

Confirming Our Faith in the Holy Bible



B.R. Hicks

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by B. R. Hicks

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Introduction

This book is written to make firm our faith and confidence in the Holy Bible. We have used Scriptures and Principles that will ratify, settle, and establish our trust in the written, verbally inspired Word of God, the Holy Bible. Thus, by formal assent, we may be able to render valid, beyond all doubt, both the Old Testament and the New Testament Covenants.

The Truth presented in this book will strengthen, assure, and encourage our faith in resolution, purpose, and opinion in regard to the profitableness of all Scripture.

The factual Truth presented within these pages will fix our heart firmly in the written, inspired Word of God and eradicate all doubts as to the origin of the Holy Bible which has been appointed, chosen out, and set apart for the special purpose of revealing God's Holy Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of the World.

It is important to *confirm* our faith since faith is superior to the testimony of the natural senses. Faith has the following attributes:

- Faith is an all-encompassing prophetic eye which embraces the past, the present, and the future.
- Faith is important because it purifies the heart and expands the intellect.
- Faith is the captain of the Spirit which leads man onward and upward through the warfares of this world until it brings the soul into the Presence and Glory of God.
- Faith is a true and faithful parent; it produces Holiness or Holy Works.
- Faith elevates the soul into stability and dignity.
- Faith purifies the passions and emotions and leads into peaceful Paths of Righteousness.
- Faith is the *cathedral window* in the spiritual temple of the heart, through which shines the illuminating rays of God's Divine Word, filling the temple of the heart with harmonious Light and unspeakably glorious splendour.
- Faith is the sacrifice and submission of our own understanding to God Who knows and understands ALL. We cannot have faith until we offer our *idolized reason* to God. The Divine Principles of God are understood through faith and are not pried into by reason. Therefore, the greatest thing in all the world is "The Confirmation of Our Faith."

Our human reason is like a spider. We would rather spin, with our reasoning, a deceitful web of opinions and ideas out of our own soul than to humble our proud reason and accept God's Divine, Infinite Principles.

- Faith is the rest and repose of the spirit in God.
- Faith is the master craftsman, who takes the discords and disharmonies of the present, reworks them, and builds a stairway of accord and harmony for tomorrow.
- Faith is a telescopic eye.
- Faith looks upward and beyond our present, earthly circumstances and is able to describe Heavenly Things that are afar off.
- Faith helps us see, understand, and enjoy these Heavenly Things. By contrast, carnal human reason never is able to discover nor to see these Things afar off. Carnal reason can see only what is below — never what is above.
- Faith finds the Manna, the Table in the wilderness.
- Faith finds sweet food in famine.
- Faith removes the scorpion's sting from sorrow and trouble.
- Faith removes the Serpent's bitter poison from pain and affliction.
- Faith pushes downward through the seemingly empty, vain, and void places until it finds the solid Rock of Truth

beneath.

The experiences of life recorded in the Word of God weave their threads of Light and Revelation in the midst of our daily toils, trials, and tribulations, which *always work* to confirm our faith with joy unspeakable.

— The Author

Chapter One

The History Of The Bible

The Holy Bible is the world's greatest book. It is God's Supreme Revelation to man. It was given to enable the creature to know his Creator and to know himself.

The Bible explains the past, foretells the future, and is an unfailling Counselor for the present. The Bible is the only source of all Christian Truth. The Bible is the only book that unfolds to us the realities of Eternity. Since this is true, it is needful for us to have a Divine Revelation that will clarify the true end of our being.

To help those who believe, the Bible is all the following things:

- Magnifying glass which amplifies the believer's view of Eternity;
- Window of hope in the great prison of our earthly tabernacle;
- Salvation for the lost soul;
- Light for the darkened understanding;
- Joy for the sad heart;
- Hope for the discouraged;
- Consoler for the sorrowful;
- Guide for the disoriented soul;
- Telescope to see the glories of the Heavenly World;
- Garden with exquisitely beautiful flowers of Truth;
- Book of eloquent poetry and accurate history;
- Mine of inexhaustible, invaluable Wisdom, Knowledge, and Virtue;
- Mountain of delectable heights of glorious Truth;
- Inspiration for incomparable songs, music, art, and literature;
- Circle of encompassing Wisdom, going equally to the humble place of the peasant and to the exalted place of the king.

Yes, the Bible is the greatest of all Blessings given to man. The Bible has God for its Author, Salvation for its end, and pure, unmixed Holy Truth for its subject matter. The Bible is original, unborrowed, solitary Greatness; it is free from the mixtures of earthly error. The Bible is a Living Power. The Bible is Supernal and surpasses all other books. The Bible is a bright and shining Star. The Bible is the Word of God!

The Bible is neither a single document nor a literary anthology. Instead, it is a collection of writings which were given, first, to ancient Israel by the Hand of God and the hand of Moses. Before we can appreciate, fully, the spiritual Truths of the Bible, we must establish some Truths related to its natural, historical background.

I. The Origin of the Bible

According to Webster's Dictionary the word *origin* means ancestry, parentage, rise, beginning, derivation from a source, primary source or cause. The Bible has its origin in the Heart and Mind of God. Thus, God is the Parent, as it were, of the Bible. God brought the Bible to birth. He first conceived the Thoughts and Blueprint of it. Then, He brought it forth and wrote it on tables of stone and gave it to man.

The fact that God Himself was the Source of the Inspiration and Anointing which permitted human vessels to pen His Words of Truth clearly is established in the Bible.

A. Given by God

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

The expression *given by inspiration of God* means God *breathed*. The excellency of the Scriptures is that they were given by Inspiration of God; therefore, they are His Word. Not only does the Bible **contain** God's Word, but it **is** God's Word. Some people say that parts of the Bible are fables, meaningless allegories, and fiction. They maintain that just certain portions of the Word are inspired. This is false. The Bible teaches that ALL SCRIPTURE is inspired and given by God. Therefore, we must accept or reject all of it as the inspired Word of God.

God's Word is a Divine Revelation. Therefore, we can depend upon it as the Infallible Word of Truth. The same Spirit that breathes Life into us also can breathe revelation into us.

B. Written by Men

For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:21).

Peter, inspired by the Holy Ghost, told us how the Old Testament came to be collected and compiled. The contents of the Old Testament did not come by the will of men, the opinions of men, nor the records of men. Instead, Holy Men of God were employed by God and anointed by God with the Holy Ghost, Who inspired and dictated to them what they were to write of the Will and Mind of God. The Holy Ghost wisely directed them so that they were secured against any mistake in expressing the Divine Revelation. We should respect and revere the Holy Bible as a Book written by Holy men, who were instruments used by God, but we always should remember that the Holy Ghost was the *Source*, Agent, Inspiration, and Influence. The men were the clay vessels; the Holy Ghost was the Living, Breathing Flame and Thought inside the vessels.

The Scriptures were written by forty-four authors, over a period of 1500 years, from 1400 B.C. to A.D. 100. The perfect harmony of these writings shows indubitable evidence that all the writers were guided by a single Mind — the Mind of God. God's Divine Mind guided the human writers so perfectly in their writings that we have THE WORD OF GOD which conveys His Message and Revelation to mankind.

II. Qualities of the Bible

The multitudinous qualities of the Bible make it the most unique Book in the entire world. Its character is Holy. Its nature is Eternal. Its distinguishing feature is the whole of visible and invisible Truth. Its transcending excellence is seen in its survival above and beyond all literature. Its superiority is beheld as one studies its comprehensive concepts. If one used all the paper and ink of the world, it would be insufficient to describe, lawfully, the qualities of the Holy Bible, God's Word.

A. The Completeness of the Bible

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book (Revelation 22:18,19).

Although these verses primarily speak against tampering with the Book of Revelation, their secondary application includes the entire Word of God because this last Book closes God's Written Revelation to man. God commands us not to add to His Word and not to take away from the Words which He has spoken. He who adds to God's Word invites upon himself all the plagues written in it, and separates himself from all Promises and Performances of it. These solemn Words of warning are like a flaming sword to guard and protect the Words of Life from corrupt,

profane hands. God condemns and curses all who would dare to change His Holy, Divine Word. This is consistent with the teachings given to the children of Israel.

Ye shall not add unto the word which I command you, neither shall ye diminish ought from it, that ye may keep the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you (Deuteronomy 4:2).

God demands that His Word be kept pure and entire. The only way to do this is not to add to it nor take away from it. We add to God's Word by committing *evil*, which He forbids. We diminish from it by omitting the *good*, which His Word requires.

What thing soever I command you, observe to do it: thou shalt not add thereto, nor diminish from it (Deuteronomy 12:32).

God forbids men to add to the Holy Scriptures by their own inventions, lest men, under the delusion that they could make God's Word more significant or magnificent, change the simplicity of the Truth of His Word. Neither does God allow men to diminish from the complexity of the Holy Scriptures, through their erroneous illusion that they could make God's Word easier and more practical. If we desire God's approval of our actions, we must observe the Divine Rules of His Word.

B. The Superiority of the Bible

The Bible gives abundant, internal evidence of its Divine Authorship. It excels in literary excellence because of its exquisite beauty, simplicity, and force. Although the Bible is simple enough for a child to understand, it contains unfathomable Wisdom and Knowledge.

The Bible is superior to all other literature because of its inexhaustible wealth of Truth. Other books have Truth mixed with error; whereas, the Bible is Pure Truth. The Truths taught in God's Word have paved the way for modern science, philosophy, music, art, literature, and history. Even its earliest Books, written nearly 3,400 years ago, set forth a true concept of God which obviously is deeper and higher, more inspiring, heart thrilling, and ennobling than any of the concepts found in any of the world's most profound philosophies.

Heischel, one of the greatest scientific thinkers in the world's history, said, "All human discoveries seem to be made only for the purpose of confirming more strongly the truths that come from on high, and which are contained in the sacred writings."

The geologist James D. Danna, one of the greatest scientific thinkers that America has produced, said, "The grand old Book of God still stands; and this old earth, the more its leaves are turned over and pondered, the more it will sustain and illustrate the sacred Word."

The Truth resident in the Bible is complete and unique in its appeal to all ages, generations, and people. It is superior to all other books because of its marvelous power to lift mankind out of a life of sin and to elevate him, save him, gladden and ennoble his life. The Divine Power that resides in the Bible (and in it alone) proves that behind and through this Book is the only One Who is All-Powerful, as well as All-Knowing. God, Himself, is the Author, Defender, and Protector of His Holy Word.

An example of the Power of this Holy Book is seen in the life of Paul Gupta, a young man of the Brahmin caste, the highest caste in India. While walking down the street one day, Paul caught sight of a slip of paper blowing down the street. He picked up the paper out of curiosity, then realized that he was reading some wonderful Words. The Words on the note led him to search until he found that they formed a verse of Scripture from the Holy Bible. The Words troubled him day and night. Paul knew that he had to know more about what the whole Book had to say. While devouring the Bible's wonderful messages of Hope, Love, Salvation, and Forgiveness, Paul Gupta finally was brought to his knees in prayer, where he personally experienced the Salvation about which he had read. Rejected and persecuted by his family, Paul was one day poisoned by his own mother, but as he cried out to God in the Name of Jesus, he was instantly delivered. Today, this man is Founder and President of the Hindustani Bible Institute in India. He established this school in order to train Bible teachers and native evangelists to carry the Gospel to his people.

C. The Eternal Endurance of the Bible

But the word of the Lord endureth for ever. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you (I Peter 1:25).

The Word of God is everlastingly true and is filled with Everlasting Life. The Life of God's Word comes to man as Seeds which seek an environment conducive to growth. The only way for mortal man, who is corruptible, to become solid, enduring, and incorruptible is for him to receive the Seeds of God's Word of Truth into his being where they can grow and produce a Spiritual Man of Substance, a Spiritual Man who can stand and endure until the corruptible man puts on incorruption.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory (I Corinthians 15:54).

Through the wonderful Laws of His Word, God propagates the natural plant world, continuing it from year to year. He uses the wind to broadcast living seeds far and wide. He commissions the fowls of the air to distribute seeds from berries and fruits to proper soil, far and wide. He dispatches a host of insects to pollinate living plants so that seeds will be produced that will be able to germinate, taking root downward and bearing fruit upward. God employs scores of four-footed creatures to be husbandmen or harborers and planters of seeds. During their process of eating and storing up food, animals become planters of vegetable life. God has even preserved seeds for centuries and, then, caused them to germinate and flourish.

The same Principle applies in the spiritual realm. God preserves and scatters the incorruptible Seeds of Truth from His Word by using Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Teachers, and Evangelists as husbandmen, as sowers of Truth. God is the LORD of all Truth; therefore, the Truth of God's Word shall live and reign forever because God is Everlasting and Eternal.

III. Ancient Manuscripts and Versions of the Bible

We have no part of the Bible in the original handwriting of the author. However, we have two sources from which we can learn the content of the original writings: manuscripts and versions.

A. Manuscripts

Manuscripts are documents handwritten in the same language as the original. The Old Testament was written in the Hebrew language between 1400 B.C. and 400 B.C. The oldest known Bible manuscripts are the Dead Sea Scrolls which date back to 100 B.C.

The Books of the New Testament were written in Aramaic and Greek during the first century after Jesus Christ. The oldest known manuscripts were copied about A.D. 350. After the invention of the printing press by Johannes Guttenberg in Germany, about A.D. 1450, the need for handwritten Bibles no longer existed.

B. Versions

Versions are a translation of any document into another language. Some ancient versions of the Scriptures were translated from manuscripts older than any we now have. These versions, then, can help us know what the original writing said.

The oldest version of the Old Testament is a Greek version called the Septuagint, which was made about 250 B.C. from Hebrew manuscripts older than those which exist now.

The most careful version of the complete Bible was finished about A.D. 400. This Latin version was called the Vulgate and was the official Bible of the Roman Catholic Church and western Europe for centuries.

The Vulgate's name, which means popular or common, is misleading because it was written in Latin. Since Latin was a language basically known only by the clergy, the Vulgate version of the Bible remained a closed Book to the common people.

There is another old form of text that was translated anciently into the Aramaic language, which has been used by Eastern Christians from the earliest times. This text, known as the Peshitta, was the Authorized Bible of the Church of the East. The Church of the East maintains that Jesus and His earliest followers spoke Aramaic (which is very

similar to Hebrew) and that the four Gospels and other parts of the New Testament were written, first, in Aramaic.

The Peshitta Version, in its present form, held universal acceptance by the fifth century A.D. The Church of the East testifies that the Peshitta text was received from the hands of the blessed Apostles themselves in the original Aramaic. This text has been handed down through the centuries without any change or revision.

IV. English Versions of the Bible

The English versions of the Bible fall into two basic classes: the old, original English versions and the modern English versions.

A. Old, Original English Versions

In the the year A.D.735, the Venerable Bede translated the Gospel of John into Anglo-Saxon, the forerunner of modern English. Many other translations followed, but the most widely used Bible in the English language was published in A.D. 1611, and is called the King James Version.

B. Modern English Versions

Since spoken language changes constantly, modern English Versions have been written to replace unknown and antiquated words with up-to-date terminology. The purpose of using today's language is to make the Bible more understandable to more people.

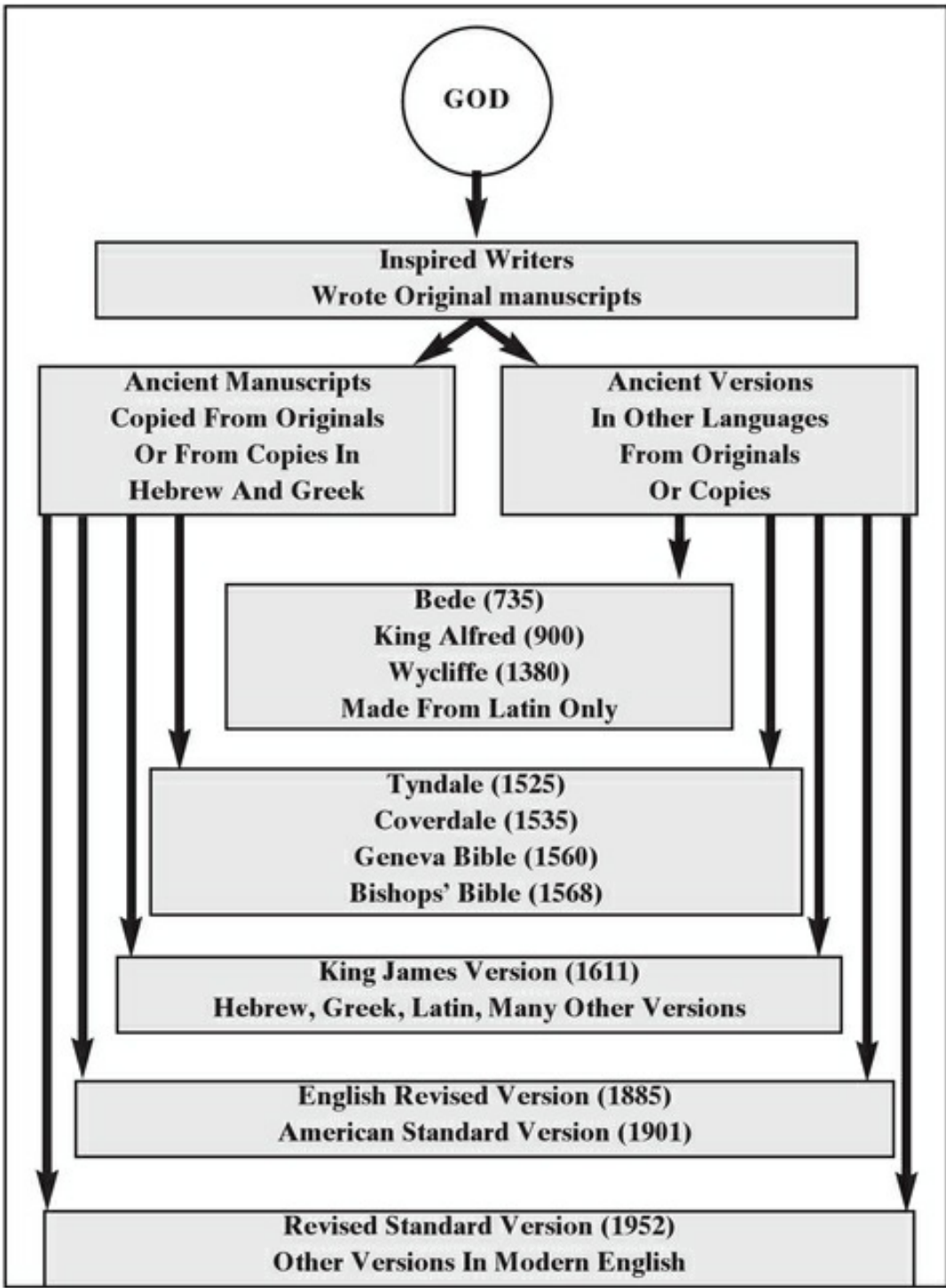
Other versions paraphrase the text (not holding the exact original words and often amplifying the meaning). The paraphrased versions emphasize smoothness and flow in reading rather than exact word translation. Some critics of modern versions feel that these translations are coloured too much by the translator's opinions.

The chart at the close of this chapter shows how the various versions came to us.

The modern versions can be helpful as commentaries, by making obscure portions more understandable. However, since they do not follow the mathematical patterns and forms found in the King James Version and since the exact wording from the original is not used, it is impossible for a Bible student to use any better source than the comprehensive, unparalleled help afforded by Dr. James Strong's Concordance. Dr. Strong's works have been highly recommended for many decades. Therefore, these modern versions should not be used as study Bibles. The King James Version is the most accurate for study purposes. The exact word meaning can be checked with the original Hebrew and Greek texts through use of *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible*.

We, in the Crucified Way, hold to the King James Version because this translation has a special Bridal Anointing on it. The Patterns and Statures of the Bride's Truth have been beautifully preserved in this Version.

In this chapter we have covered the following points: (1) Origin of the Bible; (2) Qualities of the Bible; (3) Ancient Manuscripts and Versions of the Bible; and (4) English Versions of the Bible.



Chapter Two

How The Bible Is Divided

The Bible is a Library Collection of sixty-six Books that are bound together into one volume. It is important for us to know how and where to locate the information contained in this Library of Books.

Since God is the Author of the sixty-six Books of the Bible, it also is necessary to become acquainted and familiar with the Author of this Library of Books in order to understand the Books' contents. Only by knowing the Author of the Books of the Bible can we really benefit and be blessed by the Bible. In addition to providing the Bible, God also sent the Holy Ghost to teach, expound, and guide us into the *all Truth* of the precious Books of the Bible.

