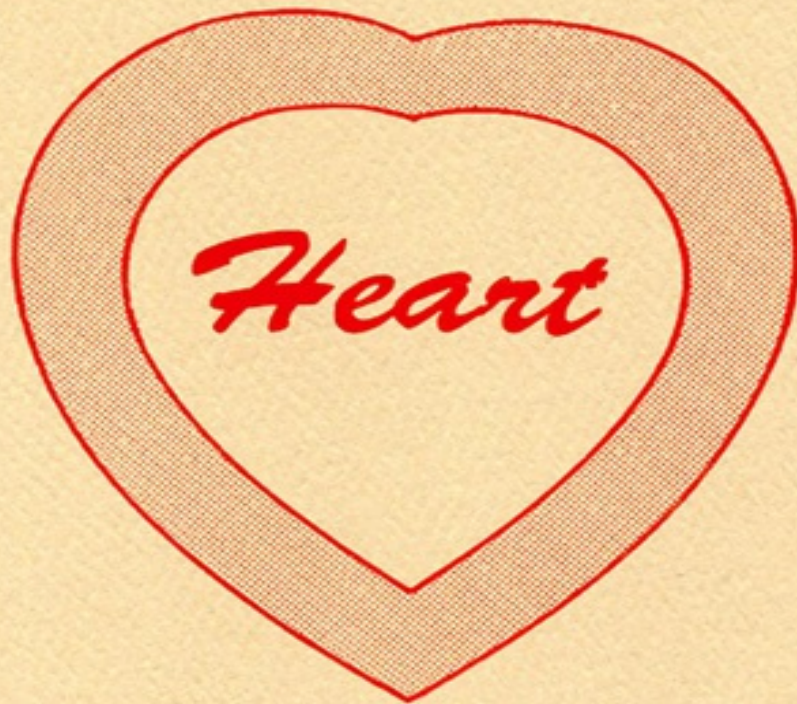


*Spiritual
Circumcision*

of the



B. R. Hicks



**SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION
OF THE HEART**

by B. R. Hicks

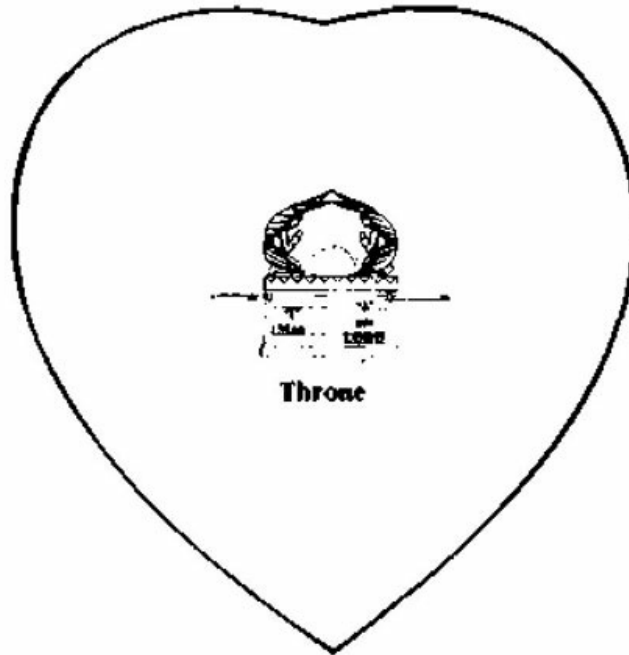
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SPIRITUAL CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

God has created man's heart with a threefold capacity for gratitude for God's omnipresent self, for gratitude for the LORD's almighty omniscient Name, and gratitude for the LORD's omnipotent, possessive Name as Owner and Master. Let us consider the first realm of man's capacity for gratitude which is gratitude for the LORD's omnipresent breath. The LORD God created man with an *existing, breathing self* to sit in unity and harmony with His omnipresent, existent self on the throne of man's heart. God intended for the existing self of man, or the super ego, to be constantly aware of the LORD's existing omnipresence upon the throne of his heart through complete marriage union of his breath with the LORD's breath. Thus, the first realm of man's capacity in his heart was to be filled with gratitude for the LORD's omnipresence and for his union with the LORD's omnipresence.

LORD's Purposive Will for Man's Heart



God purposed from the beginning for the breath of man's "existing self to be one with the breath of the "LORD's existing omnipresence." God desired and intended for man to be consciously and gratefully aware that every breath of his existence proceeds from the breath of the great "I am the LORD thy God."

The breath of the great "I Am" is the living fountainhead of existence from which man draws every breath of His personal existence and his personal standing. How thrilling and satisfying when the "existing self of man, through Christ Jesus, enters back into the overwhelming, grateful awareness of unity and harmony with the breath of the LORD's omnipresence that he had in the beginning. It is a divine foretaste of God's eternal, perfect peace that we will enjoy in the New City in the future. However, we can enjoy a measure of this wonderful consciousness of the unity and harmony between our "existing self," the "I," and the omnipresence of the great "I Am" through the LORD Jesus Christ, even when the whole universe appears to be quaking in its very foundation.

When a circumcised heart takes on the duties and responsibilities which are involved by considering the LORD Jesus Christ as its Owner, Master and King, it is brought back to the oneness of breath between its "existing self and the "LORD's existing omnipresence."

When man's "I" and the LORD's "I" become one in man's throne in his heart, the heart has perfect peace because it is continually and constantly filled with grateful awareness of the guiding, leading, watching, and governance of

its divine King upon man's throne. The heart that is filled with gratitude for God's true image, the LORD Jesus Christ, never longs and lusts for other false images again. When there is complete awareness and grateful unity between man's existence and the LORD's existence, the heart is continually conscious that every breath of present existence and every coming moment of future existence proceeds out of the breath of the LORD's almighty love. Therefore, the heart is willfully surrendered to live every present second and every future second of its existence dedicated solely to the service of its King. The "existing self or "I" that has been joined to the great "I AM," or LORD, knows and acknowledges God as "my God," the exclusive Owner and Master, the Bridegroom, Who has the right, the exclusivity to dispose of my fate, to command my thoughts, and to guide all my acts and deeds. It is only with the acceptance of this truth that one can lay the foundation of a spiritual marriage union with the LORD Jesus Christ.

The LORD Jesus Christ, since His resurrection, is also omnipresent with His Father.

