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Trinity or Truth

Radical, Biblical, Apostolic, Christianity



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INTRODUCTION

Today in this present generation we have several religions and beliefs that are available for us to choose from. To choose the right one is our ultimate desire, as our Spiritual being is at stake, and certainly we want to choose the right path that will take us to the eternal shores of Heaven.

To really pinpoint the right path and the real religion, we are compelled to look closely at the Bible and history, especially the history dealing with the Jewish people, as God has chosen them as His people through which comes our understanding of Him and His Precious Word.

God is incomprehensible to the human mind, and the only way we can know and understand Him is that He must reveal Himself by whatever means He chooses. This is necessary in order for man to understand Him and come to a full knowledge and understanding of Him and His plan for mankind.

We must keep in mind that there is a force in this world that does not want mankind to have an understanding of God and His love. This evil force which is ruled by Satan, is a great deceiver, master planner, and very wise in his craftiness. It has always been in his plan to keep man from God, and to know His plan to redeem His creation. To accomplish this mission, Satan will use every means available, as he at this present time is the God of this world. Satan's goal then is to deceive man through his craftiness, and cause all who will accept him to lose their soul. Satan does not have a pitchfork, pointed horns, or a long tail, as he is too clever to reveal himself in this manner to the world. Satan is no fool, he has been on the mountain of God and has seen God, and even trembles to think of His power. Satan's business then, is to keep mankind from knowing, understanding, or experiencing in any way, this loving God of the Universe.

Please keep in mind that there are two forces in this world that are vying for the souls of mankind, as the soul of man is eternal. The one force is God and His holy angels, and the other force is Satan and his wicked angels. Good and evil have been in this world long before we have, and it is in our power to choose which one of these Spiritual forces we are to worship. This is where we must be very careful, as the good force will never become evil, however, the evil force will appear as good. Remember, God is out to redeem mankind, to reveal His Truth, and Satan is out to deceive and pervert the Truth.

Where do we begin? This is a good question. The only place we can begin is with God, as He is the source of all beginnings, as He Himself had no beginning. God is eternal, if He had a beginning then He could never have been eternal. Here is the starting point, we must begin with God, as all beginning originated with Him.

Rev. D.R. Vestal, Ph.D.

CHAPTER ONE—THE MYSTERY RELIGION

God created the world and all that is therein. God also created man in His own image and placed him upon this earth. Man fell through transgression and thus we are all born in sin. God made the choice to redeem man and Satan made the choice to see that He doesn't. Remember, the Devil is no fool, he is wiser than man, you should see his credentials. Satan was never educated by man, and knows that deep in the heart of man there is a God given desire to worship. This is where Satan comes into the picture. Satan doesn't mind you worshipping, but your object of worship is another ball game altogether.

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The Bible declares in II Cor. 11:14, that the Devil has transformed himself into an angel of light (as a counterfeit of course). Do you suppose there is a reason for this change? Satan wants to be the object of worship in your life, as he wants to be like God. God has a plan for the salvation of man, and Satan has a plan for the destruction of man. Satan is not going to jump out at you as an angel of light and say, "See here is Hell, won't you come on in and join me?" He knows that man is too clever for this. He has to trick you into worshipping him. Since he knows that man longs to worship, he outsmarts you and gives you something to worship, how clever of him to think of this. Satan has his own religion so close to God's Truth, you will have to stop, think, and search the Bible to know the difference (John 5:39). The Devil did not waste any time in establishing his religion on the earth to deceive the soul of man. Please allow the Bible and world history to record some of these events for us.

Man's sin started in the Garden of Eden, and he was driven out by God. God promised a deliverer that would come and redeem His fallen creation (Gen. 3:15). Satan's mind started clicking the moment God promised mankind a deliverer. Suppose he offered man a deliverer or a god of his own, would man fall for this? It was worth a try, as no one was going to accept the Devil as the Devil, so he operated through his key men to carry out his master plan of deception.

His first man to do his dirty work on earth, was Nimrod. Satan knew who God was, for he had seen Him and had been in His presence. Suppose the Devil decided to make many gods so this would confuse man. This would serve his purpose well, as man would of necessity have to divide His love and affection among many rather than One God. The Devil chose a good place to start, (give him credit) in Babylon. Check your history about this man Nimrod. Satan zeroed in on Nimrod, the grandson of Noah. Nimrod built cities and was a famous hunter of wild animals. He became King of the people, ruled over the sons of Noah, and with his wife Semiramis, they introduced and made gods out of wood and stone. Nimrod and his wife introduced the drinking of mysterious beverages, and after Nimrod's death, his wife continued to carry on the Babylonian religion which he had established.

Semiramis claimed that the dead Nimrod was now the Sun-God, hence sun worship began. Since Satan was referred to as, "The Shining One," this suited his purpose well at this point, but he must go further. Semiramis, being an adulterous woman, gave birth to an illegitimate son whom she claimed was Nimrod reborn. Semiramis claimed she was conceived by a sun-beam, (Nimrod) super-naturally, and she named her son Tammuz. Later in her life, she marries her own son Tammuz. It was now that Satan began his counterfeit religion to corrupt God's true plan of redemption.

The Babylonian religion was known as the "Mystery Religion," and carried many mysterious symbols. Tammuz was symbolized by a golden calf, and Nimrod, (the Sun-God) was represented by fire. The sign of the cross had its origin in the mystic "Tau" of the Babylonian cult. It came from the letter "T", the initial letter of Tammuz. Hero worship was introduced instead of God, and the objects of worship by the people were, the Supreme Father (Nimrod), the Queen of Heaven (Semiramis), and her holy child (Tammuz). The serpent was introduced, (how clever) into this Babylonian worship also, and represented the Sun-God. Fire was worshipped as an enlightener and purifier in Babylon. These fire worshippers also used the serpent as an object of worship. Since it was through the serpent that Adam and Eve were deceived, and their eyes

opened to know good and evil, the serpent was worshipped as the one who gave man knowledge, as he enlightened and purified man. The sun was worshipped under the name Baal, which is another name for Nimrod. He was also called Molech, the God of fire. Tammuz was the earthly representative of the fire God. The Priest of Baal must partake of whatever was offered as a sin offering to the fire God. Children were sacrificed to Baal or Molech, and were caused to pass through the fire, (a symbol of baptism of fire). Since the Priests were required to eat the sacrifices, children were devoured after being sacrificed to the Sun-God. From this today comes our modern word, "cannibal" from "cahnabal" Priests of Baal or eaters of human flesh.

Satan had planted the seed of his religion in Babylon, now he must carry this to all people throughout the known world. The Tower of Babel as mentioned in Genesis 11, was a part of this Babylonian sun worship. Since God confused the tongues and scattered the people abroad, this seemed in the interest of Satan to use his master plan to deceive the nations. This Babylonian Priest worship of the Sun-God Baal, was carried to various nations. In India, this cult system was worshipped under the names of, "Isa" and "Isvara," in Asia as "Cybele" and "Deoius," in Egypt as "Isis" and "Osiris," in Greece as "Ceres" or "Irene" and "Plutus." The Sun-God worship of the Babylonians was carried by way of the fertile crescent into Egypt. In Egypt, the Sun-God was referred to as "Re" the source of all life. The religion of Egypt before the foundation of the dynasties was based on Totemism, the idea that there is a relation between kingship groups and specific animals and plants. Horus, the Falcon, was that of Bedhet in the North, while the God, Seth represented by a He-Goat, protected Naquadah in the South. Above these local Gods, was the Sun-God, "Re," the source of all life. In the Egyptian early dynastic period, the king became associated with "Horus," the Falcon deity of Hierakonpolis in Bedhet.

Egypt from the earliest beginnings had in their system under their own names, the cult of Babylon. In the midst of this Babylonian idolatry in Mesopotamia, God calls on a man

to carry His message of deliverance and redemption. This mans name was Abram, living in the land of UR (Gen. 12).

Abram was chosen by God to represent the True God, and through him, God planned to bring man back to Himself. Abram's name was changed from Abram to Abraham, because he was to be a Father of many nations. To Abraham was born his son Isaac, and to Isaac his son Jacob, and to Jacob his 12 sons. In time, we find the whole family of Jacob down in Egypt (Gen. 46:26). Many years passed, and the family of Jacob multiplied exceedingly in Egypt. There arose in time, a King of Egypt who knew not Joseph (Exod. 1:8). During the time of Joseph, Egypt was ruled by the "Hyksos" shepherd Kings from Syria. The Hyksos became firmly established in the Delta region of Egypt, and adopted Egyptian culture.

By 1700 B.C., a Dynasty of Hyksos Pharaohs were established. The Hyksos were driven from Egypt around 1570 B.C. by the Theban Kings, Kamose and Amasis, who established the New Kingdom.

It was during this time, God raised up Moses to be the deliverer of His people. The exodus of the Israelites around 1453 B.C., under Moses, brought them to Mt. Sinai (Exod.19:1-6). Here at Mt. Sinai, God gave to Moses the 10 commandments and also the pattern of the Tabernacle to set up and institute the worship of the True God (Exod. 20). While Moses was receiving instructions from God on Mt. Sinai, the children of Israel went to Aaron and desired Gods to go before them, as they did not know what had become of Moses. Aaron made a golden calf for the children of Israel, and they were naked and danced around this calf and proclaimed this their God who brought them out of Egypt (Exod. 32). Why did Aaron make a golden calf? This was practiced down in Egypt, for in Egypt there was the worship of Isis, the Egyptian cow goddess. Tammuz from Babylon was also worshipped and represented by a calf. We see now the children of Israel were familiar with calf worship while they were down in Egypt. Satan wasted no time in trying to corrupt the people of God to worship his form of religion. Sex orgies were a vital part in this worship of the calf Isis, of Egypt, carried

over from Tammuz of Babylon. God was ready to destroy them all and start over with Moses because the people had corrupted themselves with False worship. Should this be a lesson for us today? Moses pleaded with God to save the people (Thank God for praying preachers) (Exod. 32:11) .

The children of Israel followed the traditions of Egypt and all would have been destroyed if it were not for Moses. Moses took the golden calf, ground it to powder, and cast it upon the water, and made the children of Israel to drink thereof (Exod. 32:20). I think some of the traditions of today contrary to the Bible, need to be swallowed by man. Moses cried, "who is on the Lords side?" The sons of Levi gathered unto Moses to worship the true God, and 3,000 men died that day because of their own ignorance in following the traditions of Egypt. I can just imagine the Devil laughed at their idolatry, but he was mad because some still followed the true God. I wonder how many people of today will be destroyed because of their own ignorance in following the traditions of men instead of the Truth of God? God declared in Deut. 6:4 to Israel, "Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One Lord." God alone wants our worship because He is a jealous God (Exod.

20:5).It was God Himself who set His pattern of worship among His people, Israel. The Tabernacle itself, with its Priests and functions, was a pattern of what was in Heaven.

All down through the History of Israel, Satan never ceased to corrupt Gods people away from the truth, and deceived them to worship his Gods that he set up. We have the story in the Bible where the Prophet Elijah challenged the 450 False Prophets of Baal to a test on Mt. Carmel. Jezebel had set up calves in the North and South of Israel, and the people were worshippers of this false cult carried over from Babylon. Remember, the calf represented Tammuz, and he was supposed to be Nimrod, the Sun-God reborn. Elijah, God's Prophet, challenged the 450 false Prophets of Baal (the Sun-God) to a test on Mt. Carmel, "let the God who answers by fire, let Him be God." This seemed a fair challenge to the false Prophets, as they believed Baal to be the fire

God and certainly he would show his power by answering by fire. Elijah, you are outnumbered 450 to 1. Elijah let the Prophets of Baal go first to sacrifice and call upon their fire god, Baal. All day the Prophets cried for the fire God Baal to send fire and prove himself to this crazy outnumbered man of God, Elijah. Surely Satan could produce some sort of results through his idolatrous fire god system of religion. I believe the Devil jumped the fence that day and left his Prophets holding the bag. The Devil is smart, he is no match for God Himself. What do you think happened? Read it for yourself in I Kings 18. Elijah had his turn and built the altar in the Name of the Lord (We need a lot of altars today rebuilt in the Name of the Lord). Elijah called for 12 barrels of water to be poured upon the sacrifice. The Prophets of Baal began to nudge each other and laugh, but the Devil wasn't laughing, he had already jumped the fence and was gone. Satan knew who God was, and knew the Scripture in Deut. 4:24, that God was a Consuming Fire. What happened? The fire of God fell, licked up the water and consumed the sacrifice. The people fell on their faces and said, "The Lord, He Is God." Elijah took the Prophets of Baal with the help of the people and slew them. The Devil was defeated and will always be defeated when there is a man of God to challenge him. Satan always comes back for more, as he is determined to destroy God's people and cover up the truth of the worship of One God.

Even in the days of Jeremiah, God's people made cakes to the Queen of Heaven (Semiramis) (Jer. 7:18). God's people were also sacrificing their children to Baal or Molech (Jer. 32:32-35). God was also displeased with Egypt at the images of Bethshemesh (the house of the sun) (Jer. 43:13). God was displeased with His people for weeping over Tammuz, and turning their backs on the Temple and worshipping the Sun (Ezek. 8:14-16).

CHAPTER TWO--THEORIES ABOUT GOD

Was God actually One in unity, One in number, or One among many Gods? To this question we shall let history and especially the history of the Jewish people speak to us, as they were the instruments of God to proclaim the True God to the rest of the nations. Remember also that Satan had his several gods in Babylon, Egypt, and today he wants to confuse and confound man's mind about the conception of God. He knows the answer to this question; but he is not going to give you the answer, that's why he is the Devil. He wants to keep you away from the truth. He has a job to do and believe me, he does it well. There were many beliefs in several gods of various nations. We shall list some of these theories and find the one that is applied to Israel, as it was through them that God was to reveal Himself to this world.

MONOTHEISM

Monotheism is the belief in and worship of only One God. There were different forms of Monotheism.

EXCLUSIVE MONOTHEISM

This was a belief in only One God, and other gods either simply do not exist at all, or at most they are false Gods. There were two types of Exclusive Monotheism:

1. Ethical Monotheism--man chooses One God, because that is the God he needs and can adore, and that God becomes to Him the One and Only God.
2. Intellectual Monotheism--the One God is nothing but the logical result of questions concerning the origin of the world.

PLURIFORM MONOTHEISM

The various gods of the Pantheon without losing their independence are at the same time considered to be manifestations of One and the Divine substance. Pluriform

Monotheism is one of the efforts to solve the problem of the co-existence of Divine unity and Divine pluriformity which was not recognized by an older generation of Scholars. Many religious thinkers have struggled with the perplexing problem of the unity and the pluriformity of the Divine.

INCLUSIVE MONOTHEISM

Inclusive Monotheism accepts the existence of a great number of gods, but holds that all gods are essentially One and the same.

DITHEISM

Ditheism is the Doctrine of the existence of two gods. This term also applies to two principles, or gods, one good and the other evil.

TRITHEISM

Tritheism is the belief that there are three distinct Gods in the Godhead; that is, three distinct substances.

POLYTHEISM

Polytheism is the Doctrine of a plurality of Gods, one who believes in two or more Gods.

PANTHEISM

Pantheism is the Doctrine that all things are simply modes or manifestations of God.

At this point, we are compelled to narrow these theories of God down and see which of these were practiced by the Jewish people. Ancient Egypt had Pluriform

Monotheism in the 16th to 11th Century B.C., her Gods were: Amon, Re, and Ptah. The Babylonians had no Monotheism in their religion, and the Islamic religion knew no other greater sin than “SHIRK” (partnership), that is to say, Polytheism. The Jews, Islamic nations, and the Christians practiced Monotheism. We see now that the Jews believed in Exclusive Monotheism. In the Old Testament, we find some interesting Scriptures concerning this Monotheistic God of the Jews. Let us look at some of these Scriptures. “Hear O Israel, the Lord our God is One Lord” (Deut.6:4). “I am the Lord: that is My Name; and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images” (Isaiah 42:8). I believe this rules out all the images of Babylon that Satan through Nimrod introduced. “For I am the Lord thy God, the Holy One of Israel, thy Saviour: I gave Egypt for thy ransom, Ethiopia and Seba for thee” (Isaiah 43:3). “-----before Me, there was No God formed, neither shall there be after Me, I even I am the Lord, and beside Me there is No Saviour” (Isaiah 43:10-11). “I am the Lord, your Holy One, the Creator of Israel, your King” (Isaiah 43:15). “Thus saith the Lord, the King of Israel and His Redeemer the Lord of Hosts, I am the First, and I am the Last, and Beside Me there is No God” (Isaiah 44:6). “-----is there a God beside Me”? Yea there is No God, I know not any” (Isaiah 44:8). “To whom will ye liken Me, and make Me equal and compare Me, that we may be like?” (Isaiah 46:5). I believe we have found sufficient Scriptures to show that Israel believed in Exclusive Monotheism and not in Pluriform Monotheism or Tritheism. Certainly God has told us that He is the only God of Israel and He has No equal. A multiplication of Gods is a contradiction to the Bible, as there can be only One God. There can be only One Absolutely Perfect, Supreme, and Almighty Being. Monotheism then, not Tritheism, is the doctrine set forth in the Scriptures.

CHAPTER THREE--MESSIAH HAS COME

The original Name of the God of Israel as given to Moses was “EHYEH ASHER EHYEH,” or the great “I AM.” The name EHYEH is singular. It is a personal proper name and is not plural in any sense. If you take out the vowels from EHYEH you have HYH. This is the ancient form as God’s name and not YHVH or YHWH. The Jews avoided every mention of this Sacred Name of God, substituting in its stead one or other of the words with whose proper vowel-points it may happen to be written. It was considered too Sacred of a Name for the Jews to pronounce. From this Sacred Name came the formation of the English Name “JEHOVAH” or “Jesus. There are too numerous passages of Scripture to list here where JEHOVAH was the God of Israel. At this point, I think we have established from the Scriptures and also from history, that the Jewish people in the Old Testament believed in Exclusive Monotheism, and they called their one true God by the Name of JEHOVAH.

Some Jews also used the man made word Adonai, El, Elohim, Jehovah, YHVH, YHWH, as the name of their God, however Jehovah would be the correct rendering. The term “YAHWEH” is the third person form of the name EHYEH. Therefore, YAHWEH is not really God’s true name. Yahweh means “He is.” God did not say “He IS,” but “I AM.” The Jewish people also believed that their Jehovah would someday come and redeem them, hence the thought among the Jews of a coming Messiah, a Deliverer (Mal. 4:1-3).

At this point, let me insert some helpful facts of history that will be woven into the framework of the Roman Empire. Satan also knew about the promise of a coming Messiah or Deliverer for Israel. He wanted to see that his system of worship would prevail instead of the concept of Exclusive Monotheism by the Jewish people. Satan wanted to be sure that the seed of the Babylonian Priesthood was planted in the beginnings of the Roman Empire.

After the nations were scattered abroad, Babylon continued to be the seat of

Satan until it was taken by Xerxes in 487 B.C. The Babylonian Priesthood was then forced to leave Babylon to Pergamos, which was the Headquarters for some time. When Attalus the Pontiff and King of Pergamos died in 133 B.C., he bequeathed the Headship of the Babylonian Priesthood to Rome. Julius Caesar was made the Supreme Pontiff of the Etruscan order in 74 B.C. In 63 B.C., he was made the Supreme Pontiff of the Babylonian order, thereby becoming heir to the rights and titles of Attalus, who had made Rome his heir by will. Thus the first Roman Emperor became the head of the Babylonian Priesthood, and Rome became the successor of Babylon with Pergamos as the seat of this cult. From this we see that the seed of Satan's false worship was planted early in the beginnings of the Roman Empire.

Satan also had another undertaking up his sleeve, he zeroed in on Alexander the Great to be another tool in his scheme of introducing his worship throughout the world. Alexander the Great founded the city of Alexandria in the land of Egypt around 332 B.C. This was to be the Greek and Roman Christian capitol of Egypt. There existed in Alexandria a great library and museum, and also there flourished a medical school. The population of Alexandria was around 600,000 and it was the largest city in the known world for centuries. It is said the library at one time contained 700,000 volumes. Ptolemy Philadelphus favored the translation from the Hebrew into Greek of the Old Testament, and it was called the Septaugint, which was finished around 280 B.C. The Septaugint is now the oldest known version and is called the Codex Alexandrinus. The Museum was a means of spreading the knowledge of Aristotle throughout the known world. At one time there were 14,000 students from all over the then known world who studied in Alexandria. The University there produced many Scholars such as: Philo, Origen, and Clement. Other great names such as Eratosthenes, Callimachus, Apollonius, Hipparchus, and Ptolemy were there. There were many Jews also living in Alexandria. Several cults existed in Alexandria, such as: Neoplatonism, Gnosticism, and Philonism. The Temples of Isis and Sarepis were built there also. The Egyptian Priestcraft swallowed up the Royal Patronage of Ptolemy I or Ptolemy II. Alexandria also adopted and practiced the deep mysteries, sacrifices, secret cults, and occult practices of Greece. You may ask at this point, what has all this to do with the Messiah

of Israel? Just keep your thumb here for future reference, as we lay down some more startling facts that Satan doesn't want you to know about. At this point of time, Rome has begun to grow, and we find Augustus Caesar on the throne (27 B. C. to 14 A.D.).

