s Love in Christ Jesus in relation to things:

- God’s Love beareth all things;
- God’s Love believeth all things;
- God’s Love hopeth all things;
- God’s Love endureth all things.

By these four evidences, we can know whether we have attained unto the Strength of Christ’s Powerful Headship and whether we have taken hold of His fourfold Love in a particular situation.

1. Love Bears All Things.

First, Christ’s Love in us strengthens us to bear all things that He sends our way; then, in submission, we can conduct ourselves as mature, spiritual Christians.

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, endureth all things (1 Corinthians 13:7).

When Christ’s sweet, surrendered, submissive Spirit comes in our hearts, making us to know that “we can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth us,” He helps us to bear all things. He gives us the ability to support all that He sends our way; then, we can know that we have been joined to His Headship in a particular situation. Perhaps we are suffering a sickness of some kind. Although disease and sickness are the result of sin and the Serpent’s work in Adam the First, Jesus Christ still is the Head of all principality and power. If He has allowed a sickness to come upon us, He has a Purpose in it. David said, “It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes” (Psalm 119:71).

When we find ourselves in a painful place, we must lay hold of Jesus Christ’s Headship and receive His “Bearing” Love which will strengthen us so that we can support the Justice and Righteousness of His Headship in the midst of what He has allowed to come our way. We are unwilling to bear these painful experiences in the beginning of our journey with Christ. We want to be the head over all things in our life, and when we are denied and restrained in our impossible desire, the proud rebellion and sullen sadness of our Pride of Revelation and Pride of

Redemption manifest their ugly, unChristlike natures.

The LORD faithfully puts us in all kinds of circumstances in life in order to reveal the ugly attitudes that are hidden in our proud wills. We must learn to allow Jesus Christ to crucify our wills and our fleshly desires and to allow His Love to fill our wills with a submissive desire to be joined to His Will. Only as we lay hold of His Divine Love will we sincerely be willing to bear and to support His Will and Purpose and to see them implemented in our lives. Regardless of how difficult a trial may be, we must remember we are serving One Who possesses “Bearing Power.” His Love bears all things. Love bears, supports, sustains, endures, stands, gives, offers, and produces new Life in all tribulations, distresses, persecutions, famines, nakedness, perils, and swords.

2. Love Believes All Things.

The second thing Christ’s Love does in the midst of ALL things is to believe in the Goodness of the LORD’s Holy Headship.

Beareth all things, **believeth all things**, hopeth all things, endureth all things (1 Corinthians 13:7).

Christ’s Love fills the believing heart with confident expectation and hopeful anticipation that all things do indeed work together for our good and for God’s Glory. We know this Truth theoretically; however, when we find ourselves in a painful situation, we find a great gap between our theories and our experiences until we grow up to a mature union with Christ’s Headship. In a painful situation, if we still are immature, we find it difficult to believe that any good can come out of it. Our carnal mind continues to question God until it is mortified and crucified by Christ’s Power and until we grow up sufficiently in the LORD to believe that all things work together for our good and for His Glory. When we lay hold of Christ’s Powerful Headship, we find His precious Love overflowing our hearts, causing us to know empirically the reality of all things being for our eternal good and for His Eternal Glory. Great peace pos and controls the soul, filling it with confidence and assurance, after it fully accepts the Truth that Jesus Christ is the Ruler and the Head over all things.

3. Love Hopes All Things.

The third thing that Christ’s Love gives in the midst of all things is hope. Christ’s Love within us always hopes in the LORD’s Mercy and Grace and in His Redemptive Headship.

Beareth all things, believeth all things, **hopeth all things**, endureth all things (1 Corinthians 13:7).

Hope always looks on life’s pleasures and pains as being what is due, proper, and necessary in order to help us reach our goals of the spiritual destruction of our fleshly nature and the spiritual construction of God’s Blocks of Truth in our hearts. Hope always looks toward the successful purposes of the LORD’s Will being achieved.

The Apostle Paul revealed, in his Epistle to the Romans, that nothing — things or creatures — can separate us from Christ’s Infinite, Divine Love.

Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? *shall* tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. **For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus** (Romans 8:35-39).

When we find ourselves in the midst of painful things, does all our hope flee? Do we feel there is no point in continuing on our spiritual journey? Christ’s Hope will stir our innermost being with joyful anticipation in the midst of suffering, making us feel that He has something wonderful and marvelous to reveal to us about His Power, His Comfort, and His Truth. Blessed is His Hope in all things! What a treasure it is to have the divine thrill of expectation and anticipation in all things; then, life becomes a spiritual romance as we walk with Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

4. Love Endures All Things.

Christ's Love always endures all the things that the LORD sees fit to send into our lives.

Beareth all things, believeth all things, hopeth all things, **endureth all things** (I Corinthians 13:7).

Christ's endurance within us continues through pain and fatigue. His long-suffering Love strengthens our souls so that we can bear the pain and tolerate the suffering until they have finished their works in our lives.