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

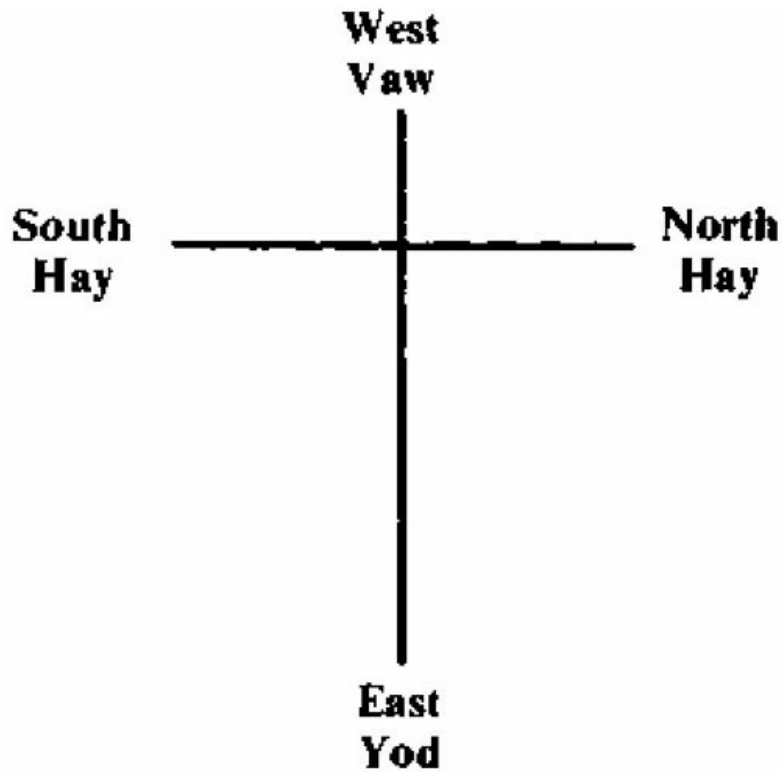
Jesus promised His disciples that after His resurrection, He and His Father would come to them in a unity of their "existing omnipresence" and make their abode with them. Jesus promised to reveal the light and love of the "existing omnipresence" of the "Father and Son" after His resurrection. On resurrection morning the Father breathed the unbegotten breath of His "existing omnipresence" into His son, Christ Jesus, lifting Him up from death, hell, and the grave. Now the Son shares the Father's breath of "existing omnipresence," which in turn He shares with His disciples.

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

Because the LORD Jesus Christ has been raised by the omnipresent, unbegotten breath of the Father, He has promised His "all presence" to us in all things; in all kinds of weather, both fair and foul; in all kinds of seasons, both spring and summer, and autumn and winter; in all kinds of days, both Sabbath day, and weekdays; in all kinds of emotions, both pleasurable and painful; and in light and darkness. The LORD's children are blessed with Christ's perpetual omnipresence while they are on earth and forever in eternity. The world has an end, but the "all presence" of Christ has no end. Christ personally departed from this world to sit at the right hand of God in heaven, but His perpetual omnipresence is with His people.

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

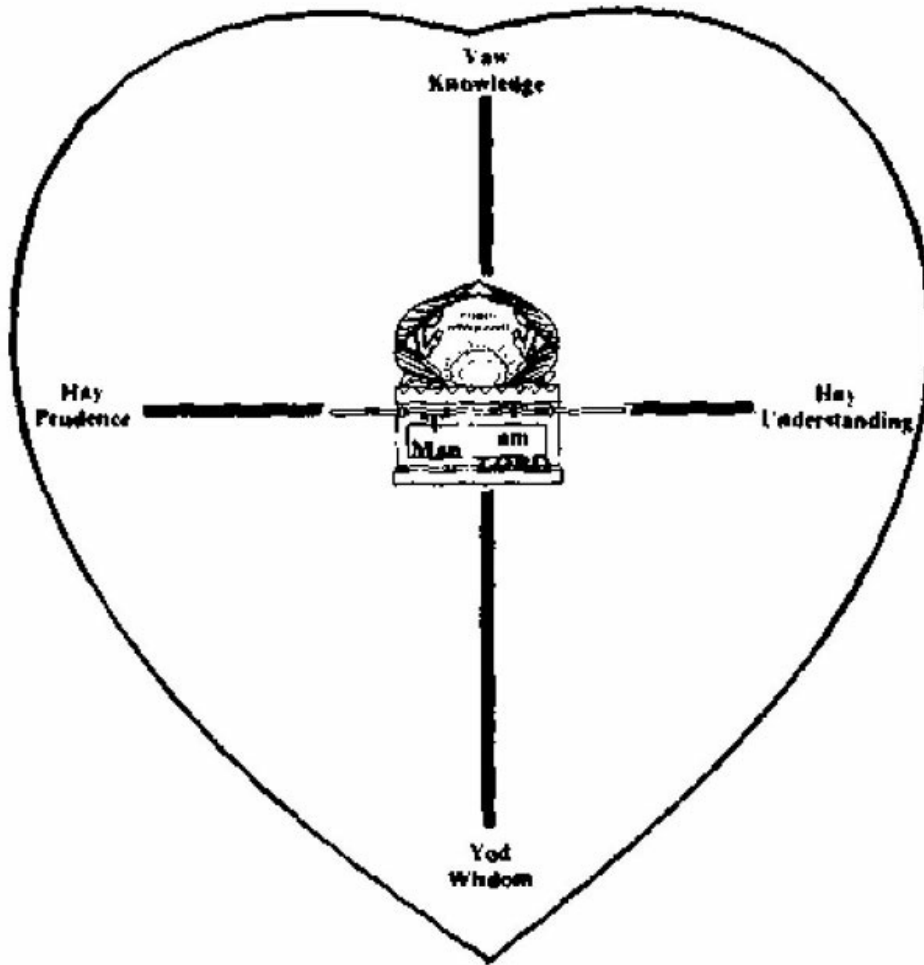
The second realm of man's capacity for gratitude is gratitude for the uniformity of the LORD's omniscient Name. The Hebrew Name for LORD consists of four Hebrew letters known as *yod, hay, vaw, and hay*, extending in the four points of the cross and in the four cardinal directions.



The *yod* consists of the wisdom of the LORD's Name; the first *hay* consists of the divine understanding of His Name; the *vaw* consists of the infinite knowledge of His Name; and the second *hay* consists of the eternal prudence of His Name. Thus, the letters of *yod*, *hay*, *vaw*, and *hay* reveal the mighty, omniscient Name of the LORD.

God also created man with these same four major cardinal points in his heart so he could bear the omniscience of the LORD's Name. These four cardinal points of man's heart are filled with four realms of intelligence, or four living creatures, as it were, so he can know the wisdom, understanding and knowledge of the LORD's omniscient Name, and as a result of knowing the LORD's omniscient Name, can express gratitude and thanksgiving to his LORD's omniscient Name.