Meanwhile back in the nation of Israel, great things are beginning to happen. Herod the King of Judaea is on the throne. There is an expectancy among the Jewish people, as their last prophet, Malachi, had uttered his voice nearly 400 years previous. Could the Messiah come in this generation to redeem the people of Israel? Suddenly there came wise men from the East and entered the hall of Herod. "We are come to worship the King of the Jews." Herod sits straight on his throne, as the wise men proceed to tell him this King was born a few months ago, as they had followed His star from the East. Herod gets all excited and troubled, and he calls in the chief Priests and Scribes, and then demands of them where this Christ should be born. In Bethlehem of Judaea, for this it is written by the prophets. What Herod did not know, was that months prior to this, an angel had appeared unto a virgin, named Mary, and told her she was to conceive and bring forth a child. In time, Mary was found with child of the Holy Ghost, and Joseph was willing to put her away. The angel appears unto Joseph and tells him not to put her away. The angel told Joseph to name the child, "JESUS" (Matt. 1:21). I wonder what name Mary had picked out for her son? Should she call Him Mark, John, Anthony or some other name? Her names were unimportant, as she never had the chance to name her own child. Did you ever wonder why the child was named, Jesus? Where did this name, Jesus, come from? The name, Jesus, is the English translation of the Greek "IEOUS" which is a translation of the Hebrew "YEHOSHUA" or the shorter "JEHOVAH." The Greek word, "Christos," means, "The anointed Christ." Thus we have, "Jesus Christ." The Jewish God of the Old Testament, was now, "Jesus Christ," or simply, God in flesh (Matt. 1:23) (Tim. 3:16) (John 1:14).

This Jesus Christ was both God and Man, as He had a dual nature. I often wondered why the Jews failed to recognize their Messiah as their God of the Old Testament. I suppose they thought Jesus Christ would come and throw off the yoke of the Roman Empire. Jesus Christ came saying, "My Kingdom is not of this world." At

any rate, it is evident in reading the Bible and checking history, that the Jewish nation would not accept Jesus Christ as their long awaited Messiah. On many occasions, Jesus claimed He pre-existed with the Father. Once He even indicated that He was before Abraham. The statements infuriated the Jews. Jesus claimed to be the Bread from Heaven, and upon this, many of His Disciples turned away from Him. Jesus goes on and on in His remarks, claiming He is the Way, the Truth and the Life, the Living Water, the Resurrection and the Life, and many other interesting claims. These were just too much for the Jews to cope with, especially when Jesus calls them, "The children of the Devil." They accuse Him of blasphemy, and cry to Pilate to crucify Him. Jesus makes a startling prediction that He would rise from the grave in three days. This was too much for the Jews to comprehend.

You know the story, they crucified Him on a cross, darkness covers the land, the earth shakes, the graves were opened, the veil was rent in the Temple, and the Roman Centurion cries, "Truly this was the Son of God." Joseph of Arimathaea begs the body of Christ from Pilate, and buries Him in his own tomb. The Jews are concerned about His prediction that He would rise again in three days, and they obtained permission from Pilate to seal the tomb, and the watch of soldiers were set. The few Disciples Jesus had left were all dispersed and hiding in fear because of the terrible events up to this point. The Devil and his demons of Hell were celebrating His death, while the Roman Guards stomped and cursed around the tomb. It looked as though Satan had succeeded in stopping God's plan of redemption, and the outlook looked dim for the Disciples of Jesus who had left all to follow Him. Satan knew the Scriptures and quoted some of them to Jesus Christ while He was alive, but apparently, he forgot about the one over in John 12:24, "Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone, but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit." Christ's death, was only the planting of that corn of wheat. The odds were against Christ that day, the Roman Soldiers, the Jewish Sanhedrian, and the Devil and demons of Hell.

Amid the laughing and cursing of the Roman Guards, and the sneering of the demons of Hell, there came an angel dispatched from Heaven, rolled back the stone

from the tomb and sat upon it. The Roman soldiers were shaking, their hair on their head standing on end, their eyes wide with fear, their knees buckled, and they fainted like water lilies blown by the strongest of winds. Jesus Christ arose from the grave triumphant, and He held the keys to death. Hell, and the grave. The soldiers lied, the Sanhedrian lied, and the most sobering fact of all history was hushed among the rulers that day. Jesus Christ appeared to His Disciples and showed many infallible proofs of His resurrection. With His mission accomplished on the earth, He gathered His Disciples and gave them a commission to preach the gospel to all the world. He instructs them to tarry in Jerusalem until they receive the Holy Ghost. Jesus Christ then ascends into the Heavens while the Disciples stand gazing after Him. An angel appears and tells them this same Jesus would come again in like manner as they had seen Him go away. Yes, for the purpose of redemption and the Jewish people, Messiah had come.

CHAPTER FOUR--THE APOSTOLIC PERIOD

The Disciples of Jesus returned to Jerusalem and went into the Upper Room to pray. At the Feast of Pentecost, there came a sound from Heaven as a rushing mighty wind, cloven tongues as of fire sat upon each of the people, and they began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance. A crowd gathers that day, some mocking and claiming the Disciples are drunk. The Apostle Peter stands up and preaches a stirring message recorded in the second chapter of Acts. The highlight of his sermon was when he tells the Jews they had crucified Christ whom God had raised from the dead, and had made Him both Lord and Christ. To the Jews, "Lord" was in reference to their God, as they had called Him by this many times. To them the word "Christ" meant the anointed Messiah. They realized by now they had indeed crucified Christ and He was their God of the Old Testament robed in human flesh. Their conscience smote them and they cried out, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" The Apostle Peter tells them to repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of their sins, and they shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. According to Acts, Chapter Two, 3,000 people were added to the Church that day.

Now Satan was really mad; his plan had failed, he must now stir up some opposition to stop this spread of God's Spirit or his earthly Kingdom would be doomed. The Disciples go and cast out demons in the Name of Jesus Christ, as if they had found a new toy. These converted Disciples, baptized in Jesus Name, speaking with tongues, and casting out demons were a terror to the Devil and his plans. Satan must stop this at once, so he zeros in on his man of the hour, Saul of Tarsus.

Saul, hating the very ground these Disciples of Jesus walked on, scattered them in all directions. Saul was out to put an end to these followers of Jesus Christ. He consents to the stoning of Stephen and obtains letters from the High Priest to go to Damascus to find all these Jesus Name Christians and cast them into prison. Satan is jumping up and down with glee, the Christians are scattered in every direction, and Saul

goes on. The Devil's champion seeks to destroy God's people from off the face of the earth. Jesus slaps Saul down about noonday and blinds him with dazzling light. Saul, stunned and shocked, realizes he has been hit with celestial glory. He cries out, "Who art thou, Lord?" The Lord answers, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest." Saul, blinded by celestial glory, is led into the city of Damascus where he repents and is baptized by Ananias. The news traveled far and wide, Saul of Tarsus has gone mad, he has become one of those Jesus Name Christians. God changes his name from Saul to Paul, and he begins to preach that Jesus Christ is Lord. To most people this revelation comes natural but to others like Saul, God has to knock them down. Would to God he would knock people down today to see their error of false worship.

Paul admits he never learned his revelation in some Theological Seminary or was he taught it by the other Disciples, but he received a firsthand revelation of THIS WAY from the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. Comparing the Ministry of Paul to the other Disciples of Christ, we find Paul preaching exactly the same Gospel message. Satan by this time has gone bananas, as his plan to disrupt the Christians was foiled by God Himself. He must try again to stop this sect before they spoil his earthly dominion completely, Satan this time zeroes in on his earthly representative, King Herod.

Herod has James killed and proceeds to kill Peter also (Acts 12). The Christians again are dispersed and scattered in fear, as their ring leader, the Apostle Peter, was cast into prison awaiting his execution in the morning. God sends an angel by night and delivers Peter out of jail. The Devil is no match for God and His angels. God assures also that He puts his finishing touch on the Devil's representative, King Herod. Herod is smitten and is eaten up with worms (Acts 12:23). Satan by now has really flipped his lid. It seems by now that God and Satan are playing chess on the checker board of history. Satan must now give his full attention in stopping this Apostle Paul, as this man is dangerous. Paul has a revival or riot wherever he goes. Satan tries to have Paul killed with the sword, but he is spared and appeals to Caesar. Satan could not afford to have this Apostle Paul where his hand picked Nero rules. Satan tries to drown Paul in the sea, but he and others are saved by the angel of God. Cast upon the island of Malta,

Paul gathers some wood to build a fire and Satan sends a poisonous viper to kill Paul. He shakes off the viper into the fire, and feels no hurt. Satan then begins to recoil and sets a death trap for Paul in Rome. Satan gathers every demon in Hell and gathers his evil forces to put a stop to these Christians once and for all. Need I record here the endless torture and killings in the Colosseum of Rome under the Emperor, Nero? I think history will speak for itself at this point of time. Paul is finally beheaded and the Christians are killed by the thousands. What remain are driven underground in the Catacombs of Rome, or scattered among Europe. Satan is jumping up and down with glee, and has summoned a party in Hell. Only One Apostle of Christ is left, and he is banished to the Isle of Patmos, so he could be no threat. Satan had almost succeeded in his plan to rid the earth of these followers of Jesus Christ. The Apostolic Period had now come to a close.

CHAPTER FIVE--THE EARLY CHRISTIAN ERA

One Emperor after another ascends the throne of Rome and embraces the old Babylonian Priesthood religion. Time has the tendency to erode all things, and Rome begins to have trouble from within and without. Barbarous tribes from the North are warring with Rome, and unrest among the Emperors is boiling within. Should Satan's Kingdom fall after all his efforts and time spent in trying to eradicate the Christians? He must act promptly in order to secure his Babylonian religion should Rome fall. There has to be an answer to solve this problem.

Satan needs someone to do his dirty work in Alexandria and in Rome. We have already mentioned earlier that Alexandria, Egypt was the seat of learning during this time frame of the Roman Empire. The early Apostolic Christians would not tolerate the godhead of Caesar, as they denounced the gladiatorial shows and possessed enormous powers of passive resistance. Apostolic Christianity from its beginning seemed rebellious and struck at the political system of Rome.

During this time period, a considerable amount of Theocrasia transpired between the Christian belief and the widely diffused Mithraic cult and the cult of Serapis, Isis, and Horous. Mithra was the Sun-God of the Persians, and he was represented by a statue with a lion's head, a man's body with a snake wrapped around it as the symbol of life. Around him on the floor was a circle of lamps to mean the planets that revolve around the sun (Zodiac). The sun, fire, and snake worship are bound together and mean the same. This type of worship penetrated into Italy at Milan where a statue was there erected as Mithra. The Mithraic Feasts were also recognized by Trajan of Rome in 98 A.D. Mithra was another name for Tammuz, who was Nimrod the Sun-God reborn. This fusing of one God with another is called Theocrasia, and nowhere was it practiced more than in Alexandria, Egypt. Only two peoples resisted it in this period, the Jews who already had their faith in the One God of Heaven and earth, and the Persians who had a Monotheistic sun worship. Many corrupt false Bibles and manuscripts were printed by the Catholic church at Alexandria, Egypt. The Catholic church used many of

the written documents of the Apostles and rewrote them to their own twisted theology to set up the doctrine of the Trinity.

It was Ptolemy I who set up not only in the Museum in Alexandria this worship of Mithra, but the Serapeum as well, which was devoted to the worship of a Trinity of Gods which represented the result of a process of Theocrasia applied more particularly to the Gods of Greece and Egypt. This Trinity consisted of the god, Serapis, the goddess Isis, and the child-god Horus. In one way or the other almost every god was identified with one of these three aspects of the One God, even the sun-god Mithras of the Persians. Mithraism centered upon a mystery about Mithras sacrificing a sacred bull. All the Mithraic shrines contained a figure of Mithras killing this bull which bleeds copiously from a wound in its side, and from this blood, a new life sprang. The Mithraist votary actually bathed in the blood of the sacrificial bull, and was “Born Again” thereby. The world was full of philosophy and theological concepts in the opening centuries of the Christian era.

Satan had his Babylonian religion already established in Alexandria, and in Rome, and now he must put this cult system together in order to save the Empire. Satan zeros in on a man named Tertullian to be his tool in the Latin Church of Rome. He was born in Carthage, the Roman Providence of Africa, and he studied as a lawyer in Rome. While in Rome, he became interested in the Christian movement. Tertullian helped to establish in the West, the Latin language as a vehicle for Christian thought. He coined many new words and phrases and became a significant thinker in forging the vocabulary and thought structure of Western Christianity. Tertullian once said, “What has Athens to do with Jerusalem?” His works abounded with arresting and memorable phrases and countless words of his own thinking. His works were filled with ingenious aphorisms, bold and ironic puns, wit and sarcasm. He became a Montanist around 210 A.D., and broke with them later to found his own party, The Tertullianists. As a young man, he was initiated into the mysteries of Mithra. He himself confesses he committed adultery frequently. He used one epigram (terse, witty saying) one apothegm (short pithy saying) after another. He wrote like an angry man, and even his Treatises on the

Christian virtues were wicked and warlike. He had the gift for the phrase rather than the paragraph, and most people appreciated his wit than to follow his arguments. He used strangely conceived combinations of words and phrases, highly imaginative metaphors, cryptic allusions (secret, occult & mysterious), multiple parentheses and anththeses in his writings. There are approximately 1,000 neologisms in Tertullian. Gibbon compares him to a sadist. He invented the concept of the Trinity, and he wrote that God was One in substance but three persons (Father, Son & Holy Ghost). According to historical references, he was the first to use the term, "Persona" in a Trinitarian and Christological context. He maintained that the Logos was distinct from the Father as a person, and is not as substance and that the Holy Spirit is the "third person" in the Trinity. He was the first to use the term "Trinitas" or the Trinity. Despite the difficulties of some of his conceptions, he left the Western Latin Church, its basic understanding of the Trinity. We see this man now, as Satan uses him for his own purpose to fulfill his master plan of deceit to bring about his Babylonian religion in the Western Latin Church. Is it a wonder that he was initiated into the cult of Mithra, the secret and mysterious religion of Satan? His use of neologisms throughout his writings testify of this fact. Neologism means a new word, usage or expression, a meaningless word coined by a psychotic. A psychotic is a mental derangement characterized by defective or lost contact with reality (insanity).

There is no record of the terms "Trinity" or "Persons" in relating to God or the Godhead found in the Bible. We clearly see that these expressions were formulated by a madman, demon possessed and beyond reality. Certainly, it is evident that he stands out in sharp contrast compared to the Apostles of Our Lord who possessed the fruit of the Spirit.

The term, "Trinity" or "Persons" in regard to the Godhead, is never once mentioned in the Bible, never used by the Apostles, or to be found on record prior to Tertullian around 200 A.D. At first the history of the Roman Church in Paul's time was identical with the history of Christian truth, but there came a time when streams of poison began to flow from the once pure fountain.

Satan had covered up and corrupted the true fountain of truth with his own poison stream of religion. Not many persons are smart enough to know the difference between the true religion the Apostles of the Lord taught, and the Trinitarian position the Devil has introduced. The true spring of truth came from Jesus Christ, and the New Testament Apostles, and not from demon possessed Tertullian and Latin Christianity (The Catholic church).

We see now that Satan had laid his groundwork or the introduction for his master plan to deceive the nations and steer them away from the truth of God's Word. There were a segment of Christians who possessed copies of the Gospels and letters of Paul who were baptizing in the Name of Jesus Christ around 280 to 290 A.D. There were also a number of Nestorians who believed that Jesus was both human and Divine. This infuriated Satan, so he aroused persecution of these Christians under his Emperor Diocletian. This period of persecution lasted around 10 years, from 284 to 294 A.D. With a majority of these Christians suppressed, Satan now proceeded to make the Trinitarian religion dominant throughout the Roman Empire before it collapsed completely.

Satan now zeros in on another man to be used as his tool to fulfill his purpose. This man's name was Constantine. Constantine was born in 274 A.D. and his father was Constanuis Chlorus, who ruled Gaul, Britain and Spain. Constantine served under Diocletian and fought in the Egyptian and Persian wars. After the Emperor Diocletian in 305 A.D., there was Civil War within the Empire in the West. Constantine's father died in York, England, and Constantine along with soldiers proclaimed himself Emperor of the West.

In 308 A.D., there were 6 Emperors at once in the Empire, but this did not last long, as each man was vying for full control of the Empire. These 6 Emperors were, in the West: Maximian, Maxentius, and Constantine. In the East: Galerius, Licinius, and Maximin. These 6 Emperors fought against each other for the prize of full Emperor of

the Empire. While these were engaged in combating for the Supreme Ruler of the Empire, Satan was busy in his stronghold in Alexandria. Satan zeros in on another man he will use in his master plan to ensure his religion is accepted throughout the Empire. This man's name was Athanasius. He was born in Alexandria and received his training at the Alexandrine School. He was an Egyptian National Leader, Ecclesiastical Statesman, and introduced Greek Orthodox Theology. He was very familiar with the cult of Mithra, and also well acquainted with Tertullian's concept of the Godhead, introducing such terms as "Trinity" and "Persons." Satan makes sure this man is receiving his proper training to be used at the right moment.

Meanwhile, the battles are being fought among the 6 Emperors of the Empire. Among the first to fall in battle was Maximian, defeated by Maxentius. The next to fall was Galerius in the East. Maximin and Licinius were also out of the picture, and that left Constantine and Maxentius to battle each other for the number one spot. In 312 A.D., Constantine fought for Rome against Maxentius in the battle of the Milvian Bridge, just outside of Rome. Constantine, himself a sun-worshipper, claimed he saw a vision in the sky of a cross and words that said, "In this sign conquer." He claimed this was the sign of the Christians, and it also gave him victory over Maxentius. The cross was never the sign of the Christians, it came from Tammuz of Babylon. Constantine, now the sole ruler and Emperor of the Empire that was already crumbling, wanted to solidify his rulership. He felt that he needed the support of the Latin and Greek speaking Christians. Constantine reunites the Empire in 324 A.D., and he calls a meeting in Nicaea in 325 A.D., in order to consolidate and establish Christianity (so called) under his rule.

There were Bishops from all over that met at this Council to decide the Creed of the Christian Church. There were three main views that were presented at this Council, and these were the men that presented them: Athanasius, from Alexandria, who we have already mentioned, embraced Tertullian's conceived and warped idea that there was one God, but this one God consisted of three "Persons" in the Godhead, referred to as "The Holy Trinity." Second, there was Arius, who taught that Christ was less than

God, and third, there was Sabellian, who taught that Christ was a mode or aspect of God. He did not recognize the two natures in Christ, and he taught that Christ was fully God, but not human.

There were many fights and much confusion at this Council, (God is not the Author of confusion) (I Cor. 14:33). Sabellian's views were declared heretical, and so were those of Arius. Monotheism and Nestorianism were also declared heretical at this Council. Arius was accused of adopting heretical opinions because he was not appointed Bishop of Alexandria. The Trinitarians, of whom Athanasius was the greater leader, taught that the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost were three distinct persons, but One God. The Doctrine of the Trinity was conceived of the human mind, and is entirely inconsistent with the plain account of Jesus in the Gospels.

The views that prevailed at Nicaea, are embodied in the Nicene Creed which is strictly a Trinitarian statement, and Constantine sustained the Trinitarian position, (This should not be a surprise). This meeting in Nicaea in 325 A.D., produced the exact Christian teaching for the Western Latin Church. It is evident that the word "Christian" at this point of time had lost its true meaning. Everyone must now believe in the Doctrine of the Trinity, or be branded a heretic. The Church was made a State Church, and supported by the Empire. Satan now succeeded in his master plan to install his religion from Babylon, via Pergamos, via Alexandria, into this Council of Nicaea. His choice of men who accomplished this for him of course, was Tertullian and Athanasius. Satan must see to it now that all who oppose his state religion, must be eliminated at once.

The Bible does not have any Trinitarian statements concerning a Trinitarian deity. The dogmatic formulation coined by Tertullian, has it, three persons and One substance. This conception was not accepted without contradiction as is proved by the Theological disputes of the 3rd and 4th Century. It is evident that Trinitarian speculation greatly resembles the way of thinking of Pluriform Monotheism.

Here is the Athanasian Creed: “We worship one God in Trinity, and Trinity in unity, neither confounding the persons nor dividing the substance, for there is one person of the Father, another of the Son, and another of the Holy Ghost. But the Godhead is all one, the glory equal, the majesty, co-eternal.” This is all very interesting, as it hinges on the border of Polytheism and corresponds to the cult of Babylon. In the unity of that only God in Babylon, there were three persons. The Papacy has in some of its Churches an image of the Triune God, with three heads and One body. The Babylonians had something of the same. I maintain that anything with three heads and One body, must be a freak of nature, and belongs in a sideshow somewhere, and certainly not in the Holy Bible.

Athanasius, who introduced the doctrine of the Trinity from Tertullian into the Council of Nicaea, was later banished by Constantine. At this point in history, Constantine’s Empire was under invasions from Barbarians, and he sought to move his throne from Rome to Byzantine in 330 A.D. This was done to acquire a better position to defend his Empire, but Satan knew what he was doing. Most of the Roman gold and glitter, was stripped from Rome and taken to Byzantine to erect a New Rome to the East. Constantine renamed the city, Constantinople, and he dedicated it to the Holy Trinity and the Mother of God. Arius was restored by Constantine, and in 337 A.D., Constantine was baptized by an Arian Priest upon his deathbed. After Constantine died, Athanasius returned from the Rhineland, and in 362 A.D., convened a Council at Alexandria during which he appealed for unity among those who held the same faith but differed in terminology. The way was thus prepared for the Orthodox Doctrine of the Trinity in the East. Now we have this Trinity doctrine of Satan in the Western Latin Church, and the Eastern Orthodox Church. Soon after this, Athanasius was exiled from Alexandria by Julian the Apostate. Athanasius died on May 2, 373 A.D. Thus, we now see Satan used his key men in establishing his Babylonian religion and his Trinitarian doctrine in the West and the East of the Roman Empire.

CHAPTER SIX--THE PAPAL CHURCH

We shall now deal with the early beginnings of the Western Latin Christian Church. By the 4th Century it was not only possible to be a Christian and a Roman, but the long history of Rome was in fact the beginning of the Christian tradition that Rome had been divinely ordained, and only the Name of the Divinity had changed. The true religion of Rome had become Rome itself and her ideals, and not the Apostolic doctrines of the New Testament.