When we are joined to the Strength of Jesus Christ's Powerful Headship and enjoy vital, living union with His Plan and Purpose, we will not perish nor fail in the midst of all things. The Strength of His Headship will give us His Enduring Power, to stand pain and fatigue, to put up with the impossible, to tolerate the ugly, to last, to continue in the midst of gross ingratitude from those who should be grateful, to remain true to Christ's Headship with unswerving loyalty in the midst of treacherous traitors, and to hold out. With His Strength, we can endure, without flinching, the pain in all the things He permits to come our way. The LORD Jesus Christ, Who is Head over all things, certainly will not put on us more than we are able to bear. He is too Kind, too Just, too Holy, and too Righteous to send one unneedful thing or to leave us in a painful situation one moment longer than is necessary to effect our transformation. We are transformed through the destruction of our flesh, our carnal will, and the construction of the Truth in our hearts. Jesus Christ will grant us the Strength of His Enduring Power, if we submit to being joined to His Powerful Headship.

When we learn to accept Christ's Headship in ALL things, we will have strength to bear all things, believe all things, hope all things, and endure all things; then, we will discover the newness of all things.

Therefore, **if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature**: Old things are passed away; **behold, all things are become new** (II Corinthians 5:17).

With our will lost in Christ's Will and our headship lost in His Headship, the things which once were repulsive and unbearable to us become new. As Jesus Christ's Image and Likeness increase within our hearts, bringing us His treasures of Humility, Surrender, and Love, all things truly do become new!

This completes our study of what the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship is over. The Strength of His Headship gives Him Power over giving, choosing, preparing, and ALL things. Now, we will see that the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship is denoted by the Golden Crown He wears.

III. Jesus Christ Wears a Golden Crown upon His Head to Show the Strength of His Headship.

Upon His resurrected Holy Head, Christ wears a Golden Crown, which shows His Strength, Power, and Authority to thrust in His Sickle when God says the time has come to reap the wicked works or fruits of sinners who are ripe for ruin by God's Judgment on the Earth.

And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud *one* sat like unto **the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle**. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, **Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe** (Revelation 14:14,15).

In the fourteenth chapter of Revelation, the Greek word used for *crown* is different from the word used for *crown* in the nineteenth chapter. Notice, too, that the word in chapter fourteen is used in the singular. This Greek word for *crown* is *stef-an-os*, meaning to twine or wreath, a chaplet (as a badge of royalty), a prize in the public games, or a symbol of honour.

Jesus Christ, in His glorified Body, is crowned with a Golden Crown as a symbol of His Royal Rod of Strength and Authority to implement His Father's Judgments upon the wicked sinners upon the Earth. Jesus Christ is like unto the Son of Man because the Son of Man ran a race once in this life; He died once and was raised from the dead once, overcoming all powers of fallen Lucifer: Satan, Devil, Serpent, and Dragon, and Death, Hell, and the grave. Therefore, because He has been crowned with the Golden Crown (singular) of God's Divine Glory, Infinite Power, and Exalted Honour, He has the Authority to minister both God's Mercy and His Judgment.

The Angel out of the Temple cried with a loud voice, saying the following to the Son on Man on the White Cloud:

And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, **Thrust in thy sickle, and reap:** for the time is come for thee to reap; **for the harvest of the earth is ripe** (Revelation 14:15).

This verse is not speaking about the Battle of Armageddon where Jesus Christ comes on His White Horse of Faith, along with His Bridal Armies who also are mounted on their White Horses of Faith. This reaping takes place while Jesus is *alone*, sitting on the White Cloud. Armageddon does not take place until Jesus comes as the Word with the Sharp Sword out of His Mouth (Revelation 19:15). In the fourteenth chapter, Christ holds a Sickle, not a Sword. With His Sickle, Christ is prepared to cut down the apostate wild vine which the Devil has sown in the Earth. Christ sits on the Cloud, thrusting His Sickle in the Earth, as He gathers the clusters or deeds and works of the vine of the Earth.

And another angel came out from the altar, which had power over fire; and cried with a loud cry to him that had the sharp sickle, saying, **Thrust in thy sharp sickle, and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth; for her grapes are fully ripe** (Revelation 14:18).

Israel was God's pleasant vineyard that was planted with the choicest vine, but she became a wild and degenerate vine.

Now will I sing of my wellbeloved a song of my beloved touching his vineyard. **My wellbeloved hath a vineyard in a very fruitful hill: And he fenced it, and gathered out the stones thereof, and planted it with the choicest vine,** and built a tower in the midst of it, and also made a winepress therein: **and he looked that it should bring forth grapes, and it brought forth wild grapes.... For the vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the men of Judah his pleasant plant: and he looked for judgment, but behold oppression; for righteousness, but behold a cry** (Isaiah 5:1,2,7).

God greatly extended His Mercy, Grace, and Kindness toward Israel, His pleasant vineyard, but she had repaid Him with ingratitude and disobedience. Consequently, God threatened dire Judgment and retribution upon her.