The word *testament* means a covenant, a contract, a will. The Bible contains an Old Testament and a New Testament. The thirty-nine Books in the Old Testament and the twenty-seven Books in the New Testament make a total of sixty-six Books. The Books of the two Testaments work hand in hand to unfold God's Revelation to mankind.

Old and New Testaments Go Hand in Hand



Thirty-nine Old Testament Books



Twenty-seven New Testament Books

During the 400-year interim between the closing of the Old Testament writings and the first writings of the New Testament, a collection of eleven to sixteen books appeared. The term *Apocrypha*, meaning hidden, secret, obscure, generally is applied to this collection of books.

The Roman Catholic Church, in the Council of Trent, in A.D. 1546, declared eleven of the books to be part of the canon of the Bible. These books appear in the modern Catholic Edition of the Bible, which is called the Douay Version. The Apocryphal books are of historical interest because they cover the period of silent years between the two Testaments. However, the canonicity of these books has been rejected, and they have been omitted from the Protestant Bible for the following reasons:

- They never are quoted by Jesus or by the Apostles. In contrast, the only quoted Books are part of the Old Testament, which are quoted from about 300 times in the New Testament.
- They were not in the Hebrew Old Testament.

- They never were recognized by the Jews as a part of the Hebrew Scriptures.
- They were added to the Septuagint, which was a *Greek* translation of the Old Testament made in that period.
- The inferior quality of most of the writings, as compared with the canonical Books, stamps them as unworthy of a place in the Sacred Scriptures.
- They are mostly of uncertain authorship.
- Josephus rejected them as a whole.
- They were not recognized by the Early Church.

I. The Old Testament

The Old Testament period covers the years from 5000 B.C., to 444 B.C. The Old Testament reveals Jesus Christ in shadow and type. It gives the history of the creation of man and shows how man fell into sin and was separated from his Creator. It tells how God made a way for fallen man to be restored to fellowship and Unity with his God through blood sacrifices, which were a shadow and type of the precious, shed Blood of Jesus Christ.

The Old Testament also records the history of the Nation of Israel, for Israel was founded and nurtured by God for the purpose of bringing the God-Man (Jesus Christ) into the world. Jesus Christ is the Center and Heart of the whole Bible.

Notice how God's Plan for redeeming man and for blessing the world progressed from the Nation of Israel to the Messiah Himself. First, the Messianic Nation was founded. It was God's desire that the Hebrew Nation bless all the nations of the world. Second, the Messianic Family was founded. This was the family of King David, the man whom God chose to be the leader of His people. God ordained that David's family would bless the world through one great King Who was to be born into the family. Third, the Messiah, in the Person of the LORD Jesus Christ, was brought forth. The Messiah was God's own Son, Jesus Christ, and He passed down through the lineage of King David until He was born of the Virgin Mary who was espoused to Joseph.

The Old Testament foreshadows and predicts the coming Messiah. It was written to create an anticipation of this unique event and to pave the way for the arrival of Jesus Christ. The Messianic Prophecies form the Golden Thread that extends through all the many and diverse Books and binds them together into one amazing Unity.

By the time we come to the end of the Old Testament, the entire story of Jesus Christ has been prewritten and prefigured in language and symbol, which, taken as a whole, cannot refer to any other person in history. This prewritten story of Jesus Christ, recorded centuries before Jesus came in the Flesh, is so astonishing in detail that it reads like an eyewitness account of His Life and Work. Here is a partial list of fulfilled prophecy related to the Birth, the Life, and the Death of the Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Old Testament Prophecy	New Testament Fulfillment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to minister in Galilee: Isaiah 9:1,2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 4:12-16
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to enter into Jerusalem in triumph: Zechariah 9:9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 21:4,5
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to be despised and rejected: Isaiah 53:3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 27:21-23
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to be betrayed by a friend: Psalm 41:9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 13:18
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to be sold for thirty pieces of silver: Zechariah 11:11,12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 27:3-10
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to be silent while on trial: Isaiah 53:7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 27:12-14
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to suffer abuse: Isaiah 53:5,7 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 26:67,68; 27:27-30
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah's Hands and Feet were to be pierced: Psalm 22:16 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 20:20,25,27
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah's Garments were to be shared by lot: Psalm 22:18 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 19:23,24
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to be numbered with transgressors: Isaiah 53:12 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mark 15:27,28
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to endure cruel mockery: Psalm 35:20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 10:36
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah's Bones were not to be broken: Psalm 34:20 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 19:36
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to be pierced: Zechariah 12:10 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John 19:37
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Messiah was to be with the rich in His Death: Isaiah 53:9 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Matthew 27:57-60

The Promises of the Old Testament become the Performances in the New Testament, as revealed through Jesus Christ. In other words, the New Testament is concealed in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is concealed in the New Testament.

New Testament Concealed in the Old Testament



Old Testament Concealed in the New Testament

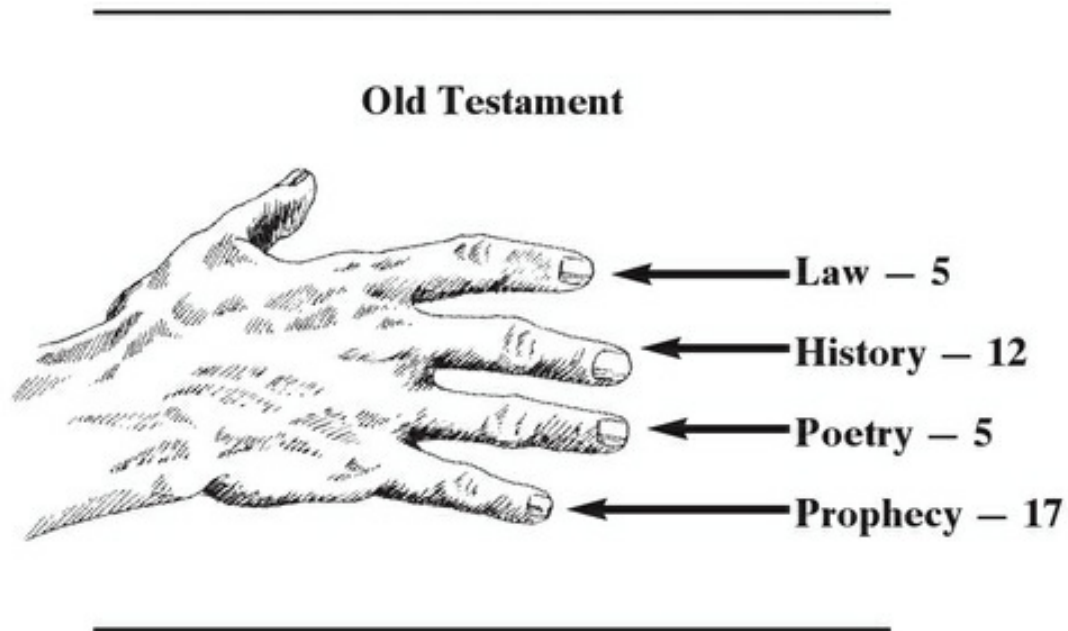


Jesus Christ endorsed the Old Testament Scriptures and, thus, established forever the right of all its thirty-nine Books to have a place in the Holy Bible.

And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them *in all the scriptures the things concerning himself* (Luke 24:27).

And he said unto them, These are the words which I spake unto you, while I was yet with you, that all things must be fulfilled, *which were written in the law of Moses, and in the prophets, and in the psalms, concerning me* (Luke 24:44).

The three divisions of the Old Testament recognized by Jesus included the Law (the five books of Moses), the Prophets, and the Psalms. Memorization of the Books is simplified if we keep these divisions in mind, for they give us a clue as to their content. The Hebrew Bible used by Jews, today, contains exactly the same Books as our English Old Testament; however, the Books are arranged in a different order. Our groupings are shown below.



The Books of the Law pertain to the Pentateuch: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. These Books were written by the hand of Moses as he was inspired, guided, and anointed by the Holy Ghost; and they reveal the Law or Principle of God's Divine Headship out of which God governs and judges His creation. All other Laws and Principles are built upon this very basic Principle.

The twelve Old Testament History Books include the following: Joshua, Judges, Ruth, First and Second Samuel, First and Second Kings, First and Second Chronicles, Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther. These Books furnish us with historical information on Israel's life and relationship to her God and her neighbours.

Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and the Song of Solomon are the Poetic Books of the Old Testament. These Books lead man to meditate on the deeper meaning of life. They inspire his spirit to pour out greater degrees of worship to God, and they inflame his soul with a consuming desire to know the Spiritual Bridegroom.

The remaining seventeen Books of the Old Testament are prophetic in nature. Together, these Books clearly outline God's Prophetic Promises so that the diligent, dedicated student of God's Word can know what to expect, next, on God's calendar of visible Performances.

Although the Old Testament was slanted toward the Nation of Israel, it is by no means the exclusive property of the Israelites. Whatever God promised to the Jew in the natural realm also applies to Gentile believers in the spiritual realm. As Gentiles, we have the life of a wild olive tree flowing within us. When we accept Jesus Christ as our Messiah and Saviour, God, the Master Horticulturist, grafts us into the *good* Olive Tree. Then, we, like the natural branches, are able to partake freely of the Root and Fatness of the Olive Tree.

For I speak to you Gentiles, inasmuch as I am the apostle of the Gentiles, I magnify mine office: If by any means I may provoke to emulation

them which are my flesh, and might save some of them. For if the casting away of them be the reconciling of the world, what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead? For if the firstfruit be holy, the lump is also holy: and if the root be holy, so are the branches. *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;* Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee (Romans 11:13-21).

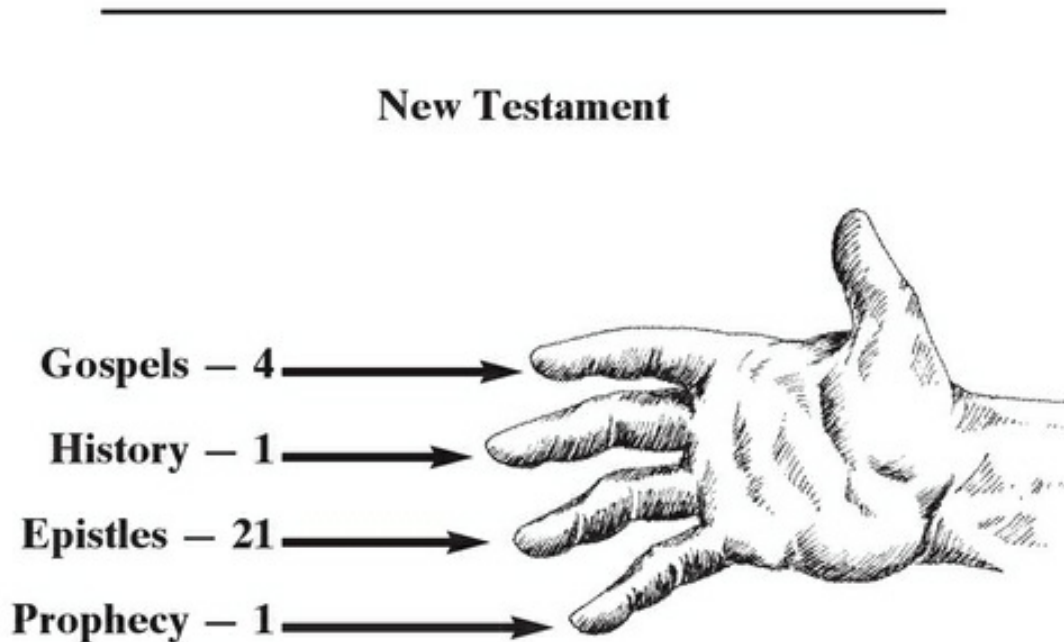
The Apostle Paul makes it clear that we who have been grafted into the good Olive Tree have no right to boast against the natural branches. If we stop abiding in the Tree or cease to partake of the Goodness of Jesus Christ, the Living Olive Tree, God can cut us off from the Promises and Performances of His Holy Word, just as He cut off some of the natural branches.

II. The New Testament

As we already have mentioned, the New Testament is invisibly contained in the Old Testament, and the Old Testament is invisibly contained and explained in the New Testament.

In the beginning, God's Purpose and Plan is found in the Old Testament; the *completion* of His Purpose and Plan is found in the New Testament. The Old and New Covenants cannot be rightly understood if they are treated as separate and independent writings.

The New Testament has four classes of Books: Gospels, History, Letters or Epistles, and Prophecy.



The Gospels tell of Jesus' Life in the Flesh. They record Jesus' Miraculous Works, His Divine Doctrines and Teachings, and His Ultimate Sacrifice of Himself for the sins of mankind.

The Book of Acts records the Life of Jesus in the Spirit of His Resurrected Glory. It continues to give a summary

of what Jesus continued to do and teach by His Spirit, through His Disciples, after He had ascended to the Right Hand of God with All Power and Authority. The Book of Acts is a History Book in that it tells how the early church began with the Day of Pentecost and how Christianity spread abroad through the Power of the Holy Ghost.

The Letters or Epistles tell how Christians should live and how they are empowered to obey Jesus' Teachings. The Epistles are God's inspired Commentaries. They unfold the Spiritual, Living Truth that is found in the Gospels and the Book of Acts. The Old Testament Prophets found Spiritual Principles of Truth in the Books of the Old Testament and interpreted them to the people. Likewise, the Apostles found Spiritual Principles of Living Truth in the Gospels and Acts and interpreted them in the form of the Epistles.

The Book of Revelation is the Book of Prophecy. This Book of Prophecy shows, to the servants of Jesus Christ, God's Divine Plans for the future which shortly must come to pass; it also reveals that Jesus Christ, in Union with God the Father, will bring all His Plans to pass. This last Book foretells the LORD Jesus Christ's glorious Victory over all unrighteousness. It also prophesies of His Rule and Reign with His Bride in the Perfect Age.

In this chapter we have seen that the Bible has two main divisions: the Old Testament and the New Testament.

The thirty-nine Books of the Old Testament relate to the Will and Covenant God made with the Nation of Israel. Out of all the nations of the world, God chose Israel to know a Oneness of Relationship with His Son through His Holy Word. When Israel rejected the Person of God's only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, as her Messiah and Bridegroom, God did not give up His Plan of having a Bride for His Son. He simply established a New Will and Covenant with the Gentiles.

The twenty-seven Books of the New Testament reveal God's New Covenant with all the people out of all the world, Jew and Gentile alike, who accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah, Saviour, Bridegroom.

Chapter Three

How We Know That The Bible Is The Word Of God

The Bible has stood the test of the centuries. It has been attacked and ignored, scorned and ridiculed, forbidden and burned. Nevertheless, the Bible still is in the world as “A *lamp* unto my feet, and a *light* unto my path” (Psalm 119:105).

The Light of God’s Word still shines brightly in this world, lighting every man who is born into it, making him aware of evil and good. The Light of God’s Word still awakens mankind to the existence of a Supreme Ruler in the Heavens.

God’s Word is a Lamp that is kept ever-burning by the Oil of God’s Spirit. The fact that the multitudes, from century to century, have found this Light as a personal Lamp for their feet and pathway testifies of the knowledge, by experience, that God’s Holy Bible is His Word.

Truth bears examination; it endures dissection. The closer we analyze the Bible, the clearer its Truth becomes. The three major points that prove the validity of the Bible as the Word of God are these: its Source is Divine; it is of no private interpretation; and its Scriptures are in Unity.

I. Divine Source

The fact that the starting point of the fountain and stream of Truth had its origin in God is an infallible witness of the validity of God’s Word. The Bible itself plainly states that it is the Word of God.

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, thoroughly furnished unto all good works (II Timothy 3:16,17).

A. The Word of God Is Divinely Inspired

God simply says that the Word is inspired or God-breathed, Spirit-breathed. The Bible speaks for itself. The more a person studies its sixty-six Books, the more one recognizes their Unity of thought, which confirms that One Mind inspired the writing and compilation of the entire Bible.

Human inability to produce perfect unity and harmony totally disqualifies man from contributing any part of the beauty and harmony of the Scriptures.

The Divine Truth bears on its face the Divine Stamp of the Divine Author. The Word of God is unique and distinctive in that it is Divine.

B. The Divine Word of God Is Profitable

All Scripture is profitable to the man of God. He can gain Knowledge, heap up spiritual Substance, and increase in Spiritual Stature by letting ALL SCRIPTURE work in his life. Indeed, all Scripture is profitable to the man of God for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, and for instruction in righteousness.

All Scripture is profitable to answer and confirm all Divine Revelation. All Scripture is profitable to instruct man in the ways of all Truth. All Scripture is profitable to reprove man for his lack and to prove God’s Truth all over again. All Scripture is profitable to correct man in his wrongs and to turn him to the right. All Scripture is profitable to enlighten man’s ignorances by filling his heart with Divine Doctrine of Light.

1. Doctrine

Doctrine means Moral Laws and Principles of Righteousness. These Principles acquaint us with God's Nature and how He Works. God does not reveal doctrine to spiritual babes, but to those who are weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts. "Whom shall he teach knowledge? and whom shall he make to understand doctrine? them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts" (Isaiah 28:9).

In the natural realm, being weaned from the milk and drawn from the breasts indicates that some measure of growth has taken place in the child; he no longer is a baby, incapable of digesting more than milk.

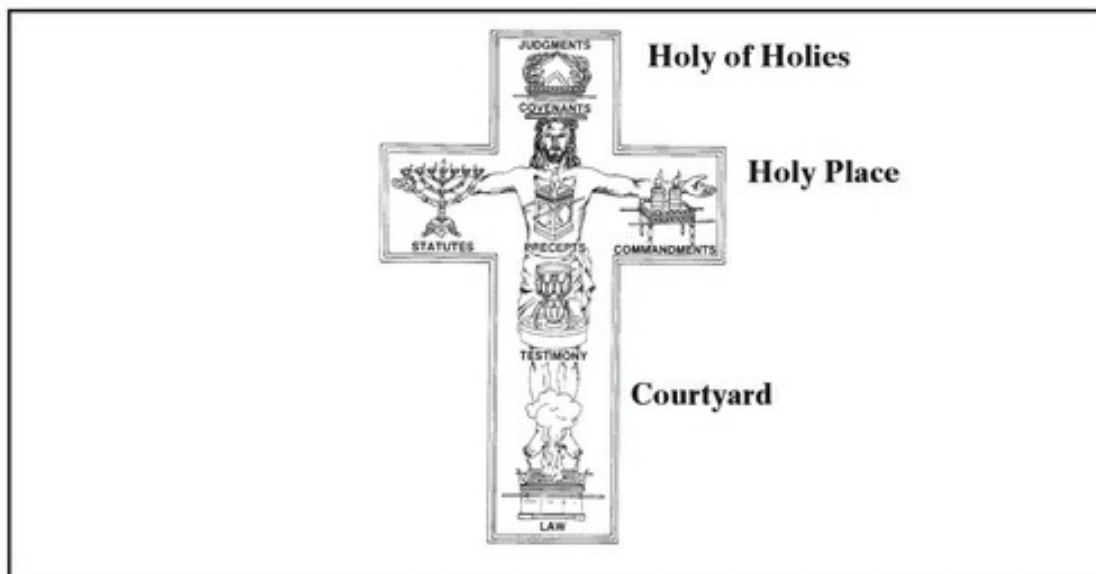
Just as a natural child's growth is measured according to how far he has progressed toward the maturity of a fully grown man, so does God measure our spiritual development according to how far we have grown in the Mature and Perfect Stature of His beloved Son, Jesus Christ.

In the Book of Ephesians, we see that God graciously has provided Apostles, Prophets, Evangelists, Pastors and Teachers so that, through His blessed Word, we might attain the Measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Christ.

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, 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 sleight 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: (Ephesians 4:11-15).

The Measure of the Stature of the Fullness of Jesus Christ is beautifully drawn out in the Old Testament Tabernacle.* Each of the seven pieces of Furniture in the Mosaic Tabernacle reveals a particular degree of development that a Christian can and must experience as he progresses toward spiritual maturity in Jesus Christ. God's Perfect Will is for us to grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ.

As we view the Stature of Christ in relation to the Tabernacle Furniture, we immediately see that His Head is not out in the Courtyard, the place of our beginning or baby experiences in Jesus Christ.



Being drawn from the breast comes when a Christian progresses from the foundational experiences of Blood, Fire, and Water in the Courtyard and moves, by growth of Spiritual Stature, into the Holy Place. Doctrine begins at the Altar of Incense, which is a picture of a higher measure of prayer than that which we know in the Courtyard.

Learning and observing the Principles of God's Operation ultimately will bring us into complete spiritual rest under the Perfect, Mature Headship of Jesus Christ in the Holy of Holies.

2. Reproof

Reproof or rebuke is given to us at the Candlestick in the Holy Place. When the Light from God's Word shines forth into our heart, we see everything through His Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge.