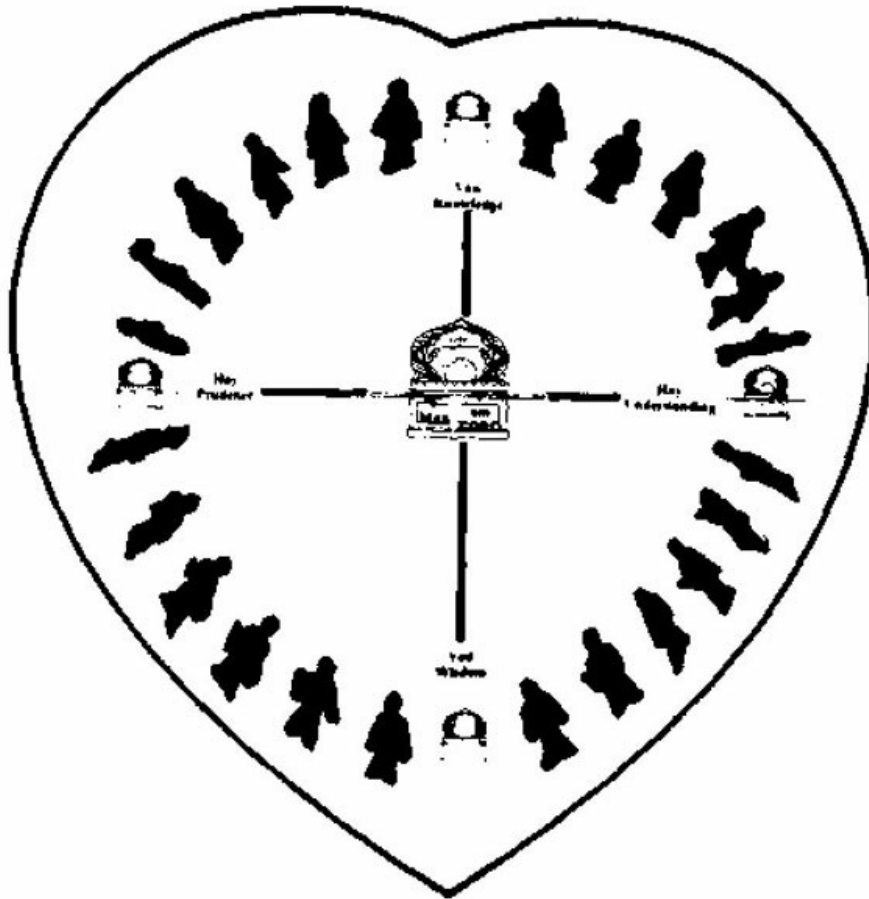
God's Purposive Will for Man's Heart



Thus, God created man with four great moral capacities of gratitude to gratefully and willingly support the LORD's omniscient Name of wisdom, understanding, knowledge, and prudence.

The third realm of man's capacity for gratitude is gratitude for the multiformity of the LORD's omnipotent, possessive Name. God also created man's heart with a capacity for twenty-four thrones, or twenty-four ruling elders, to gratefully support the LORD's omnipotent, possessive Name as the Owner and the Master of his heart.

God's Purposive Will for Man's Heart

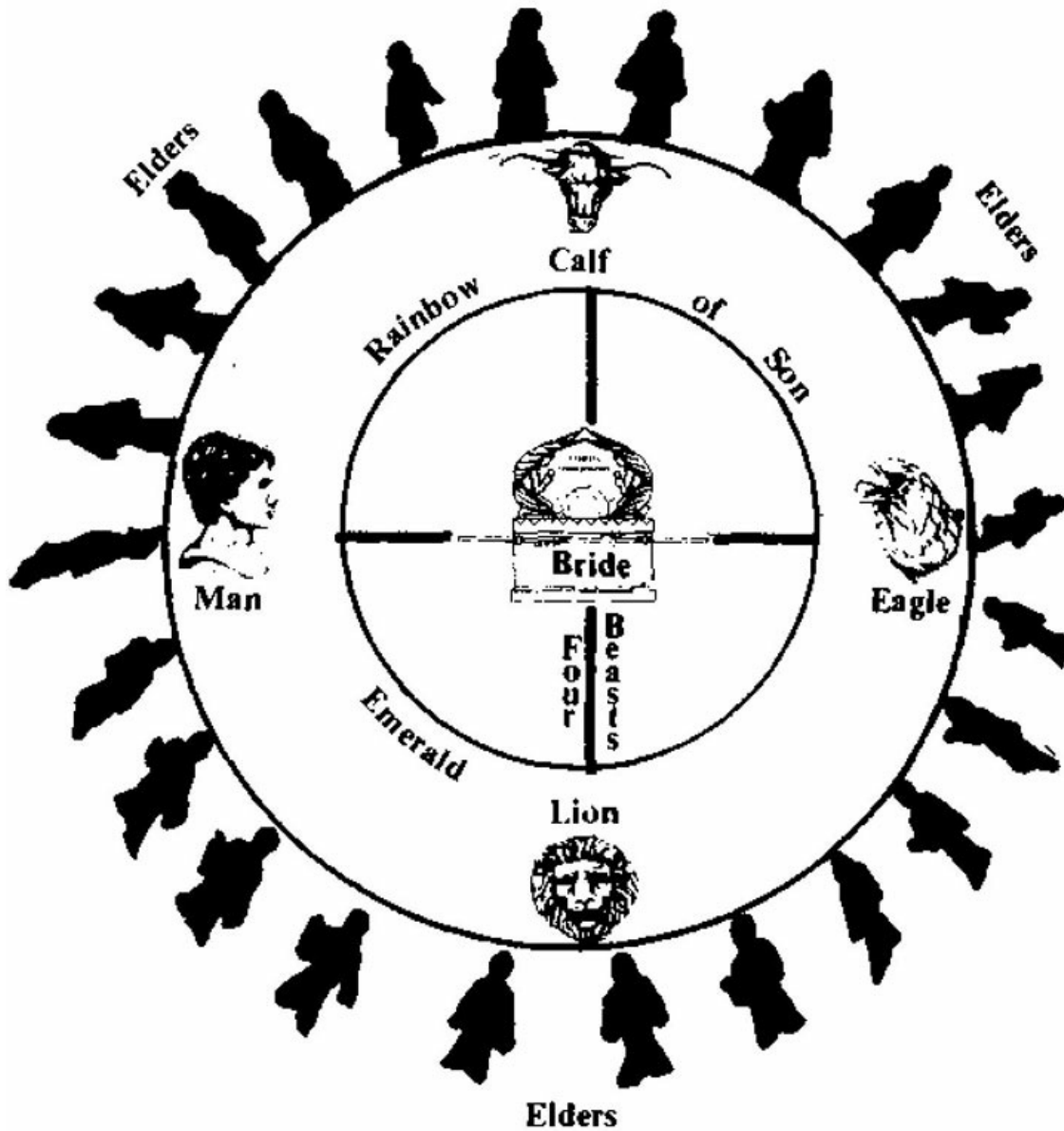


God created man in the beginning with an inner spiritual kingdom like unto His heavenly Kingdom. God desired that man's heart be filled with the same three classes of gratitude for the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name as is found in His heavenly Kingdom.

Let us examine in this book the LORD's throne and His spiritual kingdom in heaven that we may perceive and comprehend the twenty-four degrees of gratitude that support the LORD's omnipotent, possessive Name and thereby perceive the LORD's purposive will for our own hearts. The LORD's Name and throne in heaven are supported by the threefold ministries of the redeemed Bride of the LORD Jesus Christ inside the throne, the redeemed living creatures, or beasts, and the redeemed twenty-four elders who continually offer up praise and gratitude to the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name.