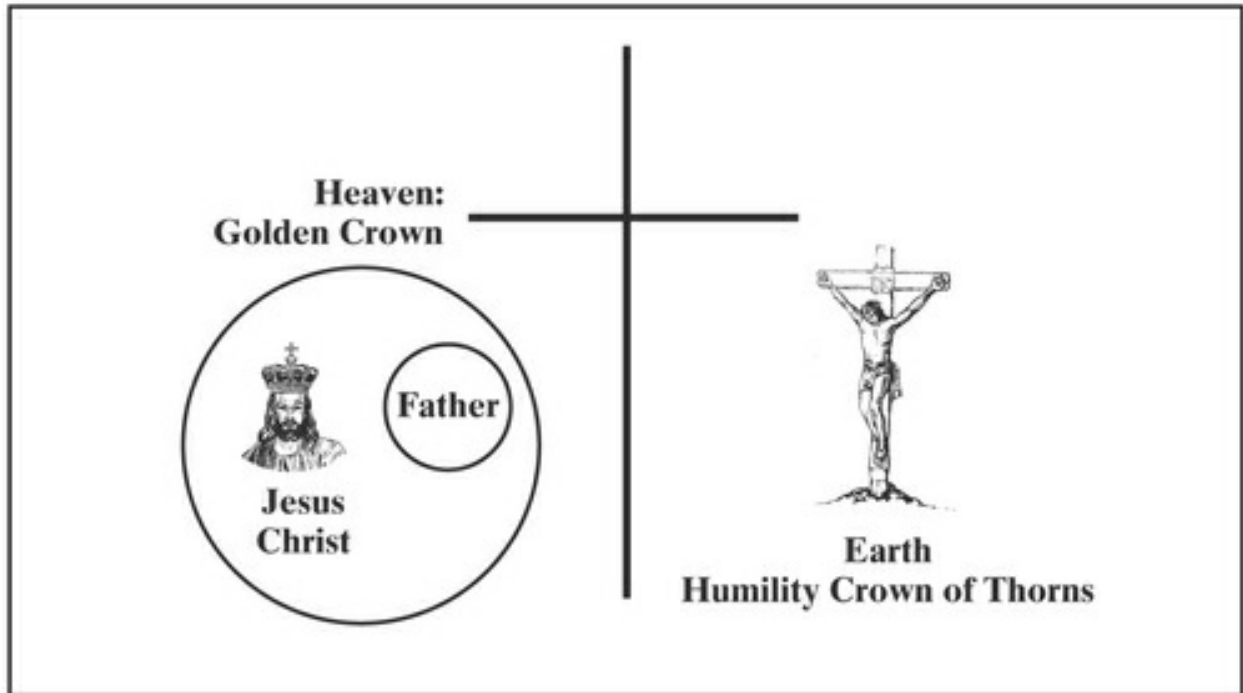
The wild grapes of Israel's ingratitude and disobedience will be fulfilled when she accepts the Antichrist as her Messiah, having rejected and crucified her True Messiah, Jesus Christ. Consequently, God will send Jesus Christ with His Golden-Crowned Headship to thrust in His Sickle to cut down her wild grapes of ingratitude and disobedience so that they may be cast into the Winepress of God's Wrath and measured. Then, God can mete out the exact amount of dire Judgment and retribution she deserves.

Many of God's people, along with Israel, also have apostatized and have become a part of the wild vine. They, too, will reap God's Judgment.

And the angel thrust in his sickle into the earth, and gathered the vine of the earth, and cast it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trodden without the city, and blood came out of the winepress, even unto the horse bridles, by the space of a thousand *and* six hundred furlongs (Revelation 14:19,20).

Jesus Christ will thrust His Sickle into the Earth from where He sits on the White Cloud, which indicates that this is a spiritual Judgment. He will thrust in His Sickle, cutting down the spiritually degenerate vine of Israel's ingratitude and disobedience with its clusters of grapes, the fruits of her wicked deeds. These clusters of grapes or wicked deeds are filled with the blood of saints and Prophets, as well as with Jesus Christ's Blood. Jesus will tread these clusters-of-grapes (deeds) in the Winepress of God's Wrath in order for God's Wrath to be measured in proportion to the "grape juice" of her wicked deeds. God will fill up seven vials with His Wrath, according to the wicked "grape juice" that is trodden out in the Winepress of His Wrath, and He will return it upon Israel and Jerusalem. Thus, God's irrevocable Law will be confirmed all over again that says whatsoever a man sows, that shall he also reap. Israel has sown Blood, the blood of saints, Prophets, and Jesus Christ; therefore, she will reap blood in the tribulation through the Judgments out of the vials of God's Wrath.

The word *crown* in this chapter also comes from the same word that is used for the crowning of those who run in races, the winner being crowned because he has gained the prize. Oh, how precious this is! No wonder it is not Jesus Christ, the Son of God, Who is mentioned here, but Jesus Christ, the Son of Man, Who ran His race from the cradle to the Cross, down into Death, Hell, and the grave. He won the race; He won the Prize; and He gained the victory over all powers of darkness through His Father's Infinite, Unbegotten Resurrection Glory. Consequently, He ascended to the Right Hand of God the Father with the Keys of Death and Hell. The LORD Jesus Christ wore a crown of thorns, and now He wears a Golden Crown of Victory!

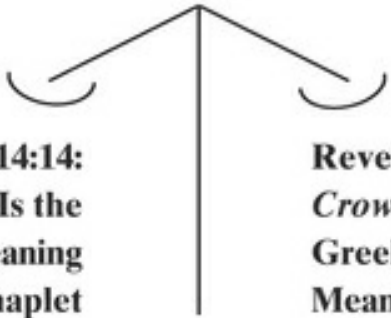


The LORD Jesus Christ has gained the Father's Unbegotten Power. Hence, He is capable of visiting Judgment upon the wild, apostate vine. He suffered at the hands of the apostate vine and was crucified by it, as He wore His humility crown of thorns. Now, He is at the Right Hand of God the Father in Heaven, wearing the exalted Crown of Gold. In the Tribulation Period, He will come to minister God's Vengeance. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord" (Romans 12:19).

Christ's Golden Crown symbolizes the Strength of His Powerful Headship because He has gained Eternal Victory over Death, Hell, the grave, and all apostasy. Consequently, the LORD Jesus Christ is capable of ministering God's just Judgment.