After our eyes have been enlightened by the Humble Mind of Christ, we are able to bend our will in humility to God's Higher Will for us in every situation.

3. Correction

Correction comes at the Table of Shewbread. There we are given the Strength of the Bread to govern our life according to God's Will. How miserable we would be if we were reproofed but never corrected. Both reproof and correction are provided for us by the Inspired Word of God.

4. Instruction in Righteousness

Instruction in righteousness is given to us under the Headship of the LORD, represented by the Ark of the Covenant in the Old Testament Tabernacle.

Continually, we learn, by experience, that ALL Scripture is profitable to the man of God. All Scripture helps us gain, heap up, Spiritual Substance and increase in the Stature of Jesus Christ. All Scripture has been designed, perfectly, for the man of God so that he may grow to spiritual maturity. That which will finish us and furnish us is the Word of God. Whatever service we are asked to render, the Scriptures will furnish us with the ability to perform it. Whatever situation we have to endure, the Word of God will equip us with the necessary endurance and patience so that we may be able to bear it. One of the greatest ways we can know that our Bible is the Word of God is by personally experiencing the Performances of its Promises.

II. The Word of God Is of No Private Interpretation

We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost (II Peter 1:19-21).

The Bible was written by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost. It is not a jumbled mass of natural, carnal thinking and interpretation. No Scripture came by man's opinion, nor is any Scripture the explanation of man's own mind. All Scripture is a revelation of the Mind and Will of God.

This was the primary difference between God's Prophets and the false prophets of this world. God's Prophets did not speak nor act through the reasonings of their own minds. Moses testified that he did not follow the leadings of his own mind, but that he followed the LORD's Mind and Will. "And Moses said, Hereby ye shall know that the LORD hath sent me to do all these works; for I have not done them of mine own mind" (Numbers 16:28).

By contrast, false prophets spoke their own minds and related the visions of their own hearts, instead of giving the Words that proceeded from the Mouth of the LORD. "Thus saith the LORD of hosts, Hearken not unto the words of the prophets that prophesy unto you: they make you vain: they speak a vision of their own heart, and not out of the mouth of the LORD" (Jeremiah 23:16). Although the Word of God is not the private interpretation of its human authors, every private individual should seek to know the true revelation of the Word of God.

The Bible was composed by forty-four human authors who came from many different cultures, from all walks of life, and from all levels of education. It was written over a period of approximately 1,500 years. Nevertheless, this collection of sixty-six Books stands as ONE BOOK that bears aloft its own evidence of its Supernal Origin.

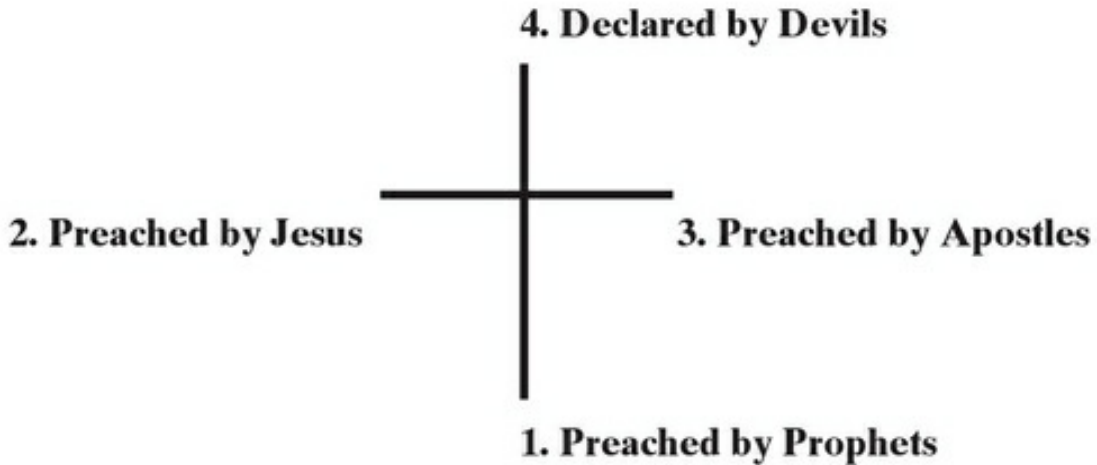
As the revelation of the Plan of God continues to unfold throughout the Word of God, we notice that the Bible is a Commentary on itself. Since the Truth is a progressive, interwoven picture to us of God's Designs and Plans, then ALL Scripture is necessary. Because it has its origin in One Person, God Himself, there are NO contradictions in the Word of God.

III. The Unity of the Scriptures

According to Webster's Dictionary, the word *unity* means the quality or state of not being multiple: oneness. Let us look at the various Unities taught in the Bible.

A. One God

The Bible gives a Stature of those who preached and declared that there is one God.



1. Preached by Prophets

The Prophets testified to the reality of the Truth that there is *One God*. Prophets are inspired men who speak by inspiration. When under the Anointing of the Holy Ghost, they are able to tell about the past, the present, and the future. In the Old Testament Dispensation, the Prophets lived in a world of polytheism (the belief in many gods). Hence, as these men proclaimed that there was only *One God*, they stood out in vivid contrast to the popular philosophers of their day.

Hear, O Israel: *The LORD our God is one LORD*: (Deuteronomy 6:4).

The connotation of the foregoing verse in the Hebrew is as follows: “The LORD which is now our God and not the God of the other people of the world [people who believed in many gods], He will at some future time be the ONE [God] of all people.”

The Prophet Zechariah confirmed this Truth. “And the LORD shall be king over all the earth: in that day shall there be one LORD, and his name one” (Zechariah 14:9).

The Prophet Malachi verified the Truth that Israel had One God and Father; therefore, Israelites were obligated to fulfill His Covenant and to be loyal to marry other Israelites who worshipped the One True God, instead of marrying daughters of foreigners who worshipped strange gods. Israel had to be true to the One True God when they worshipped in their homes as well as when they worshipped in the Temple.

2. Preached by Jesus

Jesus also testified to the Truth that there is *One God*. Jesus silenced the Sadducees, who believed that there was no resurrection, and at the same time projected His own belief in the same God that the Old Testament declared.

And Jesus answering said unto them, Do ye not therefore err, because ye know not the scriptures, neither the power of God? For when they shall rise: from the dead, they neither marry, nor are given in marriage; but are as the angels which are in heaven. And as touching the dead, that they

rise: have ye not read in the book of Moses, how in the bush God spake unto him, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? He is not the God of the dead, but the God of the living; ye therefore do greatly err (Mark 12:24-27).

By quoting from the Old Testament, Jesus acknowledged it to be the inspired Word of the *One* God and, therefore, the legal and legitimate Authority for believing in the resurrection of the dead and for believing in the monotheism of God.

God is One. Hence, since there is but *One* God, we are commanded and obligated to love Him with all our heart. Since there are no other gods with which to divide our heart, strength, love, and allegiance, it is reasonable that we should love, with our whole heart, might, soul, and mind, the *One* and only True God, Who has all amiable perfections in Himself.

3. Preached by Apostles

The Apostles also bore witness to the Truth that there is *One* God. The Apostles were eye witnesses of Jesus in the Flesh. The Apostles were *sent ones* who went forth into the world with the message of Salvation.

In the Epistles written by the Apostles, we see many Scriptures referring to the Unity of *One* God.

Seeing it is one God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith, and uncircumcision through faith (Romans 3:30).

The Apostle Paul established the Truth that, since there is only *One* God, He must be the God of the Gentiles as well as the God of the Jews. Therefore, since He is *One* God, He has but *One* Way to justify sinful man and that is through faith.

As concerning therefore the eating of those things that are offered in sacrifice unto idols, we know that an idol is nothing in the world, and that *there is none other God but one* (I Corinthians 8:4).

Wherefore then serveth the law? It was added because of transgressions, till the seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was ordained by angels in the hand of a mediator. Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, *but God is one* (Galatians 3:19,20).

A mediator is not a mediator of one party but *two* parties. Since God used a Mediator between Himself and man, it is apparent that man is one party and that God is the other party. Thus, we again see God proved to be *One*.

One Lord, one faith, one baptism, *One God and Father of all*, who is above all, and through all, and in you all (Ephesians 4:5,6).

There is *One* God and Father, Who owns all true believers as His spiritual children. He is the Father of all: first, by creation, and, as such, He has dominion over all creatures. Second, He is our Father through the spiritual birth of the New Man in Christ Jesus. Therefore, as our Father, God has all our interests at heart, both naturally and spiritually.

The Epistles were written during a time of much idolatry and belief in many gods. When people found no satisfaction in their gods, they simply added another. This continued until some religions worshipped thousands of gods, each supposedly possessing special abilities to satisfy man's desires and needs. Regardless of their multiplicity, idols can bring no true satisfaction, for among them there is no unity.

Our God is *One*; yet He is *Three*. And, the *Three* are *One* in Unity and Purpose and Mind.

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

For *there is one God*, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (I Timothy 2:5).

Our God is complete in Himself; therefore, only He can bring true satisfaction.

4. Declared by Devils

The devils know and believe that there is *One* God. They tremble because this true God possesses All Power.

Thou believest that *there is one God*; thou doest well: *the devils also believe*, and tremble (James 2:19).

The Apostle James mentioned the first Principle of true religion, which is this: there is just One God. Sinful man can believe that there is One God, as opposed to atheists who believe that there is no God; or sinful man can believe that there is One God, as opposed to idolaters who believe that there are many gods. Believing is good, but if sinful man rests, here, in his belief, he is no better than the devils who believe and tremble. The devils' faith in the One True God only serves to fill them with terror and torment. The devils tremble out of hatred and opposition to the One True God. Likewise, every man who believes in One God also will tremble in hatred and opposition to God's Salvation and Will in his life, unless he receives Jesus Christ, the only Begotten Son of the One and only True God, as his personal Saviour.

We have seen a Stature of the ones in the Bible who preached and declared that there is One God. The Prophets recognized One God. Jesus Himself declared this One God to be the God of the fathers of the Old Testament. In the New Testament, the Apostles strongly proclaimed One God. Lastly, the Devil and his hosts of devils, who are God's enemies, also recognized Him to be the One True God.

B. One Story

The Bible is an account of God's Revelation of Himself to mankind. Although the Bible is divided into sixty-six Books, it tells a single, unified story about God and man's relationship to his God.

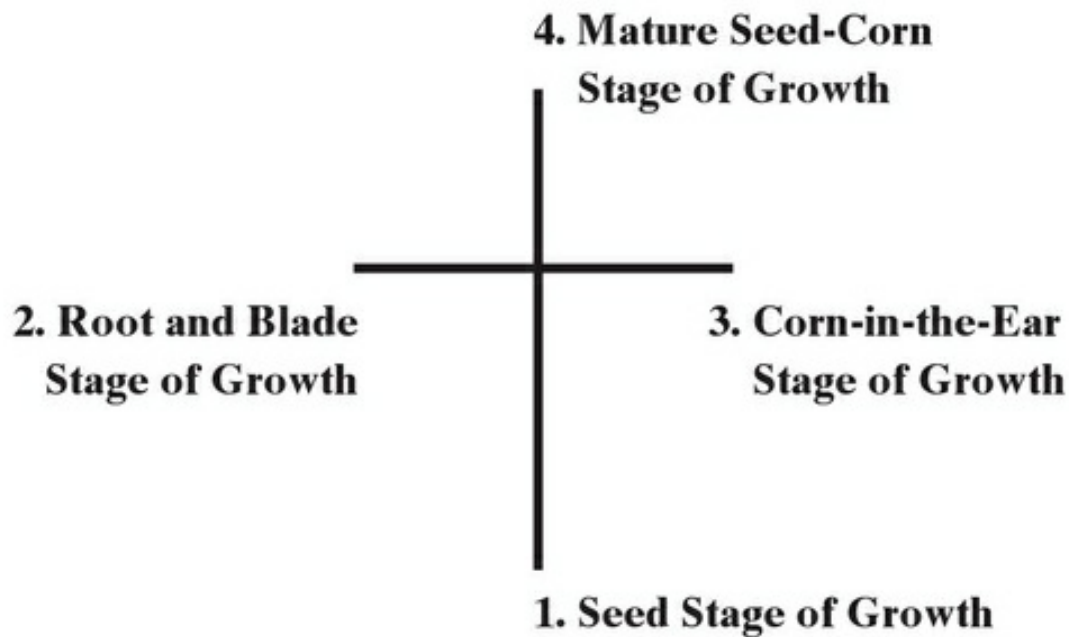
C. One Progressive Law

The Unity of God's Progressive Law of Truth confirms, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that God's Word is Omniscient and Divine. The continual successive steps of God's Ladder of Truth that ever moves forward and upward proves that the Bible was written by a Divine Architect.

The Word of God unfolds Truth progressively — line upon line, precept upon precept, here a little and there a little. "For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little:" (Isaiah 28:10). It takes patience and guidance from the Holy Ghost to dig out each successive Truth.

Jesus Christ used a Parable to teach the multitude the Principles of the Progressive Revelation of God's Word.

And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground; And should sleep, and rise night and day, and the *seed* should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how. For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the *blade*, then the *ear*, after that the *full corn in the ear* (Mark 4:26-28).



1. Seed Stage of Growth

The Seed stage of spiritual growth is the experience of accepting Jesus Christ and receiving Him into our heart as our personal Saviour, Who saves us from the penalty of sin, which is Hell and Death. Having the Blood of Jesus Christ applied to our heart, which cleanses us from sin, is the principal, beginning experience in our spiritual growth.

The Seed has the rudiments of the future plant contained in its embryo. The Seed stage defends the hidden embryo from cold and injury. Researchers have calculated that natural seeds can cross 900 miles of seas, be carried in the gizzards of birds or hidden in particles of earth that adhere to feet or lodge in soil floating on icebergs, and still germinate when they eventually encounter favourable conditions. Some seeds have been known to germinate after being stored for hundreds or even thousands of years. These examples prove how well God protects the embryo in the seed.

Likewise, in the spiritual realm, God preserves the embryonic Blood Experience within the Seed of Humility of Jesus and buries it in the ground of the human heart. The growth of the Seed begins underground, as it were, buried under the clods of human ignorance, human life and experience. The earth, into which the Seed has been cast, has to be prepared and cultivated; then, God adds His Celestial Blessing of the Sunshine of His Presence and the Water of His Spirit to man's earth, and soon the Seed makes the transition into the Root and Blade stage.

The ground of the heart is altered by the spiritual growth of the Seed. How beautiful and pleasant the heart looks with the Living Blade of Truth brought into visibility.

2. Root and Blade Stage of Growth

The Root of the plant breaks out of the tiny seed and begins its descent downward in search of new feeding experiences, and the Blade or Leaf begins to flourish above ground as the plant grows.

The spiritual experience of growth continues through the night and day seasons. The heavy, moist nights of gloom and darkness cause the little Blade to make extraordinary progress in growth in the Word and prayer. The precious, helpful sunshine of the day causes the little Blade to increase in joy and rejoicing and in thanksgiving in all

things.

3. Corn-in-the-Ear Stage of Growth

Once the Blade has grown sufficiently, the loveliness of the Ear or Fruit is added to the spiritual plant. An ear of natural corn is the spike or head which contains the flower and seed. The grains of all growth are conserved in the fruit. Growth is for the sake of the fruit. Spiritual growth in the Word of Truth produces the Fruit of Love for Jesus Christ and His Will and places them above all people, places, and things.

4. Mature Seed-Corn Stage of Growth

In the last stage of growth, the fully mature Seed-Corn appears, announcing harvest time. Now the embryo has grown into full stature and clothed itself with the beauty and glory of the full, ripe grain. The glory of maturity shines, just as Moses' face did when it was clothed with the Illuminating Glory of the LORD on Mount Sinai.

When maturity is reached, a man's heart is ready for the Lord of the Harvest to thrust in His sickle and reap the Living Truths from it. Harvested grain can be shared and given as food to other hungry hearts, helping them to achieve progress in their spiritual growth.

The growth of natural Israel is another example of the Law of Progressive Revelation or Growth. Israel did not become a mature nation overnight. It took 430 years for the seventy souls who went into Egypt to grow into the mighty nation that went out to possess Canaan's Land.

D. One Redemption

In the twelfth chapter of Exodus, we see that redemption came through the blood. If the blood of a natural lamb (a picture of the Blood of Jesus Christ, the Lamb of God) was on the door, the people inside the house were protected from the plague of Death. The LORD promised that when He saw the lamb's blood, He would hover over them and give them a covering of Life.

For I will pass through the land of Egypt this night, and will smite all the firstborn in the land of Egypt, both man and beast; and against all the gods of Egypt I will execute judgment: I am the LORD. And the blood shall be to you for a token upon the houses where ye are: and when I see the blood, I will pass over you, and the plague shall not be upon you to destroy you, when I smite the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:12,13).

The Blood redeems from Death, which is the penalty of sin. The Blood also redeems from sin itself. We see this Principle revealed in the many and varied blood offerings in the Old Testament Tabernacle.

When the sin, which they have sinned against it, is known, then the congregation shall offer a young bullock for the sin, and bring him before the tabernacle of the congregation. And the elders of the congregation shall lay their hands upon the head of the bullock before the LORD: and the bullock shall be killed before the LORD. And the priest that is anointed shall bring of the bullock's blood to the tabernacle of the congregation: And the priest shall dip his finger in some of the blood, and sprinkle it seven times before the LORD, even before the vail. And he shall put some of the blood upon the horns of the altar which is before the LORD, that is in the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall pour out all the blood at the bottom of the altar of the burnt offering, which is at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And he shall take all his fat from him, and burn it upon the altar. And he shall do with the bullock as he did with the bullock for a sin offering, so shall he do with this: and the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them (Leviticus 4:14-20).

Redemption from the purpose of sin, which is to separate man from God, came through the blood administered by the High Priest (a picture of our High Priest, Jesus Christ) on the Day of Atonement. During the Old Testament Dispensation, the High Priest offered, upon the Altar, the blood of a bullock for his own sins and the blood of a goat for the sins of the people. Then, he laid his hands on the head of the live goat and confessed the iniquities, transgressions, and sins of the Nation of Israel. The living goat with the living blood, then, was sent away into the wilderness, never to return.

Then shall he kill the goat of the sin offering, that is for the people, and bring his blood within the vail, and do with that blood as he did with the blood of the bullock, and sprinkle it upon the mercy seat, and before the mercy seat: And he shall make an atonement for the holy place, because

of the uncleanness of the children of Israel, and because of their transgressions in all their sins: and so shall he do for the tabernacle of the congregation, that remaineth among them in the midst of their uncleanness.... And Aaron shall lay both his hands upon the head of the live goat, and confess over him all the iniquities of the children of Israel, and all their transgressions in all their sins, putting them upon the head of the goat, and shall send him away by the hand of a fit man into the wilderness: And the goat shall bear upon him all their iniquities unto a land not inhabited: and he shall let go the goat in the wilderness. And Aaron shall come into the tabernacle of the congregation, and shall put off the linen garments, which he put on when he went into the holy place, and shall leave them there: And he shall wash his flesh with water in the holy place, and put on his garments, and come forth, and offer his burnt offering, and the burnt offering of the people, and make an atonement for himself, and for the people. And the fat of the sin offering shall he burn upon the altar. And he that let go the goat for the scapegoat shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward come into the camp. And the bullock for the sin offering, and the goat for the sin offering, whose blood was brought in to make atonement in the holy place, shall one carry forth without the camp; and they shall burn in the fire their skins, and their flesh, and their dung. And he that burneth them shall wash his clothes, and bathe his flesh in water, and afterward he shall come into the camp. And this shall be a statute for ever unto you: that in the seventh month, on the tenth day of the month, ye shall afflict your souls, and do no work at all, whether it be one of your own country, or a stranger that sojourneth among you: For on that day shall the priest make an atonement for you, to cleanse you, that ye may be clean from all your sins before the LORD. It shall be a sabbath of rest unto you, and ye shall afflict your souls, by a statute for ever (Leviticus 16:15,16,21-31).

The blood of the dead goat symbolized the portion of Jesus' Blood that was poured out in Death for our sins. The blood of the living goat symbolized the portion of Jesus' Blood that flowed back behind the Back of God to form the Sea of Forgetfulness, which has power to transform sin into white snow and wool.

Behold, for peace I had great bitterness; but thou hast in love to my soul delivered it from the pit of corruption: *for thou hast cast all my sins behind thy back* (Isaiah 38:17).

I, even I, am he that bloteth out thy transgressions for mine own sake, and *will not remember thy sins* (Isaiah 43:25).

Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: *though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool* (Isaiah 1:18).