And immediately I was in the spirit: and, behold, a throne was set in heaven, and one sat on the throne. And he that sat was to look upon like a jasper and a sardine stone: and there was a rainbow round about the throne, in sight like unto an emerald. And round about the throne *were four and twenty seats*: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold. And out of the throne proceeded lightnings and thunderings and voices: and there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God. And before the throne there was a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, were four beasts full of eyes before and behind. And the first beast was like a lion, and the second beast like a calf, and the third beast had a face as a man, and the fourth beast was like a flying eagle. And the four beasts had each of them six wings about him; and they were full of eyes within: and they rest not day and night, saying, Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty, which was, and is, and is, to come. And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne,

who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour, and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created (Revelation 4:2-11).



The Apostle John was caught up by God's Spirit into heaven where he saw the LORD seated upon His throne of glory, honour, authority, and judgment. He saw the rainbow covenant of the Son of God round about the throne, like unto an emerald stone for brightness and splendor. He heard the "voices" of the redeemed Bride within the throne. He also saw the four redeemed beasts, or living creatures, as a lion, eagle, calf, and man, and the redeemed four and twenty elders round about the throne offering up their praise and gratitude unto the LORD's holy Name. The arrangement of the redeemed Bride inside the throne, the redeemed four living creatures, or the four beasts, and the redeemed twenty-four elders round about the throne signifies the LORD's divine order and purposive will concerning the three realms of gratitude that He has chosen for the supporting and upholding of His throne and His omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name. The LORD's Name and throne in heaven are supported and upheld by grateful, redeemed creatures.

Likewise, the LORD desires and demands that His Name in our hearts be supported and upheld by these three realms of praise and gratitude. The LORD Jesus Christ enables us to satisfy the desires and demands of His Father by circumcising the heart of its three realms of ingratitude as we prepare to give it to His circumcising knife.

Jesus confirmed the truth that God had created the spiritual kingdom of God within man's heart in the beginning.

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

When man sinned against God, he corrupted God's Kingdom within his heart, and he lost the LORD, his rightful Owner, Master, and King upon the throne of his heart. Sinful man replaced the LORD, his King, with the corrupt, ungrateful "I," or self, upon the throne of his heart. Man also supports his stolen and corrupt kingdom in his heart with the help of his four corrupt, ungrateful beasts, and his twenty-four corrupt, ungrateful elders. Since man's king, the "ungrateful I," the four ungrateful beasts, and the twenty-four ungrateful elders are corrupt, man needs the powerful circumcision of the LORD's Name in his heart through the LORD Jesus Christ.

When man's self, or "I," the four beasts, and the twenty-four elders became corrupt through passive and active disobedience to God's Word, the holy, righteous LORD, the Owner, Master, and King was forced to depart from His Kingdom within man's heart. When sinful, corrupt man disobeyed God, usurping the LORD's throne in his heart, the corrupt, ungrateful "I," the corrupt, ungrateful beasts or living creatures, and the corrupt, ungrateful elders abandoned their grateful support of the LORD God, the Father, and His Son, the true image, and took on false images, idols, and gods in his heart. Thus, the true Owner, Master, and King was forced to abdicate man's throne in his heart. The LORD God and His Son, the true image, will not join themselves to the false images, idols, and gods of man's heart. The LORD Jesus Christ has come to circumcise the heart of mankind and to cut out from man's heart all provoking and offending false images, idols, and gods. Since sinful man clothed himself or "I" ("superego") his four living creatures or beasts ("id"), and his twenty-four elders ("ego") with false images, idols, and gods, he continually struggles, strives, and wars against the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name, Who is the eternal cause of all things, and the eternal, redemptive effect of all things. Sinful man resists and rebels against the true Owner, Master, and King in order to hold onto his false ownership, mastership, and kingship.

Through the arrangement and order of the LORD's spiritual kingdom in heaven, we can understand the spiritual kingdom of gratitude that He intended to establish in man's heart in the beginning.

The sole purpose of the heart's existence is to support the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name with praise and thanksgiving in all things. This is the perfect will of God for us in everything.

In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you (I Thessalonians 5:18).

We must in everything give thanks to the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name through Christ Jesus. The Father, the LORD God, is the eternal cause of all things, and the Son, the LORD Jesus Christ, is the redemptive effect of all things. Consequently, the Father and the son are deserving and meritorious of our gratitude, praise, and thanksgiving in everything. The intrinsic excellence of the LORD's omnipresent, omniscient, and omnipotent Name demands our gratitude in every adversity as well as every prosperity. If we have our natural and spiritual breath of life which has proceeded from the eternal Cause and the eternal redemptive Effect, we have every reason to be grateful and thankful unto the Name of the LORD God, and the LORD Jesus Christ.

God created man's heart as the very center of the wheel of his being. God intended for man's heart to be the central control of his good thoughts, good feelings, good words, and good works.

However, when man fell into the pit of sin, his heart became totally depraved and wicked, producing evil thoughts, evil emotions, evil words, and evil works.

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

These scriptures are an affirmation of the doctrine of the total depravity of man's heart, and of the doctrine of reward and punishment. A person is not aware of the guilt in his own sinful heart until God, Who knows all, reveals it to a person. If a person repents of the guilt in his deceitful heart, the LORD rewards with cleansing, healing, and forgiveness. If a person permits the foreskin of his heart to remain obstinate and stubborn, the **LORD** punishes

according to the evil fruit of his doings.

The evil fruit of man's doings is the effect of a cause which is sin in the heart.

