

## THE TEMPLE, TABERNACLE, HOUSE, & SANCTUARY OF GOD

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### In The Old Testament – *how it was*

Hitherto, let us look at the most segregated kind of *congregation* or *assembly* that existed in the land of Israel, gatherings before or within *The Temple, Tabernacle, House, or Sanctuary of God*. Remembering, my reader, that there are more and less holy places, and seeing that the House of God is *most holy*, we can understand that the gatherings before or within this place are regulated with the utmost strictness, beyond all other places.

Under holy apparitions the psalmist exclaimed, “How *amiable* are Thy Tabernacles, O LORD of hosts” (Ps. 84:1)! My reader, do you know it? Do you know “how *amiable*”? If you knew it, then you too, like David, would have “**one thing**” as your life-long goal. David said, “**One thing** have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the House of the LORD all the days of my life, to **behold the beauty of the LORD**, and to enquire in His Temple” (Ps. 27:4)! Do you know the experience? Are you amazed at the reality? That in God’s House, God is! Have you seen “the beauty of the LORD” (Ps. 27:4)?! Oh, how happy is the man that can say, “LORD, I have loved *the habitation* of Thy House, and *the place* where Thine honour dwelleth” (Ps. 26:8)! *The place* is for *the Person* – God Almighty – and seeing that this place is physically “before Him”, the preciousness of the materials used, the beauty and perfection of human craftsmanship involved, and the specific design of its size, organization, and all were of specific regulation and command. For good reason the scripture declared, “Honour and majesty are **before Him**: strength and beauty are in **His sanctuary**” (Ps. 96:6). With strict and specific instruction God designed the structure of inanimate objects which would be arrayed “BEFORE HIM”, for these things housed Him! This is understandable, these are God’s *chosen objects*, but how much more His *chosen people*? If the objects which were before Him were so designated, chosen, and specified, how much more the people who stand before Him? Like the place, the inanimate objects and materials, so it is with the persons who appear before God, they all, by requirement, must “worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Ps. 96:9, 29:2)! God, “whose Name is Holy” (Isa. 57:15), requires that the *place* and *persons* which are before Him be *holy*. Wake up my reader! Is it still a light matter for you to stand before God in what you call your *local Church*? I beg you to keep reading, and hear your God!

“**Who** then is able to **stand before Me**?” – GOD Almighty (Job. 41:10)

“**Blessed** is the man whom thou *choosest*, and *causest* to *approach* unto Thee, that he may dwell in **Thy courts**: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of **Thy House**, even of **Thy Holy Temple**.” - Ps. 65:4

Is it a small thing for you, my reader, to enter into the gates of the Lords House? God, making a declaration that He is of incomparable fierceness, asked the awful question, “Who then is able to stand before Me” (Job 41:10)? **Judgment** is upon all who, God says, “enter in at *these gates* to worship the LORD” (Jer. 7:2). These are *the gates* of “the LORD’S House” (Jer. 7:2), “The Temple of the LORD” (Jer. 7:4), whereat God WILL NOT suffer the presence of wicked men! If the wicked “come and stand before Me in this **House** which is **called by My Name**”, God says, He will cast them out of His sight (Jer. 7:10-15)! “Behold, even I have seen it, saith the LORD” (Jer. 7:11), “I will cast you out of My sight” (Jer. 7:15). Therefore the psalmist declared, “**Blessed** are they that dwell in Thy House”, because all those who are expelled therefrom – *WOE* is upon them (Ps. 84:4)! Heaven has always been populated with the “*blessed*” of humanity, and hell? Hell is humanities “*woe*” (Lk. 6:20-26)! This means that the House of God is for *heaven’s citizens*, *God’s household*, and not for any other nation or family. Those who enjoy the House of God on earth, enjoy it in heaven – praise God! To approach unto and stand before God ON EARTH, my reader, in His earthly House, this is a Divinely-empowered experience! It is written, “**Blessed is the man** whom thou *choosest*, and *causest* to *approach* unto Thee, that he may dwell in Thy courts: we shall be satisfied with the goodness of Thy House, even of Thy Holy Temple” (Ps. 65:4).