Through the sacrificial Blood of Jesus Christ, we can know redemption from Death and from sin; and, through His Blood, we again can be restored to the Oneness of Relationship which we knew with God before sin entered into the picture.

There is just one redemption. Blood always has been God's Provision for man's redemption. "And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission" (Hebrews 9:22).

In the Old Testament, the blood of animals covered the sins of the people until the perfect Sacrifice, Jesus Christ, could be offered on Calvary's Cross. Only the Blood of Jesus Christ has Power to wash away the sins of the world and totally redeem man's lost soul. "The next day John seeth Jesus coming unto him, and saith, Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" (John 1:29).

Through the ceaseless ages of Eternity, the voices of the redeemed shall rise in a great anthem of praise to Jesus Christ for the great Redemption which He wrought through His precious Blood!

E. One Theme

The Theme of the entire Bible is Jesus Christ and Him crucified for the sins of the world. The Apostle Paul recognized this as the one important subject.

For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish, foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God... For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe (I Corinthians 1:18,21).

This is why Paul proclaimed, "For I determined not to know any thing among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified" (I Corinthians 2:2). Jesus Christ, crucified and resurrected, is the Theme of the whole Bible.

The Jews despised Him and cast Him out because of the great Humility with which He clothed Himself, for they were looking for an exalted Prince to give them earthly, temporal deliverance. The Greeks laughed at the Theme of Jesus Christ and His simple Plan of Salvation because they were looking for temporal, earthly, profound wisdom.

But, those who find the Theme of the whole Bible, Jesus Christ, find not only the temporal, earthly deliverance and wisdom needed; but, most of all, they find the Spiritual and the Heavenly, Divine, Eternal Wisdom that fills the heart and soul with glorious ecstasy and satisfaction. Then, Jesus Christ truly becomes the Theme of our song.

F. One Prediction

The Messianic strain predicting the Coming of Jesus runs throughout the Old Testament. This amazing composite of Jesus's Life and Work, written by different men who lived in different centuries, and written hundreds and even thousands of years before Jesus came, can be explained only by the fact that one Author inspired the many writers.

The Birth of Jesus was predicted approximately 4,000 years before His arrival. In Genesis 3:15, the LORD prophesied to the Serpent, saying, "And I will put enmity [hate] between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

The fulfillment of this prophecy was millenniums in coming, but the Promised Seed *did come* in the Person of Jesus Christ. Through His Crucifixion and Death on Calvary's Cross, Jesus bruised the Serpent's head under His nail-pierced Feet.

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it (Colossians 2:14,15).

Another example of the Unity of Predictions is seen in the prophecy of the bondage of the children of Israel in Egypt. According to Usser, this prophecy was made 433 years before it was fulfilled.

And he said unto Abram, Know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs, and shall serve them; and *they shall afflict them four hundred years*; And also that nation, whom they shall serve, will I judge: *and afterward shall they come out with great substance* (Genesis 15:13,14).

The Book of Exodus records the fulfillment of this prophecy.

Now *the sojourning of the children of Israel, who dwelt in Egypt, was four hundred and thirty years*. And it came to pass at the end of the four hundred and thirty years, *even the selfsame day it came to pass*, that all the hosts of the LORD went out from the land of Egypt (Exodus 12:40,41).

There is no contradiction in these two portions of Scripture. The children of Israel were in Goshen for thirty years, preparing for the suffering and affliction which they would endure during their 400 years of bondage in Egypt. Note that the deliverance came "even the selfsame day." God's prediction was exact according to time and experience. Furthermore, they spoiled the Egyptians and left the land of bondage with enough substance to build the Tabernacle, the House of God. The more the Egyptians afflicted them, the more the Israelites multiplied and grew, just as the prophecy said they would.

The third example of the Unity of Predictions is seen in the outpouring of the Baptism of the Holy Ghost. This event was prophesied 900 years before it happened.

And it shall come to pass afterward, that *I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh*; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit (Joel 2:28,29).

AND *when the day of Pentecost was fully come*, they were all with one accord in one place. And suddenly there came a sound from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and it filled all the house where they were sitting. And there appeared unto them cloven tongues like as of fire, and it sat upon each of them. And *they were all filled with the Holy Ghost*, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

On the Day of Pentecost, the Apostle Peter stood up with the eleven Apostles to explain what had caused Jesus' Disciples to behave in such an unorthodox manner. "For these are not drunken, as ye suppose, seeing it is but the third hour of the day. But *this is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel*;" (Acts 2:15,16).

These three examples of the Unity of Predictions with their fulfillments serve to show that the Word of God is one continuous Stream of Revelation.

G. One Purpose

The Bible flows as one Book, although it was written in many parts over many years. There is perfect Harmony of Purpose between the Old Testament and the New Testament because the same Divine Author inspired the writing of all the Books. In general terms, we see Truth being unfolded in the following manner:

- Preparation of Spiritual Principles in the Old Testament.
- Manifestation of Spiritual Principles in the Gospels.
- Propagation of Spiritual Principles in the Book of Acts.
- Explanation of Spiritual Principles in the Epistles.
- Consummation of Spiritual Principles in the Book of Revelation.

1. Harmony of Purpose of Sixty-six Books

Our Holy Bible actually is a Library of sixty-six Holy Books written by One Divine, Supernal Mind — God's Mind — and written with one Theme — Jesus Christ — and one Purpose — that sinful man be saved and grow up into spiritual maturity in Christ Jesus.

2. Harmony of Purpose of Time

The Library of the Books of the Bible was written over a period of about 1,500 years, from 1400 B.C to A.D. 100. Although time has changed, the Spiritual Principles of Truth have remained the same from generation to generation.

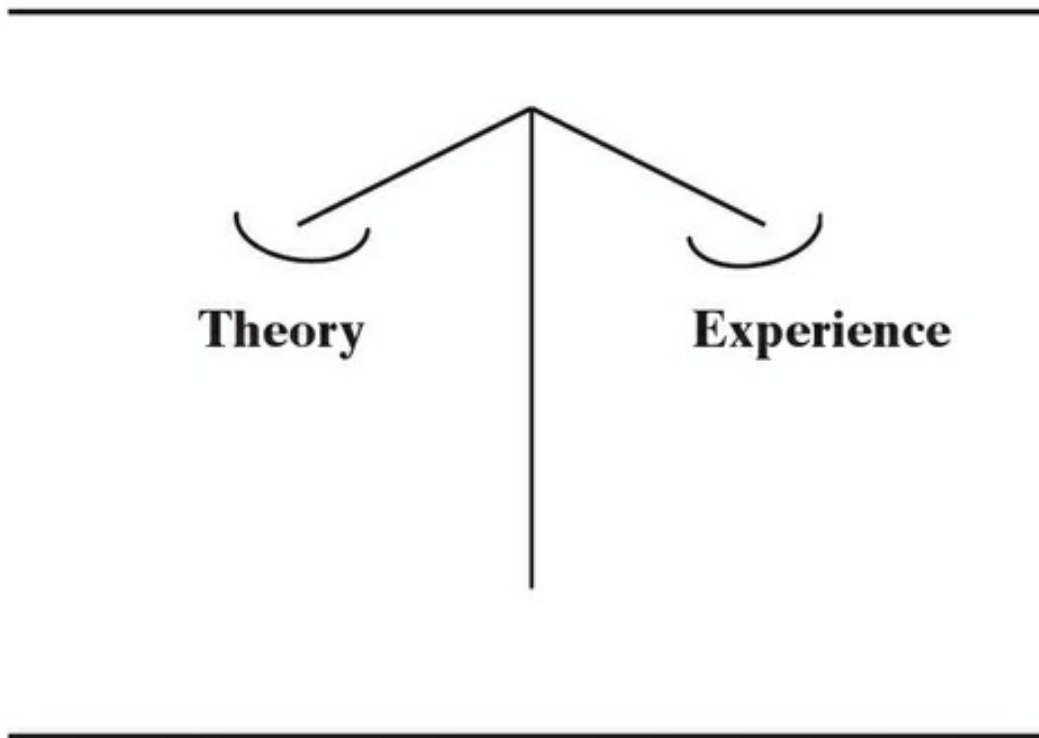
3. Harmony of Purpose of Vessels

God used forty-four men in writing the Bible. The perfect Unity and Harmony of their writings is convincing evidence that all of them were inspired and guided by a single Mind. It is impossible for one man to maintain harmony, even in his own writings, because his ideas, impressions, and opinions vary from his youth to middle age and from middle age to old age. Therefore, how impossible it would have been for forty-four men of different ages, times, social backgrounds, and educational training to have maintained perfect harmony over a period of several thousand years.

The Bible is the Word of God because He personally breathed directly into it. Because God inspired every part of His Word, it *all* is profitable to the man of God. Because of its single Authorship, it is a Book of unfolding Unities and Revelation. This Book, the Bible, is the outstanding miracle of the Age.

IV. The Reality of the Bible Confirmed by Union of Theory and Experience

The most conclusive way we can know that the theories of God's Word are true is for us to experience their Living Reality in our own heart and mind.



To illustrate the reality that comes through the union of theory and experience, let us use the theory and experience of Salvation. God's Word says that all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God. God's Word also says that Jesus Christ shed His precious Blood to redeem us from sin. Although we may know many people who have been saved from sin through the Blood of Jesus Christ, we do not have the reality of Salvation ourselves until we personally let the theories of God's Word work in our life. When we accept God's Theories of Truth, acknowledge that we are a sinner, and pray to God to forgive us through Jesus Christ, then we experience His Salvation, which translates us from darkness into Light. Thus, we personally prove, by experience, the Living Truth of God's Divine Theories.

Salvation is simply the beginning reality that comes by joining theory to experience, and Living Reality is what makes growing up in God so exciting. Every day is a new joy of finding the union of God's Divine Theories with our daily experiences in this life.

In this chapter, we have seen that we can know that the Bible is the Word of God by the following evidence: (1) It has a Divine Source; (2) It is of no private interpretation; (3) The Unity of the Scriptures prove that the Bible could not have been inspired by human energy; (4) The Living Reality of the Bible is confirmed to us when we let the Divine Theories of God's Word be joined to our personal experiences in our daily life.

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

Chapter Four

Historical Spiritual Principles Of The Bible Contained In The Old Testament

The term *Spiritual Principles* refers to God's Divine Theories which are chief, highest in rank, first in degree of importance, and most notable in influence. God's Divine Principles of Truth will assume the Rulership over our life if we will embrace them, join them to our heart, and yield to their Power. We will find these Principle Truths forming the very braces and supports of our spiritual Temple.

We speak of them as *historical* Principles only in relation to mankind because man experiences differentiation in time, such as past, present, and future. Because of God's Omnipresence, the past and future always are present with Him. This is why we read some Bible verses which speak of future events as though they were present realities. The Book of Hebrews, for example, speaks of the future, when all things will be put under the Feet of Christ, as being already done.

Thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him (Hebrews 2:8).

God spoke of this as being present, and with Him it already is present and accomplished. However, with us, we do not see all things presently put under the Feet of Christ. Likewise, with God, Who inhabits Eternity, His Divine Principles are ever present with Him. But, with man, who lives in time, the Principles which God already has revealed and proven in the past are history to man. Thus, we may speak of them as historical. In this sense, then, God's Holy Bible is a record of past events of actual Truth.

Throughout His Holy Bible, God has arranged a chronological order of Spiritual Principles that give Living Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of His Word.

Let us look at the chronological order of God's twenty-seven historical Spiritual Principles, established in the Old Testament; then, we will see these same historical Spiritual Principles repeated or reproved (proved again) in the twenty-seven Books of the New Testament.

The history of Israel is inextricably united with the religion of Israel. Therefore, the historical Books of Israel are an indispensable source of direction for the spiritual growth and development of a person who wants to be One with God. Through these historical Books, one learns the spiritual *do's* and *dont's* that must be observed in order to walk with God.

I. God Is Creator, Sovereign Ruler, and King of All Creation — Revealed in the First Five Books of the Old Testament: Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy

God used Moses to write the Pentateuch. (The word *Pentateuch* is a Greek word meaning the five Books of Moses.) These Books also were known as the *Torah*. They were the Divine Teachings given to Israel, and in them was the Message that Israel gave to all mankind.

The *Torah* begins with the creation of the world and declares creation to be the Work of Almighty God. The *Torah* reveals man's fall into sin and introduces the promised Messiah and Redeemer, a Promise which was fulfilled in the LORD Jesus Christ.

As we study the secret, syn-topical,* historical Spiritual Principles of each Book of the Bible, we must bear in mind that we are *NOT* saying that these are the only Principles contained in each Book. It is a fact that each Book of God's Bible contains multitudes of Infinite Principles. Nevertheless, each Book or set of Books has one main or central Spiritual Principle that is projected above all the other Principles set forth in the Book.

The first historical Spiritual Principle revealed in the Pentateuch, then, is this: **God Is the Creator, Sovereign Ruler, and King of All Creation.**

II. God Is King and Servant — Revealed in the Sixth and Seventh Books of the Old Testament: Joshua and Judges

The first two Books following the Pentateuch are Joshua and Judges. These Books relate to the performance of God's Divine Promises, which were given to the patriarchs and their descendants, assuring them that they would possess the Land of Canaan.

The second historical Spiritual Principle, which is revealed in Joshua and Judges, shows God not only as a King but also as a Servant, serving to help Israel possess the Promised Land. These Books reveal the *feeble faith* which Israel had in the *Torah* of Moses.

The second historical Spiritual Principle, then, is this: **God Is King and Servant.**

III. The Path to God's *Torah*- Word Goes Through Suffering — Revealed in the Eighth Book of the Old Testament: Ruth

The Book of Ruth subsequently was added to God's Old Testament Collection for the recording of Israel's *growth of faith* in the *Torah* of Moses. The revelation in the Book of Ruth marked, as it were, Israel's formal acceptance of the Law (*Torah*) of Life, which proved so irresistibly attractive to Ruth, the heathen Moabitess, that she followed her faith in and love for the One True God of Israel and left her country to go to Canaan's Land with Naomi, her mother-in-law.

Through the Book of Ruth, God revealed His third historical Spiritual Principle. This Principle teaches that the path to the *Torah* in Israel was a road of hardships, sufferings, wants, and thorns.

The third historical Spiritual Principle, then, is this: **The Path to God's *Torah*-Word Goes Through Suffering.**

IV. God's Headship Produces Unity — Revealed in the Ninth and Tenth Books of the Old Testament: First and Second Samuel

The Books of First and Second Samuel were added, by the Spirit of God, to continue the history related in Joshua and Judges and to tell of the consolidation of the tribes of Israel into a monarch under a man, a human king.

Through this literal history of the Nation of Israel, God demonstrated His fourth historical Spiritual Principle which teaches that the Design and Purpose of the *Torah* is to bring God's people into Unity under one Headship — God's Headship. This is the message demonstrated by the life of Israel's king, who was to rule the people by God's Divine Direction, which was a type of God's Ruling through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The fourth historical Spiritual Principle, then, is this: **God's Headship Produces Unity.**

V. God Is the Only True God; Therefore, He Punishes Idol Worshippers — Revealed in the Eleventh and Twelfth Books of the Old Testament: First and Second Kings

The next Books to be added to God's Collection were the Kings. In them we read of the conflict between the true, pure Doctrine of the *Torah* (Law) and the false prophets and the deceitful, corrupt idolatry of the heathen, with their evil influences.

The Books of the Kings are of exceptional interest from a historical point of view. But, most of all, their natural, historical record of the decline and fall of Israel's Monarchy testifies to the fact that man cannot retain a Union with God and with the idols of this world and that God is faithful to punish abusers and offenders of His Law (*Torah*).

The fifth historical Spiritual Principle, then, is this: **God Is the Only True God; Therefore, He Punishes Idol Worshippers.**

VI. God Is the Author of All True Successes and Failures — Revealed in the Thirteenth and Fourteenth Books of the Old Testament: First Chronicles and Second Chronicles

The next Books that God added to His Old Testament Collection were the Chronicles, a supplementary history. The Chronicles present historical events from a religious point of view.

The Books of the Chronicles show that all true historical spiritual and natural successes are the direct results of God's Reward for obedience to the *Torah*; likewise, all historical spiritual and natural failures are direct results of God's Punishment for disobedience, apostasy, and sin.

Thus, the sixth historical Spiritual Principle is this: **God Is the Author of All True Successes and Failures.**

VII. God's Mercy and Forgiveness — Revealed in the Fifteenth Book of the Old Testament: Ezra

To His Collection, God added the Book of Ezra which, in reality, is a continuation of the Chronicles. The historical Spiritual Principle which is presented in the Book of Ezra relates to God's Mercy and Forgiveness. The Chronicles finish with their historical record of Judah's final deportation, at that time, into captivity in Babylon. Thus, God's Faithfulness punishes the sinful offenders. The Book of Ezra begins with the LORD mercifully stirring up Cyrus, King of Persia, to rebuild God's House in Jerusalem. Cyrus' royal proclamation encouraged the Jewish captives to return to their city to rebuild the ruined Temple.

Thus, the seventh historical Spiritual Principle is a revelation of **God's Mercy and Forgiveness**.

VIII. God Establishes the Rule and Reign of the *Torah* — Revealed in the Sixteenth Book of the Old Testament: Nehemiah

Then, God added the Book of Nehemiah, which is a further presentation of God's Divine, Historical Purpose and Plan.

The Book of Nehemiah reveals that God does not visit us with Mercy and Forgiveness in order to leave us to our *own way* because God immediately reestablished the Rule and Reign of the Divine *Torah* with its Laws, Rules, and Regulations; and He commanded Israel to be in subjection to them.

Thus, God revealed His eighth historical Spiritual Principle which is that **God Establishes the Rule and Reign of the *Torah*.**

IX. God Exalts Through the Way of Suffering — Revealed in the Seventeenth Book of the Old Testament: Esther

The next Book added to God's Collection was the Book of Esther. This Book displays God's next historical Spiritual Principle, which teaches that God takes His true children, the ones who keep the *Torah*, through great sufferings and persecutions in order to bring them into great exaltation by giving them ruling power as a queen.

Thus, the ninth historical Spiritual Principle is this: **God Exalts Through the Way of Suffering.**

X. The Sanctifying Power of Suffering — Revealed in the Eighteenth Book of the Old Testament: Job

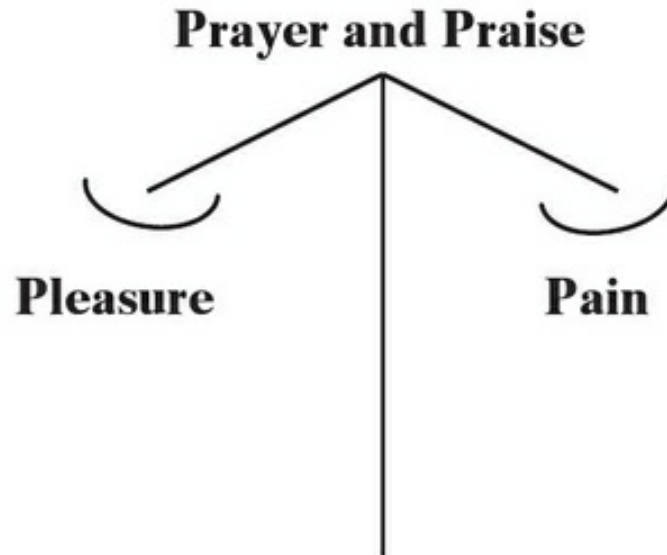
Next in God's Divine Order came the Book of Job, which is a unique spiritual epic, a supreme drama of the human soul.

After introducing the "Reward of Suffering" in the Book of Esther, God introduced, in the Book of Job, the tenth historical Spiritual Principle — **The Sanctifying Power of Suffering**, which helps man to rise up in a greater, symmetrical spiritual form.

XI. Prayer and Praise to God in Pleasure and in Pain — Revealed in the Nineteenth Book of the Old Testament: Psalms

The Book of Psalms was introduced next in God's great Collection of Books.

After man has been sanctified through sufferings and has been lifted up into a new spiritual form, he is ready for the prayer and praise Book of the Psalms.



First, the most common experience displayed in the Psalms is the prayer and praise that the believer gives during times of exaltation of heart and soul, extolling God for His Goodness and Mercy to all creatures, His Vindication of His saints when persecuted by the wicked, and His Headship as King and Ruler over the Universes.

Second, the spiritual minor key is struck in many of the Psalms which tell of the sufferings of individuals, as well as the sufferings of the Nation of Israel, reiterating the historical Spiritual Truth that personal and national calamity is a sequel of sin. Consequently, the confusion of guilt and the plea for pardon are loudly voiced in this group of Psalms; then comes the praise for relief and ease.