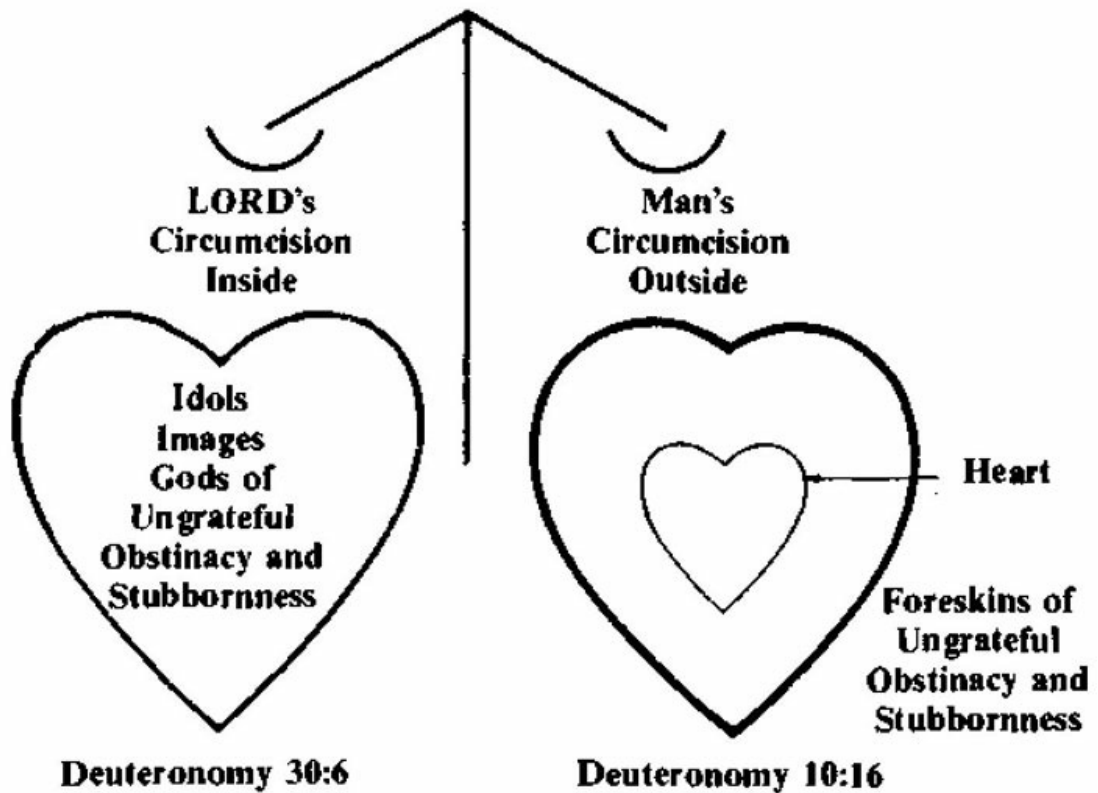
The LORD Jesus Christ came to earth and died on the cross to cleanse for sin, and He was buried and arose again the third day to take away sin from the deceitful heart and to heal it. The LORD Jesus Christ forgives sin in man's heart when he chooses to repent and to turn to the LORD. The LORD Jesus Christ has made a way whereby the LORD God can return as the rightful Owner, Master, and King back to the throne of man's heart. Christ prepares the way for the Father to return to man's heart by cleansing the repentant heart from sin and by circumcising man's heart of the false, ungrateful, corrupt "self" (superego), the false, ungrateful images that have corrupted the four beasts, and the false, ungrateful images that have corrupted the elders.

As a man reckons within his heart, he feels and he does accordingly, whether it be good or evil.

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

When a host's heart is cleansed and circumcised from the false images of ingratitude and greed, it is filled with generosity. Consequently, the circumcised heart gives gratefully, willingly, and selfishly to its guest without calculating what it costs him. But the miserly heart that is filled with the false images, idols, and gods of ingratitude, greed, and selfishness estimates the amount involved in the entertainment of his guest; therefore, he resists, rebels, and begrudges the cost. Although the miserly heart extends a cordial invitation to his guest to eat and drink heartily, he is continually thinking, worrying, and calculating the cost of every tiny bite of food and every small sip of drink.

God desires to circumcise the wicked and deceitful images, idols, and gods of ungrateful obstinacy and stubbornness within the hearts of His people which coerce them to be greedy and miserly. However, He has asked His people to first circumcise the foreskins of obstinacy and stubbornness which surround their hearts without.



First, a believer must choose to use the grace of Christ to cut off, from without, the foreskins of ungrateful obstinacy and stubbornness in order to grow in his spiritual education and moral development. The stature of Jesus Christ in the heart coerces the heart to be generous, unselfish, and liberal in its sharing with others while practicing

its moral development. After the believer has circumcised the obstinacy and stubbornness from his heart without, he must sincerely seek the LORD and beseech Him by His grace, to circumcise, or to cut out, the many ungrateful idols, images, gods, and forms of obstinacy and stubbornness from within his heart. There must be a circumcision without and within the heart in order for one to grow in his spiritual education and to practice his moral development, or to build a temple with the gold, silver, and precious stones of good works. A believer's salvation and growth will be in the true image of Jesus Christ, and his works must also bear the true image of Jesus Christ.

The LORD demands that we first circumcise the foreskin of our ungrateful obstinacy and stubbornness. Let us take note of God's command to circumcise our own hearts.

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

The LORD, through Moses, besought Israel to circumcise the foreskins of their innermost hearts, and to not stiffen their necks any longer.

The connotation in Hebrew for "stiffnecked" implies obstinacy and stubbornness.

By free will choice, and by the grace of Christ Jesus, God's people can cut away the foreskins of ungrateful obstinacy and stubbornness that surround their hearts outwardly, thus, by their circumcision outwardly, they prepare their hearts for God's circumcision inwardly. God also through the Prophet Jeremiah besought Israel to circumcise the foreskins of their hearts to remove the hard, unrestrained, superfluous growth of obstinacy and stubbornness which prevented them from hearing, seeing, and feeling the truth of God's Word.

The corrupt foreskins of obstinacy and stubbornness around the heart are products of an ungrateful attitude, a fixed will, and a resolute opinion, determining to be neither shaken at all by the conviction of God's Spirit, nor to be influenced by the reproofs of God's Word concerning the deceitful desires and pleasurable lusts of the heart.

An obstinate and stubborn foreskin consists of a firm adherence to one's ungrateful attitude, refusing to gratefully remember all the former blessings of God's Spirit and Word. It consists of a fixed will in its own purposes and views, refusing to yield to the truthful persuasion of God's Spirit and Word. An obstinate and stubborn foreskin is entrenched in its own carnal opinion, refusing to yield either to the truthful arguments of God's Word or to the spiritual influences of God's servants, the prophets. An obstinate and stubborn foreskin is filled with the persistence of its own evil desires, refusing all remedy and treatment. It always resists the remedies of God's Spirit and the remedial measures of Christ's redemptive will.

God has given His people the responsibility of choosing to make their hearts obedient to God by circumcising them, or cutting away the obstinate and stubborn foreskins. Consequently, the obedient believer who prepares his heart outwardly will also experience the LORD circumcising his heart inwardly.

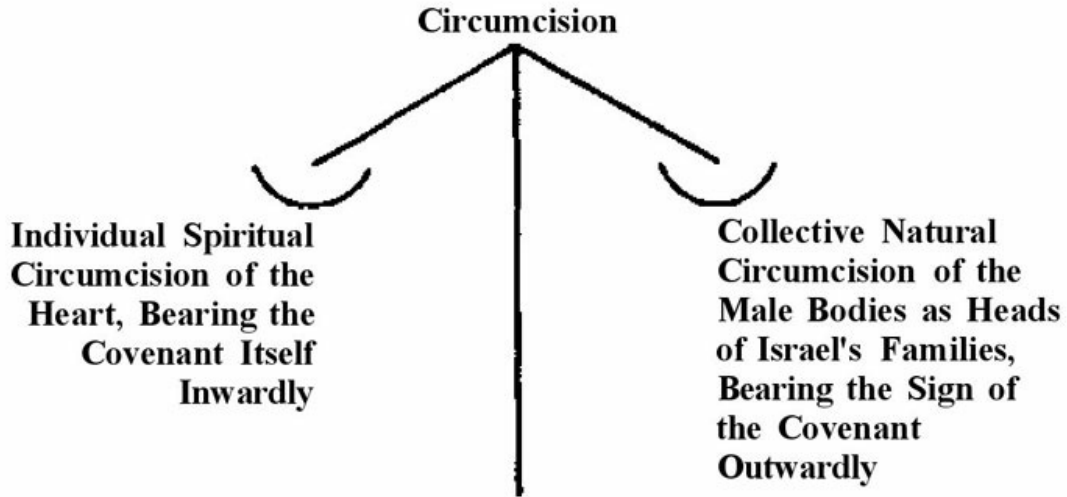
It is our duty to choose to assume our responsibility to do away with the foreskins of the intractabilities and insubordinations of our hearts outwardly, bringing our conscious feelings and desires under God's Mastership and Ownership. By choosing to cut off our stubbornness and self-willed obstinacy,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

When we free ourselves from the obstinacy and stubbornness of our self-will that has stolen God's ownership and mastership, the LORD God, the rightful Owner and Master, comes to circumcise and to cut out the hidden idols, images and gods within our hearts.