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Stephen I was the First Bishop of Rome after Victor I, and he was known to have exercised supervision over the whole Church, and possibly the first to refer to the Petrine Theory. The Petrine Theory teaches that St. Peter was the first Bishop of Rome, and therefore all successors of Peter were endowed with the Holy Ghost that had belonged to Peter through Christ's Commission. The Bible never mentions Peter as the Bishop of Rome. St. Peter was never the first Pope of the Catholic church, he was married according to the Bible. The Christian Church of the West, inspired by Tertullian's teachings on the Trinity, began their Priesthood. The Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., was a plus in assuring the Doctrine of the Trinity throughout the Empire as the Official State Religion. Tertullian was known as the first Father of Latin Christianity around 200 A.D. The basic unit of organization in the Church, the Diocese, was presided over by a Bishop, and the Church affairs were managed by a Priest. The Church later on developed a defined system of government and hierarchy of officers.

After the Council of Nicaea, the structure of the Church became more elaborate, and the Bishops were known as Archbishops. Those in the greater Cities of the Empire were known as Patriarchs. The Roman Patriarch was pre-eminent, as he could claim direct succession from the first Bishop of Rome, the Apostle Peter.

After the split of imperial power from Rome to Byzantine, the Eastern Christians maintained that the Patriarch of that city merited an ecclesiastical authority co-equal with that of the West. A Council was called at Chalcedon around 451 A.D., and Leo the

Great asserted the primacy of his office. Leo at this time did not have the exclusive title of Pope, as this name in Latin, "Papa-Father," was also applied to the other Bishops and even to Priests. It was to be years later that this term would be reserved for the Roman Pontiff. It was through Leo the Great, that the theory of Papal Supremacy became explicit. Leo claimed the Petrine Theory provided a basis of absolute Papal infallibility.

Christians at this time had come to regard their faith as "Catholica," meaning Universal, and many believed those outside the Church could not be saved. Those who objected to any part of the Catholic doctrine, were labeled heretics and put to death. The Bible was forbidden to read, and books that contained teachings contrary to the Catholic position (the Trinity) were burned. This period began the early beginnings of what is termed, "The Dark Ages."

The real truth of God's Word was covered up, and Satan had substituted instead, his religion of Babylon through Rome, and now has it established as a Universal (Catholic) religion. With the fall of Rome in 476 A.D., the Roman Church was the dominant spiritual power in the West. The Popes occupied the city which for years had been the center of Roman government. Thus, the Bishop of Rome now had the prestige of centuries to back his claim for leadership in the Latin Church. Imperial Edicts increased the power of the Church, and by the time of the barbarian invasions of the 5th century, the Latin Church was well established to hold her position. The Roman Bishops had filled the power vacuum created when the imperial power was moved East to Byzantium.

It was Benedict who around 492 A.D., molded the form of Western Monasticism. He founded a Monastery in North Naples in 529 A.D., and its Head, the Abbot, was to be elected by Monks. The First Monk to become Pope, was Gregory the Great, who was a follower of St. Benedict. Gregory sent missionaries to England, and also held mass baptisms. It is recorded that as many as 10,000 people were baptized at one time. Gregory the Great was the 3rd founder of the Papacy, and the 4th of the Great

Fathers of Latin Christianity. He also initiated policies for bringing religious orders under the Papal control.

The Pope thus claims himself to be infallible, and he himself is the living Word of God. When Charlemagne reunited most of Western Europe under his reign, he claimed to be reconstituting the Old Roman Empire, and he dreamed of restoring the tradition of the Caesars. He went to Rome around the year 800 A.D., for his coronation. His successors renamed Rome the "Holy Roman Empire." The Catholic Church remained throughout the Middle Ages in the Western part of the Empire, and it kept Rome as its capitol.

The Catholic Church remains today in Rome, claiming to be the successor of St. Peter. After the fall of Constantinople in the East around 1453 A.D., by the Turks, the Grand Dukes of Moscow, Russia, proclaimed themselves successors to the Great Constantine, and styled itself, "The 3rd Rome." It is highly possible that missionaries were sent from Constantinople to Russia before it fell, and the Greek speaking Church of the East, fathered the Church of Russia today. I believe the religious system of Rome today will be destroyed during the Great Tribulation (Rev. 17). I also believe the last portions of the Eastern Church (Russia), will be destroyed by God in the Battle of Armageddon (Ezek. 38, 39).

CHAPTER SEVEN--REFORMATION HEROES

The word, "Protestant" means to protest, and this term came into existence during the middle or Dark Ages under the Roman Catholic rule. There were many who protested the policies of the Catholic Church during this period of time. For sake of space and time, I will mention only a few of these Great Heroes of the Reformation.

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There was: Peter Waldo, who in 1170 A.D., on a street, heard a Christian song and it interested him in the Gospel message. He was a wealthy merchant from France, and he hired two Scholars to translate for him the Bible from Latin to French. As he read, he became converted, and began to preach. He disregarded the authority of the Pope. His followers were called Waldenses. They were destroyed around 1208 A.D.

John Wyclif, was born near Richmond, England. He was called, "The Morning Star" of the Reformation. He was educated at Ballial College, Oxford, England. He translated Anglo-Saxon and Norman-French Bibles into English. He stressed the rights of the Church. He taught that the Bible was above the Pope, and also that the people had a right to read the Bible. He was accused of starting the Peasants War of 1381 A.D. He died Dec. 28, 1384 A.D., stricken down with paralysis. The Council at Rome in 1412 A.D., condemned his writings, and had them burnt. The Church Council of Constance in 1415 A.D., condemned his Doctrines, and 30 years after his death, ordered the disinterment and burning of his body. In 1428 A.D., Flemying, Bishop of Lincoln, carried out the Decree.

John Huss, was born at Hustinetz, Bohemia in 1369 A.D. He studied at the University of Prague and began to lecture in 1398 A.D. He received many of Wyclif's writings. He was forbidden to preach in private Churches. He challenged the doctrine of the Trinity in 1410 A.D. He maintained one was to preach by the internal call of God, and not from any outward call. He was brought before the Church Council on May 23, 1415 A.D., in chains at Constance. He appeared again before the Council on July 6, 1415 A.D., and he quoted the 51st Psalm in his death. He was burned at the stake, and

his ashes thrown into the Rhine River.

Girolamo Savonarola, was born on Sept. 21, 1452 A.D. He heard the message in 1474 A.D., and was converted. He received many visions from God. He defied the Roman Church, and was forbidden to preach. He was condemned May 23, 1498 A.D., and then hung to death and burnt. The remains of his body were thrown into the Arno River. He met his death in Florence, Italy.

Martin Luther, was born on Nov. 10, 1483 A.D., in Eisleben, Germany. He was educated in 1501 A.D., in Erfurt University. He preached the New Testament in the original Greek. He read of Huss's sermons. He found that the seat of authority in Rome was rotten and corrupt. On Oct. 31, 1517 A.D., he nailed on the door of the Church of Whittenburg, 95 Thesis against the Roman Church. This started the Reformation slogan, "The just shall live by faith." He called the Pope, "Antichrist" (good for him).

John Calvin, was born on July 18, 1509 A.D., in Noyon, France. He was educated at the College of Capettes in Noyon. He preached around the year of 1527 A.D. He died, Nov. 24, 1572 A.D.

John Knox, was born at Haddington, Scotland in 1505 A.D. He was educated at Glasgow University. He declared that the Roman Church had departed from Apostolic Purity.

Most of these great men, died Martyrs because of their protest against the doctrines and policies of the Roman Catholic Church. The Pope claims himself to be the living Word of God, and he adds to the written Word of God. He becomes the voice of God or what is called, "Organic Interpretation." There are many religions today who claim to be the Voice of God and add to the Bible. This is condemned by God in Revelation 22:18.

Satan has almost covered up the New Testament Apostolic doctrine of Truth, with the Dark Ages. The Reformation was not Apostolic in doctrine, but many still held to the doctrine of the Trinity from the Roman Catholic church. To get back to the true spring, we have to get back to the Word of God, the Bible. Pentecost is not an added new truth of today, but it is a return to the spring of truth that flowed in the Book of Acts before Satan muddied the stream with his poison Babylonian Trinitarian religion. There is no evidence in all history of God's Word, of Apostolic succession to the Pope. The Catholic Church hid the Word of God in the Dark Ages, and the Word of God was what they determined it to be. Salvation by works made the Church rich by selling indulgences so the people could buy their way to Purgatory.

Martin Luther, came preaching that, "The just shall live by faith." Satan today doesn't want you to know the real truth. He doesn't want you to find out he instituted his mystery religion of Babylon; including the Trinity through Pergamos, through Alexandria, through Rome, and into the Churches of today. We should brush away the dirt and false doctrines that Satan has placed in the Church of today, and get back to the early Church foundation and teachings of the Apostles.

It is my desire in the remainder of these chapters, to take the sword of truth, and go into God's Word and expose and kill the strongholds of Satan's Trinity, which he so cunningly introduced and deceived the world by, including myself. Thank God, I found out the real truth of the pure stream of Pentecost, and was brought out of believing in the doctrine of the Trinity. My desire is to share with you, TRUTH, that will expose Satan's counterfeit religion. I pray that you may see clearly the real way of obtaining salvation through Jesus Christ, Our Lord.

CHAPTER EIGHT --TRINITARIAN STRONGHOLDS

First of all, let me set forth a term that must be presented before we are able to seek the Truth of God's Word. We cannot understand God in relation to our earth without attributing to Him human characteristics or figures of speech. We use the term, "Anthropomorphic" expressions, which means that we attribute to God human language so that we may understand Him. We use another term, "Anthropathism," which means we attribute to God human passions and affections. God is a Spirit, (John 4:24) and thus he fills all Heaven and earth (Jer. 23:24). God is so Big and Great, we cannot journey, traveling at the speed of light, (186,000 mps) in our lifetime, outside of His Spirit Being. The God who created the galaxies, the stars, the Heavens and the Earth, did so within Himself. God can never create anything outside of Himself. God is omnipotence, omnipresence, and omniscience. The omnipotence of God, means that He is all powerful, and His power has no bounds or limitations. The omnipresence of God, means that He is everywhere present. The omniscience of God, means that He knows all things, and is absolutely perfect in knowledge.

There is no beginning or ending of God. He does not grow old, as there is no time with God. He is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Heb. 13:8). Time is only for mankind, and has no effect on God. In order for man to know anything of God, He has to reveal Himself in whatever way He chooses.

Let us begin with the creation of this world as a starting point, because I know of no other place to start, except with God. The Bible says in Gen. 1:1, God created the Heaven and the Earth. I have no desire at this point to know if He created it in 6 days of man, or a billion years of man. The fact remains that God created the Earth, and I will accept the Bible fact of creation. Remember, Genesis is a record of the creation of the Heavens and the Earth, and not a record of the creation of God.

In the beginning, means the beginning of Earth's creation because God does not have a beginning. In Genesis 1:2, it says the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the

waters. I'm not so sure God moved anywhere, as He already fills the Heavens and the Earth. This moving of the Spirit was the power of God in order to create. This moving of the Spirit did not create the Earth, read it for yourself. Some people want to go and be where the Spirit moves, but this is not all there is to God. I personally think after reading the Scriptures, it took the Word or Command of God with the Power of God, to Create. I like to be where the Spirit and the Word of God are operating together. Please keep in mind we are looking at God create this world from man's viewpoint. Some would say, and the Devil would have you to believe, that the three persons of the Trinity were here creating the Heavens and the Earth. Remember now; at this time, there was no such expression as, "persons" or "Trinity" in this time frame. These expressions came into being with Tertullian around 200 A.D., as can be verified by checking your history.

In I John 5:7, it states that there are three that bear record in Heaven: the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, and these THREE are ONE. Notice there is no mention of persons or Trinity in this Scripture. If this Scripture is taken to mean three persons, then we would have a Trinity or a Pluriform Monotheism. I will deal with this Scripture in a later chapter. I John 5:7 is not in the original Greek, it was added by the Catholics.

I personally believe that the Father was the Thought of God. There can be no invention, no Creation, unless there is first the thought. The one with the first thought is usually called the Founder or Father of that creation. I believe that the Thought of God was put into operation by the Power of God with the Command of God, and thus the Heavens and Earth were Created. I can never speak a word without breathing. Every word I speak, there is breath behind or with it. You try and speak without breathing. You have a thought to speak, and the power that gives you the ability to speak the word is your breath. I believe that, God the Father, (Thought) moved by Spirit, (Power) and said, (Word, Command) "Let there be light." Now if you can make three persons or three Gods out of this, then you need to rewrite the Bible. If your thought, breath, and word are three separate persons from yourself, then you are a major attraction to this World and need to be in a sideshow. Yes, I believe God created the World, but within

His Own Thought, Power, and Command.

We have now cut down the Devil's first stronghold with the sword of truth. What about the Scripture in Genesis 1:26, where God said, "Let us make man in our image?" What about the fact that some Hebrews used the word, "Elohim," which is in the plural? First, we have a double question and a double stronghold of Satan to conquer. Let us take the sword of truth and cut it to pieces. Let me first take the Hebrew word, "Elohim" as I like to begin with God. The Hebrew word, "Elohim" means god and certainly shows a plurality. It certainly does not show a plurality of persons in the Godhead, because we have no Scripture for such teaching. What it actually means to show, is that God is strong and above all other Gods. Elohim exhibits God displayed in His Power as the Creator and Governor of the Physical Universe. According to Smiths Bible Dictionary, the plural is used in prose and poetry to enlarge and intensify the idea expressed by the singular, and never was meant to imply persons or Gods in the Godhead.

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According to Peloubets Bible Dictionary, the fanciful idea that Elohim refers to the Trinity of persons in the Godhead hardly finds now a supporter among Scholars. It denotes the fullness of Divine strength, the sum of the Powers displayed by God.

When God said, "Let us make man in our image," he was not talking with the person of the Son and the person of the Holy Ghost. Naturally since God is a Spirit, we wonder how we are made in the image of God. The Bible says in Romans 5:14, that Adam was made in the figure of Him that was to come. Seven billion years ago is present with God, so is the next seven billion years. God is omniscience and He knows all things and is perfect in knowledge. God knew when He created Adam that He would become flesh to redeem mankind. God looked at Christ to make Adam. God knew and had Christ in His creative mind when He said, "Let us make man in our own image." The thought, Power, and Word of God had Christ in His creative mind as the blueprint in which to make Adam. In Revelation 13:8, it speaks of Christ the Lamb being slain from the foundation of the world. Christ was not actually slain at the creation of the world, as He was slain about 1900 years ago, but in the mind of God He was already slain. Christ

was slain from the foundation of the world only as the blueprint in the mind of God for redemption.

God knew in creating Adam, that He would become flesh as the pattern to make Adam. So, in summary, when God made Adam, He was made in the image of Christ in the mind of God.

There were many indications throughout the Old Testament where Jehovah God of the Jews, would someday come and redeem His people as their Messiah. God chooses to reveal himself to man as He wishes. In several instances in the Old Testament, God revealed Himself to man as the Angel of the Lord or Theophany appearances. These appearances were not a permanent manifestation of God, nor was it the appearance of the Son of God. The Son of God did not exist in the Old Testament; however, He did exist in the mind of God, and in Scriptures of prophecy.

Some would say the Scriptures teach that the person of the Father is different from the person of the Son, and the Son existed as a person before He entered the world as a man. To further prove this, they refer to Proverbs 30:4 and start reading as such, "Who hath ascended up into Heaven, or descended? Who hath gathered the wind in his fists? Who hath bound the waters in a garment? Who hath established all the ends of the earth? What is his Name, and what is his Son's Name, if thou canst tell?" Trinitarian Theology would have you believe that God is talking here and mentions His Son. Let me take the sword of truth once again and cut it to pieces. First of all, this passage does mention two people. There is also nothing here about prophecy in regard to Christ, as it says, what is His Son's Name, not what will His Son's Name be. I am amazed that educated people put into the Bible just what they want to see. There is no indication at all of God speaking of Himself and His Son in this verse.

The actual person speaking here is Agur, the Prophet, speaking to Ithiel and Ucal as is clear from verse one. He is asking these men, who hath, or what man, has ascended up into Heaven or descended, or gathered the wind in his fist, or established

the ends of the earth? What is His Name, and His son's Name? He is asking, what earthly man has the power like God? What is His Name and His son's Name if thou canst tell? Naturally they could not tell or answer because there was no man who could do this, and no man's son to verify or witness to it.

If there were three persons in the Godhead, and one of these persons is called the Son, then there would of necessity have to be a Mother. There can be no Son to a Father unless there is a Mother involved. We will discuss this when speaking about God sending His Son.

At this point, I have presented in an earlier chapter, sufficient Scripture in the Old Testament to show that Jehovah God of the Jews was the Only Almighty God. The Jewish people believed in Exclusive Monotheism, in One Singular God expressed to the fullness of Divine Perfection, and never in three persons in the Trinity. The Son of God is mentioned in the Old Testament in prophecy only, as is clear from reading Isaiah 9:6. When we compare this Scripture with Malachi 3:1, we see that the Lord Jehovah speaks of His Messenger (John the Baptist) who shall prepare the way before Him.

I would like to deal now with the verse of Scripture in John 3:16 before we go further in our discussion. It says, "God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." First of all, God so loved that He gave. This is the secret of love: to give, to share. God did not give or send His Son from Heaven to be born of the virgin, Mary, as there was no Son in Heaven to send. In John 1:6, it says that John was sent from God. John the Baptist did not come from Heaven, but he was sent from his Mother's womb. God's Son was also sent from His Mother's womb according to Gal. 4:4, "God sent forth His Son, (when?) made of a woman,-----." This is my point in John 3:16, God gave His only BEGOTTEN Son, BEGOTTEN of a woman. The Son of God, the humanity of God, or the Lamb of God, was BEGOTTEN of a woman. This then is the natural and logical way for a Son to be BEGOTTEN of a Father. If the Son of God was begotten, then the Son was never eternal as the Son. In John 1:1 we read, "In the beginning was the

Word and the Word was with God and the Word was God.” It does not say in the beginning was the Son, but the Word, and the Word was with God and was God. The Word was the command or speech of God, and the command or speech was God. God’s thought, power, and command are all one singular God. My word or speech is with my mind, my breath, my spirit, yet I am still only one person. In John 1:14, it says that the Word was made flesh, (through the woman, Gal. 4:4) and dwelt among us, and we beheld the Glory as of the only begotten (through woman) of the Father. Look at John 1:18, where it says that no man has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son (Christ) which is in the bosom of the Father, (the heart or thought of God) He (Christ) hath declared Him. The begotten Son through the womb of Mary, who is in the heart or bosom of God, has declared God to us.

The only way we can know or see God, is through Jesus Christ. Look at I Tim. 3:16, where we see that God (his Word) was manifest in the flesh. God was seen or recognized to this world in flesh through Christ. Jesus Christ was both God and Man. Jesus (Jehovah) Christ, (Messiah) God in flesh. Jesus Christ had a dual nature, He was both God and Man, deity and flesh (Son). This was why the angel told Joseph to name the child (Son) Jesus (Jehovah) (Matt.1:21). God became flesh, or Son, in order to redeem His creation. The Name of Jesus Christ is the saving Name for our salvation. “And she shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call his Name Jesus; for He shall save His people from their sins” (Matt. 1:21).

Is it any wonder that Satan tried to destroy Christ after His birth, through King Herod?

God was one step ahead of Satan in His plan to redeem His creation. We must keep in mind that Jesus Christ had a dual nature. This is the key to the whole Word of God. Failure to grasp this truth will only bring confusion in trying to understand the Scriptures. Sometimes Jesus spoke as God, and sometimes He spoke as Christ, the Son. Christ said, “The Father that dwelleth in Me (thought, command & power) He doeth the works.” We must remember that Christ was born of a virgin. Joseph was not His natural Father.

If Joseph were His natural Father, then the blood that flowed in the veins of Christ would be contaminated by Adamic sin. The Bible declares that Mary was found with child before they came together as husband and wife (Matt. 1:18-25). The blood group of a child is determined by the father; therefore, Joseph could not have been the natural father of Christ.

The Bible declares that God was the Father of Christ, or the Holy Ghost overshadowed Mary and she conceived. Either way, Christ only had One Father as to His flesh. The simple truth is that the Father (mind of God) through the Holy Ghost (power of God) sent the Word (command) that produced the seed (begotten Son) in the womb of Mary. Now if there were a Trinity with three separate persons, then Christ would have been Fathered by two persons. We know such was not the case at all. We also see in I Cor. 15:45-47, that Jesus Christ was the Lord from Heaven. Jesus Christ was the second Adam and therefore He replaces the first Adam who fell in sin, and the second Adam, Christ, is to bring us back to God. At this point, we have Christ, the Son, the Lamb of God, containing the pure blood from God. Now we understand that Jehovah became flesh, or Jesus in the Greek, became flesh. Now Jesus Christ is both God and Man. Let me sum it all up for you like this:

GOD**FLESH***Hebrew:*

Jehovah _____ in _____ Mashiyach (Messiah)

Greek

Iesous

Jesus _____ in _____ Christos (anointed Christ)

Kurios

Theos

Jesus _____ in _____ Christ

God _____ in _____ Flesh

There are some who believe that when God said, "Let us make man in our image," that the three persons of the Trinity, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, were conversing with each other. There are no persons in the Godhead, and there is no such word as Trinity" mentioned in the Bible. "The only person is Christ, in whom all the fulness of the Godhead dwells (Col.2:8-9). At the creation of man, there was no person of the Father, person of the Son, and person of the Holy Ghost. The Son was not in the Old Testament. The Son was begotten through the womb of Mary in the New Testament. At the creation of man, there was the Father, Word, and the Holy Ghost, or shall I simply say the thought, command, and power of God created Man in the image of Christ (Son) that was to come. Christ was the image Man was created in, and the thought, command, and power of God did the creating (Rom.5:14).