Third, the Psalms of ethics or didactic or instructive nature follow. After God pardons and forgives, it is His Joy to teach and instruct a living soul in the right way of living through denunciation of prevalent vices which bring unhappiness and endanger the very existence of individuals. These ethical Psalms proclaim the joy that one finds when he is loyal to the *Torah* and the Will of God.

The Book of Psalms mirrors the struggles of the godly in all ages. Our sufferings are not unique. The Psalms show that others have felt the disturbing doubts created in the heart by the momentary triumph of evil doers; others have known the fierce fight which the Spiritual Man must wage in order to obtain victory over the carnal Self; others have seen the conquest of despair, when they have exercised strong faith in the Righteous, Holy, Just Nature of God's Headship; others have known the struggle of the human soul as it has sought to ascend from the depths of its own vanity and reach the heights of God's Glory and Grace.

May we learn, by experience, to sing the beautiful Psalms of Praise and Adoration to God for His Blessings in times of prosperity *and* in times of distress. Then, our voice will blend and ascend into God's Ears along with the voices of all others whose lives have been songs of worship to God.

The Book of Psalms presents, then, the eleventh historical Spiritual Principle which is this: in walking with God, every true believer must learn to give **Prayer and Praise to God in Pleasure and in Pain.**

XII. The Wisdom and Understanding from the Priest, Wise-Elders, and Prophets — Revealed in the Twentieth Book of the Old Testament: Proverbs

The precious Book of Proverbs became the next addition to God's great Spiritual Library. In order to appreciate, fully, the Message of the Book of Proverbs, we need to pick up the Scripture in which God established the three classes of instructors and their instructions.

Then said they, Come, and let us devise devices against Jeremiah; for *the law shall not perish from the priest, nor counsel from the wise, nor the word from the prophet*. Come, and let us smite him with the tongue, and let us not give heed to any of his words (Jeremiah 18:18).

From the foregoing verse we see that the first class of instruction came through the Priest who had been given the responsibility for the *Torah* and the practices connected with it. The Priest personally was obligated to adhere to the *Torah* and to teach the people strict adherence to God's revealed code of worship of Him.

The second class of instruction came through the Wise-Elder who imparted counsel and guidance in the personal and secular affairs of life. The validity of the teaching of the Wise-Elder was proven by how it harmonized with the *Torah* and the Prophets. The Wise-Elder was not antagonistic to the other two classes of teachers but rather supplied a wealth of supplementary instructions.

God's Purpose in adding the Book of Proverbs was to record the teachings of the Wise-Elder.

Just as there is a word of the Priest, so also is there the word of the Wise-Elder. The word of the Wise-Elder forms the Wisdom Literature, the Book of Proverbs.

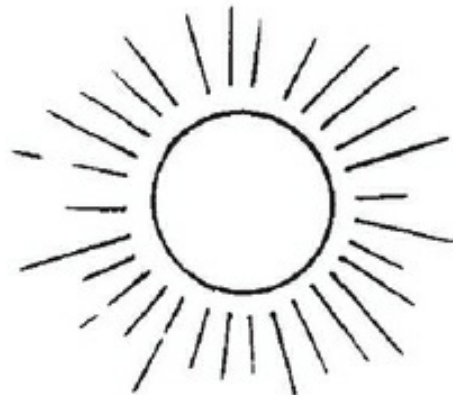
The third class of instruction came through the Prophet. It was the Prophet's responsibility to communicate to the people the Divine Vision, the Image of Truth and Word, which he had received from God.

The Book of Proverbs thus reveals the twelfth Spiritual Principle which is this: **God Used the Power of the Wisdom and Understanding from the Priest, the Wise-Elders, and Prophets** to establish a close contact with youth, which was His means of translating and defining, in specific terms, the way of life described in the *Torah*.

XIII. The Ministry of Wisdom and Understanding Above the Earthly Sun — Revealed in the Twenty-first Book of the Old Testament: Ecclesiastes (A Continuation of the Historical Spiritual Principle Found in the Book of Proverbs)

How fitting it is that God placed the Book of Ecclesiastes next in His great Library of historical Spiritual Principles. Ecclesiastes is a continuance of the Principle of Wisdom.

The Book of Ecclesiastes shows us what to do after we have obtained Wisdom. If we keep Wisdom merely as a *mental* type of knowledge under the sun, we will find it to be vanity and vexation of spirit.



Sun of This World



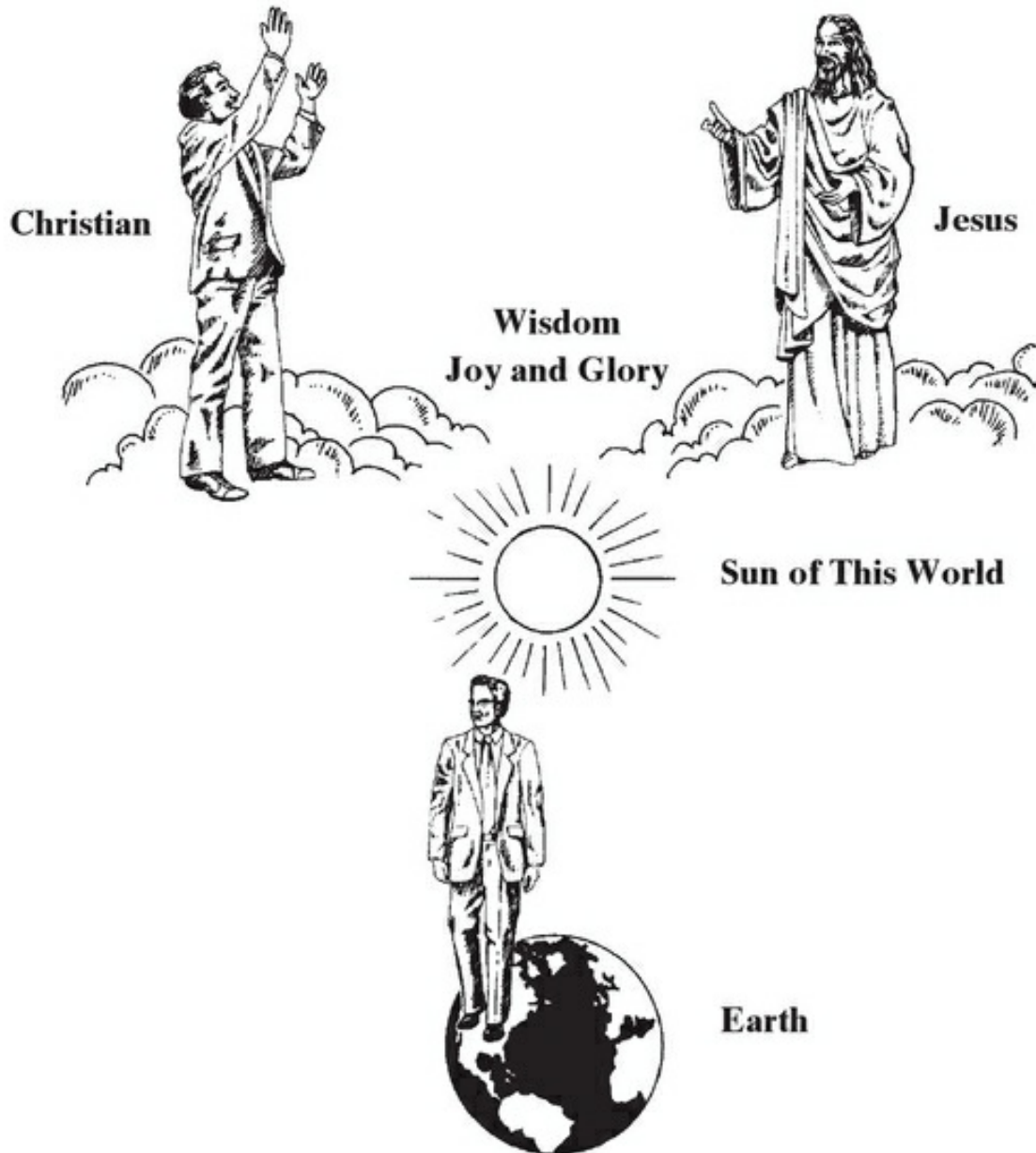
**Wisdom Under the Sun Is
Vanity and Vexation of Spirit.
It Makes One Miserable.**

Earth

Wisdom left under the sun of this world makes us miserable. However, if we use the Wisdom of God to mount above the sun of this world and enter into a Living Relationship with God, we will find it to be joy unspeakable and full of Glory.

Heavenlies

**Wisdom Above the Sun
Is Joy Unspeakable and
Full of Glory. It Makes One Happy.**



Thus, the Book of Ecclesiastes shows us that when the Wisdom of Proverbs is left under the sun, it is vanity and vexation of spirit, but when Wisdom is taken above the sun of this world, it becomes blissful joy and pleasure.

The twelfth historical Spiritual Principle continues from the Book of Proverbs to teach us **The Ministry of Wisdom and Understanding Above the Earthly Sun.**

XIV. The Love Relationship Between the Bridegroom and the Bride — Revealed in the Twenty-second Book of the Old Testament: Song of Solomon

The joyous continuity of God's Library of historical Spiritual Principles is both thrilling and exciting.

The next Book added to God's Library was the Song of Solomon. While the Book of Ecclesiastes shows us how to live *under* the sun of this world, the Song of Solomon teaches us the purpose of living *above* the world, which is to grow into spiritual maturity and be esteemed worthy to be in the Bride of Jesus Christ. In other words, the ultimate purpose of Wisdom is to lead the believer into a personal Love Relationship with Jesus Christ.

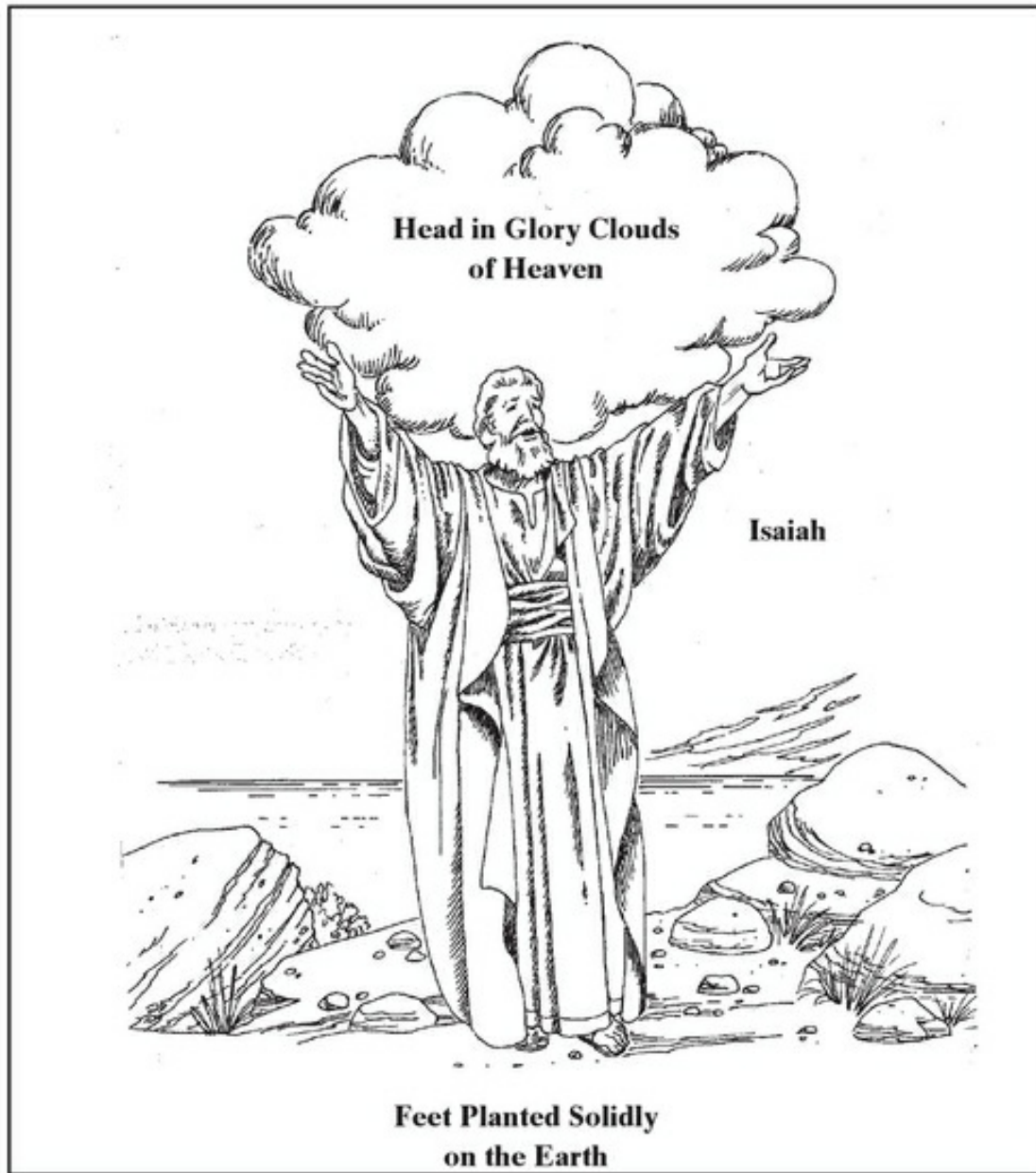
Love sweetens the toils of labour. Jacob's fourteen years of labour appeared to be but a few days because of his love for his beloved Rachel. Love transfigures unholy looks. Love hallows unholy attitudes. Love is a reward to the pure and simple ones who seek the Word of God. Love is a joy reserved for those who are loyal and constant in the Divine Word of God. The fidelity of love always emerges triumphant. Many waters cannot quench love!

Thus, the thirteenth historical Spiritual Principle or Moral Truth, which is the Truth that the Song of Solomon presents, is that the Love of God in the human heart is the strongest and Holiest of all emotions and that it leads us to the establishment of a **Love Relationship Between the Bridegroom and the Bride.**

XV. The Paradoxical Union of Heaven and Earth — Revealed in the Twenty-third Book of the Old Testament: Isaiah

God added the Book of Isaiah in order to establish the next line or layer of historical Spiritual Truth.

After we have grown up into spiritual maturity and have experienced a personal wedded union between our heart and will and the Heart and Will of Jesus Christ, we are ready for a prophetic Ministry between Heaven and Earth, which we know the Prophet Isaiah experienced since he was described as having his head in the clouds and his feet on the solid ground.



Isaiah had his feet planted solidly on the Earth in order to minister in the things of God; therefore, he could be unhesitating and firm in his guidance both to the king and the people.

Because Isaiah's head was in the Clouds of God's Glory and Word, his vision was kept clear and his judgment

unerring. Isaiah's heart was in Eternity so that, at all times, his will was harmoniously blended with the Will of God.

Isaiah's mouth and hands were involved in the things of time so that his mouth boldly denounced the idolatrous superstition, the drunkenness, the selfish greed of the rich, the bribery and corruption of the judges, the intoxicated prophets, and the false trust of the people. He also rebuked them for relying on their military preparations and measures and for their disregard for the true Messengers of God.

Isaiah's hand painted a true picture of the sad spiritual conditions of his day. God's House was crowded with worshippers. The Altars were piled high with sacrifices, while the sins of adultery, idolatry, injustice, oppression, and murder raged unchecked. Isaiah's spirit lived in the Eternal Counsel of God, while his body stood in a very defined time of history.

Through the Book of Isaiah, we know that God gives a Oneness of Relationship that enables His servants to live in the Glory Clouds of Heaven, while they stand to minister Truth on the Earth.

This, then, is the fourteenth historical Spiritual Principle: **The Paradoxical Union of Heaven and Earth.**

XVI. God's Compassionate Sympathy in the Midst of Judgment — Revealed in the Twenty-fourth Book of the Old Testament: Jeremiah

God continued the stream of historical Spiritual Truth through the pen of the Prophet Jeremiah. In the Book of Jeremiah, God showed how a person should behave when he is called of God to minister predictions of judgment for sin. Our example is the Prophet Jeremiah who, with a heavy heart, uttered his predictions; and, with a heavier heart, he watched their fulfillment.

No Prophet ever displayed so strong a sympathy for the condemned as did Jeremiah. In spite of the fact that he was taunted and jeered, Jeremiah repeatedly displayed a tenderness of spirit for his people. Continuously, his bowels writhed in pain. His heart mourned. His soul fervently prayed and bewailed the people's cruel fate. Although he acknowledged the necessity for judgment, Jeremiah prayed that God would temper it with His Mercy.

Although Jeremiah possessed a tender, sympathetic nature, he did not lack courage. He showed his courage by braving the fury of the people and by vigorously denouncing the sins of the people, the leaders, and the kings.

The fifteenth historical Spiritual Principles shows us this: **God's Compassionate Sympathy in the Midst of Judgment.**

XVII. God's Compassionate Sympathy in the Midst of Judgment — Revealed in the Twenty-fifth Book of the Old Testament: Lamentations (A Continuation of the Historical Spiritual Principle Found in the Book of Jeremiah)

God added the little Book of Lamentations to His Library Collection to further prove the fifteenth historical Spiritual Principle of God's Compassionate Sympathy in the midst of His Judgment of bitter woe and calamity.

After the Babylonians had destroyed Jerusalem, Jeremiah poured out his grief-stricken heart to his people, nobly insisting on Israel's resignation to God's Headship and Divine Will.

XVIII. God's Justification in Vindicating His Legal Property — Revealed in the Twenty-sixth Book of the Old Testament: Ezekiel

Next in order is the Book of Ezekiel, which God added for the purpose of showing that after meting out Judgment and placing His people in a place of chastisement, He is very careful to explain the reasons for the great chastening.

In Ezekiel, God explained that His Divine Jealousy demands action by His Divine Justice. The denotation of God's Divine Jealousy is "to acquire as one's own property" and "the vindication of one's rights." God's Nature of Jealousy demands that He chasten and judge His people until they return to Him because they are His rightful, legal property. Since God created his people, in the first place, and redeemed them, in the second place, He has a legal right to them as His property. Therefore, God is justified in the vindication of His Rights.

Israel had insulted God by placing an idol image by God's Sanctuary; therefore, God was zealous for His violated rights in regard to the cardinal sins of idolatry and immorality. God brought strong retribution for these sins because they undermined God's Rights and the very existence of human society. Ezekiel shows us that after God makes man cognizant of his sin, He, then, is ready to help him build a new Temple of worship for God.

This, then, is the sixteenth historical Spiritual Principle: **God's Justification in Vindicating His Legal Property.**

XIX. God's Plan, Purpose, and Triumph for His People — Revealed in the Twenty-seventh Book of the Old Testament: Daniel

The Book of Daniel can be separated into three phases: First, the Book of Daniel tells that, in the time of the trials of the righteous, God purposes to increase their Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge. Second, the Book of Daniel tells that God, by His Mighty Knowledge and Power, frustrates the plots and plans of the mightiest monarch and defends His servants who are faithful to Him in times of temptation and danger. Third, the Book of Daniel tells of the ultimate triumph of Righteousness and the Kingdom of God through the resurrection of the dead.

The seventeenth historical Spiritual Principle, which is found in the prophetic Book of Daniel, thus reveals **God's Plan, Purpose, and Triumph for His People.**

XX. The Love Relationship Between the Bridegroom and the Bride— Revealed in the Twenty-eighth Book of the Old Testament: Hosea (A Continuation of the Historical Spiritual Principle Found in the Book of the Song of Solomon)

The Prophet Hosea continued the historical Spiritual Principle revealed in the Song of Solomon, which dealt with God's Relationship with Israel that was based on His Love for them from the time of their national infancy, when He had taught them how to walk in the ways of the *Torah* and had brought them to the Promised Land.

The Prophet Hosea pleaded with Israel, trying to convince her that God still was the same and that He did not demand empty sacrifice and ritual but love and loyalty to Him and His Word. Hosea delineates God under the imagery of a Husband Who is Just and Right in His expectations of love and loyalty from the Nation of Israel, whom He has taken as His Wife.

Thus, the Book of Hosea was added to God's Library Collection for the purpose of substantiating and reinforcing His thirteenth historical Spiritual Principle of **The Love Relationship Between the Bridegroom and the Bride.**

XXI. God's Faithfulness to Judge Israel and Her Enemies— Revealed in the Twenty-ninth Book of the Old Testament: Joel

After God had chastened and judged His people, Israel, He turned to judge Israel's inveterate enemies. Israel's enemies had plundered God's Temple Treasures and had carried His people far away. But, God again will rebuild Zion and dwell there and bless it with all good things; whereas, the guilty nations shall be judged and delivered to ruin and desolation.