### The Persons Who Stand Before God – *segregated by sanctification*

“What hath My beloved to do in **Mine House**, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many” (Jer. 11:15)?

All people who came to stand before God in this place, even those who were not Levites, they had to be “*cleansed* according to the *purification* of the *sanctuary*” (2 Chron. 30:19). The House of God is, in essence, a contradiction to wickedness, and by location it is at enmity to those persons that “dwell in the tents of wickedness” (Ps. 84:10). The two places and their inhabitants are contrary one to another – as the essence of light to darkness. You may profess that you are beloved of God, and you may be, but what if God said to you and your Church, “What hath my beloved to do in **Mine House**, *seeing* she hath wrought lewdness

with many” (Jer. 11:15)? According to God, do you deserve to be in His House? Those that are within God’s House, “they will be still praising [God]” (Ps. 84:4), those that are expelled outside are those to whom God said, “when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest” (Jer. 11:15). My reader, you pray in God’s *Name*, profess God’s *Name*, speak in God’s *Name*, and gather together with others, as you suppose, in God’s *Name*, but have you ever been terrified to do so? Wonder at this: any inanimate man-made structure or spiritually-built living organism, whether visible or invisible, if it be a place where God has recorded His *Name*, or in other words, it is a place where God’s *Name* resides, one should be careful not to approach this place with ungodly simplicity! Like as was once said of an Angel, “*My Name* is in him” (Ex. 23:20-21), even so, where God’s Name resides God forewarns – “BEWARE OF HIM, and obey his voice; for he will not pardon your transgressions: **for My Name is in him!**”

Seeing that God is among the people of Israel, He warns of danger and death. He is the invisible Executioner, the eminent Person and Presence which is to be reckoned with, and with His gaze scanning the horizon, going to and fro, He speaketh on this wise, “I WILL...and WILL”, but my reader, what will He do? Imagine His scanning gaze stopping upon you - oh man! - and do you know what He will say? God said of old, “**I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people**” (Lev. 20:3)! Since the Lord is among Israel, His face readily beholds sin in a manner different from the rest of the nations- what He *readily beholds* He *readily judges*! Therefore, because God in the midst of Israel, what Israel does is *before His face*. He is beholding it, and at the experience of certain sins He will turn His face toward you to *set it against you*, for harm and destruction. When Israel sins, they do not sin as heathen nations that are “aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the Covenants of promise, having no hope, and **without God** in the world”, they sin as a nation that is “**nigh unto God**” (Deut 4:7) and “separated” “from all the people that are upon the face of the earth” – Israel is with God, God is with them (Ex. 33:16). Since His presence is with them (Ex. 33:14, 16, 34:9-10) in the sanctuary, when Israel sins they do, God says, “**defile my sanctuary, and to profane My holy name**” (Lev. 20:3). Seeing that He is in the sanctuary, God does judgment by *setting his face against men*! God sets his face against men who “bear” their iniquity, iniquity which God forewarned of, because it would offend the Lord’s holiness and defile His Tabernacle! Thus He said again, “**Sanctify yourselves therefore, and be ye holy: for I am the LORD your God. And ye shall keep my statutes, and do them: I am the LORD which sanctify you**” (Lev. 20:7-8). God commands that there be no wickedness committed, and if any is committed, there must be an atonement made. The death of the guilty can absolve the wrath of God, but if a non-human atonement cannot bear the guilt of the wickedness which men committed, then literally, the wicked persons, the sinners themselves must die! They all must die until, God said, “**there be no wickedness among you**” (Lev. 20:14)!