Some also say the Bible nowhere calls Jesus, God the Father. In Matthew 1:21 we read, "And she shall bring forth a Son, (Christ) and thou shalt call His (Christ) Name, Jesus." Matt. 1:23 says, "They shall call His Name Emanuel, which being interpreted is, God, with us." Christ said, "The Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works" (John 14:10). Let me put it like this:

"Father	in	Me"
(God)	in	(Flesh)
(Jesus)	in	(Christ)

Jesus is the Greek word for God, Jehovah, and the Father. Jesus is therefore the Father, and Christ is the Son. Thus, we have the Name, Jesus Christ. Some say that the Bible teaches that Jesus is God the Son. This is not true. Jesus is not God the Son. Jesus is God, or the Father, in the Son. There is no expression of "God the Son," but there is a "Son of God." Christ was the Son (born of Mary) and Jesus (God) dwelt in Christ, thus we have, Jesus Christ.

I realize now that several questions could be asked, so let me list some that are frequently asked by Trinitarian believers:

Q. Why was Jesus Christ baptized and the Trinity revealed?

A. Let me take the sword of truth and bring down the Devil's stronghold. First of all, Jesus Christ was born under the Law Dispensation, and therefore He was baptized under the Law. He was a full thirty years of age when He was baptized. Jesus Christ was not baptized for sin, as He knew no sin in regard to Himself. John exclaimed that Jesus should be the one who baptized him. Jesus Christ was baptized to fulfill all righteousness, and as our example, Jesus Christ was both the Lamb of God, and our High Priest. Jesus fulfilled the High Priestly function under the Law of going to the laver of water, in this case, the Jordan River, to wash. The laver of water in the Tabernacle was a symbol of baptism.

Now at this point, let us pay close attention to some Bible verses. The Scriptures indicate that John did not know Jesus Christ even though they were cousins and only 6 months apart in age (John 1:31-33). Why was this? Surely since they were cousins and Palestine was such a small area, they should have known each other in their earlier years. I personally believe Jesus spent a majority of His earlier life out and away from the country of Palestine.

For more on this, see the Book, "Diggers for Facts" by J.O. Kinnaman. Further proof of this can be seen in Matt. 17:24, where Jesus was required to pay tax. This was not the customary Temple tax, but a Customs tax for people coming into the country. At any rate, remember the Scripture in Mal. 3:1, where John the Baptist was to be the forerunner of Jehovah (Jesus). John's Ministry could not be fulfilled or completed until (Jehovah) in flesh appeared on the scene. Since John did not know Jesus Christ, how would he personally know He was the God of the Old Testament? It would have been easy for John to say, "Here is Jesus Christ, He is my cousin, I've known Him all my life."

This was not the case at all in checking the Scriptures. God spoke to John and let him know that one day while he was baptizing, there would come One to be baptized who was the Messiah. God would let John know in vision this One was indeed the Son of God (John 1:33).

John was to know and bear record himself that Jesus Christ would be the Messiah by seeing the Spirit descending and remaining on Him. This then would be the One who baptizes with the Holy Ghost. At this point, I suggest you compare all accounts of the baptism of Jesus in Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John to get a full picture of this baptism. Some people would think in regard to the Trinity, that when Jesus Christ was baptized, the Heavens were opened, God spoke from Heaven, and the Holy Ghost in form of a dove landed upon Jesus. This thinking is totally absurd, as checking the Scriptures closely we begin to see what really happened.

Matthew says, "When Jesus was baptized, went straightway out of the water and lo the Heavens were opened unto Him, and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lo a voice from Heaven saying, this is My beloved Son in whom I am well pleased" (Matt. 3:16-17). First of all, the phrase, "The Heavens were opened" was not to mean literally, because there is no such recording this took place. The people there that day did not see the Heavens opened at all. If this were so, there would have been some reaction on their part, as the Heavens literally being opened, is a Major Event to mankind. Read the account in Exodus where God spoke on top of Mt. Sinai and the people were afraid and trembled and thought they would die (Exod. 20:19). Also check in Revelation 6:14, where the Heavens depart as a scroll and men are afraid and hide themselves in the dens, rocks, and mountains. Such would be the natural reaction if the Heavens were literally opened. It does not say the Heavens were opened to the people or to Jesus, but to him, meaning John the Baptist. The next phrase, "And he saw," that is, John saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove. The phrase, "The Heavens were opened," is an Eastern idiom or expression meaning, a revelation was given. John saw the Spirit of God (in vision or revelation only) descending like a dove. This phrase,

“Spirit descending like a dove,” is also an Eastern idiom or expression signifying commission and meekness. A voice from Heaven also means a command was given or instruction was given. Thus we see that John only in vision form saw the Heavens opened, the Spirit descend like a dove, and a voice from Heaven. There was no literal dove that landed upon Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost is not a dove, and therefore does not have wings and feathers. All the people saw that day was the person of Jesus Christ standing on the bank of the Jordan River. John saw or received a vision, or shall I say, a revelation was given from Divine instruction that Jesus was commissioned as the One who baptizes with the Holy Ghost. See the passage of Scripture in John 1:32-34, where John bare record and he saw. All of this was given to John in a vision or revelation form so that he could know indeed Jesus Christ, the Messiah of Israel, was now on the scene.

Let us suppose for one moment that indeed the Heavens were opened literally, and a dove literally floated down from Heaven and landed upon Jesus, and a voice thundered from Heaven. This, friend, would have been one of the major attractions of the world, and the greatest event of all time in their day. If this actually happened, everyone there that day including John would undoubtedly confess this actually took place, and no one could convince them otherwise, as they would all be actual eye witnesses. Something so great and astounding like this could never be forgotten, especially within a short period of time. But do you realize that just a short time had passed and John was cast into prison, and he sent two of his Disciples to Jesus to ask Him, “Art thou He that should come, or do we look for another?” (Matt. 11:3). Why would John ask such a question like this?

He, like any other human, doubted or questioned his vision from God, and he had to know if indeed Jesus Christ was the Messiah before he died. He wanted to know if his mission was complete before he died. Now this is my point, if John literally saw the Heavens opened, a dove land on Jesus, and heard a voice from Heaven, why would he question what he actually saw with his own eyes? He along with the multitude would have been actual eye witnesses to this great event. Jesus said to John’s disciples, “Go

tell John the blind receive their sight, the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor have the Gospel preached to them” (Matt. 11:4-5). I believe John had the assurance before he died that indeed the Messiah of Israel, Jesus Christ, was walking among men.

When we look at this account in light of truth, we see that the Trinitarian position does not hold true in these passages of Scripture. Check these Eastern idioms and expressions again, and decide for yourself if you can make three persons or a Trinity out of them.

EASTERN IDIOM - EXPRESSIONS

- “Heavens were opened” - A revelation given
- “Spirit like a dove” - Signifies commission and meekness
- “Voice from Heaven” - Divine instruction given

Now let us look at another question from the Trinitarian people:

Q. Why did Jesus pray to the Father?

A. This is a good question, and let us look at this in the light of Bible truth. First of all, in Matt. 6:9 and in Luke 11:2, we have what is commonly thought of as the Lord’s Prayer.

Actually, this is not the Lord’s Prayer. The Disciples of Jesus came to Him and said, “Lord teach us to pray.” Jesus replied, “When ye pray; say, our Father which art in Heaven----.”

This was the model prayer Jesus gave to His Disciples to pray. Now as to the question of Jesus praying to the Father, we must remember that Jesus Christ was God in flesh. In Jesus Christ there was a Dual Nature, as He was both deity and humanity. As to His deity: He raised the dead, healed the sick, and forgave sins. As to His humanity: He got tired, hungered, slept, and prayed. When Christ prayed, He prayed from His humanity to the eternal Father or Spirit. If Jesus Christ were God the Son, as most people think, then you would have a God praying to another God, and we know this could never be so. When one prays, he is in need of help, strength, etc., and certainly the humanity of God was in need of the things that only the Spirit could give. When Jesus Christ prayed in John 17:5, for the glory He had with the Father before the world was, He was speaking of the glory He had as the Word or command of God. Christ was never God the eternal Son sharing glory with the Father as a second person of the Trinity. The thought, command, and power of God, all have the same glory, as God is only One Spirit. The glory Jesus Christ had and shared with the Father before the world was, was creative glory as the command of God.

Q. Why did Jesus say on the cross, “My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me?”

A. First of all, seeing that Jesus Christ had a dual nature, this is no problem. The problem would exist if he were the eternal God the Son. God is a Spirit (John 4:24) and therefore as an eternal Spirit, God can never die. If God can die, then He is not Spirit and is not eternal. Jesus Christ was God in flesh, and the deity had to depart from the humanity in order for the humanity or flesh to die. Jesus Christ said, “You don’t take My life from Me, but I lay it down.” They would never have killed Christ in the flesh if He had never let them do so. When Jesus Christ finally allowed Himself to be taken and crucified as the Lamb of God, the deity had to withdraw from the humanity in order for Him to die. With Christ’s last breath, He cried out, “My God why hast thou forsaken Me?” The Spirit has to forsake or leave the humanity in order for the flesh to die. The soldiers were amazed that Christ was dead already, and it was because His deity had already departed, It wasn’t so much that the soldiers actually killed Him. If our spirit never left our body, we would never die. Our spirit has to leave our body in order for the

flesh to die. Now at this point, if Jesus Christ were the eternal Son or God the Son of the Trinity, then you would have the eternal Son or God the Son, or the second person of the Godhead, dead for three days. This could never have been the case, as God did not die. The truth is that He prepared a body to die as the begotten Son through the womb of Mary. The flesh died, Christ died, but the Spirit, thought, command, and power of God never did die.

Q. What does the right hand of God mean?

A. First of all, God is a Spirit and as such He does not have hands, feet, etc. These are Anthropomorphic expressions of man contributing human characteristics to God. If God has a right hand, feet, then I would also have to say He has wings according to Psalms 17:8. The right hand of God is an Eastern idiom or expression of speech which means, “right hand of power” or “exalted above all power.” In Exodus 8:19, the magicians of Egypt said, “this is the finger of God.” They didn’t actually see the finger of God, but only His power manifested in miracles. Also, in Luke 11:20, Jesus said, “I cast out Devils with the finger of God.” Did Jesus Christ reach up into Heaven and pull down the Father’s finger and cast out Devils? Jesus Christ cast out Devils by the power of God.

Let us look at the case in Acts 7:56, where Stephen sees Jesus standing on the right hand of God. Stephen said, “Behold I see the Heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” First of all, the Heavens were not literally opened as we pointed out at the baptism of Jesus Christ. If the Heavens were opened, the Jews would have seen for themselves, and there would have been a reaction on their part. The expression, “Heavens were opened,” is an Eastern idiom meaning a revelation was given.

In this revelation given to Stephen, he sees Christ standing on the right hand of power, or exalted above all power. The Jews knew exactly what he meant when he said, “I see the Son of man standing on the right hand of God.” This was the reason

they killed him. Now if the Jews believed in the Trinity and three persons in the Godhead as some teach, then this would have been acceptable to the Jews. They only believed in one singular God, and never accepted the fact this Son of man was exalted above all power or at the right hand of God.

Q. Why did David say “The Lord said unto my Lord” in Acts 2:34?

A. First of all, we have seen that the expression, “right hand of God” means exalted above all power. The expression “sit on my right hand” is meant to say a symbol of completed work. Jesus Christ completed the work of redemption, and as a result is exalted above all power. Christ was David’s Son after the flesh, but David’s creator by the Spirit. Thus, David sees God in his Divinity as God and Man. “The Lord (Jehovah) said unto my Lord, (glorified Christ) sit on my right hand,” This does not prove three persons or three Gods, as there never was such in all the Bible. Psalms was also the Hebrew songbook of the Old Testament. David was not preaching out of a songbook to express two different Lords. Do preachers today preach out of a songbook? No!

Q. Why did the Lamb come and take the book out of the right hand of Him that sat on the throne in Rev. 5:7?

A. First of all, this is in the Book of Revelation, and this Book is full of symbolism. This vision was given to John on the Isle of Patmos, and shows that Jesus was the creator as well as the redeemer of all mankind. No one could open the seals of the future Tribulation upon this earth. This vision shows that Christ, in His humanity, the Lamb, was slain and thus had the power to open the events of the future. The Lamb is shown here in his worthiness to open the Seals of Revelation. The One on the throne is Jesus (Jehovah) in his deity. The Lamb came from the midst of the throne as an example of the Word or command of God leaving the glory of Heaven and becoming flesh. Thus, John sees the dual role of God in His redemption of the world. Could Jesus be both the One on the throne and the Lamb? In the same context he is Both the Lion and the Lamb. In John 10, He is Both the Shepherd and the Door to the

Sheepfold. He was the Lamb and our High Priest at Calvary. He is the Creator and Offspring of David. Each of these are expressions to show the Dual Nature of Jesus Christ, that indeed God was in Christ, or Jehovah became flesh.

Q. Why is Christ subject and put under God in I Cor. 15:28?

A. We must remember that in this passage of Scripture, we are dealing with a period of time that is far out in the future. This can be seen in reading verse number 24 of the same Chapter. In verse 26, it states the last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. It is evident that we are dealing at least with a period of time after the 1,000 year Millennial reign of Christ. All enemies are to be put under Christ's feet, and this will not be until Satan himself and death and Hell are cast into the lake of fire. In the meantime, Christ is the Head of all the redeemed. He is reigning now in His Mediatorial role as the Mediator between God and man (I Tim. 2:5). He will retain this Mediatorial role between God and man until the consummation of all things. Humanly speaking, Christ subjected Himself to the Father when he assumed our nature and submitted Himself to the cross. His present exaltation is a result of that submission. It was only as Mediator that Christ could be exalted, and He is on the Mediatorial throne in Heaven. Christ will yield up the Lordship of the Mediatorial Office, and His Glory and Dominion will be the same. It will merely be a change in the form of administration. Christ will no longer be in a Mediatorial Office, as we will not need a Mediator throughout eternity. When Christ has subdued all His enemies, He will no longer reign over the earth as Mediator, but only as God, then, Divine Absoluteness will be Supreme, but His Headship over His people is to continue Forever.

CHAPTER NINE--THE DOCTRINE OF CHRIST

I want to enter this chapter and explain what is meant by the word "Doctrine." Jesus Christ certainly said a lot of things about Himself that we should examine closely. The word Doctrine means teaching, and certainly Jesus left us a lot of His teachings. In John 5:39, we are told to search the Scriptures, for in them ye think ye have eternal life, but they are which testify of Me (Jesus Christ). Jesus Christ said Himself that His Doctrine came from the Father (John 7:16). In essence, all true doctrine is built upon Jesus Christ, and He received it from the Father. Jesus said in John 8:24, that if we didn't believe He was the "I AM," we would die in our sins. All through the Ministry of Jesus Christ, He indicated that the Father was in Him.

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In John 14:8, Philip asked of Jesus to see the Father, to which Jesus Christ said, "He that seeth Me seeth the Father." Christ said, "I am in the Father and the Father in Me, the Father that dwelleth in Me, He doeth the works" (John 14:10). If there were three persons in the Godhead, you would have One person inside of each other. If Jesus Christ also had a separate deity from the Father, why didn't He use His own deity instead of calling on the deity of the Father? The simple truth is that Jehovah is Christ. Jesus also infuriated the Jews in John 8:58, when He said, "Before Abraham was, I AM." Jesus Christ was before Abraham as the Word of God, and not as the eternal Son. In John 10, Jesus leaves us His Doctrine that He is the Door to the Sheepfold. We cannot get to Heaven or even come to the Father except through the Door, which is Jesus Christ. We also see in John 10:30, where Jesus tells the Jews that He and the Father are One. They accuse Him of blasphemy because Jesus Christ being a Man made Himself God. Actually, the reverse is True. God made Himself a Man, the Man never did make Himself God.

In John 11:25, Jesus Christ declares Himself to be the Resurrection and the Life. What a profound statement. The One who could raise all the dead at the sound of His voice, was walking among the Jews. Personally, I believe if the Jews actually knew who Jesus Christ was, they would have had Him to raise all their dead loved ones. In

John 14:28, Christ said that the Father was Greater than Himself. If there were three persons in the Godhead and all were co-equal, then we would have a problem, because the eternal Son would be less greater than the Father. The Truth is that the Father who dwelt in Christ was greater than the flesh.

In John 15:1-8, Jesus said that He was the True Vine and we are the branches, and if we are not in Jesus Christ, then we are not in the Vine and therefore cannot bring forth fruit of the Spirit. In John 14:23, Jesus Christ said that if we hate Him, we hate the Father also. The Jews hated Jesus; therefore, they hated their Jehovah God in ignorance. After Christ's resurrection, He appears to His Disciples and Thomas declares Jesus Christ to be His Lord and His God (John 20:28).

Let us look at Christ's teaching on the Name. In John 3:16-17, God sent the begotten Son (begotten of Mary) into the world, that the world through Him (Christ) might be saved. The Name of the begotten Son of God was Jesus Christ (Matt. 1:21). Christ said that He came in His Father's Name (John 5:43). When I came into this world, born into this world, I inherited my father's name. When Christ was born or begotten through the womb of Mary, He inherited His Father's Name (Jesus). Jesus is simply the English Name for the Hebrew Jehovah God. Christ is the Greek Name for the Hebrew, Mashiyach, meaning "The Messiah" or "The anointed One." Jesus Christ then is in the Hebrew, Jehovah Mashiyach, and in English, Jesus Christ. This makes sense when we realize that the New Testament was written in Greek. Christ said also in John 10:25, that He did the works in His Fathers' Name. The Father's Name was Jehovah translated into the English, Jesus. Christ also said in John 12:28, "Father glorify thy Name." I doubt if Christ meant for the Father to glorify His authority, as some teach. Christ calls on the Father (Spirit) to glorify His Name, a voice came from Heaven and said, "I have glorified it and will glorify it again." God glorified the Name of Jesus Christ when Christ was born, and He glorified it again when Christ arose from the grave. The voice came not for the sake of Jesus Christ, but for the sake of the Disciples that they would know and witness for themselves that the Name of Jesus Christ is glorified by the Father. Jesus said in John 14:14, that if we ask anything in His Name, He would

do it. In John 15:21, Jesus said that we would be hated of the world for His Name sake, (not for His authority sake). In John 17:6, Jesus Christ said that He had manifested the Father's Name unto men.

It is clear and evident at this point that Jesus Christ declared what the Name of the Father was and how we should use this Name. Jesus Christ Himself has declared to us the Doctrine or teaching of the Name. I believe the Name of Jesus Christ is the secret, the Door, the way of approach to God. I believe anything we will ever receive from Heaven, will come through the Name of Jesus Christ.

Let us see how Jesus speaks in relation to us receiving benefits from Heaven. In John 14:26, Jesus Christ said that the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father would send in His Name. (Jesus Christ). In John 15:26, we see that Jesus Christ said He would send us the Comforter from the Father. Whether the Father or Jesus sends the Comforter, it is all the same, as Jesus is the Father, and the Father is Jesus, and the Comforter will come through Jesus Christ. When the Holy Ghost comes to us from Heaven, it will come through the Name of Jesus Christ.

Here is another thought, if we receive Heaven's benefits through the Name of Jesus Christ, is it possible to send something from earth to Heaven through the same channel, the Name of Jesus Christ? The answer to this question is yes, because the Name of Jesus Christ is the connection between Heaven and earth. The Name is the bridge that spans the Great Divide between us and God. Jesus Christ is our Ladder to Heaven.

Let us look in Gen. 28:12-13, where Jacob dreamed about the Ladder set on Earth and the top reached to Heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending upon it. I believe this to be a shadow or type of things to come which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ. In John 1:51, we see where Jesus told Nathaniel he would see the Heavens opened (spiritual revelation) and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man. This Son of Man was Jesus Christ. This then is the

fulfillment of Jacob's dream that Jesus Christ is the Ladder to Heaven. Jesus Christ didn't need Peter's sword in the Garden of Gethsemane, He had the angels of God ascending and descending upon Him. All Jesus had to do was speak the Word and more than twelve legions of angels would have delivered Him (Matt. 26:53). Heaven's Glories, the Holy Ghost, the Mercy of God, Healing, Strength, Salvation, and many other Promises all descend and come to us down this Spiritual Ladder to Heaven, Jesus Christ. This Name of Jesus Christ is the most important fact and find in the Scriptures, for it is our Lifeline to Heaven.

In Matt. 16:16, in answer to Christ's question to Peter, "Whom do ye say that I am?" Peter confesses that Christ is the Son of the Living God. Jesus tells him that the Father had revealed this Truth unto him. Jesus further tells Peter that upon this Rock (Truth) He would build His Church. The Church that Jesus Christ was to build was to be upon the Truth or revelation that He (Jesus Christ) was the Christ, the son of the Living God. There is no mention at all of Christ referring to build His Church upon the Rock, Peter. This Scripture does not have any support at all to the Petrine Doctrine as some religions teach today. Jesus Christ was to build His Church upon Himself, as He is the focal point, the Rock, the foundation of all Christian doctrine and teaching. This can further be seen in reading and understanding the Scriptures in Eph. 2:19-22, where we are built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ being the Chief Cornerstone. We now see that the Name of Jesus Christ is the Cornerstone and Foundation for all Christian Theology.

We see also where Jesus Christ Himself established the doctrine or teaching of repentance, baptism, and the infilling of the Holy Ghost. In John 3, Jesus told Nicodemus that unless he was born again of water and of the Spirit, he could not enter the Kingdom of God. Jesus also spoke the Words to a Samaritan woman in John 4, where He talked of the living water He would give, which was the Holy Ghost. In John 7:37, we see this living water Jesus spoke about was the Holy Ghost, which they that believe on Him *should* receive. Jesus left us with no option in this verse of Scripture. In John 14:16, Christ said that He would pray the Father and He shall give you another

Comforter, and we know this to be the Holy Ghost, as seen in John 14:26. The Comforter Jesus spoke about was not another separate being from Himself, as is clear in reading the context, but another, meaning in place of, in addition to. Jesus Christ was soon to return to Heaven and He knew the Disciples needed another Comforter to take the place of the Son in flesh. Jesus said Himself, "I will come to you, and shall be IN YOU." When the Holy Ghost comes into our hearts, we have the Father (Jesus), the

Word (Christ), and the Spirit of Jesus Christ (Holy Ghost) in us. This does not mean we have three persons in us, but we have the fulness of God in us.. This is clear from the following Passages of Scripture:

God the Father in us	-	"If we love one another, God Dwelleth in us" 1 st John 4:12.
Jesus Christ in us	-	"Know ye not your own selves, How that Jesus Christ is in you, Except you be reprobates." 2 nd Cor. 13:5.
Holy Ghost in us	-	"And they were all filled with the Holy Ghost, and began to Speak with other tongues, as The Spirit gave them the Utterance." Acts 2:4

We have the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost in us as ONE and the selfsame Spirit. I Cor. 12:13.