Jeremiah the prophet also pleaded with the people of his day to take away the foreskins of their hearts.

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

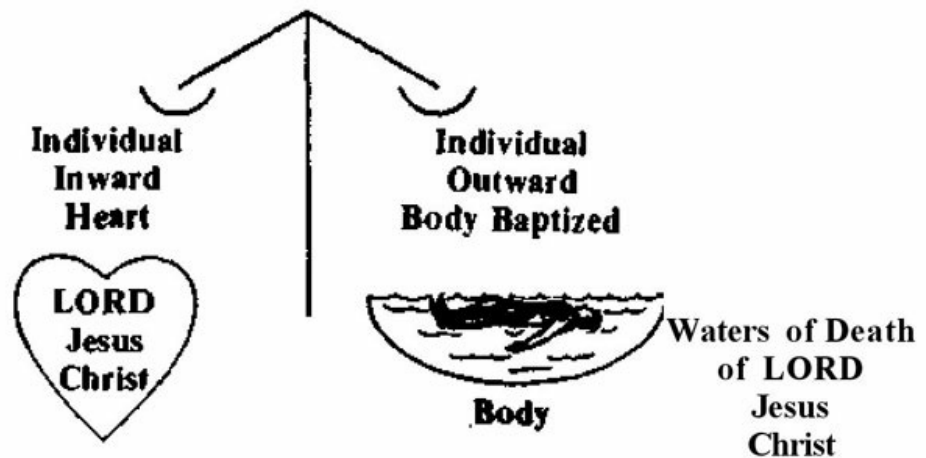
God's Spirit in Jeremiah earnestly urged the people to circumcise their hearts by willingly removing the hard covering of obstinacy and stubbornness which had grown over their hearts, preventing them from being influenced by the exhortations of God's Word. Their hard foreskins did not allow the LORD an entrance into their hearts; therefore He could not circumcise their hearts from within. God required Israel's men as heads of their families to circumcise their bodies as a token of His covenant with them. But, He required *all* Israel to circumcise their hearts as an individual spiritual demonstration of personally accepting the spiritual circumcision of the LORD's omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent Name.



In the natural, circumcision is the cutting off of the outward flesh of the male organ of generation which signifies the corrupt foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness that surround the heart inherently from birth.

Natural circumcision signified the severance from nature's defilement to a state of consecrated fellowship and union with God. Natural circumcision signified Israel's collective taking on of the sign of the Covenant outwardly through the males who were destined to be the heads of the families in Israel.

Presently, the outward circumcision of believers consists of each individual believer entering into water baptism in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ as an outward sign of the inner covenant of circumcision in the heart.



Under the old covenant of circumcision, only the male children were circumcised as collective representatives of the nation of Israel, while each of the individuals, male and female, were commanded to circumcise their hearts and to allow God to circumcise their hearts. However, under the new covenant of circumcision, each individual believer, both male and female, are commanded to be baptized in the Name of the LORD Jesus Christ as an outward sign of circumcision, and each individual is also commanded to allow Jesus Christ to circumcise, or crucify, the obstinacy and stubbornness within the heart.

This is why the Word of God calls it a circumcision made without hands in putting off the body of flesh, or sins of the flesh, not merely the foreskin. Christ desires to circumcise the whole of the old, fleshly nature of sin by the power of His Name.

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

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

True circumcision is not that which is outward in the flesh; fleshly circumcision alone can never change the evil nature of fallen man. Therefore we are not to trust in the outward flesh nor the ordinances of the letter, but we are to trust, rest, and lean upon the faith, grace, and power of the mighty Name of the LORD Jesus Christ for our circumcision. It is the circumcised heart that is acceptable to God through the infinite, divine grace of Christ Jesus and not the outward circumcision that has been performed by finite human hands.

However, God's circumcision, both naturally and spiritually under the old and new covenants, was a distinguishing mark separating God's people from all worldly images, idols, and gods from without and from within, modeling man unto the LORD as His peculiar treasure. By circumcising man's heart, God causes it to become obedient, tractable, and docile.

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

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

The foreskin of obstinacy and stubbornness is a filthy thing causing one to be morally filthy and foul in his attitudes and dispositions and in his ungrateful thoughts, feelings, and actions. Therefore, we need to be cleansed from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit. God desires that we be cleansed from our moral pollution, defilements, and impurities through the blood, fire, and water of the LORD Jesus Christ.

God also urged Israel to repent and to reform concerning their disobedience in failing to circumcise their uncircumcised hearts, "lest my fury come forth like fire,"

We, like Israel, can either choose to be obedient to the LORD and receive the blessings of His holy fire and become a living sacrifice of a sweet smelling savor unto the LORD, or choose to be disobedient to the LORD and receive the judgment of His fiery fury and become a sacrifice of a stinking savor in His nostrils because of the evil of our doings.

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

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

Once we allow the LORD to circumcise our hearts, He will fill it with His Word, so that God's life and our life become identical and uniform. Just as our breath is an indispensable part of our natural life, we discover through Christ's circumcision that the life of God's Word is an indispensable part of our spiritual life.

The life of Christ's revealed Word is a daily essential for the newly circumcised heart. The wonderful feeling of living awareness, consciousness, and nearness, of the precious *Torah*, the Word of God, after our heart has been circumcised outwardly and inwardly, makes us realize that indeed we do not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. The living, revealed Word of God causes our whole heart and soul to be absorbed in love of Him and for Him.

God demands complete obedience, both active and passive, from the heart and the soul. This obedience can be accomplished only from the infinite principle of God's divine love. Therefore, the heart must be emptied out of all false images, idols, and gods so that God's love can fill all our heart and all of our soul, constraining us to actively and willingly obey the LORD from all parts of our heart and from all the senses of our soul. God requires all of the heart and all of the soul for Himself; He will have all of them in their entirety or nothing at all. God is a jealous God and He will not compete with false images, idols, and gods in the heart.