IV. Jesus Christ Wears Many Crowns.

As the KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS, Jesus Christ wears Many Crowns upon His Head.



Revelation 14:14:
***Crown* in this Verse Is the
Greek Word *Stef-an-os*, Meaning
Twine, Wreathe, Chaplet
(as a Badge of Royalty),
a Prize in the Public Games,
a Symbol of Honour**

Revelation 19:12:
***Crowns* in this Verse Is the
Greek Word *Dee-ad-ay-mah*,
Meaning to Bind, to Be in Bonds,
Knit, Tie, Wind,
the Channel of an Act**

And I saw heaven opened, and behold a white horse; and he that sat upon him was called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he doth judge and make war. His eyes *were* as a flame of fire, **and on his head *were* many crowns; and he had a name written, that no man knew, but he himself.** And he was clothed with a vesture dipped in blood: and his name is called The Word of God. And **the armies *which were* in heaven followed him upon white horses, clothed in fine linen, white and clean.** And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. **And he hath on *his vesture* and on his thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS** (Revelation 19:11-16).

The Powerful Head of the Resurrected Christ, the Living Word, wears Many Crowns at His Second Coming, when His Bridal Armies, clothed in Fine Linen, White and Clean, will be with Him. The word describing what He wears on His Head is plural — crowns — and signifies a diadem bound about the head, kingly power, authority, dignity.

Let us compare the Crown Christ wears in chapter fourteen of Revelation to the Crowns He wears in chapter nineteen. The Crown He wears in chapter fourteen is His own personal Crown that He wears as a result of His own personal Victory over Death, Hell, the grave, and fallen Lucifer. The Crowns that Jesus Christ wears on His Head in Revelation, chapter nineteen, are the result of Victories that He wrought in His Bride in the days of her flesh as she allowed her headship to be mortified and sanctified and bound, knit, and tied to the Strength of His Powerful Headship. He worked through her to overcome fallen Lucifer's wicked headship within the flesh, from the inside of the human will and heart.

The Greek Word for *crowns* (*dee-ad-ay-mah*) is the same word used to describe Lucifer's Dragon headship and the Antichrist's headship. Jesus Christ, the Holy One, the Pure, Undeiled One, was separated from sinners in that He overcame sin, the flesh, Lucifer, Death, Hell, and the grave from *without* because there was no sin *within* Him.

Today, Jesus Christ comes *within* a penitent heart, and as that heart yields to the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship, it becomes a channel for His All-Powerful Headship to overcome all of Lucifer's satanic, devilish, serpentine, and dragonish power from within, in the old heart and will. Every time we allow Jesus Christ's Headship to overcome the old nature within us, He receives a new Crown for His Head!

Chapter nineteen portrays an altogether different picture of Christ's Headship than the one in chapter fourteen, where He is on a White Cloud with one Crown upon His Head. When He comes on a White Horse, bearing His Sword, He makes war and casts the Beast and the False Prophet into the Lake of Fire that burns with brimstone. Jesus Christ, His Head gloriously crowned with many Crowns, comes with His Bride, who has gained *inside* victory over her fallen nature, and takes powerful victory over the governments and kingdoms of this world; then, He sets up His Millennial Reign.

The Living Word in Flesh warred in the outside, visible realm during His earthly journey. Today, He lives in His resurrected Glory and enters into receptive, penitent hearts where He wars against fallen Lucifer and the flesh from

within. This is what Jesus Christ desires to do for us now. If we will surrender to His Headship and become bound to His Headship, He will use us as a channel to war against Lucifer.

The crowns He wears upon His Head will prove who are the ones who have allowed the Strength of His Powerful Headship to prevail over their flesh and their wills. Thus, they will be counted worthy to be in His Bride and rule and reign with Him during the Millennial Reign and, then, in His Universal Reign in the New City.

In summary, then, these Truths are some of the secrets of His Powerful Head under the points covering His Golden Crown and His Many Crowns. We have seen His Right and His Power to judge and to war against the wicked deeds of men, to measure them and to mix them with God's Wrath; then He will pour them back upon sinful men.

Also, in the study of His Powerful Head, we have seen the crowned, resurrected Christ, the Living Word, bringing death and destruction to the worldly usurpers of His governmental Authority. As we take on His Headship in our lives, with the same Authority, He will take the throne of our hearts and put down all degenerate attitudes with their clusters of wild, destructive grapes. He also will put down the rule of the fleshly governments and kingdoms within our carnal being that always try to rule and reign over our "self" and everyone else. The stronghold of our old nature has to go as we willingly take on the Strength of the Powerful Headship of the Resurrected Christ. He will move against our old nature in victorious Judgment. It is, indeed, a high and holy privilege to have the LORD Jesus Christ seated upon the throne of our hearts as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS!

* Sermon Study by B.R. Hicks – [The Sixteen Minds of Man](#); pg 9, (Jeffersonville, IN: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l, Inc., 1996).

Chapter Six

Christ's Pure Headship In The New Testament Corresponds To The Loving Mercy Of Christ's Headship In The Old Testament

Christ's *Suffering* Head, in the New Testament, which parallels the *Light* of Christ's Headship, shining through His *Torah-Truth* in the Old Testament, was the first point of our study of Christ's Headship. Then, we covered Christ's *Anointed* Headship in the New Testament, which parallels the *Life* of Jesus Christ's Headship in the Old Testament. The *Power* of Christ's Powerful Headship in the New Testament, which parallels the *Strength* of His Headship in the Old Testament, was the third point of our study. Now, let us proceed to the last point on our main Stature of Truth about the Headship of Christ in the New Testament, which is the parallel of His *Pure* Headship with the *Loving Mercy* of His Headship in the Old Testament.