We are now to get into the body of Christ and thus get into God and His eternal life and resurrection. This was one of the most important doctrines expressed by Jesus Christ when he was here on earth (John 14:20-23 John 15:4-7).

Since it is evident that Christ is the second Adam, (I Cor. 15:45), we must be in

the second Adam to be quickened out of this world by His quickening Spirit (I Cor. 15:22).

Before we proceed in the next chapters, we see now that Jesus Christ established the doctrines Himself, and He set the conditions in order that we may enter into the Kingdom of God and be saved.

CHAPTER TEN--THE PASSEVER LAMB

Since Jesus Christ has set the conditions and He is to build His Church upon Himself and upon His Name as the Chief Cornerstone, He must supply the necessary elements for salvation. Christ must furnish the materials for us to build on if we are to have a Spiritual Church. This is exactly what He has done when He went to the cross of Calvary. The bride or wife God made for the first Adam in the Garden of Eden, came from his side, also the Spiritual Bride, the Church, is to be made of the elements which came from the side of the second Adam, Jesus Christ. It was no accident when the Roman soldier pierced the side of Jesus Christ and out came blood and water. The Scriptures declare in Heb. 9:22, without the shedding of blood there is no remission of sins. Jesus also said in John 3:5, that a man is to be born again of water and of Spirit.

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When Jesus Christ was on the cross that day, many Scriptures and types were fulfilled in Him. He was the Passover Lamb that was to be sacrificed, as He died exactly on the day of the Jewish Passover Feast. God told the children of Israel in Egyptian bondage to take a Lamb and kill it and take the blood and to apply it to their door posts in order to be saved from the death angel. What would have happened if they killed the Lamb and did not apply the blood to their door posts? They all would have died that night, because the Lamb slain supplied the blood, but it took faith in applying the blood that saved them. Even while God was giving instructions to the children of Egyptian bondage, He was also making preparations for our exodus out of this bondage of sin today. Jesus Christ, our Passover Lamb, was slain nearly 2,000 years ago, but it is not enough just to believe He died, we have to apply His blood by faith to our hearts. Jesus Christ has made this possible. On that historical day recorded in Jewish history, Christ died for the sins of the whole world. The sky grew dark, the sun refused to shine, soldiers gambled, people mocked, a thief cried out, the earth shakes, the veil is rent asunder, the rocks are rent, the graves were opened, and then in the stillness the Roman Centurion cried, "Truly this was the Son of God." There were many witnesses there that day, the Roman soldiers, the High Priest, the multitude, the women standing afar off, and an unconverted thief.

God also had His witnesses, as Heaven and earth did witness that day the greatest event in all human history. In I John 5:6, we read where this is He that came by water and blood, even Jesus Christ. Heaven had its witnesses there that day, for there are three that bear record (witness) in Heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are ONE. I do not deny that there are three, but the objection is that these three are persons or three Gods. There is no indication of persons or Gods mentioned here whatsoever. The Father (thought), the Word (command), the Holy Ghost (power), bore witness in Heaven that Christ (Son) died as the Lamb and shed forth blood and water for our redemption. The witnesses on earth were the Spirit, the water, and the blood and these three agree in ONE. Since Jesus Christ was God in flesh; therefore, the Father, Word, and the Holy Ghost are ONE in Christ. The Spirit, water, and the blood agreed in ONE which is Christ. Christ was the only body (flesh) that Heaven and earth agreed or witnessed in. The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost, are ONE in Christ (Col. 2:8-9). The necessary elements for salvation for all people are, the Spirit, the water, and the blood of Christ. "This is the record that God hath given to us, eternal life, and this life is in His Son (Jesus Christ). He that hath the Son (Christ) hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God, hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the Name of the Son of God (Jesus Christ) that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the Name of the Son of God (Jesus Christ). And we know that the Son of God is come and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is True, and we are in Him that is True, even in His Son, Jesus Christ. This is the True God and eternal life" (I John 5:11-20) (John 17:3).

We have sufficient Scripture to prove that eternal life is in the Son of God, and this eternal life is in His Name (Jesus Christ). "But these are written that ye might believe that Jesus (Jehovah), is the Christ (Messiah), the Son of God (through Mary), and that believing, ye might have life through his name" (Jesus Christ) John 20:31 Rom. 6:23.

Everything we will receive will come in or through the Name of Jesus Christ (Mat. 1:21) (Acts 3:16) (Acts 10:43) (Rom. 1:5). This is the Name that contains the lifeline

between Heaven and earth.

“Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is Antichrist that denieth the Father and the Son” (I John 2:22). Those who will not accept the fact that Jesus or Jehovah of the Old Testament is the Christ, or the Messiah in flesh, are Antichrists. Certainly, the Jews of today possess the Spirit of Antichrist, but this will not always be so.

“Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father; but he that acknowledgeth the Son, hath the Father also” (I John 2:23). If we deny the Name of the Son which is Jesus Christ, then we deny the Father that sent the Son (through Mary). If we acknowledge the Son (Christ) then we have the fullness of the Father, as the fullness of the Godhead is within the Son (Jesus Christ) (Col. 2:8-9). This can also be seen in reading I John 4:2-3. The implication here is that we are to acknowledge that the ONE singular God of the Jews (Jehovah), has come in the flesh (Christ), and therefore Jesus is the Christ. This is the connection of God in relation to man for redemption. The Name of Jesus Christ is therefore the Channel, Ladder, Door, and every avenue between Heaven and Earth, God and Man.

Christ having died and arose again the third day, establishes the whole doctrine of the Christian faith upon Himself. His death on the cross, as we have already pointed out, provided the necessary elements for salvation. It is now at this point that we are to apply these elements to us in order to be redeemed. Jesus said in Mark 16:15, that we are to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature. The Gospel is the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ. This is the Good News or the Gospel that we are to preach to all the world. Preaching the Gospel is to stir one’s faith and cause that person to believe in Jesus Christ and what He has established on the cross. Believing in Jesus Christ is certainly a good step in the right direction; however, this does not apply the necessary elements to our heart for complete salvation. We certainly are to believe, but we are to believe on Him as the Scripture hath said or commanded (John 7:38).

Jesus Christ was our Passover Lamb at Calvary, which fulfilled the type of Passover Lamb slain on that historic night in Egypt when the bonds of Egypt gave way before blood. It took works or acting by faith on their part in the blood of that Lamb that saved them. Application on their part in applying the blood on the doorposts, was faith in operation. Preaching the Gospel produces faith in the shed blood of Christ, but this blood has to be applied to our soul. How are we to apply these necessary elements that Christ provided for us on the cross? I believe that Jesus Christ Himself established the steps to our salvation. In Hebrews 9:22, it states that without the shedding of blood, there is no remission of sins. Jesus Christ gave to mankind the necessary steps to salvation in order for us to make our exodus or escape out of this world of bondage. Thanks be to God, Christ humbles Himself and became our Passover Lamb for redemption.

CHAPTER ELEVEN-- REPENTANCE & BAPTISM

Jesus Christ has established the Doctrine or teaching of repentance as the first step in our quest for salvation (Luke 13:3-5) (Mark 2:17) (Matt. 4:17). God has commanded men everywhere to repent (Acts 17:30). Jesus also stressed repentance in His Great Commission to His Disciples in Luke 24:47. We have sufficient Scriptures to prove that Jesus Christ Himself established repentance as a necessary step to salvation. True repentance is to ask Jesus Christ for forgiveness of all our sins, and to completely forsake all sin in our lives. When one does this, there should no longer be a desire to live in sin.

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The next step we are to take after repentance is very important, as we are to use the elements of blood and water which came from the side of Christ. Jesus has commanded us to be baptized in water. Look at John 3:5, where Jesus told Nicodemus that except a man be born of water and of spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God. In Jesus Christ's Great Commission, He emphasizes baptism (Matt. 28:19) (Mark 16:16). Jesus said, "He that believeth (the Gospel) and is baptized, shall be saved." Certainly, we are not to question Jesus Christ that He did not stress the necessity of water baptism. Jesus made it one of the necessary requirements for our salvation.

Baptism is so important because many things happen when we are baptized in water. Satan knows that baptism is important to your salvation, that is why he tries in every way to keep you from being baptized. He knows very well that this is your lifeline to God through Jesus Christ, and he will try everything to keep you out of the water. He will tell you that baptism is not necessary, and he will try and confuse you as to the proper formula. He will also substitute his way of baptism to keep you from the correct way.

Look at the Scripture in John 20:23, where Jesus Christ told His Disciples, "Whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them, and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained." What actually did Jesus mean when He said, whosoever

sins you remit and retain? What have the Disciples of Jesus to do with the remission of sins? How are they to remit and retain sins? These questions are asked by many people, but Jesus commissioned His Disciples to preach the Gospel and also to remit and retain sins. Jesus Himself gave this power and authority to His Disciples. This does not mean that the Disciples or man is our Saviour, but salvation is visited to men through men, namely, Apostles, Prophets, Pastors, Evangelists, and Teachers which God has placed in the Church (Eph. 4:11-13).

We have the ministry of reconciliation which rests in the speaking of His word in saving and delivering power (Luke 10:16). Jesus Christ established the 5-fold Ministry in the Church to carry out His plan of redemption.

Let us look at the proper formula Jesus gave us in order to be baptized. First of all, we must study Christ's Great Commission given to His Disciples. Some would automatically jump to Matt. 28:19, and tell us of Christ's Great Commission, but Jesus said more in His Commission than Matthew records. Matthew was only one of the four writers who gave us any hint as to what Christ actually did say. Are we to believe Matthew only and leave out Mark, Luke, and John? Was Matthew greater or more popular than the other writers? Remember, Matthew was a hated Tax collector, and Luke was a beloved Physician. I think to be fair, we should consider all four of these writers and see actually what Christ did say in His Great Commission.

Here is what Matthew tells us about Christ's Commission: (Matt. 28:19) "Go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." What does Mark tell us about Christ's Great Commission? Mark says "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved, but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16). What does Luke say about Christ's Great Commission? Luke says, "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day, and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name among all the nations, beginning at Jerusalem, and ye are witnesses of these things"

(Luke 24:46-48). Luke further records the Great Commission for us in the Book of Acts chapter one. "Wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith He, ye have heard of Me. For John truly baptized with water; but, ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you; and ye shall be witnesses unto me, both in Jerusalem and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:4-8). What does John say about Christ's Great Commission? John says, "Peace be unto you, as my Father hath sent Me, so send I you, receive ye the Holy Ghost, whosoever sins ye retain they are retained" (John 20:21-23).

In studying these Scriptures on the Great Commission, it is evident that one is to be baptized. The question is which one of these are we to take as the correct formula for baptism? Should we take Matthew, should we take Mark, should we take Luke, or should we take John? I believe we are to take all of these, as all are a part of God's Word. Let us focus more on these writers and see what beautiful harmony they record.

The Disciples on seeing Jesus, some worshipped, but some doubted. I wonder what made some to doubt Jesus Christ, and of what did they doubt? I believe by now they did not doubt His resurrection, as He proved this to all of them. The Scripture says that some worshipped Him, but some doubted. I believe some did not worship Him because they doubted His power and authority as the Almighty God (Rev. 1:8). It wasn't easy for the Disciples to break with Judaism at this point and accept Jesus Christ as the Almighty God. Jesus always, in His Ministry, corrected unbelief or doubt among His Disciples. I believe Jesus corrected this doubt of not worshipping Him by telling the Disciples that all power or authority was given unto Him in Heaven and in earth. This should have convinced the doubters to worship Him. I believe Jesus Christ had to stress His power and authority so all the Disciples there that day would believe and worship Him.

Notice that Jesus Christ said all power was given unto Him in Heaven and in

earth. This is the important connection. Think of all the power there is in Heaven, and all the power there is in earth. That the subject here is power, there is no question in reading the Scripture. What if all this power in Heaven and earth were linked together? By what means is all this power in Heaven and earth connected? Jesus Christ Himself gives us the answer in verse 19, "Go ye therefore," the word *therefore* meaning as a result of all this power in Heaven and earth given to me, "Baptize in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost." Was Jesus giving us here a Baptismal formula to repeat, or was He stressing to His Disciples all His power and authority in Heaven and in earth? Why didn't Jesus say, "Baptize them in the Name of the Father, and of the Word, and of the Holy Ghost?" Because the Father, Word, and the Holy Ghost, was the power of Heaven only, (thought, command, and power of God). All power was given unto the Son (Christ) in Heaven and in earth. Christ was the Word incarnated into flesh, and He stands today as the connection between Heaven and Earth, the Mediator, the High Priest for all Mankind. The Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost dwells in the Son, (Christ) as is clear in reading Col. 2:8-9. In stressing His power in Heaven and in earth, Jesus Christ told His Disciples to baptize in the Name of the Father, the Name of the Son, and the Name of the Holy Ghost. It is evident as pointed out in Scripture that the Name of the Son was Jesus (Matt. 1:21). Jesus also declared in John 5:43, that He came in His Father's Name and also in John 14:26, that the Holy Ghost would come in His Name (Jesus Christ). That the Name of Jesus Christ is evident here, leaves no doubt, as all power is through His Name. That Name is the Channel and the Ladder to Heaven as we have pointed out earlier. I find no proof here at all of a baptismal formula to repeat; however, I do find that all power and authority is given to Jesus Christ.

Now let us compare this to Luke's account in Luke 24:45-49. Here we find that Jesus opened their understanding that they might understand the Scriptures (John 5:39). Jesus Christ Himself said that repentance and remission of sins should be Preached in His Name (Jesus Christ) among all nations beginning at Jerusalem. Since the Name of Jesus Christ has all the power in Heaven and earth, do we have here a Baptismal formula? How did the Disciples of Jesus interpret this? How did they baptize

their converts? Was Matt. 28:19 the formula, or was Luke 24:47, the correct formula for baptism? To answer these questions, we must now go to Jerusalem and find out. Luke does the recording of what happened in the city of Jerusalem. In reading Acts 1:13, we find a list of certain Disciples that were in the Upper Room at Jerusalem. Matthew who wrote Matt. 28:19, was also there in the Upper Room. When the Holy Ghost was finally poured out in the Upper Room, we find the Apostle Peter giving a sermon in Acts 2, in which he closes with God raising Christ from the grave and hath made Him both Lord (God) and Christ (Messiah). This revelation was what smote the Jews in their heart, realizing that indeed Jesus Christ was their Jehovah God in flesh, the promised Messiah of Israel. They cry out in verse 37, "Men and brethren, what shall we do? Notice this question carefully. This question was not directed to Peter only, but to all the Disciples. This question was meant for Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, and all the Disciples. Notice Peter's response to this question in which he tells the people to repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38). This now is of real importance. Jesus Christ had commanded baptism, and a question was asked by the multitude, "What shall we do to be saved? Why would Matthew clam up and not tell the people the formula for baptism as outlined in his Gospel in Matt. 28:19? The reason is that this Scripture in Matt. 28:19, never was the baptismal formula, only the power and authority revealed in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Would Matthew sit idle and let such an important event as this pass by and not tell the people the correct formula for baptism? The simple truth is that Matthew knew the correct formula for baptism along with the rest of the Disciples, and he perhaps never thought when he wrote his Gospel around 75 A.D., that people would take his Gospel as the formula for baptism. Matthew was in accord with the formula outlined by Peter, as seen in the fellowship of the Apostles in Acts 2:42. Surely if Paul later on in Acts would rebuke Peter to his face because he was wrong on his customs, why didn't Matthew have the same privilege to do the same in reference to the formula for baptism? We have no record in the entire Book of Acts where there was a contention between Peter and Matthew over the formula for baptism.

We see now that the name of Jesus Christ is the key to Matthew 28:19, and to all the Scriptures of the Bible. Some would say the Name of Jesus Christ means, by the authority of Jesus. I believe Jesus, the Jews, and the Apostles knew the difference between the Name of Jesus Christ and the authority of Jesus Christ (Matt. 21:23). The authority of Jesus Christ is in Matt. 28:18-19, and the Name of Jesus Christ is used in baptismal formula in Acts 2:38. If the Name of Jesus Christ means by the authority of Christ, then I challenge one to cast out demons or rebuke Satan by the authority of Christ. Even Satan knows the difference between the authority of Christ, and the Name of Jesus Christ, and some today seem smarter than Jesus, the Apostles, and Satan himself. We cast out demons and rebuke Satan in the Name of Jesus Christ. Satan and his demons know where all the authority and power in Heaven and earth is placed, in the Name of Jesus Christ.

The Greek preposition “Eis” means “into.” When we are baptized in Jesus Name, we are baptized into Christ (Gal. 3:27). This is why Jesus told His Disciples in John 20-23, “Whosoever sins ye remit they are remitted, and whosoever sins ye retain they are retained.” Man has nothing to do with your repentance, as this is between you and God. Man has nothing to do with you receiving the Holy Ghost, as this is between you and God, but man does have something to do when it comes to water baptism. Peter said to repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of our sins. I believe according to Scripture that our sins are remitted by water baptism in the Name of Jesus Christ. The water does not remit our sins, but faith in Jesus Christ in obedience to baptism. I believe the blood is applied to our hearts through the Name of Jesus Christ by water baptism. How else could the Disciples remit and retain sins except by the Name of Jesus Christ pronounced over you when you are baptized? This is why it is very important what is said over you by the minister when you are baptized. This is the responsibility of the minister. Remember, the lifeline between Heaven and earth in regard to salvation is the Name of Jesus Christ. The blood is applied through the Name of Jesus Christ, and if you are baptized any other way, then the blood of Christ is not applied to your heart. This is the reason Satan would like to keep you from

being baptized, and especially in the Name of Jesus Christ. He has deceived many people in his substitute formula to keep the blood of Christ from being applied to your soul. This is not to say that Satan wrote Matt. 28-19, but he wants you to believe this is the formula to keep you out of the Name of Jesus Christ, the real formula.

Satan doesn't mind you being baptized if you must, but he will make sure you are not being baptized into the lifeline where the blood of Christ is applied to your heart. After all, Christ died, and He is the One we need to be baptized into, because baptism is also a type of burial with Christ (Col. 2:12).

In Romans 6, we read where we are baptized into Jesus Christ and into His death, and if into His death, then also into His resurrection and eternal life. If we have not been baptized into Jesus Christ, then we have not been planted into His death, and we do not have the blood applied for remission of sins, and we are not into His eternal life. This then, is the Name, the Connection, the Ladder, the Bridge to Heaven, the Name of Jesus Christ. Space would not permit me to list all the references that speak of things done and received through, in, or by the Name of Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:8) (Rom. 2:16) (Rom. 3:24) (Rom. 5:1) (Rom. 5:9) (Rom. 5:21) (Rom. 6:23) (Rom. 8:2).

When we are baptized in Jesus Christ, we are married to Him and therefore take on His Name (Rom. 7:4). When we are baptized into Jesus Christ, we put on Christ (Rom. 13-14). Whatever we do in word or deed, we are to do in the Name of Jesus Christ (Col. 3:17). There is no salvation in any other Name outside of the Name of Jesus Christ to be saved by (Acts 4:12). If Christ is not risen, then are we baptized for the dead, because we have been baptized into him (I Cor. 15:29). God has exalted Christ and given him a Name which is above every Name, that at the Name of Jesus Christ, every knee will and every tongue shall confess (Phil. 2:9-11).

God in justifying the sinner, must Himself be justified. God's righteousness or justness must be taken into account. If God forgives, He must do so in accordance with strict justice, which permits no wrong doing to go unpunished. Therefore Jesus Christ,

bearing the punishment for all men, justifies God in acquitting those of sin who are identified with Him in death (Rom. 6:3-7).

God states that all righteousness is fulfilled by our union with Him in death, and to refuse to be baptized, is to deny God the right to be justified for the sins which are to be forgiven. Unless God can be justified, He cannot forgive. It was by Christ's death that all righteousness was fulfilled, for sin was justly atoned for by the penalty of death. It was in His blood that God was "to declare his righteousness, not only for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God, but also to declare at this time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of Him which believeth in Jesus" (Rom. 3:25-26). Thus did Christ justify God in forgiving sins committed in times past, as well as in the time that was yet to come. In John 1:31, it says, "That Jesus might be made manifest (or revealed) to Israel; therefore, am I come baptizing with water." It is when we are baptized in Jesus Name, thus "justifying God," that Jesus is revealed unto us.

Baptism is a purifying ordinance. In the Old Testament, water was used for the purification of man. The obedience to God's command to wash, brought one into a position with God as being purified. We have a good example of this in Lev. 14:8-14, "And he that is to be cleansed, shall wash his clothes-----and wash himself in water, that he may be clean-----. And the Priest shall take some of the blood of the trespass offering, and the Priest shall put it on the right ear of him that is to be cleansed-----and the remnant of the oil that is in the Priest's hand he shall pour (anoint) upon the head of him that is to be cleansed." This harmonizes with the passage of Scripture in I John 5:8.

"And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood; and these three agree in ONE." When we are baptized in water in Jesus Name, for the washing away of our sins, the blood is applied; and whenever the blood is applied, the Holy Spirit witnesses to it. It takes all three to agree in ONE. The oil, a type of the Holy Ghost, was not applied until after the person had been "washed" and

the blood applied.

It was Jesus Christ Himself who gave the requirement to be baptized, and shall we tell Him He was wrong? His Disciples followed His command and baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ throughout the history of the early Church. If Peter was wrong, if the Disciples were wrong, then the Bible is in error, the biggest fake of all time, and the Apostles all died terrible deaths in vain.