The LORD Jesus Christ has given us His all-sufficient grace, empowering us with His strength and His ability so we can cut away the outward foreskins of obstinacy and stubbornness from our hearts. If we choose to do so by the

grace of Christ Jesus, He will circumcise our hearts inwardly. God desires to fill our hearts with His word, and His love, from within, so He can shed abroad His love from our hearts to others. God's circumcising grace is freely given to all who seek it in sincerity and truth. It is only through the circumcising of our hearts that we can be empowered to love the LORD our God with all our strength and with all our might.

When God endues man's heart with His truth and love, He strengthens him to fulfill his duty in loving God continually, in obeying His Word, and in doing His will. If we safeguard the precious object of God's Word in our circumcised hearts, we will not sin against the LORD.

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

After we have circumcised our hearts outwardly and God has circumcised it inwardly, we must hide His Word of truth in our hearts. If we study diligently in order not to forget the precious treasures of truth, we will not err and sin against the LORD. The evil power of the flesh has no power to harm the heart, and to lead the soul astray when the heart and soul is filled with God's holy Word.

If we leave God's Word in our houses or hands, the enemy can steal it; if we leave it only in our heads, our memory will lose it by forgetting it. But, if God's Word comes to our hearts, molding it into the likeness and image of Christ Jesus, this union of the heart with the truth prevents the truth from being stolen or lost.

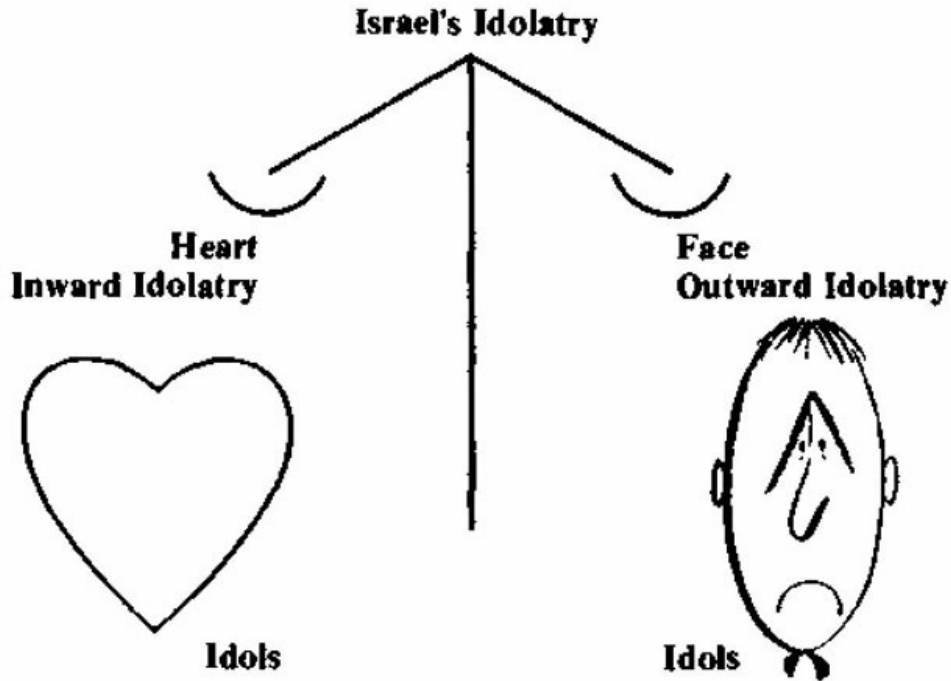
If we treasure the spiritual principles of truth from God's Word that He has surrounded our hearts with during our spiritual education, we will not sin against Him by failing to allow the Word within our circumcised hearts to be put into practice in our moral development.

God has not only forbidden us the presence of all false images, idols, and gods in our hearts, but, He has also offered to circumcise or cut them out when their existence is discovered. God rebuked Israel over and over again both for her inward idolatry of heart and for her outward idolatry of face that looked toward false images, idols, and gods.

When Israel failed to circumcise the foreskins of her heart outwardly, she prevented God from circumcising her heart inwardly. Therefore, Israel's heart remained obstinate and stubborn both outwardly and inwardly.

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

Israel sinned against God with her idolatrous heart inwardly and with the idolatrous eyes of her face outwardly.



God's heart had been broken and grieved with Israel's whorish heart and straying face or lustful eyes. God likened Israel's idolatrous heart and lustful eyes to that of a whorish woman who prostitutes her body for hire and who debauches herself by adulterous and fornicating acts as a result of her idolatrous heart and lustful eyes. God considers man's desertion of worship unto the true God for the worship of false images, idols, and gods as spiritual whoredom.

Hosea, God's fearless and selfless prophet, raised his voice with dauntless courage, in flaming words of truth, denouncing Israel's spiritual whoredom, lawlessness, violence and forgetfulness of the one and only true God.

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

When Israel turned from the LORD her God to false idols, she sank deeper and deeper into the vileness of idolatrous practices until she lost all thought and desire to return to the LORD. Consequently, Israel sank into the darkness and blindness of spiritual ignorance, knowing not the LORD God as her Owner and Master.

Israel's slavery to her filthy images, idols, and gods brought agony, grief, and pain to God's heart, causing Him to cast her out of the land and to exile her among the heathens. Likewise, when the heart of a believer departs from the LORD Jesus Christ, the true image, and his eyes lust after the false images, idols, and gods of this world, it causes great anguish, sorrow, and brokenness to Christ's heart and to God's Holy Spirit.

God will ultimately bring every obstinate and stubborn heart, and every straying eye to a place of loathing and sobbing over their disgusting deeds of inward and outward idolatry.

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

Son of man, these men have set up their *idols in their heart*, and put the stumbling block of their iniquity before their face, should I be enquired of at all by them? Therefore speak unto them, and say unto them, Thus saith the LORD God; Every man of the house of Israel *that setteth up his idols in his heart*, and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to the prophet; I the LORD will answer him that cometh according to *the multitude of his idols*; That I may take the house of Israel in their own heart, because they are all estranged from me *through their idols*. Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the LORD God; Repent, and *turn yourselves from your idols*; and turn away your faces from all your