Thus, God established the eighteenth historical Spiritual Principle when He added the Book of Joel to His Library Collection. This Principle reveals this Truth: **God in His Faithfulness to His People Judges Their Enemies.**

XXII. God Is the Author of All True Successes and Failures — Revealed in the Thirtieth Book of the Old Testament: Amos (A Continuation of the Historical Spiritual Principle Found in the Books of First and Second Chronicles)

Amos established the Truth that God is the God of the Universe as well as the God of Israel and that His Covenant with those in the Nation of Israel, individually, was not indissoluble. God let them know that meticulous ritual worship would not save them.

Amos clarified that God demanded Righteousness and Mercy from His people and that their deluded ritual worship would not obtain His approval.

True worship to God will produce a true, just, and harmonious relationship between God and man and also will produce harmony among God's creation.

God added the Book of Amos to His Collection to continue unveiling more of His sixth historical Spiritual Principle which reveals that **God Is the Author of All True Successes and Failures.**

XXIII. God's Faithfulness to Feed His People with Hope — Revealed in the Thirty-first Book of the Old Testament: Obadiah

Obadiah told of the cruelty and treachery of Edom toward Israel, which was of long standing, but Obadiah fed Israel with hope of vindication.

The Book of Obadiah was added to God's Collection of Truth for the purpose of showing God's Faithfulness to feed His suffering people's hungry souls with hope that the day of vengeance and the day of triumph over the bitter, implacable enmity of Edom would come.

This, then, is the nineteenth, historical Spiritual Principle: **God's Faithfulness to Feed His People with Hope.**

XXIV. God's Servants Are to Accept Their Duties and Responsibilities — Revealed in the Thirty-second Book of the Old Testament: Jonah

God added the Book of Jonah to His Library Collection in order to keep weaving His Divine Principles into history. The Moral Principle projected in the Book of Jonah is that God's servants are not to flee from the duty and responsibility given to them by God. Although the Jews considered Gentiles to be their worst enemies, God sent Jonah, a Jew, to prophesy to the Gentile City of Nineveh.

Jonah drew back from his prophetic responsibility because he did not want to be a part of bringing salvation to his enemies. Neither did he want to appear a liar in the eyes of the people by prophesying that the city would be destroyed and, then, as a result of the people's repentance, have God visit them with His Mercy and spare the city.

Thus, the twentieth historical Spiritual Principle is this: **God's Servants Are to Accept Their Duties and Responsibilities.**

XXV. God Denounces the Evil of Riches — Revealed in the Thirty-third Book of the Old Testament: Micah

In the Book of Micah, the Prophet fearlessly denounced the demoralizing pursuit of riches and wealth (which is a very denial of God's Righteous Demands upon man). He denounced the evils connected with riches: the corruption of rulers and judges who seized houses and estates, the exploiting of peasants, and the cruel use of the right of creditors.

Micah rebuked the Priests and Prophets who lived by the flattery of the rich. He denounced the deception that fostered the erroneous idea that, since Israel was God's people, no harm could befall them. He announced the corruption in Israel's society; the downfall of Israel's society, Israel's defeat and exile; and the destruction of Jerusalem and the Temple.

In this Book, God added the twenty-first historical Spiritual Principle, which is this: **God Denounces the Evil of Riches.**

XXVI. God Joyfully Vindicates His Justice and His Bride — Revealed in the Thirty-fourth Book of the Old Testament: Nahum

God added the Book of Nahum, which is simple but great, to reveal that, in order to balance His Scales of Justice, there is joyful vindication of all who oppose the God of Justice and for all who oppress Israel, His Wife. God balances oppression with vindication.

Thus, the twenty-second historical Spiritual Principle is that **God Joyfully Vindicates His Justice and His Bride.**

XXVII. God Clarifies His Principles of Operation in the Midst of Misunderstanding — Revealed in the Thirty-fifth Book of the Old Testament: Habakkuk

God added the little Book of Habakkuk to reveal the Truth that God's people can beseech Him in the midst of their misunderstanding, and He will clarify His Principles of Operation.

Habakkuk could not understand why the innocent suffer, while the wicked prosper. Habakkuk could not understand how a nation, which had sinned, should be allowed to be swallowed up by a nation *still more sinful and wicked*. So, God showed him that the just *must* live by faith; and, then, they will be able to taunt their former oppressors.

The twenty-third historical Spiritual Principle was proven to Habakkuk, which is that **God Clarifies His Principles of Operation in the Midst of Misunderstanding**.

XXVIII. God's Faithfulness to Minister Hard, Merciful Punishment — Revealed in the Thirty-sixth Book of the Old Testament: Zephaniah

The main theme of the Book of Zephaniah is its denunciation and threats. The Prophet foretold the doom of his people with the calm detachment and disinterest of a stranger.

Thus, the Book of Zephaniah teaches the historical Spiritual Principle that, when it is time to admonish and rebuke, soft Mercy must be put to silence until due Judgment, enacted through God's *hard*, relentless Mercy, has effected a change of heart.



The Book of Zephaniah was added to God's Library of Historical Truth for the purpose of unveiling the twenty-fourth historical Spiritual Principle, which shows **God's Faithfulness to Minister Hard, Merciful Punishment.**

XXIX. God's Blessings Follow the Rebuilt Temple — Revealed in the Thirty-Seventh Book of the Old Testament: Haggai

The precious Book of Haggai was added to God's Collection of historical Spiritual Principles to teach that, once God's people had rebuilt the Temple, then fields again would yield abundant crops.

Jesus taught this very Principle to His Disciples when He said, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matthew 6:33).

The twenty-fifth Spiritual Principle is this: **God's Blessings Follow the Rebuilt Temple.**

**XXX. The Establishment of God's Kingdom — Revealed in the Thirty-eighth Book of the Old Testament:
Zechariah**

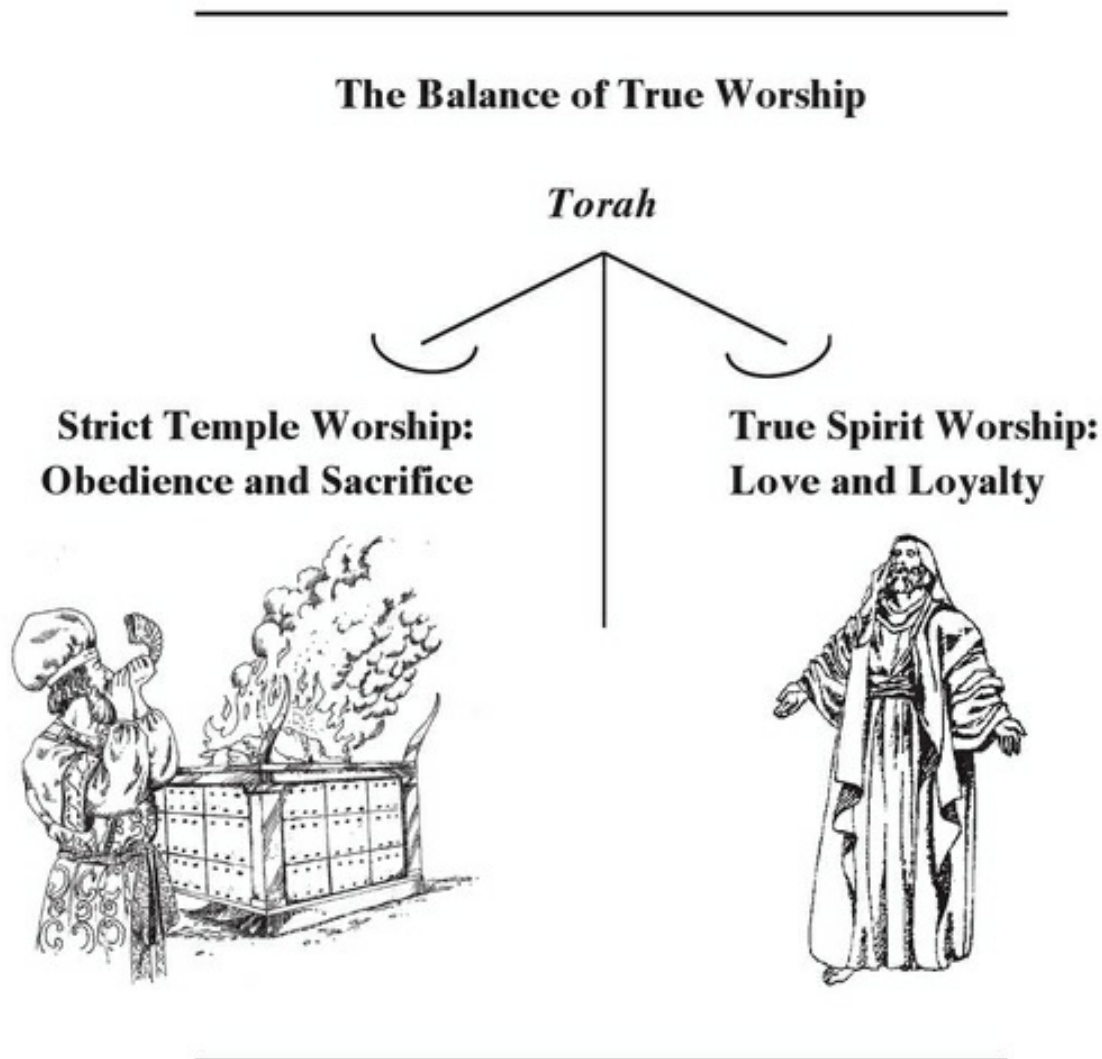
It is indeed fitting that Zechariah should follow Haggai in God's Collection of historical Spiritual Principles. *Haggai* taught his people *to rebuild* the Temple. *Zechariah* taught that the ceremonial services and sacrifices were just a means to an end, and that *the end was the establishment of God's Kingdom on Earth through the Messiah*. Therefore, Zechariah preached righteousness in character, actions, justice, and mercy.

The twenty-sixth historical Spiritual Principle, set forth in the Book of Zechariah, is that the return of God to His Temple depends upon the people's return to God or **The Establishment of God's Kingdom**.

XXXI. The Balance of True Worship — Revealed in the Thirty-ninth Book of the Old Testament: Malachi

God added the Book of Malachi to His Collection of Living Truth to affirm the balance of the Scales that is needed in true worship.

God must be worshipped in Spirit and in Truth. In other words, we must worship Him by strictly obeying and observing the Commandments set forth in His Word, and we must worship God by rendering to Him the love and loyalty of our heart, along with our outward acts of worship.



Malachi unveiled the Truth that the people's neglect of the Temple revealed a lack of true reverence, faith, and love of God. He showed that Israel's stinginess in the matter of sacrifices to God betrayed their lack of true love and respect for God.

Malachi preached strict observance of the *Torah* of Moses and showed that God's people were to fulfill the strict ritual of the Law, on one side of the Scales, while rendering love and loyalty to God's Spirit on the other side of the Scales.

Thus, in the twenty-seventh historical Spiritual Principle, God teaches us this: **The Balance of True Worship.**

With the inclusion of the Book of Malachi into His Library of Twenty-seven, Basic, Historical Spiritual

Principles, God rested, as it were, from speaking directly to His people. Almost four hundred years passed before God added more Books to reprove (that is to prove all over again) the validity of His Collection of Moral Spiritual Principles.

* B. R. Hicks, [*Instructive Wisdom to Help Rightly Divide God's Word*](#), (Jeffersonville, Indiana: Christ Gospel Churches Int'l., Inc., 1983), p. 263.

Chapter Five

Historical Spiritual Principles Of The Bible Contained In The New Testament

The birth of God's only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, sparked the Light of Inspiration that caused the writers of the New Testament to pen the Gospels, the History Book of The Acts of the Apostles, the twenty-one Epistles, and the Prophetic Book of Revelation.

It is interesting to see how God has drawn the same historical Spiritual Principles from the Old Testament Books of His Holy Word and has repeated them through the New Testament Books of His Holy Word. As we view the Spiritual Principles set forth in the New Testament, we will see how they correlate with the Spiritual Principles in the Old Testament.

God opened His New Testament Collection of historical Spiritual Principles with the four Books of the Gospels or the "Good News" of Jesus Christ. In these Books, God unveiled the beginning and end of all things through His Son, Jesus Christ.

The Gospel of Jesus sets forth the heights of Heaven and the depths of Hell. Christ's extensive Precepts and Doctrine forbid every sin and require every virtue. The Gospel of Jesus sets forth all Moral Truth to man. The Gospel of Jesus is the True Light that ever shines; it is the depth of all Salvation, the fulfillment of all hope, the perfection of all growth, the key to all revelation. The Gospel of Jesus is filled with all Divine Wisdom and Knowledge of God. What happiness and joy the four Gospel Books give to all who believe and embrace their Truth.

Let us see how each of the Gospel Books relates to a historical Spiritual Principle laid out in the Old Testament.

I. God Is Creator, Sovereign Ruler, and King of All Creation — Revealed in the First Book of the New Testament: Matthew

In the Books of the Old Testament from Genesis through Deuteronomy (known collectively as the Pentateuch), we saw that the main theme was God as Creator, King, and Redeemer. This same Divine Principle is woven like a bright thread through the Gospel of Matthew. In this Gospel Book, we find the Royal, Kingly lineage of Jesus Christ, and we find “God with us,” Emmanuel. Matthew tells about wise men coming to worship God in Flesh.

In the Book of Matthew, Jesus Christ delivered the Blueprint of the Spiritual Tabernacle, commonly called *The Sermon on the Mount*, just as God delivered the Blueprint of the Mosaic Tabernacle on Mount Sinai. Within Matthew’s account, the announcement was made, “Behold, thy King cometh” (Matthew 21:5).

There are many more verses to substantiate the continuity of the first historical Spiritual Principle in the Books of the Pentateuch and the first Divine Spiritual Principle in the Gospel of Matthew; however, these few examples should be sufficient to show that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday [in the Old Testament], today [in the New Testament], and for ever (Hebrews 13:8).

II. God Is King and Servant — Revealed in the Second Book of the New Testament: Mark

The Principle of the Book of Mark fits together with the Principle found in the Books of Joshua and Judges. God, the Servant of His people, helped Israel to possess the Promised Land. We see this same Divine Principle spelled out in the Book of Mark. Jesus Christ, by taking the route of a humble Suffering Servant, has shown us the way to the Heavenly Promised Land, the New City, the New Jerusalem.

In the Book of Mark, many minute touches of the Suffering Servant can be seen. For example, Jesus Christ *sighed deeply* in Spirit. Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth His Hand and touched the leper. Mark is the only one to tell us that Jesus was a carpenter. Mark gives the Parable of the Seed growing secretly, as further instruction as to how to possess the Heavenly Canaan's Land. If we are to possess the land, we must hide the Word in the secret places of our heart. However, as we see in the Books of Joshua and Judges, we must drive out the enemies of our flesh in order for God's Word to have a chance to take root downward and to bear fruit upward in our life.

III. The Path to God's *Torah*- Word Is Through Suffering — Revealed in the Third Book of the New Testament: Luke

The Divine Spiritual Principle of the Gospel of Luke fits together with the Spiritual Principle found in the Book of Ruth. God revealed, through Ruth the Moabitess, that love for God will cause us to leave our own country and forsake our kindred and people in order to go to the Promised Land, Canaan's Land, so that we might be joined to God's true Word, the *Torah*.

The Book of Luke, projecting the third Divine Spiritual Principle, shows Jesus Christ as the Son of Man Who humbled Himself and came into the world to suffer for mankind. Through walking this path of suffering, Jesus was made both *Lord* and *Christ*. "Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ" (Acts 2:36).

Jesus knew that He, the Son of Man, must walk the road of suffering in order to be joined eternally to the *Torah*, the Christ, the Word of God, and He taught this Truth to His Disciples.

Saying, *The Son of man must suffer many things*, and be rejected of the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be slain, and be raised the third day.... Let these sayings sink down into your ears: for the Son of man shall be delivered into the hands of men (Luke 9:22,44).

Regardless of the suffering that came to Him as He walked the road of life, the Son of Man remained under subjection to His Heavenly Father and kept the Flesh of His Humanity in sweet surrender to His Father's Will.

Luke recorded special material to confirm this Spiritual Principle. He recorded an Angel's appearance to Jesus during His agony in the Garden. "And there appeared an angel unto him from heaven, strengthening him" (Luke 22:43). This scene in the Garden of Gethsemane reveals, in a special way, how much Jesus was in subjection to God the Father, the Great King. Jesus recognized God's Heavenly, Eternal Rule over Him. Then, as the Son of Man, Jesus was rewarded eternally by being made Lord and Christ.

The Book of Luke also shows Jesus exhibiting forgiveness for the vilest sinners and manifesting Grace and Justification befitting to His Powers as the Son of Man. "Then said Jesus, Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do. And they parted his raiment, and cast lots" (Luke 23:34). In the midst of His greatest suffering, Jesus forgave His enemies and pressed on to His Eternal Union with Christ, the Divine Word.

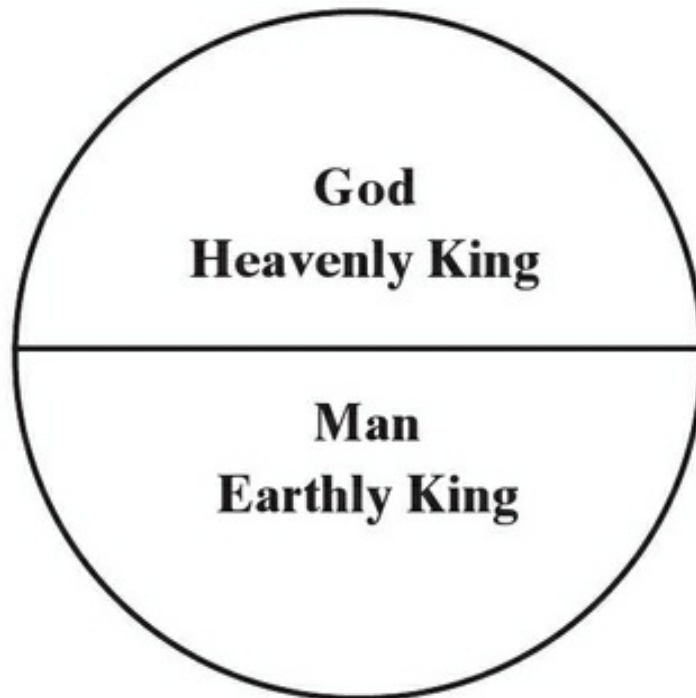
IV. God's Headship Produces Unity — Revealed in the Fourth Book of the New Testament: John

The main Spiritual Principle of the Gospel of John fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle unveiled in the Books of First and Second Samuel.

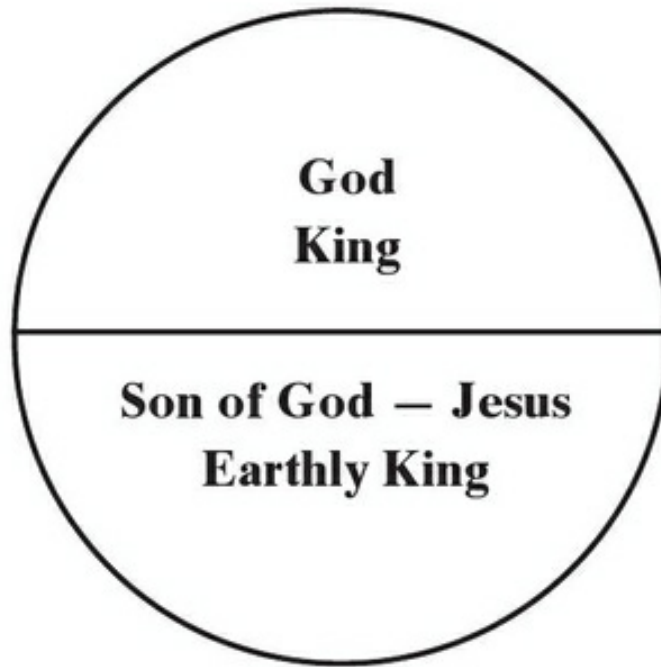
The Gospel of John portrays the Incarnation of the Eternal Word in Flesh, known as the *Son of God*. “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth” (John 1:14). Throughout the Gospel of John, we see God ruling through His Word in Jesus, the Son of God. In the twenty-first chapter, the Gospel of John concludes with the Son of God being portrayed as the Master Ruler of life and service.

Then Peter, turning about, seeth the disciple whom Jesus loved following; which also leaned on his breast at supper and said, Lord, which is he that betrayeth thee? Peter seeing him saith to Jesus, Lord, and what shall this man do? Jesus saith unto him, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? follow thou me. Then went this saying abroad among the brethren, that that disciple should not die: yet Jesus said not unto him, He shall not die; but, If I will that he tarry till I come, what is that to thee? (John 21:20-23).

In the Books of Samuel we saw the Unity of Israel under God's Headship as He ruled through a man, a human king.