The Apostle John received a glorious vision of the resurrected LORD Jesus Christ when He came to John to deliver the message of the Book of Revelation.

And in the midst of the seven candlesticks **one like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire** (Revelation 1:13,14).

One of the many things the LORD revealed to John was the Loving Mercy of His Pure Headship.

Christ's Headship, which is over all things, is a Pure Headship and a Mature Headship. Christ's Pure Headship means that it is free from anything that adulterates, taints, and impairs; it is unmixed and clear; it is free from defects, perfect, faultless; it is free from sin or guilt; it is blameless and chaste.

In the majestic description of our LORD in the midst of seven candlesticks, John reveals that Christ Jesus is clothed with a garment down to the foot and girt about the paps with a golden girdle; furthermore, His Head and His Hairs are white like wool, as white as snow, and His Eyes are as a flame of fire. In this scene, the description of Christ's Head and Hair being like white wool, as white as snow, is like Daniel's description of the Heavenly Father's Hair.

I beheld till the thrones were cast down, and **the Ancient of days did sit, whose garment was white as snow, and the hair of his head like the pure wool:** his throne *was like* the fiery flame, *and* his wheels *as* burning fire. A fiery stream issued and came forth from before him: thousand thousands ministered unto him, and ten thousand times ten thousand stood before him: the judgment was set, and the books were opened. I beheld then because of the voice of the great words which the horn spake: I beheld *even* till the beast was slain, and his body destroyed, and given to the burning flame. As concerning the rest of the beasts, they had their dominion taken away: yet their lives were prolonged for a season and time. I saw in the night visions, and, behold, *one* like the Son of man came with the clouds of heaven, and came to the Ancient of days, and they brought him near before him. And there was given him dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion *is* an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom *that* which shall not be destroyed (Daniel 7:9-14).

Daniel was carried forward by the Spirit of Prophecy to God's future heavenly Tribunal. Daniel beheld God the Father, the Ancient of Days, the Eternal God, Whose garment was like white snow and Whose Hair was like wool, which pictured His perfect Purity.

The Hebrew word for *pure* in verse nine is *nek-ay*, meaning clean and pure. (To my knowledge, this is the only place the Bible uses the Hebrew word *nek-ay*.) God is pictured sitting on the Throne of Judgment with His Head of Pure Wool, which reveals that all His Divine Verdicts and Divine Decisions will proceed from the Purity and Cleanness of His Omniscient Knowledge of His creation. Hence, all His administrations of justice to His creatures will proceed from the glorious splendour of His Purity and the majestic beauty of His Cleanness. The Pure, White Wool of His Head denotes the Purity of His Unbegotten Headship, from Everlasting to Everlasting.

The LORD Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the Unbegotten, Eternal Father, was brought forth in the Image and Likeness of His Father. Hence, Jesus told His Disciples the following:

...Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? **he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?** (John 14:9).

Jesus Christ was not made; He was begotten by the Eternal Generation of His Unbegotten Father. Therefore, He is of the same Substance of Light, Life, Love, Word, Glory, Purity, and Cleanness as His Unbegotten, Eternal Father.

John's experience with Christ's Pure, White Head in the Book of Revelation reveals that Christ's Headship is of the same perfect Purity as that of His Eternal Father, the Ancient of Days, as described in the Book of Daniel.

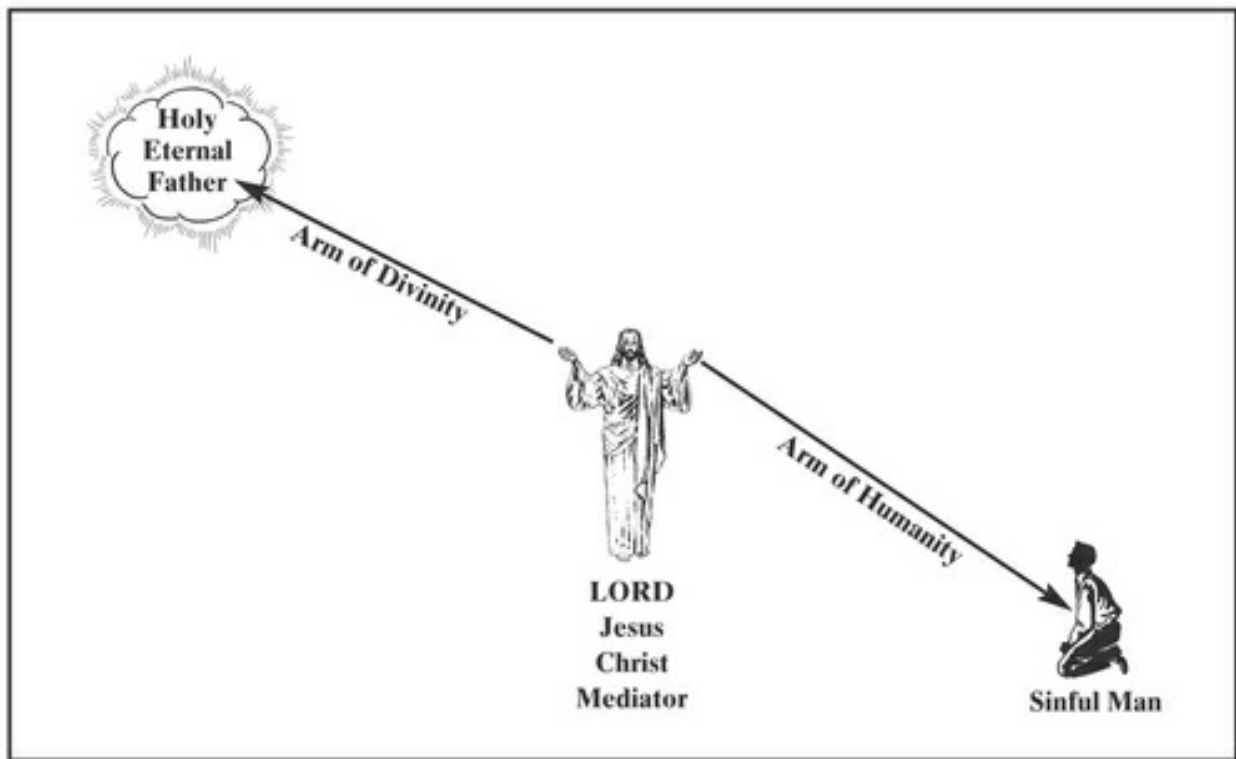
Because of the perfect Purity of Christ's Headship, the Eternal Father can commit the Power of Judgment unto Him.