We are to build our Spiritual house, our salvation, upon the foundation (Doctrine or teaching) of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20). There can be no other Name to build upon, no other foundation (teaching) can man lay than that which is already laid, Jesus Christ (I Cor. 3:11). If you are not baptized into Jesus Christ, then you are building on another foundation contrary to the Word of God, and your Spiritual house or experience will fall when the floods (testing's) come. Please brush away all the topsoil of traditions and trash Satan has laid down, and dig way down (Search the Scriptures) for the Solid Rock, Christ Jesus (Matt. 7:24). There were 3,000 souls baptized into Jesus Christ on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:41).

Philip went down to the City of Samaria and preached Jesus Christ, and the people were baptized in the Name of the Lord (Acts 8).

Saul was knocked down on the road to Damascus, and he was baptized by Ananias when he arrived in the city (Acts 9:18). We are not told how he was baptized, but later in Acts 19, Paul re-baptized some Disciples of John the Baptist in the Name of the Lord Jesus, so he would not baptize any other way than which he was baptized.

In Acts 10, Peter baptized Cornelius and his household in the Name of the Lord. The Apostles always baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ, and as a result, their lives were in danger (Acts 15:26).

The Philippian jailor and his household arose and were baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 16:31-33).

Paul in Rome continued to preach in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ (Acts 28:31).

Certainly, we cannot deny that Jesus Christ commanded baptism, and the Disciples practiced this rite in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. This was always the original Apostolic formula for baptism. This Doctrine was established by the Lord Himself and put into practice in the early Apostolic Church period. Paul said to mark them which cause divisions contrary to the Doctrine which they had learned (Rom. 16:17).

God set the 5-fold Ministry in the Church to perfect the saints and to teach them doctrine, that they be not tossed about with false doctrines of men (Eph. 4:11-14). Paul warned Timothy that in the latter times, some would depart from the faith, and turn to Doctrines of devils (I Tim. 4:1). Paul also told Timothy to continue in the doctrine in order to save himself and others (I Tim. 4:16). Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever, and we are not to be carried about with strange doctrines (Heb. 13:8-9). If we abide in the doctrine of Christ, we have both the Father and the Son. If one comes to us and bring not this doctrine of Jesus Christ, we are not to receive him (2 John 9:10).

Paul warned that the time would come when people would not listen to good doctrine, but would turn to Teachers, Philosophers, and would be turned away from the truth (2 Tim. 4:3-4) . Paul also stated that we are to hold fast the sound doctrine of the Apostles, that there would come false Teachers, teaching things and deceiving the people away from the truth (Titus 1:9-10).

Certainly, we see now what the Lord Jesus commanded, what the Apostles taught, and why Paul constantly warned about false Teachers that would come and

pervert the truth into lies. Listed below are a few examples of what the Apostle Paul warned about:

Britannica Encyclo.
Vol. 3 Page 82

Everywhere in the oldest source it states that baptism took place in the Name of Jesus Christ.

Page | 72

Britannica Encyclo.
11th Edit. Vol. 3

The Baptismal formula was changed from the Name of Jesus Christ to the words, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost by the Catholic Church in the 2nd Century.

Canney Encyclo. Of Rel.
Page 53

The early Church always baptized in the Name of the Lord Jesus until development of the Trinity Doctrine In the 2nd Century.

Catholic Encyclo.
Vol. 2 Page 263

Here the Catholics acknowledged that baptism was changed by the Catholic Church.

Hastings Encyclo. Of
Rel. Vol. 2

Christian baptism was administered using the words "in the Name of Jesus." The use of a Trinitarian Formula of any sort was not suggested in early Church History. Baptism was always in the Name of The Lord Jesus until the time of Justin Martyr when the Triune formula was used.

New International
Encyclo. Vol. 22

The term "Trinity" was originated by Tertullian, a Catholic Church Father.

We now have historical as well as Biblical proof that baptism was always administered in the Name of Jesus Christ, and not Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. There would be some who say the Trinity is an early Christian concept. It may have been an

early Christian Latin concept around 200 A.D., with Tertullian, but it certainly was not used by the Apostles in the early Church of the New Testament. We have modern Professors and Doctors of Theology today that seem they are smarter than Jesus Christ, the Apostles, and God's Word.

Pentecostal Apostolics are not a cult; we are in harmony with the Word of God. Those who practice the Trinitarian doctrine seem to be a cultic group, and have a demon, devil possessed Tertullian as their founder. We should; however, love these people and try to show them God's truth in order that they might be saved.

There have been many questions asked in regard to baptism, and I will answer some of these questions in light of Bible truth:

Q. Why wasn't the thief on the cross baptized? Was he saved?

A. First of all, we have no record where he was baptized unto John's baptism. I personally believe this thief was the bravest man there that day when Christ was crucified. All others mocked Him and even this thief did so at the first. I believe he saw something that day in Jesus Christ that the others failed to see. He turned his head and looked upon Jesus Christ, bruised and bleeding, and perhaps saw the only Bible he ever knew, the sign that read in three languages: "This is Jesus, The King of the Jews." He heard Jesus when He said, "Father forgive them, for they know not what they do." I believe this thief saw that day, that indeed Christ was innocent, that indeed He was what He claimed to be, The King of the Jews, The Son of God.

Against the cries of the multitude, the cursing of the Roman soldiers, this thief cried to Jesus and said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy Kingdom." He was dying and on the brink of eternity, and in his dying hour he confesses his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was the Passover Lamb and also our High Priest. This thief was still under the Law Dispensation, as Christ had not died yet. The veil in the Temple was still intact. Jesus Christ was the Law incarnated. I believe He was the Ark

of God. In Him was the symbol of Divine Leadership, Aaron's rod that budded. In Him was the Pot of Manna, He was the Bread from Heaven. In Him was the Tables of the Law, He gave the Law on Mt. Sinai, and was fulfilling the Law in Himself. He was the Mercy Seat, crowned with thorns, the angels ascending and descending upon Him. He was the Veil that hid the Holy of Holies, He was the Candlestick, the True Light of the World. He was the Altar of Incense, as He gave us examples of prayer, and in His humanity, He prayed to the Father. He was the Shewbread, the Word of God to be digested and eaten by the Ministry. His Cross was the Brazen Altar, for the True Lamb of God was sacrificing Himself for the sins of the whole world. He was the Brazen Laver, which typified baptism and the Word of God. As to Baptism, His blood and water from His side is essential to salvation. As to the Word, we are washed by the water in obedience to His Word, the bloodline of redemption flows in His Word. All these types of the Tabernacle were fulfilled in Christ, and when this thief asked Jesus to remember him, he was asking under the Law to which the whole Tabernacle plan of redemption was in Christ. This thief was in the presence of the Tabernacle fulfilled in Christ, in the presence of the Passover Lamb that covered man's sins, in the presence of our High Priest and Mediator.

After Christ's death, the veil was rent in the Temple signifying the fulfillment of the Old Testament Law, and now salvation and redemption can only come by Jesus Christ.

Yes, the thief on the cross was saved under the Law, and that very day he was with Jesus in Paradise. We are not to go beyond our Grace Dispensation and pick out someone living under the Law to excuse ourselves from water baptism. The thief was on the other side of the cross, or shall I say he was on a cross at the cross of Christ. We today are living this side of the cross of Christ. This makes the big difference in relation to our salvation. We have no record where the harlot Rahab, was ever baptized, yet she is listed among God's heroes in the Hall of Faith in the 11th Chapter of Hebrews. Yes, I believe she was saved; however, I do not believe on this side of the cross we are to hang a scarlet cord out of our window in order to be saved. We can see how foolish this way of thinking can become if we go beyond our Grace Dispensation

and pick out someone who was saved without water baptism, and thereby excuse ourselves by not being baptized. I certainly would not lose my soul over the fact that the thief on the cross was not baptized. Leave this thief in the hands of Christ, and commit yourself to water baptism in order to be saved in this Grace Dispensation.

Q. Is there any difference of what is said over a person when he is baptized?

A. First of all, we find in Acts 19, where the Apostle Paul found some Disciples of John the Baptist, who were baptized unto his baptism. John baptized unto repentance and submerged his candidates as is clear from Christ's baptism. John was the forerunner of Jesus Christ and he exclaimed that the people should believe on Him (Christ), that He would baptize with the Holy Ghost. However, John's baptism was still under the Law Dispensation. These Disciples followed and obeyed what light and truth was revealed unto them at that time, knowing only the baptism of John. Evidently they were so isolated from the mainstream of Christianity at that time, they never heard the news of the outpouring of the Holy Ghost at the Feast of Pentecost in Jerusalem. Paul detected that indeed they had somewhat of an experience and he asked, had they received the Holy Ghost since they believed. They indicated to Paul that they never as so much heard about this Holy Ghost. Paul asked them how they were baptized and found out they were baptized unto John's baptism. Paul did not condemn their experience of baptism, but he explained that even John pointed out to the people that they should believe on Jesus Christ. When the Disciples of John heard this, they were re-baptized into the Name of the Lord. What was the difference in their baptism by John and their baptism by Paul? Both baptisms were by submersion in water. The only difference was what Paul said over them when he re-baptized them. They were re-baptized into the Name of the Lord Jesus, which shows that remission of sins is in the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ. They were baptized into Christ, into His death, and into His resurrection and eternal life. The Apostle Paul fulfilled his obligation as outlined by our Lord Jesus Christ in John 20:23.

I also, was baptized in the Name of the Father, Son, and the Holy Ghost, but after

careful reading and prayer, I came to the realization that my baptism was not valid according to the Scriptures. Yes, I believed in that formula at that time, and God honored my faith, but when more light of God's Truth was shone upon my life, I accepted the truth of God's Word that indeed in Jesus Christ was there remission of sins, and His Name was the formula for baptism. I was then re-baptized into the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of my sins. I could have refused and rebelled against this formula for baptism, and so could these Disciples of John, but I, like them, was sincere and had an open heart for more truth in God's Word. Yes, it is important what the minister says when he baptizes you. He has an obligation to use the correct formula as first used and outlined in Acts 2:38, If a minister refused to baptize using this formula, "in the Name of Jesus Christ," then it is evident that he himself is in need of further truth, and I would find a minister of the Apostolic faith and have him baptize me the correct way as outlined by the Lord and his Disciples in the Book of Acts.

Q. Suppose one repents of his sins and on his way to be baptized he is killed. Would he go to Heaven or Hell?

A. This is a good question, and the chances of this happening are minimal. However, accidents do happen and we should all make good use of our available time while we can. Jesus Christ said in John 3:5, that in order to enter the Kingdom of God, we must be born again of the water and of the Spirit. I believe we are not in God's Church until we have been baptized into Jesus Christ, and have received the gift of the Holy Ghost. It is evident that one who has repented yet has not been baptized or received the Holy Ghost, is not fully within the body of Christ. His motive might have been good, but the circumstances kept him from being baptized. I believe this person is in the hands of a just and merciful God. Paul said in I Cor. 15:12-13, that we are to judge them that are within the Church, and not those who are without the Church. Those who are without the Church, God judges. It is therefore clear from these passages of Scripture that God is the judge in this case. I will leave the judgment therefore in a case like this up to God Himself. I don't think we should try and determine whether this person went to Heaven or Hell. We should just say that he is in the hands

of a just and merciful God, the judge of all mankind. I certainly would not repent of my sins and walk into the path of an automobile to find out the answer to this question. Some people are full of if's, suppose's, and but's instead of obeying God for full salvation.

Q. Peter, on the Day of Pentecost, baptized the 3,000 in a mass baptism by sprinkling all at once.

A. This is not true. Peter said to repent and be baptized every one of you (each one of you). There is no record here in Acts chapter Two, of Peter sprinkling the multitude in a mass baptism. The Apostolic Church never used sprinkling a mode of baptism as is clear from carefully studying the Book of Acts. The burden of proof would rest with those to show proof where the Apostles sprinkled in the Scriptures. Baptism was understood by the Disciples as a symbol of a burial with Christ, and no one can be buried in a drop of water. We need to get back to the Scriptures and not some traditional practice started centuries after the Apostolic Church.

Q. Baptism is just to show that you have confessed Christ and is only done to identify yourself with a local Church.

A Scriptural baptism is to bury you with Christ. We are baptized into Christ and therefore into his resurrection (Col. 2:12) . Baptism is not to show that we have confessed Jesus Christ, as Satan also confesses Christ, but he is never baptized. When we are baptized into Christ, we are baptized into His Name. This is the lifeline that connects us with God himself. Our sins are remitted by the blood of Christ through His Name at water baptism. This is the reason Satan encourages men and women not to be baptized, but if they insist, he wants to use another formula other than the Name of Jesus Christ, to keep your sins from being remitted. Baptism is not to identify us with a local Church, but to identify us with Christ. We are not to be baptized as a condition for membership in a local Church, and then re-baptized every time we wish to move to another assembly. If we are not baptized into Christ, then we are not baptized into His

resurrection that will take us out of this world at His appearing. The best way to be lost is anywhere outside of Jesus Christ baptism.

Q. Baptism is only a testimony to others that you have accepted the Lord Jesus Christ.

A. Baptism is not just a testimony, but it is a life or death matter. When we look at the conversion of the Ethiopian Eunuch, we see that he requested baptism immediately after he believed. If he had done like a lot of people today, he would have waited and made arrangements for Philip to come down to Ethiopia and baptize him, so Queen Candice of Ethiopia and all his friends could gather and witness his baptism. Because of his position, he could have argued that it would be a wonderful opportunity to show all the people that he had accepted the Lord Jesus Christ. But we see that the Eunuch realized the importance of baptism, and was baptized at the first available place. I do not see where Scripture can support this statement that baptism is only a testimony to others that we have accepted Jesus Christ as our Saviour.

Q. According to Eph. 5:26, we are cleansed by the washing of water by the Word. This is, a Spiritual washing by the Word; therefore, baptism in water is not essential for salvation.

A. We should not think that we are cleansed from our sins just by reading God's Word. Reading the Bible is certainly uplifting and refreshing; however, this will not save us. Let us look in 2 Kings 5:11, where Naaman, the leper, thought that he would be cleansed "by the Word" of the Prophet Elisha. Naaman was cleansed only after he had submitted to the washing of water, "by the Word," or according to the saying of the man of God. There was no mystical washing or cleansing "by the Word," neither did the water have any power to cleanse him from his leprosy. It was his obedience to the Word of the Prophet that delivered him. There is no cleansing power in just plain water, but the cleansing power of God is manifested when we obey the Words of Jesus who said, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved." This is the "washing with water

by the Word,” or command of God. Further proof can be seen when we consider in this verse of Scripture that the Word, “word” is the Greek Word “Rhema” which means an “expression” or “instruction,” and is not the Greek Word “Logos” which is used to denote the Word of God. We see then that God cleanses the Church by the “washing of water” when done in accordance with His Word of instruction.

Q. Baptism is not for remission of sins, or the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but it is the answer of a good conscience toward God. This is verified by Peter in I Peter 3:21.

A. The Apostle Peter did not change his mind or his method of peaching from the Day of Pentecost. He still believed according to the Word and command of God, that Baptism was for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). The meaning of the word “answer” is to have the satisfaction of an inquiry, or the solution of a need. An answer, is that which satisfies, or is the solution of our problem. Peter told the multitude at Pentecost the solution or “answer” to their pricked consciences. They were to repent and be baptized. This was the answer to their cry, “what shall we do?” to clear our consciences. It was their entering by baptism into that same death, which they had caused, that they were to have their conscience purged.

Baptism is God’s method of bringing justification to the sinner, and is the sinner’s means whereby he may stand before God free and clear of all condemnation. It is not the washing away of the “filth of the flesh,” or that which defiles the body; it is the washing away of that which defiles the conscience. There were many ceremonial washings practiced by the Jews, or the putting away of the filth of the flesh, and Peter was showing here that baptism in Jesus Name was for remission of sins and saves us, and was not to be confused with ceremonial washings of the flesh. The washing away of the filth of the flesh is only an attempt to better the flesh, while baptism is a putting away of the fleshly nature. At baptism, we bury the old man, have our sins remitted, arise a new man, and have the answer of a good conscience toward God. Baptism does save us, by the resurrection of Jesus Christ (1 Peter 3:21). This is the reason the

Apostle Paul states in I Cor, 15:29, that if the dead rise not (Jesus Christ) then are we baptized for the dead, because we have been baptized and buried with Christ in his death. Thank God, our whole redemption lies in the fact of a resurrected Jesus Christ.

Q. Why was Cornelius baptized after receiving the Holy Ghost?

A. Peter was sent there to preach the Good News, after being specially prepared for this ministry through the vision he had received. While he was preaching, the Holy Ghost fell on them as it did on those at the beginning, and they all began to speak in tongues and magnify God. Here in this case, we find an inversion of the usual order in which baptism, with the Spirit, preceded baptism in water. Peter would doubtless have hesitated to baptize Gentiles into the Divine Name of Jesus Christ, but the pouring out of the Holy Ghost upon them marked them clearly as fit candidates for water baptism. Therefore, Peter said, "Can any man forbid water that these should not be baptized which have received the Holy Ghost as well as we?" and He commanded them to be baptized in the Name of the Lord. It is evident these 6 Jews who came with Peter were contending that only Jews were to be baptized, and undoubtedly God used this means to convince them that the Gentiles also were to be saved.

The brethren at Jerusalem also contended with Peter for his association with, and for administering the rite of baptism to Gentiles (Acts 11:1-3). Peter explains in detail what had happened. It served the purpose of convincing Peter and the brethren at Jerusalem, that Gentiles were to be in the Church of God also. We see that the Ministry of Peter was not complete until he baptized them in water. I do not believe Peter would have left there until he baptized all the household of Cornelius. God had done His part in giving His Spirit, and Peter had to obey God and do his part and baptize them as Christ had said in His Great Commission. We should not question God when He should give the Spirit, before or after baptism. However, we should make sure a person is baptized into Christ after receiving the Spirit. If you believe that God should not give the Spirit until that person is baptized in water, then take this up with God Himself. God can reverse the order if He so chooses, but we dare not fail to do our obligation in baptizing.

I certainly would not wait until I received the Holy Ghost to be baptized in water in Jesus Name. Leave the infilling of the Spirit up to God, and do your part in being baptized as quickly as possible.

Q. Baptism is not for the remission of sins. Jesus gave to the Disciples the power to remit and retain sins, and it is in the context of the Gospel. If people believe the Gospel, you can assure them their sins are forgiven. If they reject the Gospel, then their sins are retained. We do have the power to tell people this on the basis of Christ's Teaching.

A. This is entirely out of harmony with the Scriptures. Jesus Christ said in John 20:21, "As my Father hath sent Me, even so send I you." Jesus Christ was to send the Disciples as the Father had sent Him. How could this be? The next verse explains how. And when He had said this, He breathed on them. Why would Jesus Christ breathe on His Disciples? Is He so rude as to do such a thing? Remember, He was going to send them as the Father sent Christ. When He breathed on them, then He said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." They were to be sent into all the world by the power of the Holy Ghost. God sent His Word (through Mary) which became the Son of God. The thought, command, and power of God sent Christ from the womb of Mary. Jesus Christ was to send His Disciples by the power of God, which they were to receive (after He went away), on the Day of Pentecost.

The remitting or retaining of sins is not by the believing or disbelieving the Gospel. The preaching of the Gospel which is the death, burial, and resurrection, should bring men to repentance, but their sins are not remitted by repentance only. This is clear in reading the account in Acts chapter Two. Peter preached unto them the Gospel, how Christ suffered, died, was buried and arose, and that God hath made Him both Lord and Christ. This was what smote them in their hearts, and they now believed the Gospel. Peter did not say, "Now since you believe the Gospel, I have power to tell you your sins are remitted." This is completely unscriptural. After they believed the Gospel, then they ask, "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Peter did not say, "Repent for the

remission of your sins,” Peter did say, “Repent and be baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins.” The remission of sins is connected here with the water baptism. Notice the Name of Jesus Christ, as this is the Channel or Lifeline from God to man. Christ produced the blood for remission of sins, and this blood is applied through the Name of Jesus Christ in water baptism.

Where the responsibility of the Disciples comes in by remitting and retaining sins, is by pronouncing the Name of Jesus Christ over the person being baptized. The Name of Jesus Christ is very important in water baptism. The omission of this Name in water baptism, is omission of being buried into Christ, the omission of Christ’s resurrecting power, the omission of eternal life through Jesus Christ. If you have been baptized in any other way or formula than the one in Acts 2:38, you have not completely obeyed the Bible as practiced by the Apostles. Since baptism is so important to your salvation, you should be very careful who you commit yourself to in order to be baptized. I personally would make sure the minister knew the Scriptures in truth instead of some traditional practice.

It is the responsibility of the believer to get into the water, and the minister’s responsibility to use the proper formula, in the Name of Jesus Christ. Thus, we have a beautiful picture of obedience (you), cooperation (you & the minister), and operation (blood applied). This was always True throughout the Book of Acts, and we have no Scripture to prove otherwise. So, it is clearly seen in the context of water baptism in Jesus Christ that our sins are remitted or retained, and not in the context of believing or rejecting the Gospel.

Q. Water baptism is not necessary, all we need to do according to I John 5:1, is to believe that Jesus is the Christ and we are born of God.

A. Would you then say that Satan is saved, because he certainly believes that Jesus is the Christ? Who are you to say that Satan is not saved by believing Jesus is the Christ? Satan knows more about Jesus Christ than a lot of people, and are we to judge

him? You are not saved by believing Jesus is the Christ. If you continue to believe, and act upon His Word and command by being baptized and identified with Him, then you can say that Jesus is the Christ. God doesn't want lip service of the tongue. If He did, He would have the rocks cry out and praise Him. He wants your heart to obey His commands. There is a vast difference between believing and submitting. Hell is full of believers in Jesus Christ, but they did not submit to Him while upon this earth. There are definite steps to be taken in order to identify oneself in this death of Christ whereby Christ becomes Lord. To really believe according to the Scriptures, is believing unto obedience to baptism. Believing always involves obedience to the Lord's commands, for obedience is the outward evidence that you believe. It is the manner in which faith expresses itself. I would not stake my eternal soul on just believing that Jesus is Lord and not submitting in obedience to His commands.