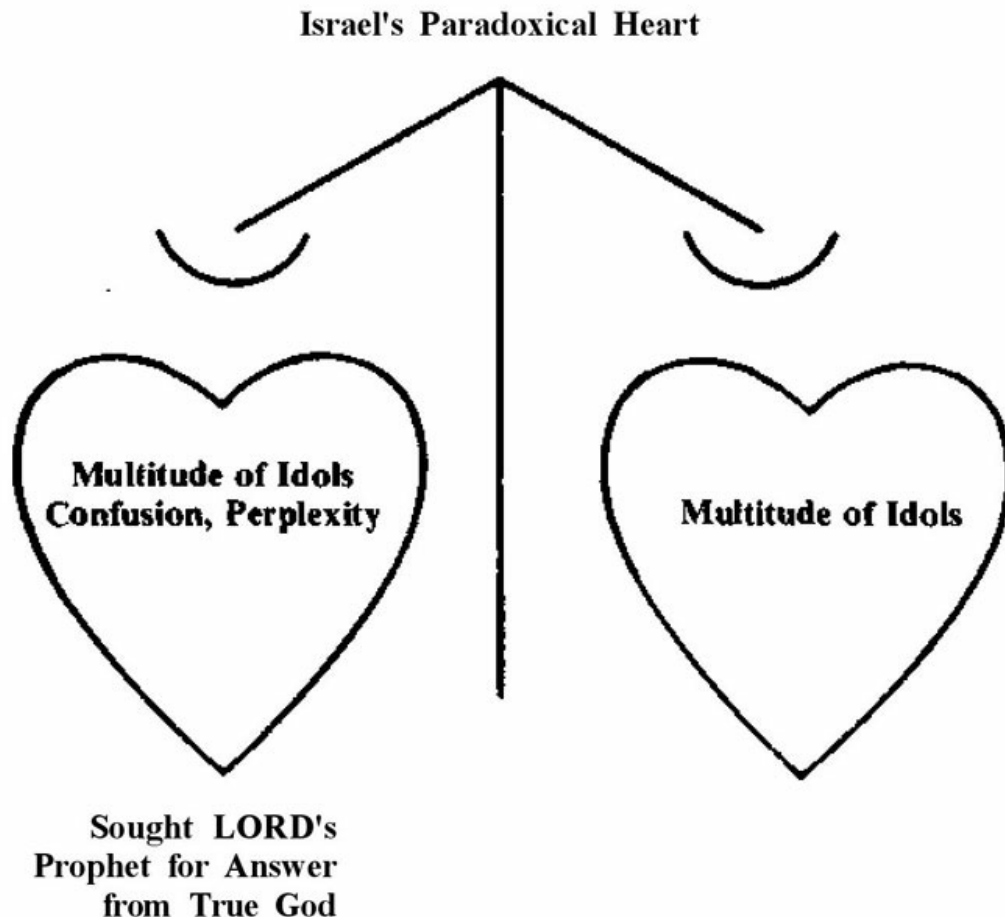
abominations. For every one of the house of Israel, or of the stranger that sojourneth in Israel, which separateth himself from me, *and setteth up his idols in his heart*, and putteth the stumbling block of his iniquity before his face, and cometh to a prophet to enquire of him concerning me; I the LORD will answer him by myself: And I will set my face against that man, and will make him a sign and a proverb, and I will cut him off from the midst of my people; and *ye shall know that I am the LORD* (Ezekiel 14:3-8).

When Israel embraced in her heart the pagan ideas and images of the heathens, she followed their magical spells and divinations in the land. Hence, this was a stumbling block of sin before her face causing her to lose her accessibility to God.

Israel willfully placed these ideas, idols, and images in her heart and mind with the intention of serving them; consequently, they caused the eyes of her face to stray into iniquity.

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

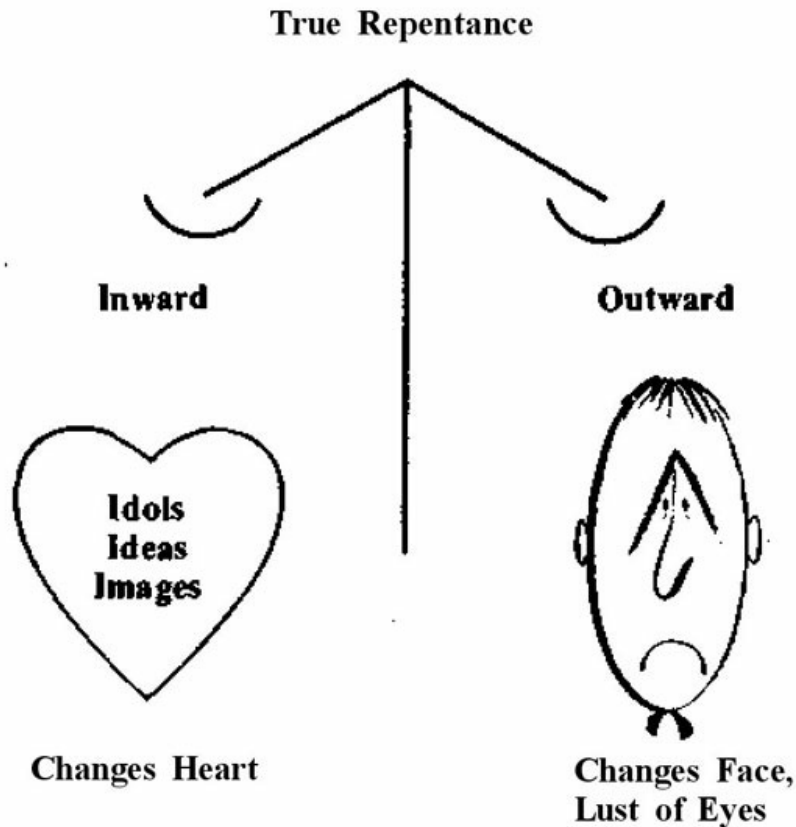
On one side of the scales, Israel's paradoxical heart was filled with the multitude of her idols while on the other side of the scales she went to the prophet for an answer from the one true God for guidance in her confusion and perplexity.



Israel displayed unparalleled impudence before God's face by giving the love, loyalty, and worship of her heart to idols on one side and by returning to the LORD on the other side in hope of receiving an answer from Him in her confusion and perplexity. God's answer to idolatrous Israel was according to the truth that He had already given her in His *Torah*, where He had forbidden idolatry, and where He had warned of the punishment or retribution that

would overwhelm the disobedient.

In the midst of Israel's whorish condition the LORD besought her to turn to Him by abandoning the pagan ideas and images of her heart, and by forsaking the lust of the eyes of her face. God desired complete repentance from Israel concerning the sins of her heart and the sins of her face. Likewise, God desires that we too turn to Him in complete repentance concerning the sins of our hearts and of our faces.



When Israel failed to circumcise her heart and to allow God to circumcise her heart from within, God placed her in the same class of degeneration as the heathen nations round about.

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

When the heart is uncircumcised, the foreskins of obstinacy and stubbornness prevent the light of understanding from entering the heart. If man voluntarily chooses to take away the foreskins of obstinacy and stubbornness from his heart, the LORD comes in to circumcise his heart from all inward idolatry and ingratitude. However, although man tenaciously cleaves to his foreskins, God will still, in due season, circumcise man's heart of his idolatry and ingratitude as He has done for Israel and other nations.

Therefore, as the uncircumcised hearts of the Gentile nations and Israel were circumcised by God of their idolatry, likewise we, also, can expect to have our hearts circumcised by God—either voluntarily or involuntarily.

We have seen in this little booklet God's Purposive Will for man's heart. God desires that man's heart be circumcised of its ingratitude and that his heart be filled with gratitude for the LORD's omnipresent self, for the LORD's almighty, omniscient Name, and for the LORD's omnipotent, possessive Name.

May the LORD quicken this wonderful truth regarding spiritual circumcision of the heart to our hearts!

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