For the **Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son:**... And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.... **I can of mine own self do nothing; as I hear, I judge: and my judgment is just;** because I seek not mine own will, but the will of the Father which hath sent me (John 5:22,27,30).

The Eternal Father shares His Sovereign Dominion and Jurisdiction from His perfectly Pure, White Head with His Son's perfectly Pure, White Head, which makes the LORD Jesus Christ equal with God.

Jesus Christ has power to judge and to execute Judgment. Christ has All Power in Heaven and in Earth to exercise His Almighty, Sovereign Jurisdiction from His Pure, White Head.

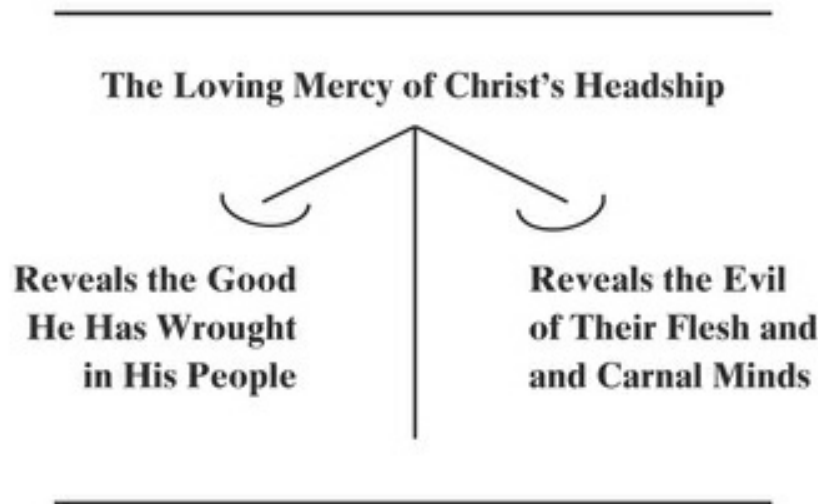
Since the Son's Head is like that of His Eternal Father, God can trust all Judgment to His Son. So man is not terrorized by having to deal with the Divine Eternal Father without a Mediator. Jesus Christ is both Divine and Human. So with His Hand of Humanity, He takes hold of man, and with His Hand of Divinity, He takes hold of God.



From the Loving Mercy of Christ's Pure, Clean Headship, He is able to take hold of the Father with His Arm of Divinity because He fulfilled all the punishment in Death and Hell that was appointed by His Father for mankind. He also is able to take hold of poor, penitent, sinful man with His Arm of Humanity, as a merciful and faithful High Priest. Thus, He pleads God's Holy Cause to us, and He pleads our poor, penitent cause to the Father, accomplishing a reconciliation between the two. So Jesus Christ is the One Who interposes between a Holy Father and sinful men, who are at variance with each other. His Purpose is to effect a reconciliation between them (Galatians 3:19). The

title of Mediator fitly belongs to Christ Jesus, the Divine Redeemer, in Whom and by Whom the Eternal Father is reconciling the world unto Himself (I Timothy 2:5; Hebrews 8:6; 12:24). The LORD Jesus Christ is the only Mediator between the Eternal God and man.