When a person is baptized, he is baptized into the death of Jesus Christ, which death was for the remission of sins through the shedding of his blood. If we are to be partakers of the benefits of this death, then we must be joined with Him in that death. Notice what the Scripture teaches about those who do not submit to baptism. They rejected the Council of God against themselves being not baptized of John (Luke 7:30). A person who professes to be in earnest in seeking the Lord for salvation, and then refuses to obey His Council, only reveals the deceitfulness of his own heart. Certainly, Jesus commanded baptism in His Great Commission. Let us look at this verse of Scripture again in Luke 7:29-30. "And all the people that heard Him, and the Publicans, *justified God, (how?) being baptized* with the baptism of John. But the Pharisees and lawyers *rejected the Council of God* against themselves, (how?) being *not baptized* of Him." We are to justify God by water baptism in Jesus Name. We bring judgment upon ourselves by not being baptized, and reject the Council of God.

I would like to close this chapter on water baptism, and let the documented evidence speak for itself. According to the Encyclopedia of Religion & Ethics by Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, Christian Baptism was never that of Matt. 28:19. The use of a Trinitarian formula of any sort in baptism is not suggested. The evidence

is against Matt. 28:19, as the formula for water baptism, and this formula was a later addition. The Greco-Roman world modified the exact form which early Christian Baptism took. The phrase, "In the Name" was an ancient synonym for "person." There was a sense of identification between the one being baptized, and him in whose Name baptism took place, as one became thereby the personal property of the other. This is in harmony with the Teachings of the Apostle Paul. This can be seen in reading the Scriptures in Galatians 3:27-29, "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all ONE in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise?"

By the Jews "The Name" was, and still is, called "Ha Shem," which is in Greek "Tonoma," and into English is "The Name." This expression "The Name," absolutely is never used in the Hebrew scriptures to designate or represent any other than the Lord God in the totality of His essential eternal being and attributes. When we consider the Name of God in the Old Testament in relation to mankind, we will see how important the Name of Jesus Christ is.

As already mentioned, the God of the Jews was "EHYEH ASHER EHYEH" and from this came "I AM" which was given to Moses to tell unto the children of Israel (Exod. 3:14).

Then came "JEHOVAH," rendering this Sacred Name of God to the Jews (Exod. 6:3) . Next came "LORD" around 300 B.C., as the Jews decided not to use the Name of God lest they should use it in vain, so they used the word "ADONAI" which means "LORD." The Name of God is important because it contains and encompasses God's way in relation to man. The 10 combinations of the Name Jehovah in the Old Testament are:

1. Jehovah-Elyon -----Jehovah most high Ps. 7:17

2. Jehovah-Tsabaoth -----Jehovah of hosts I Sam. 1:3
3. Jehovah-Roi-----Jehovah my shepherd Ps. 23:1
4. Jehovah-Tsidkenu-----Jehovah our righteousness Jer. 33:6
5. Jehovah-Meqaddeshkem-----Jehovah that sanctifieth Ex. 31:13
6. Jehovah-Ropheka-----Jehovah that heals Exo. 17:15
7. Jehovah-Jireh-----Jehovah will provide Gen. 22:14
8. Jehovah-Nissi-----Jehovah the banner Exo. 17:15
9. Jehovah-Shalom-----Jehovah is peace Judg. 6:24
10. Jehovah-Shammah-----Jehovah is there Ezek. 48:35

Jesus is the English word for Jehovah and Christ is the Greek word for Messiah, thus we have Jesus Christ, the Name of God in flesh in the New Testament. Here then is Christ's relation to man:

1. Jesus Christ is the Most High
2. Jesus Christ is the Lord of Hosts
3. Jesus Christ is our Shepherd
4. Jesus Christ is our Righteousness
5. Jesus Christ is our Sanctification
6. Jesus Christ is our Healing
7. Jesus Christ is our Provider
8. Jesus Christ is our Banner
9. Jesus Christ is our Peace
10. Jesus Christ is There, We will dwell in His presence in the Holy City.

When we are baptized into Jesus Christ, we are baptized into His name, and thus receive all the benefits to man through This name. According to Acts 4:12, there is no other Name given to mankind whereby we must be saved. When you consider all the names of God in the Old Testament, and put them all together, you will have a beautiful picture of redemption for mankind. Since Jesus is God of the Old Testament in flesh, to be baptized into His Name is to be a partaker of the greatest secret promise revealed to

us through His Name. Here, friends, is the greatest promise revealed to us through His Name:

“I AM the Most High Lord of Hosts, the Shepherd of Israel, in My righteousness I will Sanctify thee, Heal thee, and Provide you with My Banner of Peace in My Holy City.”

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Is it any wonder that Satan would like to keep you from being baptized into This Name and thus away from the Greatest Promise of God Himself? If he can substitute another formula to keep you away from redemption and from Heaven itself, he will do it, and he has done so to millions of honest souls. You will never receive any Promises or Salvation from God, except through the Name of Jesus Christ. To reject This Name in water baptism is to damn your soul eternally in the lake of fire. To be baptized into This Name, provides you with salvation, and eternal life in Heaven. I have presented from Scripture the Truth to you, and now you must decide what you will do with This Truth, and with This Name of Jesus Christ.

CHAPTER TWELVE-- THE NEW BIRTH

We now come to the Chapter that deals with the new birth or what we call the Holy Ghost baptism. Certainly, Jesus Christ again left us no option on this important experience. It was John the Baptist who came crying in the regions round about Jordan, exclaiming there would come One after him who would baptize with the Holy Ghost and with fire (Matt. 3:11-12). Jesus Christ told Nicodemus that unless he was born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God. Jesus was speaking of a Spiritual birth that one should receive. I do not think Jesus left it open as an option to be born again and to receive this Holy Ghost (John 3:3). Jesus went on to say in verse 8, that the wind bloweth where it listeth and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh and whither it goeth, so is everyone that is born of the Spirit. We cannot see the wind, but we can hear the sound of the wind, and see the effects the wind produces. Why did Jesus say this? I believe He wanted to illustrate a simple truth that one who is born again would produce a sound thereof. This is clear from the Scripture where it says, "so is everyone that is born of the Spirit." We are born of the Spirit, and there is a sound expressed in the process of this new birth. The natural birth would be a simple illustration. There is a sound of crying the doctor wants to hear when a baby is born. The doctor wants to know if the baby is alive.

Jesus spoke of the living water, the Holy Ghost, to the woman at the well of Samaria (John 4:13-14) . Jesus spoke of the living water as the Holy Ghost that they should receive (John 7:39). Jesus further enlarges upon this new birth and gives a more Spiritual insight in John 14. Christ says, "I will pray the Father (His humanity asks of the Spirit) and He (the Father) shall give you another Comforter (in addition to or to take the place of) that He may abide with you Forever. Even the Spirit of Truth, for He (Jesus or Jehovah) dwelleth with you (in Christ the Son) and shall be IN YOU. I will not leave you Comfortless, I will come to you" (John 14:16-18). It is very evident that Christ was speaking of the Holy Ghost as the Comforter, and then he says, "I will come to you," which He did as the Spirit of God. It is very evident in the Scriptures that Christ left the Disciples in a Glorified body after his resurrection, but His Spirit, His deity,

Jehovah, Jesus, came back on the Day of Pentecost as the Holy Ghost or the power of God. Whether we say, Father, God, Jehovah, Jesus, Holy Ghost, these are all the ONE and SAME Divine Spirit. The thought of God (Father), command of God (Word), and power of God (Holy Ghost), are the same as the Spirit of God, the Spirit of Jesus, and the Holy Spirit. The Bible declares there to be ONLY ONE SPIRIT (I Cor. 12:13).

Christ said that the Father would send the Holy Ghost in His Name (John 14:26) . This then is the Channel and Connection from Heaven and earth for the receiving of the Holy Ghost. Everything we will receive from Heaven will come through this Channel, the Name of Jesus Christ. Christ also said in John 15:26, that the Holy Ghost which comes from the Father, would testify or witness of Him (Jesus Christ). This bears witness and harmonizes with I John 5:7, where the Father, Word, and the Holy Ghost bear witness of the Son (Christ). The thought, command, and power of God, bear witness that the Son (humanity) provided redemption for all mankind. Jesus Christ also states in John 16:7, that it is expedient for Him to go away in order for the Comforter to come.

While Jesus Christ was here in the flesh, He was the Comforter, but He had to go away in order for the Holy Ghost to come and dwell in the hearts of men.

When Jesus comes as the Holy Ghost to dwell in our hearts, this is the New Birth and this fulfills John 14:20, as Christ is in the Father, the bosom or thought of God as the redeemer. We are in Jesus Christ by being baptized into his Name, and Jesus is in us through the power of the Holy Ghost. This then is the meaning when Jesus Christ said for us to be born again of the water and of the Spirit (John 3:5) . We are in Him, (Jesus Christ) by baptism in water, and He is in us by the Spirit of the Holy Ghost. This can be further proved by reading 2 Cor. 13:5, where we are to examine ourselves and know that Jesus Christ is in us, except we be reprobates. We further see according to Scripture, that God (the Father) dwells in us (I John 4:12). We see also that Jesus Christ dwells in us (2 Cor. 13:5). We see also that the Holy Ghost dwells in us (Acts 2:4). These are all the ONE Singular Spirit of God. We never have three persons of

the Trinity dwelling in us, only three expressions of the ONE God dwelling in us. Father, Jesus, and the Holy Ghost are all the ONE and same Spirit of deity. The thought (Father), command (Word), and power (Holy Ghost) of God, dwelt in Christ (Col. 2:8-9).

The thought (Father), command (Word), and power (Holy Ghost) are in us by the ONE Spirit. Now that we have God in us, this Spirit expresses the gifts of the Spirit through us. The gifts of the Spirit are in three groups:

1. *The mind of God*

- A. The word of knowledge
- B. The word of wisdom
- C. The discerning of Spirits

2. *The command of God*

- A. Gift of tongues
- B. Gift of prophecy
- C. Gift of interpretation of tongues

3. *The power of God*

- A. Gift of faith
- B. Gift of healing
- C. Gift of miracles

Let us look at the New Birth in light of the Scriptures in Christ's Great Commission. In Matt. 28:20, all we find in reference to the Holy Ghost is that Jesus said to teach people to observe all things He commanded. Certainly the "all things" He commanded throughout the Gospels such as repentance, baptism, and the New Birth, were among the forefront of His teachings. In Mark's account of the Great Commission, all that is mentioned in reference to the Holy Ghost is that they shall speak with new tongues (Mark 16:17). In Luke's account of the Great Commission, he mentions that Jesus said He would send the promise of the Father upon them, to tarry in Jerusalem

until they were endued with power from on High (Luke 24:49). Luke also mentions in Acts 1: 4-5, that Jesus said to wait for the promise of the Father, but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence. “Ye shall receive power after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you-----” (Acts 1:8). In John’s account of the Great Commission, we find where Jesus breathed upon the Disciples and said, “Receive ye the Holy Ghost.” In summarizing up the Great Commission of our Lord, we can list it as such:

Gospel	Mark 16:15 Luke 24:46
Repentance	Luke 24:47 Matt. 28:20
Baptism	Matt. 28:19 Mark 16:16 John 20:23
Holy Ghost	Luke 24:49 John 20:22 Acts 1: 5 Acts 1: 8
Tongues	Mark 16:17

We now see that Jesus Christ Himself, speaking in the Great Commission to His Disciples included His Doctrine of preaching the Gospel, Repentance, Baptism, the Holy Ghost, and speaking in tongues. Jesus taught many things about the Holy Ghost in the Gospels. He listed many things this Holy Ghost would do:

Hear the sound thereof	John 3: 8
Well of water springing up	John 4:14
Rivers of living water	John 7:38
Teach you all things	John 14:26
Bring things to your remembrance	John 14:26
Shall testify of Jesus Christ	John 15:26
Reprove the world of sin	John 16: 8
Reprove of righteousness	John 16: 8
Reprove of judgment	John 16: 8
Guides to all Truth	John 16:13
Show us things to come	John 16:13
He will Glorify Christ	John 16:14

I will not comment on every one of these, but it can be seen throughout the New Testament that Jesus spoke of the New Birth and its work. It is also very evident that Jesus spoke of the New Birth all through the Gospels and given in His Great Commission. Jesus told His Disciples to wait and tarry in Jerusalem for this wonderful promise of the Spirit (Acts 1:4).

We now find the Disciples of Jesus in Jerusalem in the Upper Room. Notice they were not in upper Rome, but in the upper room at Jerusalem, there is a big difference here. The second chapter of Acts describes the outpouring of the Holy Ghost quite well. They were all in one accord 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 the utterance (Acts 2:1-4).

Since there were a number of people in Jerusalem at this time of the Feast of

Pentecost, this strange occurrence did not go un-noticed. The multitude of people were amazed that these Galilean Disciples were speaking in tongues of their native language wherein they were born. Some mocked, some said the Disciples were full of new wine, and some didn't know what to say. The Apostle Peter being the one Jesus gave the spiritual keys of the Kingdom to, stood up and preached his stirring message that convicted the hearts of the people.

When the multitude realized through Peter's sermon that indeed God had made Jesus both Lord (Jehovah) and Christ (Messiah), they asked Peter and the rest of the Disciples what should they do. They realized at this point that indeed Jesus Christ was their God of the Old Testament in flesh. Peter gave the necessary steps to salvation that Jesus had already given in His Great Commission. Peter told the multitude to "Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost (Acts 2:38). Let us see how this compares with the Lord's Great Commission:

COMMISSION		FULFILLED
Preach the Gospel	Mark 16:15 Luke 24:46	Acts 2:23-24
Repentance	Luke 24:47 Matt. 28:20	Acts 2:38
Baptism	Matt. 28:19 Mark 16:16 John 20:23	Acts 2:38 Acts 2:41
Baptismal formula	Luke 24:47	Acts 2:38

Holy Ghost	Luke 24:49	Acts 2:38
	John 20:22	
	Acts 1: 5	
	Acts 1: 8	
Tongues	Mark 16:17	Acts 2: 4

It is now clear and evident at this point after carefully studying the Lord's Great Commission, that the Apostle Peter did exactly what Jesus commanded. Certainly, we could never say Peter disobeyed the Lord's Great Commission. I suppose the objection of some at this point would be the formula for water baptism, which we have already outlined and covered in a previous chapter. Let us check the witnesses on God's plan for salvation (Luke: 24:48).

WITNESSES

Repentance, Baptism in Jesus
Name, Holy Ghost & Tongues:

Peter

James

John

Andrew

Philip

Thomas

Bartholomew

Matthew

James, son of Alphaeus

Simon Zelotes

Judas

Joseph Justus

WITNESSES

Baptism in Father, Son , and
Holy Ghost:

None

Baptism optional:

None

Holy Ghost optional:

None

Tongues not necessary:

None

Believe on Jesus and are
saved:

None

Matthias

Joses

Mary

Daughters of Mary

This is just a partial list of the witnesses on the plan of salvation. The Bible states that there were about 120 people in the Upper Room, and there were about 3,000 that followed Peter's directions for salvation. I think it is very obvious that the odds are against any other formula for water baptism, or doctrinal teaching contrary to what the Apostles taught and preached in the Book of Acts.

Thus, we see now that the Disciples of Jesus were all filled with the Holy Ghost as Jesus had promised when He walked among them. This promise is also for us today, as we are in the same Grace Dispensation as the early Apostolic Church (Acts 2:39). We can trace the Apostolic Doctrine (teaching) all through the Book of Acts. Wherever the Disciples went, they preached Jesus Christ and Him crucified. They used the Name of Jesus Christ as the Lord had commanded them, and they turned Jerusalem upside down.

Philip went down to the city of Samaria and preached Jesus Christ unto the people (Acts 8). The people were baptized and received the Holy Ghost.

Saul on the road to Damascus was struck down and went into the City and was baptized and received the Holy Ghost (Acts 9). He later expresses in I Cor., that he speaks in tongues.

Cornelius, a Gentile, was baptized in the Name of Jesus Christ and received the Holy Ghost, and spoke in tongues (Acts 10: 46-48).

The Disciples of John the Baptist in Acts 19, were re-baptized in the Name of

Jesus Christ and received the Holy Ghost and spoke in tongues.

I believe that in order to enter Heaven itself according to Scripture, the Lord's Great Commission, and the Apostles, we are to repent of our sins, be baptized into the Name of Jesus Christ, and receive the Holy Ghost. Certainly, any honest hearted person would follow what Jesus taught and the Disciples practiced in order to be saved. I suppose every generation has its critics. There were some critics of Jesus Christ when He was here in the flesh. The Apostles had opposition and critics wherever they went.

Satan always has his critics who try to tear down and destroy God's Word of Truth. Satan tries to make God's Word appear questionable. This he did in the Garden of Eden when he enticed Eve to eat of the forbidden fruit. Since some people are so critical of God's Word and question His plan of salvation, especially the second chapter of Acts, let us go there now and take the sword of truth and destroy every question and doubt Satan has put there.

Q. Tongues has nothing to do with salvation, it is only a sign to the unbelievers, such as in Acts 2, they spoke in languages and the people got saved.

A. First of all, when one seeks for the Holy Ghost, they do not seek for tongues. When God's Spirit comes into you as the New Birth, He will speak through you. This can be seen in that the Spirit gave them the utterance. Jesus said to Nicodemus in John 3, that everyone who is born of the Spirit, there is a sound thereof. The sound at Pentecost was not a rushing mighty wind. I doubt if there was a gale wind blowing at all that day. It says, "as of a rushing mighty wind," the emphasis is on the sound. The sound came from Heaven and was heard as of a rushing mighty wind, and it (the sound) filled all the house where they were sitting. This sound from Heaven entered the hearts of the believers and they began to speak in other tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance. There were no cloven tongues of fire upon their heads, but the Scripture said cloven tongues, like as of fire. Jesus said they would speak with new

tongues (Mark 16-17). Jesus said himself, there would be a sound thereof, and they shall speak with new tongues. So if tongues has nothing to do with salvation, then argue with Jesus.

For every action, there is a reaction. They were filled with the Holy Ghost (action) and spoke in tongues (reaction). Wherever power is manifested, there is action and a reaction. I challenge one to take hold of a 440-volt live wire and remain calm as could be. That person, immediately, without thinking to formulate his words, would either curse if he is a sinner, or call on Jesus if he is a Christian. Either your cursing or your calling on Jesus would certainly get the attention from you fellowman. His first question would be, "What happened?" Certainly, we can see that power produces effects. The tongues were certainly not a sign to the unbelievers, because all of the 120 in the Upper Room were believers in Christ. All the unbelievers were outside of the Upper Room.

If these tongues were for the unbelievers to hear and get saved, shouldn't God have waited until they arrived in order to begin? They were speaking in tongues for some time before the unbelievers arrived. Is God so rude and does not possess a concept of timing? They were not practicing in tongues before the multitude arrived, they were praising God and declaring His glory. There is no indication they spoke in tongues because the crowd had gathered, but the crowd gathered because they were speaking in tongues. We also do not have any record where anyone preached in tongues to the crowd. The multitude said that these believers spoke in languages wherein they were born, and listed are about 17 different nations. If tongues were necessary to preach to the unbelievers, God would not have used 17 different languages. The three tongues known throughout the whole Roman Empire at that time were: Hebrew, Greek, and Latin. This can be proved by the three languages used at the crucifixion of Christ (John 19:20).

The multitude was stunned by the hearing of these tongues, but we have no record where any of them fell on their knees and received salvation. As a matter of fact, some made fun and mocked those speaking in tongues. The only message they heard

that day in relation to salvation and being saved, was by the Apostle Peter. I do not see where the actual infilling of a person with the Holy Ghost accompanied with tongues, is a sign to an unbeliever at all.

Q. The real evidence of the Holy Ghost is not tongues, but the fruit of the Spirit, such as: love, joy, peace, long-suffering, gentleness, faith, meekness, and temperance.

A. Jesus did not say ye shall receive fruit after the Holy Ghost is come upon you. What was manifested in the Upper Room was supernatural power and tongues, and this after receiving the Holy Ghost. The Disciples may have been overcome with joy and loved each other, but the fruit of the Spirit was not the issue recorded here. Fruit takes a process of time to develop. There can be no fruit in one day. Fruit requires sap, cultivation, weather conditions, etc. The Holy Ghost was the sap of the Spirit, and they left there to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Ghost experience is just the initial sap of the Spirit. We are not perfected in one day. We have no record where the early Church was perfected in one day. You are not given long-suffering and other fruit of the Spirit overnight. We manifest the fruit of the Spirit in our outward nature. The Holy Ghost, in time, will produce the fruit of the Spirit if we let the Spirit lead and guide us. We can read in John 15, where Jesus Christ is the Vine and we are the branches. We bring forth fruit only when we are in Christ and have the sap of His Spirit. God gave the 5-fold Ministry in the Church to perfect the saints (Eph. 4-11-15). We are to grow up into Him (Jesus Christ) in all things. Some people, sad to say, after receiving the Holy Ghost, never want to be perfected and grow up to produce the fruit of the Spirit. Certainly, the fruit of meekness is not there. A person who has received the Holy Ghost speaking in tongues, is to grow up into Christ under the 5-fold Ministry, and produce the fruit of the Spirit in time. If a person claims he receives the fruit of the Spirit the moment he receives the Holy Ghost, then he is a wonder to this world, and has defied all the processes of natural and Spiritual growth.