“Thou shalt bring them in, and plant them in the mountain of thine inheritance, in the place, O LORD, which thou hast made for thee to dwell in, in the **Sanctuary**, O Lord, which thy hands have established.” – Exodus 15:17

“And let them make Me a **sanctuary**; that I may *dwell among them*.” – Exodus 25:8

“...in all places where I record My Name *I will come unto thee*, and I will bless thee.” – Exodus 20:24

Because the Sanctuary was the place where God was (Ex. 15:17, 25:8), it became a place whereupon God’s name was called, as if the object itself bore the very reputation of God, and what you did to it, you did to God. Seeing that God was therein, the sanctuary was a place of revelatory, eye-opening experiences where men saw God (Ps. 63:2), His ways, works, and purposes (Ps. 68:24, 77:13), and therefore all men were compelled to look thereto for help from God (Ps. 20:2). With the purity and livelihood of the sanctuary secured, salvation was secured. When men were assured the Temple was well, they rested assured that their salvation was well (Ezek. 37:26, 28, Dan. 11:31). The inspired writers understood the health and setup of the sanctuary to be the method and means for Israelite prosperity and peace (Ezek. 37:26). At the happening of Israel’s peace with God, power overflowed beyond their borders until, as it was written, “the heathen shall know that I the LORD do *sanctify* Israel, when My *sanctuary* shall be in the midst of them for evermore” (Ezek. 37:28). Is it any marvel then, why that the sanctuary is called “the sanctuary of strength” (Dan. 11:31)?

So many people have burden and zeal to pray for and evangelize sinners, but they do not understand that, if we were rightly related to God – His House – then God would break forth upon sinners with unfathomable power. Instead, all our prayers that we pray are usually below we can ask or imagine, and furthermore, all the unction and efficacy in which we labor in evangelism is weak, powerless, and shameful when compared to the New Testament witness. How is it that we can be so fallen, so far removed from our God that did, that does, that will do “exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us” (Eph. 3:20)?

If we saved the Church we would save the world. If we would build God's House, He would be glorified. If we would make our ways and our doings right, God would break forth upon the heathen. None would say, "Where is their God?" Is it possible that there could be an OT revival if men "take away the daily sacrifice" (Dan. 11:31)? How then, for us in the NT, will we see a revival upon saints which will overflow upon the heathen if, alas, we do not even have the daily sacrifice perfected? Wouldn't it be more pertinent to be burdened for the wrath-absolving labors of the NT priesthood, if indeed we desire to take ground from the gates of our alien-enemies of hell round about us?

### The Code of the Priesthood

A sanctuary is a "cleansed" place (Ezek. 45:18) which was ruled by "laws of purification" (2 Chron. 30:19). Such a place as this required *ministers* ("them that **keep the charge** of the sanctuary" -Num. 3:32), and they too, like the actual place, needed to be purified, cleansed, and sanctified. The *ministers* of the sanctuary were the Levites (which included the Priests). They were the foremost class of holy persons who were, above all, called to **stand before God**. The Levites, who enter His "sanctuary" (Ezek. 44:15-16), and the prophets, who stand before God's presence (Jer. 15:1, 19), they were the shepherds and pastors of God's people, and according to scripture they are "chosen" for this office because they are "like" God ("a chosen man" - Jer. 15:19, 49:19, 50:44, 2 Chron. 30:22).

If the common Israelite had to attain an acceptable degree of holiness, how much more those who came nearer to God than they? Beyond others, priests entered the sanctuary of God! It was their duty to keep the sanctuary and House of God. For this purpose, the Levites were chosen to camp directly around the sanctuary. They were the holy and chosen tribe who, by vocation, God brought near to handle and care for the holy things. Among the Levites, the *priests* were held to an even higher degree of holiness (Lev. 21:6). Thereby they must avoid profaning God's Name (Lev. 21:6), for it was said of the priest, "he is holy unto his God" (Lev. 21:7)! The Lord continues to emphasize, "he shall be holy unto thee: for **I the LORD**, which sanctify you, am holy" (Lev. 21:8) – this is the foundational basis for all God's commandments! The High Priest, who alone could enter *the most holy place*, was more holy than the other priests. He could on no occasion touch a dead body, rend his clothes, uncover his head, for in so doing he would defile himself or the Tabernacle of God, and the penalty was DEATH (Lev. 21:10-15). The Lord says, "Neither shall he go out of **the sanctuary**, nor **profane the sanctuary** of his God; for the crown of the anointing oil of God is upon him: I am the LORD" (Lev. 21:12).