In other words, God ruled over His natural people, Israel, through the Union of Divine Energy and human energy. He uses the same Spiritual Principle to rule over His spiritual people. God uses His Word, through Jesus the Son of God, to rule over our life and our service to Him.



The Rulership of God's Word produces Unity with God and with God's people.

V. God Is the Only True God; Therefore, He Punishes Idol Worshipers — Revealed in the Fifth Book of the New Testament: The Acts of the Apostles

After the Principles in the Gospels were established, God added the Book of Acts to His Library Collection in order to give New Testament believers the fifth Divine Spiritual Principle of Truth.

The Book of Acts is a history of the early Apostles who went forth in obedience to the Command of the LORD Jesus Christ. These men were sent forth to demonstrate the Authority, Power, and Knowledge of the Gospels.

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Acts fits together with First and Second Kings, which Books set forth this historical Spiritual Principle: man cannot retain a Union with the one and only True God and also stay joined to the idols of this world. God recorded the acts of the Apostles to demonstrate this Truth.

First, God struck at the Jews and their system of idolatry in holding on to their ceremonial customs, traditions, opinions, and ordinances of man in preference to accepting God's beloved Son Jesus Christ. Second, God struck at the idols of gain, manifested in His own Church through Ananias and Sapphira. Third, God struck at the idols of the Gentiles such as Diana, the goddess of Ephesus.

So that not only this our craft is in danger to be set at nought; but also that the temple of the great goddess Diana should be despised, and her magnificence should be destroyed, whom all Asia and the world worship-peth. And when they heard these sayings, they were full of wrath, and cried out, saying, Great is Diana of the Ephesians (Acts 19:27,28).

Since all Scripture is profitable, it behooves us to take note of God's Divine Spiritual Principles which are the same in the Old Testament and the New Testament.

VI. God Is the Author of All True Successes and Failures — Revealed in the Sixth Book of the New Testament: Romans

God added the twenty-one Books of the Epistles to His Library of Living Truth in order to continue **re**proving His historical Spiritual Principles and to show His people how to grow up in full Stature of Truth like unto His beloved Son Jesus Christ. Let us see how each New Testament Epistle relates to a particular Spiritual Principle given in the Old Testament.

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Romans fits together with the historical Spiritual Truth in the Books of First and Second Chronicles and Amos.

First and Second Chronicles reveal the Truth that God is a God Who rewards for obedience to the Law (*Torah*) and punishes for disobedience to that Law. The Book of Amos further confirms the same Truth that ritual worship alone will not save man from God's Punishment when man has broken God's Law.

Paul, the writer of the Book of Romans, established this Truth of God's Operation.

For there is no respect of persons with God. For as many as have sinned without law shall also perish without law: and as many as have sinned in the law shall be judged by the law; (For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: Which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another:;) (Romans 2:11-15).

Paul continued, in Romans, to show that, since God demands obedience to His Law and since we are weak and sinful in the flesh and unable to obey the Law perfectly, God sent His Son Who fulfilled the Law perfectly. Therefore, we must accept Jesus Christ into our heart by faith. He is the only One Who can help us obey the Law of God and receive reward for obedience instead of punishment for disobedience.

VII. God's Mercy and Forgiveness — Revealed in the Seventh Book of the New Testament: First Corinthians

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of First Corinthians fits together with the historical Truth in the Book of Ezra.

In the Book of Ezra, God visited His children in captivity with Mercy and Forgiveness, and Ezra brought them up to Jerusalem, rebuilt the Temple, and restored God's Word and Divine Order of Worship.

When Paul preached to the Gentiles and to some Jews at Corinth, God visited them with Mercy and Forgiveness, and a Church or House of God was established. Then, Paul, like Ezra, continued in God's Mercy and Forgiveness to establish God's Divine Word and Divine Order for Service and Worship to Him.

VIII. God Establishes the Rule and Reign of the *Torah* — Revealed in the Eighth Book of the New Testament: Second Corinthians

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Second Corinthians fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle in the Book of Nehemiah.

In Nehemiah, we find further establishment of God's Divine Order. Nehemiah rebuilt the walls and the gates of the city. Then, he established the servants of God in their rightful places, from the Levites to the Priests.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Corinthians, the second time, to reaffirm his apostolic walk and to vindicate his Apostleship against gainsayers.

For our rejoicing is this, the testimony of our conscience, that in simplicity and godly sincerity, not with fleshly wisdom, but by the grace of God, we have had our conversation in the world, and more abundantly to you-ward.... Not for that we have dominion over your faith, *but are helpers of your joy: for by faith ye stand* (II Corinthians 1:12,24).

Giving no offence in any thing, *that the ministry be not blamed:...* Now for a recompence in the same, (I speak as unto my children,) be ye also enlarged (II Corinthians 6:3,13).

Receive us; *we have wronged no man, we have corrupted no man, we have defrauded no man* (II Corinthians 7:2).

Let such an one think this, that, *such as we are* in word by letters *when we are absent*, *such will we be also in deed when we are present*. For we dare not make ourselves of the number, or compare ourselves with some that commend themselves: but they, measuring themselves by themselves, and comparing themselves among themselves, are not wise (II Corinthians 10:11,12).

The Apostle Paul established God's Divine Plan of his Apostleship with the Corinthians. Paul was their spiritual father, their Apostle. We cannot proceed in God if we do not accept and respect God's Divine Order and Will in regard to those whom He sets over us.

IX. God Exalts Through the Way of Suffering — Revealed in the Ninth Book of the New Testament: Galatians

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Galatians fits together with the precious Spiritual Principle found in the Book of Esther.

In the Book of Esther, Vashti was the first queen of King Ahasuerus, but because of her rebellion and his rebellion, she was put away. The king exalted Esther to be his queen, after she had purified and humbled herself, for one year, in myrrh and sweet odours.

Paul, in Galatians, likened the first Written Covenant to a bondwoman. This Covenant demanded perfect works and was the first wife or works, as it were, of the old man of sin. The first husband, the old heart, to whom God gave the first Wife or Covenant of Works, rebelled, and the old, fleshly heart of sin rejected God's first Covenant of Works and refused to be His Spiritual Wife.

God's First Covenant, the Written *Torah*-Truth of Works, was diametrically opposite to His Second Covenant, the Living *Torah*-Truth of Divine Mercy, Grace, and Liberty in Christ Jesus. The first Wife or First Covenant of the Law of Works had to be put away so that the second wife or the Second Covenant of Mercy, Grace, and Liberty in Christ Jesus might be exalted. Therefore, God put away the First Covenant or wife so that He could take the Second Covenant, the second Wife, in Jesus Christ, and exalt her at His Right Hand. Jesus Christ humbled Himself unto the Death of the Cross so that believers might be brought, with Mercy, Grace, Glory, and Liberty, to the New Jerusalem which is above.

My little children, of whom I travail in birth again until Christ be formed in you, I desire to be present with you now, and to change my voice; for I stand in doubt of you. Tell me, ye that desire to be under the law, do ye not hear the law? For it is written, that *Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a free woman*. But he who was of the bondwoman was born after the flesh; but he of the freewoman was by promise. Which things are an allegory: for *these are the two covenants*; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar. For this Agar is mount Sinai in Arabia, and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children. But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise. But as then he that was born after the flesh persecuted him that was born after the Spirit, even so it is now. Nevertheless what saith the scripture? Cast out the bondwoman and her son: for the son of the bondwoman shall not be heir with the son of the free-woman. *So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free* (Galatians 4:19-31).

X. The Sanctifying Power of Suffering — Revealed in the Tenth Book of the New Testament: Ephesians

Revealed in the Book of Ephesians is the tenth Divine Spiritual Principle, which fits together with the Truth revealed in the Book of Job.

In the Book of Job, God showed this Spiritual Principle: through suffering, He can bring man into a new form, new experience, new attitude, new vision, and new knowledge.

The Apostle Paul established the same Spiritual Principle in the Book of Ephesians: through the sufferings of Christ at Calvary's Cross, God brings believers to a new birth of the new Spiritual Man, new relationship (Gentiles and Israel), new mind, new maturity, new privileges, new blessings, and new armour. This Spiritual Principle also works in our daily life. If, as we go through sufferings in this world, we seek God in Christ Jesus, we will find New Truth, new experiences, and new Spiritual Stature.

XI. Prayer and Praise to God Both in Pleasure and in Pain — Revealed in the Eleventh Book of the New Testament: Philippians

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Philippians fits together with the Spiritual Principle found in the Book of Psalms. In the Psalms, we find prayer, praise, thanksgiving, and instruction.

The Book of Philippians is filled with the Apostle Paul's gratitude for his spiritual children and with the joy and rejoicing of praise in the midst of suffering. The instruction in the Book of Philippians is that the sequel to fellowshiping the Sufferings of Christ is the attaining of the Mark of the Prize.

XII. The Wisdom and Understanding from the Priest, Wise-Elder, and Prophet — Revealed in the Twelfth Book of the New Testament: Colossians

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Colossians fits together with the Spiritual Principle found in the Books of Proverbs and Ecclesiastes.

Proverbs deals with the Spiritual Principle of Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of God's Word. Ecclesiastes deals with the Spiritual Principle of Wisdom Under the Sun and Wisdom Above the Sun.

The Apostle Paul dealt with these same Spiritual Principles of Wisdom in the Book of Colossians. Paul unveiled the Truth that *Christ alone*, exclusive of Angels, has *ALL Wisdom* in the natural and spiritual realms.

For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire *that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding*;... Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: (Colossians 1:9,28).

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord (Colossians 3:16).

Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time (Colossians 4:5).

In Colossians, chapter three, Paul exhorted believers to seek this Wisdom above the sun, above the world, that is hid in Christ Jesus.

IF ye then be risen with Christ, *seek those things which are above*, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth (Colossians 3:1,2).

If we heed Paul's words, we will have the Wisdom to walk before man *under* the sun.

XIII. The Love Relationship Between the Bridegroom and the Bride — Revealed in the Thirteenth Book of the New Testament: First Thessalonians

The thirteenth beautiful Spiritual Principle in the New Testament is revealed in the Book of First Thessalonians. This Spiritual Principle fits together with the Spiritual Principle found in the Book of the Song of Solomon and the Book of Hosea.

The purpose of the Song of Solomon is to show that when we live above the sun of this world and lay hold of the Wisdom in Christ, we will find Him as the Bridegroom, and we will grow up in full Spiritual Stature to become a part of His Heavenly Bride. Thus, we will know the special love of the Bridegroom and Bride that is hidden in God's Word.

The Book of Hosea reviews the Love of God, the Bridegroom, toward Israel, the Bride. When we have this love for the Bridegroom and Bride, we will have special love for the children of the Bridegroom.

It is possible to see the Apostle Paul's love for God's children through his Epistle to the Thessalonians. He wanted them to experience what he had experienced in Christ.

Night and day praying exceedingly that we might see your face, and might perfect that which is lacking in your faith?... *To the end he may stablish your hearts unblameable in holiness before God*, even our Father, at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ with all his saints (I Thessalonians 3:10,13).

But let us, who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; and for an helmet, the hope of salvation (I Thessalonians 5:8).

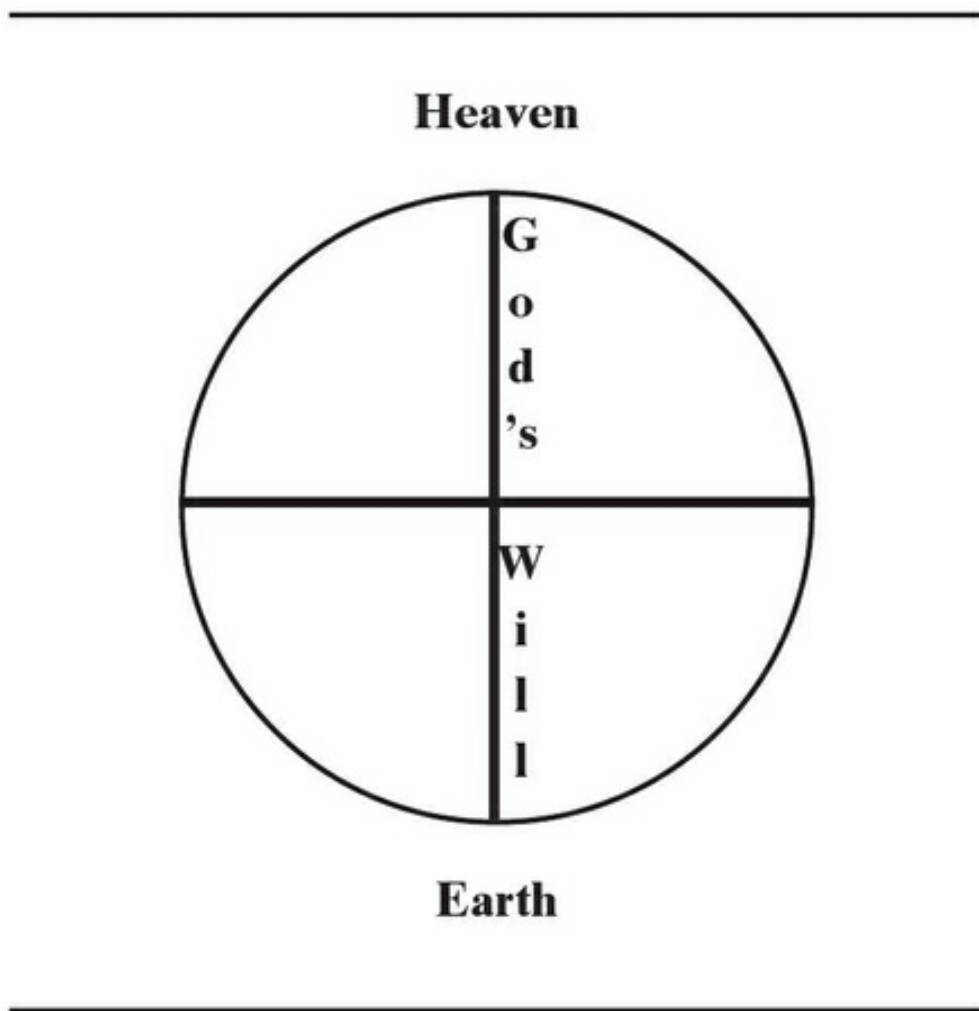
Paul's writings denote a growing of the heart in faith and love toward the Heavenly Bridegroom. This is the High Calling for *all* God's children.

XIV. The Paradoxical Union of Heaven and Earth — Revealed in the Fourteenth Book of the New Testament: Second Thessalonians

The fourteenth Divine Spiritual Principle in the New Testament is seen in the Book of Second Thessalonians. This Spiritual Principle fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle in the Book of Isaiah.

In the Book of Isaiah, we see the Prophet, through his prophetic Ministry, joining the Earthly to the Heavenly, as it were.

In Second Thessalonians, we see this same Spiritual Principle. We read the prophecy that the LORD Jesus Christ will come with the Brightness and Glory of the Heavenly Kingdom to destroy that wicked one, Antichrist, and to set up the Reign of the Kingdom of Heaven upon the Earth. Think how many people have prayed the LORD's Prayer, saying, "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven." Beloved, God's Will is what joins Heaven and Earth.



XV. God's Compassionate Sympathy in the Midst of Judgment — Revealed in the Fifteenth Book of the New Testament: First Timothy

The fifteenth Divine Spiritual Principle in the New Testament is revealed in the Book of First Timothy; it fits together with the marvelous, historical Spiritual Principle of Truth found in the Book of Jeremiah.

The Prophet Jeremiah unveiled the Truth of how one should behave when called to predict judgment. Although his Divine Duty was to prophesy judgment, Jeremiah was a living example of mercy, compassion, and sympathy in the midst of his Ministry of judgment.

Paul's testimony in First Timothy shows that he also was a practitioner of this Spiritual Principle. Paul judged Hymenæus and Alexander and delivered them to Satan so that they might learn not to blaspheme. Paul judged these men, not out of a hard, unmerciful spirit, but out of a compassionate desire to see them repent of their blasphemy so that they might not perish in their sins.

Paul's merciful attitude toward repentant sinners is seen also in connection with the man in the Corinthian Church who was guilty of fornication. Paul judged the man for his sin, but he manifested compassionate sympathy in the midst of judgment when he begged the Church to receive the repentant man back into fellowship.

XVI. God's Justification in Vindicating His Legal Property — Revealed in the Sixteenth Book of the New Testament: Second Timothy

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Second Timothy fits together with the historical, Infinite Spiritual Principle found in the Book of Ezekiel.

In the Book of Ezekiel, God explained His Jealousy over the image which Israel had erected at the door of the Temple. The spirit of the generation in Ezekiel's day had given birth to the image. For this reason, God administered Divine Justice and Judgment by delivering Israel into the hands of Babylon.

In the Book of Second Timothy, the Apostle described the spirit of the generation of the Last Days.

THIS know also, that *in the last days* perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy, Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good, Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof: from such turn away. For of this sort are they which creep into houses, and lead captive silly women laden with sins, led away with divers lusts, Ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth. Now as Jannes and Jambres withstood Moses, so do these also resist the truth: men of corrupt minds, reprobate concerning the faith. But they shall proceed no further: for their folly shall be manifest unto all men, as theirs also was (II Timothy 3:1-9).

The *Last Days* speak of the Age out of which shall spring the Antichrist with his great image, which will cause God's Divine Jealousy to activate His Divine Justice and Judgment, and the whole world will be turned into the hands of spiritual Babylon, a parallel situation to the one which existed in Ezekiel's day.

XVII. God’s Plan, Purpose, and Triumph for His People — Revealed in the Seventeenth Book of the New Testament: Titus

The Infinite, Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of Titus fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle of the Book of Daniel.

In the Book of Daniel, we see how God increases Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge in the midst of suffering, trials, and captivity and how, through it all, He defends and leads to triumph. Daniel and the three Hebrew children were strangers among the Gentiles. Still, God gave them His Word of Humility and His Word of Exaltation. Likewise, in Titus we see the same Principle, only in reverse.

Titus was a Gentile who became a spiritual son of Paul, after the common (Gentile) faith. “To Titus, mine own son after the common faith: Grace, mercy, and peace, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ our Saviour” (Titus 1:4). Titus was a Gentile; and, as such, he was a stranger and an alien to all the Old Testament Scriptures which had been given to Israel. However, Church History tells us that Titus, like Daniel, humbled himself in his situation, for he went with the Apostle Paul from Antioch to consult the Jewish believers in Jerusalem, searching for Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge on the subject of circumcision. There, Titus found the Laws of the Word of God that applied to him as a Gentile. Later, the Apostle Paul sent more words of Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge to Titus, by letter, revealing the Spiritual Principles of the Grace of God provided in Christ’s Atonement, the regeneration and renewing of the Spirit which produces Holiness of life and the glorious appearing of our God and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Not purloining, but shewing all good fidelity; that they may adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. *For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men,* Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, *and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ;* (Titus 2:10-13).

The moral of Paul’s advice is this: accept the place of a stranger in this world and find the Wisdom, Understanding, and Knowledge of God’s Word.

XVIII. God's Faithfulness to Judge Israel and Her Enemies — Revealed in the Eighteenth Book of the New Testament: Philemon

The tiny Book of Philemon reveals the eighteenth, gracious Spiritual Principle in the New Testament, which fits together with the historical, Infinite Principle found in the Book of Joel.

In the Book of Joel, we see how God judged Israel and, then, how He judged Israel's enemies. The Book of Philemon also deals with the same Spiritual Principle: God judges the believer, first, and the enemy second.

Philemon's slave, Onesimus, had fled to Rome after defrauding his master. In Rome, Onesimus met Paul who gave him the Gospel, and Onesimus was converted. Then, Paul became a mediator between the slave and the master to restore their unity and harmony.

Through the Apostle Paul, God ministered the "Gospel of Judgment," first, to Philemon — the master. Philemon received God's Judgment that he was a poor, lost, and undone sinner and accepted Jesus Christ as his Saviour and Redeemer. Then, God dealt with Philemon's enemy in the person of his slave Onesimus. After God had judged Onesimus with the same Gospel Judgment with which He had judged Philemon, Onesimus also accepted Jesus Christ as his personal Saviour. Then, Paul worked to bring unity and harmony between the two men.

God's Purpose in judging Israel and her enemies is that, in due season, the whole world, during the Millennial Reign of Christ, will be brought into Unity and Harmony in Jesus Christ.

XIX. God's Faithfulness to Feed His People with Hope — Revealed in the Nineteenth Book of the New Testament: Hebrews

The Book of Hebrews discloses the nineteenth great Spiritual Principle in the New Testament, which fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle of the Book of Obadiah.

The Book of Obadiah teaches the Truth that God feeds His hungry, suffering people with hope. The Apostle Paul dealt with this Spiritual Principle in the Book of Hebrews.