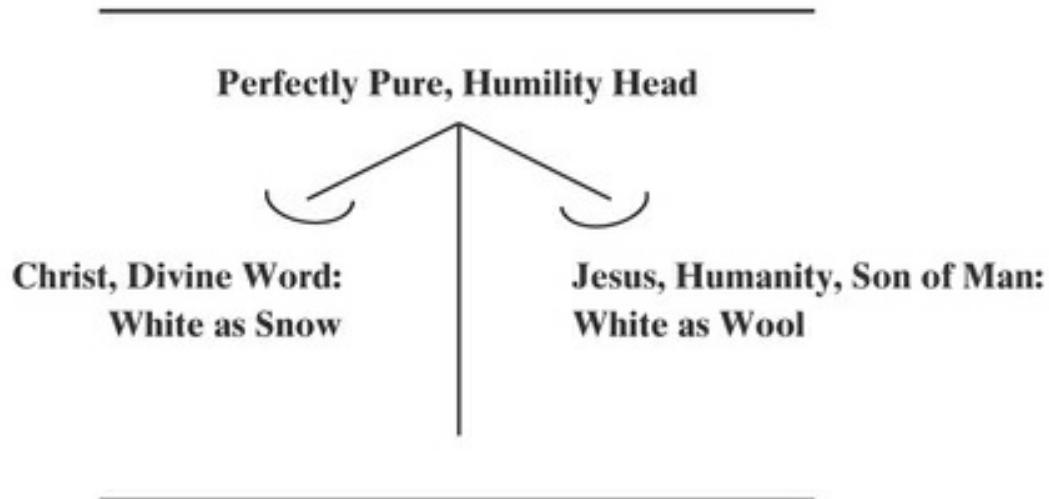
In Revelation, the Holy Son of God, Jesus Christ, stands in the midst of the seven Churches with His perfectly Pure, White Head, showing His Loving Mercy through His Divine Judgment of them by revealing both their good deeds and their evil deeds.



Thus, through Christ's Just, Holy Judgment, the seven Churches were able to see clearly those things for which they needed to repent.

Jesus Christ faithfully stands with the Loving Mercy of His perfectly Pure Headship to manifest just Judgment among the seven Churches. He does not stand among them with the sharp Sickle and the Golden Crown to minister Judgment upon them as He will upon the apostate, wild vine, nor does He come with Many Crowns and His Vesture dipped in Blood and His sharp Sword to kill them, as He will when He comes to His kill His enemies at Armageddon. On the contrary, He comes to them with His sharp Sword of Truth, governed by His Loving Mercy of His perfectly Pure Head that is white like wool, as white as snow.

The fact that Christ's Head appeared to John as being white like wool and like snow shows the Purity of His humble Mind. The white wool shows that the Lamb of God, Jesus the Son of Man, was free from all pride that would adulterate, impair, taint, mix, fog, blot, or blur His unity with the Father's Eternal Word within Him. The white snow shows the Purity of the humble Mind of the Word, the Christ, that shone forth in glorious, brilliant clearness and simplicity. There was a perfect marriage relationship, as it were, between the humble Mind of Jesus the Man (pictured by the white wool) and the humble Mind of Christ the Word (pictured by the white snow).



Thus, Christ Jesus' Headship consists of a double portion of humility for us. Beloved, His Head is too Pure, too Wise, and too Holy to guide us in any way other than what is for our eternal good and for His Eternal Glory. All His Judgment and Discernment that He ministered among the seven Churches is from this perfectly Pure and Mature Head. He is too Pure to falsely accuse; He is too Pure to withhold from us the knowledge of our binding weights and besetting sins which we need to lay aside or to withhold from us the knowledge of His Word that we need in order to grow up unto the measure of the Fullness of His Spiritual Stature.

According to the Apostle Paul, we are called to run in this great spiritual race.

Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? **So run, that ye may obtain.** And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they *do it* to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible (I Corinthians 9:24,25).

When we have the glorious Prize and the incorruptible Crown in view, we can endure all things that the Loving Mercy of Christ's perfectly Pure Headship sends our way. The Prize is being in Christ's Bride. The Crown is the *stef-an-os* Crown, the same as Christ's Crown in Revelation, chapter fourteen. This Crown is for our personal victory and Spiritual Stature. In our spiritual race, we all have the opportunity to win our Crown. If we run according the way God leads us, we can *obtain* our Crown or take possession of it. If we persist constantly, diligently, and vigorously in prayer and in studying God's Word, mortifying our flesh, in our course or cycle of time allotted to us in this present world, we shall obtain our Crown. This incorruptible Crown cannot be corrupted — neither by decay nor by destruction.

God's Word calls this incorruptible Crown (*stef-an-os*) the Crown of Rejoicing (I Thessalonians 2:19); it is a Crown that fills us with joy, delight, and happiness. The Bible says that this *stef-an-os* Crown is also one of righteousness or moral virtuousness (II Timothy 4:8). First Peter, chapter five, verse four, says the *stef-an-os* Crown also is one of glory, honour and splendour. It is a Crown of Life or a Living Crown, which always gives one vigour, vitality, and freshness, according to Revelation, chapter two, verse ten. To *know* the LORD Jesus Christ and His Headship is the supreme height of *all* knowledge!

Summary:

God always takes the initiative in revealing the Rays of Light that enable man to see Him with their spiritual eyes of understanding and to know Him empirically. God never waits for man to start searching for Him.

Inside the Ark of the Covenant, found in the Highest, Most Holy Place of the Mosaic Tabernacle, were the Tables of Stone on which were written God's Holy *Torah-Truth*, Aaron's Rod that budded, and the Golden Pot of Manna. The *Torah-Truth* was a picture of the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship. Aaron's Rod that budded was a visible demonstration of the Life of Christ's Anointed Headship. The Golden Pot of Manna was a witness of the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship that enabled the believing Israelites to endure forty long years of wandering in the wilderness and still have strong enough determination to enter into Canaan's Land and possess their promised

inheritance. The Ark with its Mercy Seat revealed a picture, a type, a shadow of the Loving Mercy of Christ's Headship.