Q. There are more gifts of the Spirit than tongues, and these can be manifested in the life of a Christian.

A. First of all, when we are talking about gifts of the Spirit such as listed in I Cor. 12, we are talking about Paul's letter to the Church at Corinth. These Christians had already received the Holy Ghost. The operation of the gifts of the Spirit in the Church and the receiving of the Holy Ghost as on the Day of Pentecost, are two separate things altogether, and the Word of God makes this clear. The gifts listed in I Cor. 12, are for the express purpose of the body of born again believers, and they have nothing to do with the initial receiving of the Holy Ghost at all. Paul makes this clear in I Cor. 12:28, where God hath set some in the Church, first: Apostles, Prophets, Teachers, then after that, Gifts of the Spirit such as: Miracles, Gifts of Healing, Helps, Governments, and Diversities of Tongues. The gifts of the Spirit are in no way to be used over the authority of the 5-fold Ministry God has set and placed in the Church. Paul here is giving instructions to the Church in regard to the use of those gifts. God is not the author of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). The 120 on the Day of Pentecost all at once spoke in tongues, perhaps 17 languages at one time, and in I Cor. 14:27, Paul tells the Church not to speak in tongues all at once, only by three at the most, and that by course. I do not believe we can take the gifts of the Spirit given to the Church as helps, and apply this to receiving the Holy Ghost evidenced by speaking in tongues as the Spirit gives the utterance. There is a vast difference of several people receiving the Holy Ghost at once speaking in tongues, and the use of the gift of tongues in the Church. The Scriptures make this rather clear.

Q. One can be saved by confessing Jesus Christ and believing on Him, and this automatically produces the New Birth.

A. One is directed to read the passage of Scripture in Acts 16:31, where Paul told the Philippian jailor to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. If believing on the Lord Jesus Christ automatically saves you, then why did Paul speak unto him the Word of the Lord? (verse 32). We cannot be saved without the preaching of the Word of God, and of hearing about the plan of salvation. Certainly, Paul did not change his message and the plan of salvation laid down by Jesus and His Apostles. Certainly, Paul spoke about baptism, because that very night the jailor and all his house

were baptized. So if believing on the Lord Jesus Christ saves you, then why did the jailor get baptized? It does not say how he was baptized, but Paul never changed the mode of baptism from the Name of Jesus Christ. It is neither recorded that the jailor received the Holy Ghost or spoke in tongues.

If the Books would be written what all Christ did, then the world itself could not contain them (John 20:30 John 21:25). Certainly, Christ spoke and did more works than is recorded in the Gospels and in His 33 1/2 years in the flesh. I certainly would not base my eternal salvation on the assumption that the jailor did not receive the Holy Ghost any more than I would jeopardize my baptism by the thief on the cross.

Let us look at Romans 10, where “Whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord shall be saved.” This sounds like the simplest way to be saved, but Paul never changed the plan of salvation when he was writing to the Romans. First of all, Paul was writing to the Church at Rome, and not to unbelievers. We know what Jesus and His Disciples taught, so why would Paul disregard the plan of salvation and tell the Roman Church to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ? Paul knew one could not be saved without the hearing of the Gospel message and the plan of salvation as he so states this in Romans 10:14-16. The Greek word for believe is, “Pisteuo” which is a verb that shows action. He that believeth shall be saved, if he continues to believe and act upon this faith. Jesus said in John 7:38, “He that believeth in Me, as the Scripture hath said, out of His belly shall flow rivers of living water, but this spake He of the Spirit which they that believe on Him *should* receive.” Jesus mentions that one *should* receive the Holy Ghost if he truly believes. We have already seen how a person receives the Holy Ghost according to Scripture in the Book of Acts. If this is some folks way of thinking to find salvation in the Epistles, then let us take I John 4:7, where all we have to do is love one another, and we are born of God and knoweth God. We see how foolish this way of thinking can become when we try to find some way to be saved other than the way laid out for us by Jesus and His Apostles. We are built upon the foundation (Doctrine) of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the Chief Cornerstone (Eph. 2:20) . For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ (1 Cor.

3:11).

Certainly, Jesus Christ laid the foundation in His ministry and in the Great Commission. The Apostles carried it out to the letter and we are to build upon what they have left us in God's Word. The Epistles were written to those who were born again to establish them in their walk, and to explain the significance of their work wrought out in bringing them into the Kingdom. The Gospels tell of the coming Kingdom; the book of Acts demonstrates it in operation and power; and the Epistles define the proper conduct and instructions for those who are in the Kingdom. The Epistles were written to saints who understand what it meant to "confess Jesus as Lord," and to believe unto righteousness." Just believing that Jesus is Lord will not save you. You cannot really believe Jesus is Lord, until you have been identified with Him in Jesus Name baptism. Jesus said in Luke 6: 46-49, "Why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" Jesus Christ commanded baptism, and we can only call Him Lord by doing what He has commanded us to do.

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There are people today who claim to possess salvation through the mere believing and accepting the fact that Christ died for their sins, without really obeying the commandments of God which brings us into His True Church. Too many people are relying upon the education and College Degrees of their Leaders to guide them to salvation, rather than upon the simple Word of God. The fact that Jesus was revealed to the humble, and hid from those who depended upon their wisdom and knowledge, should be a solemn warning to all who are putting their trust in the teachings of man (Luke 10:21).

Q. The Holy Ghost on the Day of Pentecost was on a special anointing and as a result they had power with God to perform miracles. There are several anointings of the Spirit upon an individual.

A. The first work of the Spirit on the Day of Pentecost, was for attestation, or a witness, proof of, to affirm to be true, genuine. They were filled with the Spirit and

began to speak in tongues as the Spirit gave them the utterance. They never testified of the Spirit, the Spirit gave the utterance from their tongue and testified of Christ. We do not speak in tongues to testify to men that we have the Holy Ghost. When the Holy Ghost comes in,

He will do the testifying and therefore, the speaking. Jesus Christ said in John 15:26, "He will testify or witness of Me." This was more than an anointing, as the Holy Ghost came and did the speaking, the witnessing, the proof that God was IN them. Certainly, there are fresh anointings from the Spirit. The Holy Ghost outpoured on the Day of Pentecost however, it was more than a fresh anointing of the Spirit, it was the first receiving of the Holy Ghost by the Disciples and others there that day. Fresh anointings of the Spirit can come after we receive the initial gift of the Holy Ghost. Very definitely the Holy Ghost gives us power to perform miracles; however, the proof of the Holy Ghost is not just limited to miracles. When we have the Holy Ghost, we have God in US. Jesus gave us the right to use His Name, Jesus Christ; therefore, since Jesus Christ is the Lifeline or Powerline, we speak the Name of Jesus Christ by faith, and the Holy Ghost within US performs the miracle through the Powerline, the Name of Jesus Christ.

Q. The Apostles were filled with the Holy Ghost when Jesus breathed on them in John 20:21 and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." The outpouring of the Spirit at Pentecost was just a fresh anointing of what they had already received.

A. If the Disciples received the Holy Ghost here in this verse, then they were fully ready to preach the Gospel to all nations. This would be contradictory to Christ's instructions given in Luke 24:47-49, where they were to go and preach after they had tarried in Jerusalem until they had received the "gift of the Holy Ghost." Do you think Jesus Christ is so dumb that He doesn't know the difference between receiving the Holy Ghost and receiving a fresh anointing of the Spirit? If the Church is built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets----, in which case there are 12 Apostles, then we have a problem here in this verse. There were only 10 Apostles present here when

Jesus breathed on them and said, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost." Judas and Thomas were not here. Do you think Jesus needs a lecture on his timing on such an important moment as this? You will note that there were 11 Apostles present on the Day of Pentecost when the Holy Ghost was poured out.

If the Holy Ghost was also given here in this verse, then Jesus contradicts His Own teaching in John 16:7. Jesus said, "It is expedient for you that I go away; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you, but if I depart, I will send Him to you." Jesus said, the Holy Ghost would not come until He had gone away. It is very evident Jesus Christ was still here on earth in John 20:21, so then the Holy Ghost could not be given even by Jesus Himself while here in person, because He cannot go against His Own Word. Jesus breathed on the 10 Apostles present and they felt a fresh anointing, but they did not receive the Holy Ghost until He went away as proved by the outpouring at Pentecost. We have some today who try and teach Jesus what He didn't do. We need to get back to common sense and the Word of God.

If there were a Trinity as some teach, we would have a real problem here in this verse. If there are three persons in the Trinity, then how could Jesus Christ, a person, breathe on His Disciples and give another person (The Holy Ghost)? The moment we can breathe and become another person to ourselves, is more than our minds and God Himself can comprehend.

Q. According to I Cor. 13:8, tongues have ceased since we have God's perfect Word, the Bible. We do not need tongues, as the Bible perfects us.

A. Let us look at this verse of Scripture carefully. First of all, Paul here is speaking about charity or love. We know that God is Love, so as long as there is a God, there is Love. Charity never faileth, but Prophecies shall fail, Tongues shall cease, and Knowledge shall vanish away (verse 8). It is very clear that Paul here in this Thirteenth Chapter, is continuing his discussion of Chapter Twelve. Paul is dealing with the gifts of the Spirit in both of these chapters, and he mentions Prophecy, Tongues, and

Knowledge. Look at verse 9, "For we know in part and we Prophecy in part." We have not fully seen Jesus Christ. He has left us His Word, His Spirit, and Gifts of His Spirit in the Church. What knowledge we now have of Jesus Christ is only in part or partial. When that which is Perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. This is not talking about the Bible, as the Bible itself is only in part or partial. JESUS CHRIST is the ONLY ONE who is COMPLETE and PERFECT, and when HE comes and dwells with us during the Millennial in PERSON, then we will have no need of Tongues, Word of Knowledge and Prophecy, because WE will have HIM. We will not even need the Bible, because Jesus Christ will have replaced or fulfilled His Word in Person. We will not need the gifts of the Spirit when Jesus Christ comes because we will have the Bestower of these gifts with us in person. Until this happens, we now see through a glass darkly, we prophesy in part, we know in part, and we speak in tongues in part. But then, face to face with Jesus Christ, all will be different. When we see Him, then shall we know Him fully as we are known fully to our brethren here on earth (verse 12). So I do not see where tongues has ceased along with the knowledge and Prophecy in the Church of today.

CHAPTER THIRTEEN--MODERN PHILOSOPHY

We have in Col. 2:8-9, a warning of the Apostle Paul to the True Apostolic Church. Let us examine these verses carefully. Paul says in verse 8, "Beware lest any man spoil you through Philosophy and vain deceit; after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ." First of all, Paul gives us a danger sign, "Beware," take heed, look out, be careful, lest any man spoil you. If we are not careful and stray from God's Word, we can become spoiled, ruined, and destroyed by man. How can this be done? Through modern Philosophy. What is Philosophy? The Dictionary describes Philosophy as a pursuit of wisdom, a search for Truth through logical reasoning rather than factual observation, a Theory underlying or regarding a sphere of activity or thought. A Philosopher is one who is a thinker, an expounder of a Theory in a particular area. There can be true Philosophy and false Philosophy. Paul here is giving warning in regard to false Philosophy of men. Paul has in mind the Philosophy that which is vain and deceitful, the product of reason carried beyond its bounds. A false Philosophy is a miserable imitation of the true, it is deceptive, vain deceit. It is mere fiction, guesses, castles in the air. It rises out of the muddy marshes of vain imagination. It has its origin in mere human guesses, it is built on crudities. It is Anti-Christian, not after Christ, or Anti-Christ. It is not after the subject and style and Spirit of Christ's Teachings. Paul is warning about the errors of false teachers, who in speculating about the method of approach to God and of redemption, and of the Godhead, went beyond the declarations which God made on these matters. The marks of a false Philosopher are known by its purely human origin, after the traditions of men, and not after Christ Himself.

The Apostles of our Lord and especially the Apostle Paul, never claimed to be Philosophers or men of high learning. Paul never held what education he had as a

great achievement in knowing God or expounding God. This is clear in reading Acts 4:13, where the rulers perceived that the Disciples were unlearned and ignorant men. Paul himself said, in Philippians 3:8, that he counted all things that were gain to him as loss for Christ's sake, that he might have the knowledge of Christ Jesus. Also in I Cor. 1:17, Paul said, he didn't preach the Gospel with wisdom of words, and in verse 20, he said, that God hath made foolish the wisdom of this world. In I Cor. 2:1-6, Paul didn't want to know anything of the wisdom of this world, all he wanted to know was Jesus Christ and Him crucified. The true wisdom comes from God and His Word, and not by Philosophy or education of the mind. Some people are so educated with Degrees, they become educated fools if they are not careful. Some modern Philosophers have no more concept of God and His Word than does a butterfly of a steam engine. The best way to know something, is to know nothing. The wisdom of this world is foolishness with God (I Cor. 1:20) (I Cor. 3:18-19).

Paul warns here about the wisdom of the world and about men of Philosophy who deceive the people. Check your history and see for yourself the ignorant Philosophers of the first three Centuries. Tertullian was an educated madman as I have already pointed out in an earlier chapter. His concept of God and the Godhead was vain imagination, fiction, guesses, human mind bent and out of control, insanity. People of today accept and swallow his Philosophy and concept of the Godhead consisting of three persons, the Trinity. This is entirely out of harmony with the Jewish Religion, with Jesus Christ and His Apostles. This is therefore Anti-Apostolic, Anti-Christian, and Anti-Christ.

Athanasius, who was the Father of introducing this Trinity into the Council of Nicaea in 325 A.D., was educated beyond reality of God and His Word. Read again in Col. 2:8-9, what Paul is telling us. Read it slowly and carefully. Compare this Scripture with Romans 1:20. Paul is showing us there is no mystery about the Godhead, and we shouldn't be told by men that there is. "For in him (Jesus Christ) dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily, and ye (we) are complete (full salvation) in Him."

If there were three persons in the Godhead, then these three persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, would individually make up the Godhead. The proof Paul is showing here is that there is no mystery at all. Jesus Christ is not in the Godhead, but all the fullness of the Godhead dwells in Jesus Christ. We are not to be spoiled or misled by Philosophy of men to believe otherwise. All the fullness of the Godhead, all the attributes of deity, all the perfections of deity, dwell in Jesus Christ, and we are complete (full salvation) in Him. Since all of the Godhead dwells in Jesus Christ, we must come to Him, be in Him, in His name to have complete and full salvation (Acts 4:12).

The Apostle Paul explains it fully here in Col. 2:8-9. So, it took Tertullian around 200 A.D., to finally, by Philosophy, explain the Godhead and the Trinity which Christ and the Apostles knew nothing about, how absurd. Thousands of people have been deceived by Tertullian and his counterfeit, deceitful Philosophy. They have been borne away into confusion, mystery, and ruin, by wrong ideas and conceptions of God. Their soul has been robbed by error, and they are drawn away from the full salvation that is invested in the Name of Jesus Christ. Some say the Trinity is a mystery and cannot be explained as we are to accept it by faith. This is entirely different to what the Apostle Paul is telling us here in Col. 2:8-9.

Here are some profound statements in relation to the Trinity Doctrine originating from Tertullian:

“By believing in the Trinity Doctrine, we believe this mystery is the most incomprehensible of all mysteries.” By Bourdaloue

“The Doctrine of the Trinity has been a controversy in all ages, and numerous are the theories which men have endeavored to maintain on this deeply profound, and confessedly difficult subject.” by J. Burns LLD

“Belief in the Trinity is not against reason, though beyond it, I cannot explain this

mystery to you, it is beyond our understanding.” by J. E. Vernon, M.A.

“No matter how much the mind may strive to penetrate the mystery of the Trinity, it can never attain to its solution. The eye of the mind perceives only darkness when looking into the infinite splendor of God in three persons. The Doctrine of the Trinity is a matter of faith and not of reason, we must believe, though we cannot understand.” by Baring Gould

The true Bible believing Christians who believe in Jesus Christ, and have been baptized into His Name, filled with His Spirit, and know the Oneness of God in Christ, are not a cultic or heretical group as some claim. We have not dug up the heresy of Sabellian in the earlier centuries, as we believe Christ was both Human and Divine, which he didn't. Our Doctrine goes must further back than that of Sabellian, Arius or Tertullian. We claim to be built upon God's Word, Jesus Christ the Cornerstone, and the teachings of the Apostles of Christ. If some would call us heresy, then do so by the Scripture in Acts 24:14. If we are a cultic group, then we are only cultic to those who are founded upon Tertullian's Philosophy and the Latin Church, and not to the real Christians of our Lord.

There should be no mystery at all if there were three persons in the God-head. The only mystery of the Trinity, is to try and explain it using the Scriptures. If one cannot explain the Trinity using Scripture, then this certainly shows it to be a mystery of Babylon.

I have yet to meet someone, or hear of someone who could fully explain the mystery of the Trinity. The Devil sits back and laughs at those who try to understand and explain this mystery of Babylon.

To set the record straight, there is not mention of three persons or Trinity in the entire Bible. To suggest a Trinity and try to harmonize this with the Bible is the greatest mystery and confusion of the human mind. If Satan can confuse your mind, then his job

is half finished already.

Some people would like to understand God, and the only way this can be accomplished is by revelation. To know the Father (God), this must come through a direct revelation given by Jesus Christ. Let us look at the Scripture in Luke 10:22, "All things are delivered to me of my Father, and no man knoweth who the Son is, but the Father, *and who the Father is*, but the Son, and he to whom the *Son will reveal him.*" "This can be further proved by the verse of Scripture in Gal. 1:11-12. "But I certify you, brethren, that the Gospel which was preached of me is not after man. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." The Apostle Paul preached that Jesus Christ was Lord. He also baptized his converts in the Name of Jesus Christ, and believed in speaking in tongues (Acts 19:5-6) (I Cor. 14:18).

Where did Paul get his Gospel, and his revelations? Paul sat at the feet of Gamaliel, and he was the Chief of the Pharisees, a strict Jew. Paul says that he never received his Gospel or the knowledge of Jesus Christ by man, nor was it given to him by the Apostles of Christ. He never learned who the Father was by attending some University or School of Theology, but he knew who the Father was, who Jesus Christ was, by a revelation from Jesus Christ Himself.

We can attend every University in this Country, go to every School of Theology and try to understand God, but you will never know the Father by being taught by man. To know the Father only comes by the revelation of Jesus Christ, according to Jesus and Paul.

If you didn't receive your revelations from Jesus Christ, then you do not know the Father. Jesus Christ will never reveal to you the Trinity, because there is no such Doctrine in all the Bible, and if there was, then Jesus Christ would have given it to His Disciples, and he would have explained it so there would be no mystery about it.

Paul said, that which may be known of God (Father), is manifest, clearly seen,

even His eternal power and God-head (Rom. 1:20). God is seen, manifested, and revealed to this world by direct revelation through Jesus Christ.

This is why many people are confused about who the Father is, and confused about there being three persons in the God-head. This concept of the Trinity inspired by Satan and introduced through Tertullian around 200 A.D. Jesus Christ never revealed three persons to us as the Trinity, but He has revealed to us the fact that the Father is in Christ, God in flesh, the Spirit in Humanity (Col. 2:8-9).

To know Jesus Christ, is to know the Father, and that all the fulness of the God-head dwells in Christ. There is no confusion in understanding that God is in Christ, and therefore, Jesus (God) Christ (Messiah).

This NAME is the only saving connection, and the only saving NAME given to this world whereby we must be saved (Acts 4:12).

In summary, to know and understand God the Father according to Jesus and Paul, we are to be in Christ, He in us, then God is revealed to us by the Spirit of Christ, the Holy Ghost.

CHAPTER FOURTEEN-- THE CONCLUSION

One can see after carefully searching the Scriptures that Jesus laid down the necessary steps to salvation in His Great Commission. The Apostles of our Lord carried out this Commission exactly as was given to them. What is termed "The Apostolic Doctrine" is what the Apostles of our Lord taught and practiced in the Book of Acts. The Book of Acts recorded by Luke is the Only True History of the early Apostolic Church. Satan through his various Emperors of Rome, slaughtered the True Apostolic believing Christians by the thousands throughout the Roman Empire.

When Rome was on the verge of falling within, and being invaded from Barbarian Tribes from the North, then she turned to embrace what was left of Christianity in order to save the Empire. By this time, Satan had already put his master plan and his key men into position.

The unity of Church and State in 325 A.D., at the Council of Nicaea, was not enough to save the Empire, but instead brought to the forefront, Latin Christianity with its dogmatic rituals, lust for power, and its Trinitarian Beliefs. Thus, we had for centuries what was termed "The Dark Ages."

This form of Latin Christianity engulfed millions down through the corridors of time. Let history record the voices of martyrs who suffered during the Reformation Period.

God in these last days of man is restoring his true Church built upon the foundation long ago covered up by Satan and his followers. If man would be saved today, he must sweep away all traditional coverings and find the true spring of Pentecost. Pentecost is not a religion, but it is an experience. Not many find the spring of Pentecost, some are too busy, some are too proud, some are too wise, and some are too bound. The Devil today has educated the mind of man against God's Word, His Truth, and His Saving Grace (I Cor. 3:18-19).

To those who are sincere, who are hungry for truth, who search, there is a river of salvation to be found in the Book of Acts. The Trinitarian people are to be loved and shown the Truth of God's Word. They have returned to a spring for their belief, but sadly to say, they have found the stream of poison that flows from Satan through Babylon, through Pergamos, through Egypt, through Rome, through Tertullian, through Athanasius, through Latin Christianity, and through the Papal Church.

The real spring of truth is to be found flowing from Jesus Christ, His Apostles, and His Word in the Book of Acts. We must build our doctrines upon Jesus Christ and His Word, and not upon Philosophy or man-made Trinitarian Creeds.

There are thousands around the world today who have found the stream of truth. It is my desire to everyone who reads this Book, that they will search the Word of God, *Carefully, Prayerfully*, and may they find this born again experience given in Acts chapter Two.

God is restoring His True Bible Believing Church of Today by His Power, by His Word, and by His Spirit.

**“SEARCH THE SCRIPTURES FOR IN THEM, YE THINK YE HAVE ETERNAL LIFE, AND THEY ARE THEY WHICH TESTIFY OF ME” (JESUS CHRIST)
(John 5:39).**

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