Let us compare the better hope found in the New Testament Covenant with that of the Old Testament Covenant. Jesus Christ feeds the hungry souls of His people with this *better* hope.

- The Son of God is infinitely higher than the Angels; therefore, He heralds a better hope.
- The Son of God is infinitely higher than Moses, who was given a legal Priesthood but whose sacrifices could not take away sin. But, the Sacrifice of Jesus and His Priesthood ushered in a better hope because Jesus puts away our sin, gives us His Living Word in our heart, and anoints us with His Spirit for a Royal Priesthood.
- The Son of God, Jesus Christ, gives us a better communion with God because He rent the veil in twain. Therefore, we are fed with a better hope because we have direct access to God through the veil of Christ's rent Flesh.
- The Son of God, Jesus Christ, is a better Priest than the Old Testament Priest whose Priesthood ended with death. The Priesthood of Jesus in the New Testament Covenant began with His Death and Resurrection. Now, He ever lives to make Intercession for us.

“For the law made nothing perfect, but the bringing in of a better hope did; by the which we draw nigh unto God” (Hebrews 7:19).

God has given us a better hope with which to feed our hungry, suffering soul.

XX. God's Servants Are to Accept Their Duties and Responsibilities — Revealed in the Twentieth Book of the New Testament: James

The Divine Spiritual Principle in the Book of James fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle found in the Book of Jonah.

In the Book of Jonah, God unveiled the tremendous Spiritual Principle which tells us not to flee from duty and responsibility.

The Book of James declares our responsibility and duty to show forth the works of love and faith to all and to be no respecter of persons, as especially displayed in chapter two of this Book in the New Testament.

Jonah was a respecter of persons. God sent him to the Gentiles, but he did not go willingly. Therefore, God had to teach him, through the way of suffering, to assume his responsibility and duty to *all* people and not to be a respecter of persons.

XXI. God Denounces the Evil of Riches — Revealed in the Twenty-first Book of the New Testament: First Peter

In the Book of First Peter, we see God's twenty-first Divine Spiritual Principle, which fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle of the Book of Micah.

In the Book of Micah, the Prophet rebuked the people for their pursuit of riches and wealth. Then, in the New Testament, the Apostle Peter made a comparison between the everlasting quality of true faith and the perishable qualities of gold, as a way of stressing the futility of pursuing the wealth of this world.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of *gold that perisheth*, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ: (I Peter 1:7).

Peter also stated that we are not redeemed with earthly wealth of silver and gold, but with the precious Blood of Christ.

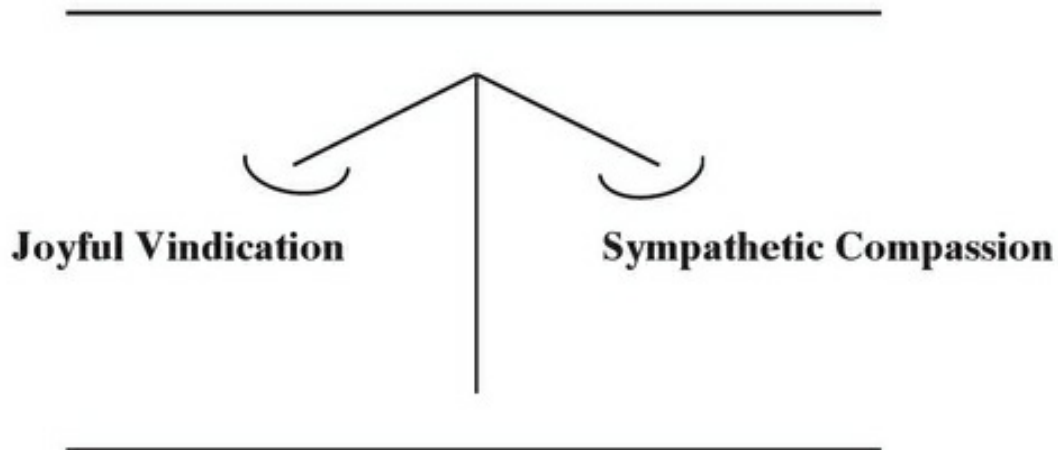
Forasmuch as ye know that *ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold*, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; *But with the precious blood of Christ*, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: (I Peter 1:18,19).

Again, Peter unveiled the Truth that the wealth of this world cannot redeem us. Peter also exhorted wives not to pursue the wealth of this world for personal adornment of gold and apparel, and he admonished the servants of God not to pursue the wealth, the filthy lucre, of this world but to feed the flock of God with the Word of God. May this precious Spiritual Principle be engraved in our heart.

XXII. God Joyfully Vindicates His Justice and His Bride — Revealed in the Twenty-second Book of the New Testament: Second Peter

The twenty-second, Holy, Infinite Spiritual Principle in the New Testament is found in the Book of Second Peter and fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle of the Book of Nahum.

In the Book of Nahum, the Prophet set forth the joyful vindication of God's Divine Justice. Each man's Scales should be balanced when he delivers God's Message of Judgment. Sympathy and compassion should be on one side of the Scales and joyful vindication on the other side.



In the Book of Second Peter, the Spirit of God displayed the same joyful vindication as is seen in the Book of Nahum. In chapter three of Second Peter, we see the LORD Jesus Christ in the Day of the LORD, coming with the joyful vindication of God's Divine Justice, with the great Fire of His Glory, to dissolve, melt, and sanctify the Earth in vindication of God's Holiness and to establish a New Heavens and a New Earth, wherein dwelleth Righteousness.

XXIII. God Clarifies His Principles of Operation in the Midst of Misunderstanding — Revealed in the Twenty-third Book of the New Testament: First John

The Book of First John records the twenty-third Spiritual Principle in the New Testament, which fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle in the Book of Habakkuk.

In the Book of Habakkuk, we see the Spiritual Principle of how we are to beseech God for understanding when we encounter misunderstanding. The Apostle John spread forth this whole Spiritual Truth when he declared that God is Light and in Him is no darkness at all.

This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that *God is light, and in him is nodarkness at all*. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth: But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin (I John 1:5-7).

Likewise, if we walk in the Light, there is no darkness of misunderstanding in us. We can be like God only if we walk in the Light. The Serpent lied when he offered understanding to Adam-male and Adam-female, assuring them that they would be as gods. In reality, he offered them darkness instead of Light.

We *cannot* know and understand while we are in darkness. In order to know and understand, we must come to the Light. If we come to the Light, asking to understand the Truth, we will not hate our brother, and we will overcome the wicked one. Having the Light of Understanding of Truth will expose the error of false teachers. With the Light of Understanding, we will be able to overcome the world and the lusts thereof. Let us be like Habakkuk and beseech God for the Light of Understanding.

XXIV. God's Faithfulness to Minister Hard, Merciful Punishment — Revealed in the Twenty-fourth Book of the New Testament: Second John

God recorded His twenty-fourth Spiritual Principle in the New Testament in the Book of Second John. This valuable Spiritual Principle fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle found in the Book of Zephaniah. The Prophet Zephaniah established the Spiritual Principle of the Strength of Calm, Cold Rebuke.

In the Book of Second John, the Apostle, calmly and coldly, rebuked those who transgressed the Doctrine of Christ and forbade such persons to be received into their houses or to be bidden God's speed.

It takes the calm, cold rebuke of God's Word to separate us from the many evil influences which, when they cross our pathway, would cause us to lose the things we already have accomplished. It takes the calm, cold rebuke of God's Word to separate us from flesh that would hinder us from gaining more of the Truth that we need in order to reach maturity and receive a full reward for our spiritual growth.

XXV. God's Blessings Follow the Rebuilt Temple — Revealed in the Twenty-fifth Book of the New Testament: Third John

The Living Spiritual Principle in Third John fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle of the Book of Haggai.

The Prophet in Haggai revealed the Spiritual Principle of Rebuilding the Temple and, hence, reaping an abundant blessing of the fields. In other words, Haggai taught the people that if they sought God's Spiritual Kingdom, first, then all "these things" (earthly blessings of the fields) would be added.

The Apostle John also established this Spiritual Principle when he said that the body will prosper in health as the soul prospers.

Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth (III John 1:2).

If we would receive natural blessings and healing for the body, we first must seek spiritual blessings and prosperity for the soul. The spiritual — the Eternal — must come first; then, God will add the natural or temporal.

**XXVI. The Establishment of God's Kingdom — Revealed in the Twenty-sixth Book of the New Testament:
Jude**

The Book of Jude contains God's twenty-sixth Holy Spiritual Principle, which fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle of the Book of Zechariah.

In the Book of Zechariah, the Prophet revealed the Coming of the LORD and His Judgment upon the ungodly and the establishment of God's Kingdom upon Earth during the Millennial Rule and Reign of Jesus Christ upon the Earth.

The Apostle Jude dealt with the same Spiritual Principle. He showed the LORD coming with ten thousands of His Saints to execute Judgment upon all the ungodly.

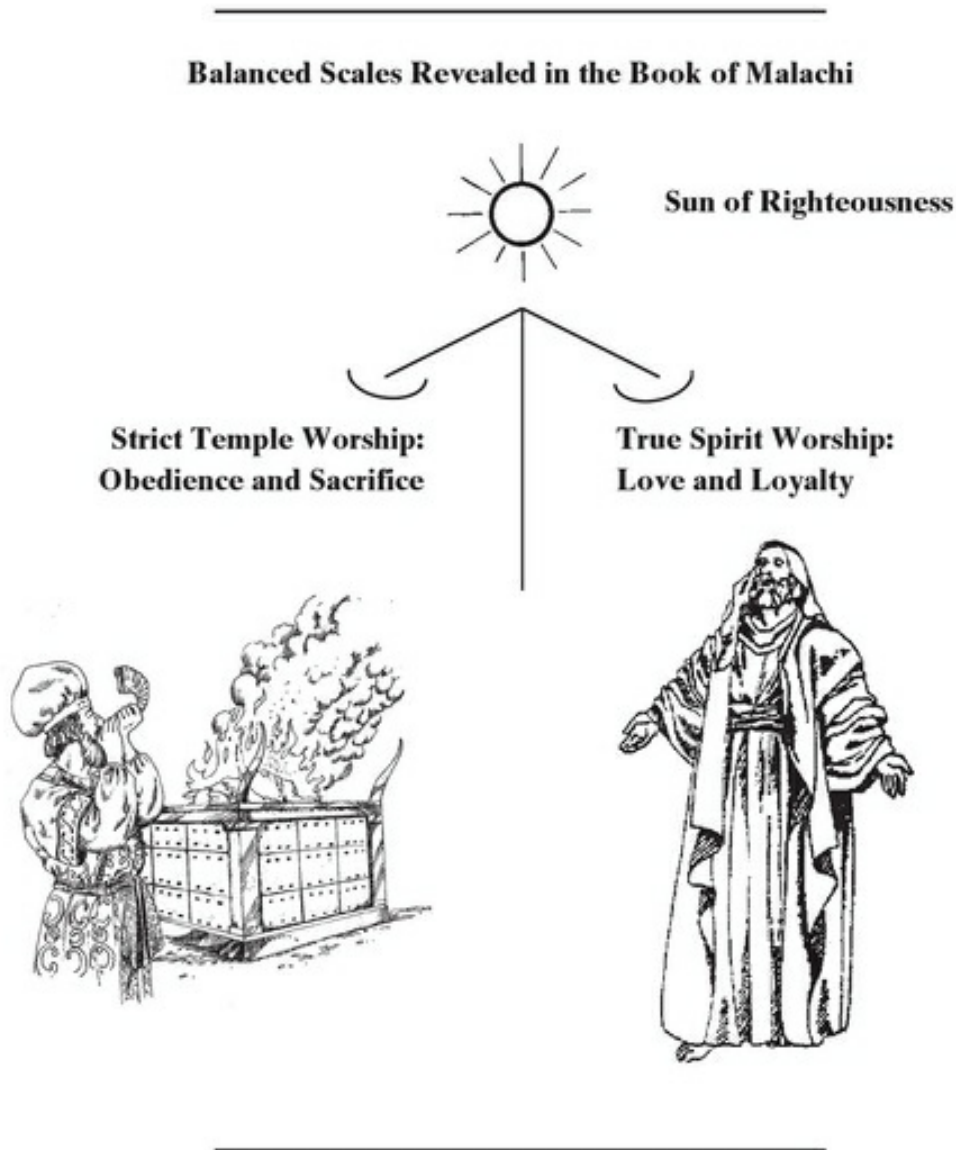
And Enoch also, the seventh from Adam, prophesied of these, saying, *Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of his saints, To execute judgment upon all, and to convince all that are ungodly among them of all their ungodly deeds which they have ungodly committed, and of all their hard speeches which ungodly sinners have spoken against him* (Jude 1:14,15).

Jude revealed that Jesus Christ is able to keep His saints, to perfect them, and to establish His Spiritual Kingdom in them so that they, in turn, may assist Him in establishing His Kingdom on Earth.

XXVII. The Balance of True Worship — Revealed in the Twenty-seventh Book of the New Testament: The Book of Revelation

God added the Book of Revelation to His Library to further unveil His Resurrected Son, Jesus Christ, and to give mankind a telescopic view into Heaven and into God's Divine Plans for the ages to come. The enlightening Spiritual Principles in the Book of Revelation give the New Testament believer God's twenty-seventh Divine Spiritual Principle, which fits together with the historical Spiritual Principle found in the Book of Malachi.

The Prophet Malachi established the Just, Balanced Scales of God and, then, introduced the Sun of Righteousness Who can produce these Scales of Balance in us.



In the Book of Revelation, the Apostle John unveiled this same set of Balanced Scales in Jesus Christ: first, in the church, and second, as they will be established in the world in general when He comes again to Earth to rule and reign.

Jesus Christ, the Balanced Scales in the Church



I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ. I was in the Spirit on the Lord's day, and heard behind me a great voice, as of a trumpet, Saying, I am Alpha and Omega, the first and the last: and, What thou seest, write in a book, and send it unto the seven churches which are in Asia; unto Ephesus, and unto Smyrna, and unto Pergamos, and unto Thyatira, and unto Sardis, and unto Philadelphia, and unto Laodicea. And I turned to see the voice that spake with me. And being turned, I saw seven golden candlesticks; 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; And his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; *and his voice as the sound of many waters.* And he had in his right hand seven stars: and out of his mouth went a sharp twoedged sword: and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength. And when I saw him, I fell at his feet as dead. And he laid his right hand upon me, saying unto me, Fear not; I am the first and the last: I am he that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore, Amen; and have the keys of hell and of death (Revelation 1:9-18).

In these verses, we see Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, with Eyes of flaming Fire, standing as the Perfect Scales of Balance in the midst of the seven Churches. Since it takes opposing forces to create balance, on one side of

the Scales, we see a sharp, two-edged Sword coming out of Jesus' Mouth, showing that He possesses, by Stature, the necessary Power, Anointing, Obedience, and Surrender to direct the Churches in obeying the strict order of worship or bondage, as it were, that is demanded in God's Word. On the other side of the Scales, Jesus' Voice is as the sound of many waters, showing that He also possesses the necessary overwhelming Authority of true Love and Loyalty to His Heavenly Father to lead the Churches in the liberty and freedom of the Spirit or true worship to God. In other words, we need the bondage of the Word of God that keeps us in the true *forms* of Spiritual Principles and the liberty of the Spirit that worships God without form.

Jesus Christ, the Balanced Scales in the World



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. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; *and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God*; That ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great (Revelation 19:11-18).

Again, we see Jesus Christ, the Sun of Righteousness, with Eyes of flaming Fire, coming to judge and to make war with the God-rejecting world, when He establishes the balance of true worship to God's Word and God's Spirit

in the world. On one side of the Scales, Jesus possesses the sharp, two-edged Sword of Truth that has power to smite the wicked nations and bring them under subjection and obedience to the Divine Spiritual Principles in God's Holy Word. On the other side of the Scales, Jesus possesses the loud Voice of true Love and Loyalty that is needed to call the fowls that fly in the midst of Heaven to the Supper of the Great God so that the praise that men should have given to God will be given by the fowls as they feast on the wicked dead.

Because the human beings on the positive side of the Scales are Jesus Christ's enemies who die without lifting their voices in true praise to God for His Word and His Spirit, God uses the positive force of the Son's Praise to call forth the fowls of the air to devour the rebellious, wicked dead. Therefore, in their death, these wicked ones will become the means whereby God will receive praise from His creation. The dead bodies of these rebellious ones will be the food and drink on God's great Supper Table over which the fowls of the air will offer true worship, love, and praise to God for their food.

Beloved, God will have strict obedience to the Law (*Torah*) of His Word, and He will have true Love and Loyalty to His blessed Spirit from His creation so that they follow His leading in praise and worship to God.

If we choose to do so, we willingly can offer ourself as a living sacrifice to God, humbling ourself and obeying His Word on one hand, and loving and being loyal to His Spirit on the other hand. We must remember, however, that if we choose to rebel, our rebellion will not deprive God of the worship which He deserves from all His creation. If we take the way of rebellion in this life, then in our demise we will become the Supper, as it were, over which others of His creation will offer thanksgiving, praise, and true worship to God. God grant that each of us freely will choose to render to the LORD Jesus Christ the class of dedication and worship that He deserves to receive from those whom He created and whom He died to redeem.

God ended His Library Collection of Historical Spiritual Principles with the writings in the Book of Revelation. It is obvious that in this small book, *Confirming Our Faith in the Holy Bible*, we can do no more than merely mention the great Unity of the Principles in the Old Testament with those in the New Testament. God established the twenty-seven historical Spiritual Principles in the Books of the Old Testament. Then, He reaffirmed them in the Books of the New Testament so that mankind might have living proof that His Son, Jesus Christ, is the same yesterday [Old Testament], today [New Testament], and forever [Future-Eternity]. To God be the Glory, both now and forevermore!

In this Book we have covered the following major points: (1) The History of the Bible; (2) How the Bible Is Divided; (3) How We Know that the Bible Is the Word of God; (4) The Historical Spiritual Principles of the Bible Contained in the Old Testament; and (5) The Historical Spiritual Principles of the Bible Contained in the New Testament. Surely, all who have diligently and sincerely studied the material and the Spiritual Principles set forth in this book will have gained a firm and unshakable faith in the reality and authenticity of our Holy Bible. God's Word has been and always will be the Bright Light that illuminates the darkness of every living soul.



Appendix

1. Dead Sea Scrolls

The oldest Bible manuscripts now known are the Dead Sea Scrolls, which were found in caves near the Dead Sea in 1947 and the years following. Probably it was about 100 B.C., when these manuscripts were copied from earlier copies. Many other Old Testament manuscripts were copied in later centuries.

2. New Testament Manuscripts

The oldest Manuscripts date from around A.D. 350. The first, the Sinaitic (pronounced Sy-nay-it-ik) Manuscript, is so called because it was discovered in 1844 in a monastery at the foot of Mount Sinai. The Vatican Manuscript was placed in the library of the Vatican soon after that library was established in 1448; it still is kept there. The Alexandrian Manuscript was copied around A.D. 400. More than a hundred other manuscripts exist, dating from the fifth to the tenth century and are called Uncial Manuscripts.

3. Septuagint

The word *Septuagint* (pronounced Sept-tu-a-jint) comes from the Latin word for seventy. This name was given to the version because it was made by some seventy Jewish scholars in Alexandria, Egypt, in about the year 250 B.C. There are other important Greek versions from the second century after Jesus Christ.

4. King James Version

In the year 1604, King James appointed a committee of fifty-four scholars to prepare a new English version of the Bible. They followed the Bishops' Bible except where they thought changes ought to be made. They also used other English translations, the German, the Greek and Hebrew texts, the Syriac, the Septuagint, and several Latin versions. The Bible was published in 1611 and is still the most widely used English translation. The King James Version has a special Bridal Anointing, which is apparent in the manner in which its Patterns and Truths are laid out. This is why we, in Christ Gospel Church, prefer this version of the Bible. It has been called "the noblest monument of English prose." Later revisers carefully preserved its stately language whenever possible.

5. Douay Version

The Douay Version was translated into English from the Latin Vulgate, which was completed about A.D. 400, by Jerome at Bethlehem, and which has been the standard Bible in the Catholic Church for a thousand years.

The New Testament was published in 1582 at Rheims, France; the Old Testament was published in 1609 at Douay, France. The Douay Version contains controversial notes, plus the eleven Apocryphal books following the Old Testament. It is the generally accepted version of the Roman Catholic Church.

6. Josephus

Josephus was a Jewish historian who lived from A.D. 37 to somewhere around A.D. 100. Born and educated in Jerusalem, he became a general in the Jewish army. He wrote *Jewish Antiquities*, a twenty-volume history of the Jews from their beginnings to the close of the Roman Emperor Nero's reign.

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