Then, lest some might fail to see a clear vision of Christ's Headship in the furniture in the Mosaic Tabernacle, God used the adornment worn on the head of the High Priest to give them a more personal vision of the same Truths concerning the Headship of Christ, our Eternal High Priest. The Mitre or Turban of White Linen worn by the High Priest depicted the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship. The Golden Crown or Plate on the Mitre signified the Life of Christ's Anointed Headship. The Engravings of "Holiness unto the LORD" on the Golden Plate were a shadow and type of the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship. And the Blue Lace on the Mitre depicted the Loving Mercy of Christ's Pure Headship.

In the fullness of time, God sent His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to reveal the Living Truth of Christ's Headship. As Christ lived and walked in a Body of Flesh, He revealed the Light of His Suffering Headship in the following manner: by having no place to lay His Head; by having His precious Head crowned with piercing thorns and cruelly beaten with a reed; by bearing the accusation and mockery that were heaped upon His Head, even as He hung upon Calvary's Cross, dying in the place of sinful mankind. Finally, Christ bowed His Head in Death in order to bring Redemption and Life to fallen mankind; thus, He fulfilled His Father's Master Plan and Purposive Will.

Of all the LORD's Disciples, Mary of Bethany was the only one who had a revelation of the Resurrection Life in Christ's Anointed Headship. Before Christ went to the Cross and laid down His mortal Life as a sacrifice for man's sin, Mary anointed His Head and His Feet as a visible demonstration of her faith in the Resurrection Life that soon would be His. The oil with which Mary anointed Jesus in the Old Testament was a picture of gladness and joy. The Psalmist prophesied about the Messiah's gladness to do His Father's Will. Although the Father's Will for Jesus Christ took Him down into Death, Hell, and the grave, Christ did not descend into the lowest place grudgingly; His Head was anointed with the Oil of Gladness that enabled Him to do His Father's Will joyfully, with gladness of heart. On resurrection morning, the Father descended into Hell to lift up His Son out of the low place and bring Him forth with new Resurrection Life and Glory. Praise His Holy Name!

Because Jesus Christ was faithful to do His Heavenly Father's Will, He was resurrected from the dead and given ALL Power in Heaven and in Earth. The Strength of His Powerful Headship is manifested in the following ways: He is the Head *of* man, the Head *of* the Church, the Head *of* Principality and Power, and the Head *of* the Corner, the Foundation. The Strength of His Powerful Headship also is manifested in what He is the Head *over*: He is the Head *over giving* all things; He is the Head *over choosing* the foolish things to confound those who are wise in their own eyes; He is the Head *over preparing* things to reveal His merciful, gracious Headship *over* all things; and He proves the Strength of His Powerful Headship by *ruling over* All things.

Upon His resurrected Head, Christ wears a Golden Crown that is His personal Crown that shows His Strength, Power, and Authority to thrust in His Sickle and reap the wicked works or fruits of the sinners who are ripe for ruin by God's Judgment. The *Many* Crowns He wears upon His Head signify the victories He wrought in His Bride in the days of her flesh, as she allowed her carnal headship to be mortified and sanctified, bound, knit, and tied to the Strength of His Powerful Headship.

The Loving Mercy of Christ's Pure Headship is revealed in the vision John saw of the resurrected Christ in the Book of Revelation. John saw Christ's mature Pure Head and the hairs of His Head as being white like wool, as white as snow.

What a blessed privilege has been granted to mortal man to know, both theoretically and experientially, a union with the Light of Christ's Suffering Headship, the Life of Christ's Anointed Headship, the Strength of Christ's Powerful Headship, and the Merciful Love of Christ's Pure Headship.

Dear friend, how great is your desire to have the full Stature of Christ's Headship formed in you? Do you desire to know and to fellowship His Suffering Head, His Anointed Head, His Powerful Head, and His Pure Head? Let us completely open our hearts to Him so that He can minister His glorious Headship and LORDship in every area of our lives.



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- II. The Ark with Aaron's Rod that Budded, Blossomed, and Bore Almonds Pictures the Life of Christ's Headship.
 - A. The Buds on Aaron's Rod Portray the Beauty of the LORD's Headship.
 - B. The Blossoms on Aaron's Rod Portray the Fragrant Sweetness of the LORD's Headship.
 - C. The Almonds on Aaron's Rod Portray the Fruitfulness of the LORD's Headship.
- III. The Ark with the Pot of Manna Pictures the Strength of the LORD's Headship.
- IV. The Ark with Its Mercy Seat Pictures the Loving Mercy of Christ's Headship.

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- I. The High Priest's White Linen Mitre Pictures the Purity and Light of Christ's Headship.
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D. Christ Is the Head *of* the Corner, Being the Chief Cornerstone.

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1. Can Satan Be Against Us?
2. Can the Devil Lay Anything to the Charge of God's Elect?
3. Can the Serpent Condemn Us?
4. Can the Dragon Separate Us from the Love of Christ?

B. Christ Is the Head *Over Choosing* Things.

C. Christ Is the Head *Over Preparing* Things to Further Our Spiritual Growth.

D. Christ Is the Head *Over Ruling Over ALL* Things.

1. Love Bears All Things.
2. Love Believes All Things.
3. Love Hopes All Things.
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III. Jesus Christ Wears a Golden Crown upon His Head to Show the Strength of His Headship.

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Chapter Six

Christ's Pure Headship In The New Testament Corresponds To The Loving Mercy Of Christ's Headship In The Old Testament

Summary