### Putting On, Putting Off, and Washing

To stand before God and survive it, a priest must "**put on** his linen garment, and his linen breeches shall he put upon his flesh" (Lev. 6:10-11). When leaving the presence of the Lord a priest would then "**put off** his garments, and put on other garments" (Lev. 6:11). Before a man comes nigh He must "**wash** his flesh with **water** in the **holy place**" (Lev. 16:24). After the goat is released the man who touched the goat must become clean before entering back into the camp, for it is to be kept holy though it is less holy than the Holy place. He shall "**wash** his clothes, and **bathe** his flesh in **water**, and afterward come **into the camp**" (Lev. 16:26). You see my reader, they must be **washed** to enter God's House (Ex. 30:20-21, 40:12)! Are there no NT "washings" for the NT priesthood (Titus 3:5, Eph. 5:26)? Is there no "putting off" and "putting on" regulation for those who enter into the NT House of God (Eph. 4:22-24, Col. 3:9-10, Rom. 13:12, 14)?

### Blemishes and Perfection

A priest was forbidden from the priesthood if he was a man that had "**a blemish**, he shall not approach: **a blind man**, or a lame, or he that hath a flat nose, or any thing superfluous" (Lev. 21:18). Neither could a sacrifice be acceptable if it had a blemish or "any thing superfluous," the Lord said "it shall be **perfect** to be **accepted**; there shall be **no blemish** therein" (Lev. 22:21). A priest of the seed of Aaron could not "**come nigh**" having "**a blemish**," thus the Lord said, "he shall not go in unto the vail, nor come nigh unto the altar, because he hath **a blemish**; that he **profane not My sanctuaries**: for **I the LORD do sanctify them**" (Lev. 21:23). The priests had to be separate in person, live separate in relations, to serve the separate-holy things and enter the holy places of the Tabernacle – lest they defile it and die. Again I say, the Levites themselves cannot **eat of the altar** while being **unclean** (Lev. 7:20, 21:17-23). "Say unto them, Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto the LORD, having his **uncleanness** upon him, **that soul shall be cut off from My presence**, I am the LORD" (Lev. 22:3). "They shall therefore keep mine ordinance, **lest they bear sin for it, and die** therefore, if they **profane it: I the LORD do sanctify them**" (Lev. 22:9). Remember the hallowed words of the Lord in 1 Corinthians 3:17? "If any man **defile the Temple of God, him shall God destroy**; for **the Temple of God** is **holy**, which Temple ye are." And again the Lord repeats in Leviticus, "Therefore ye shall keep my commandments, and do them: I am the LORD.

Neither shall ye profane my holy name; but **I will be hallowed among the children of Israel: I am the LORD which hallow you**, that brought you out of the land of Egypt, **to be your God: I am the LORD**” (Lev. 22:31-33).

Would to God that He would make the preachers of the New Covenant, otherwise known as rulers (Jas. 3:1, Heb. 13:17), faithful “keepers of the charge of the House” (Ezek. 44:14). The Levites were, foremost of all, responsible for instructing and requiring all other Israelites to keep clean and holy, by law. When the Levites were obedient they were said to be, those who “taught the good knowledge of the LORD”, as it was said in Hezekiah’s day (2 Chron. 30:22). They “caused the people to understand the law: and the people stood in their place. So they read in the Book of the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading” (Neh. 8:7-8), as it was said in Ezra’s day. Would to God, yet again, “the ears of all the people [would be] attentive unto the Book of the law” (Neh. 8:3)! If the Levites and Priests failed to, God says, “**teach** my people **the difference** between the **holy** and **profane**, and cause them **to discern** between the **unclean** and the **clean**. And in controversy they shall **stand in judgment**; and they shall **judge it according to My judgments**: and they shall keep My laws and My statutes in **ALL MINE ASSEMBLIES**; and they shall hallow My sabbaths” (Ezekiel 44:23-24), they would be blood-guilty of nationwide murder. If all the people understood their own doings and continued therein, it was national suicide. On individual or nationwide circumstances, holiness, sanctification, and cleanness determined life itself.

**Individuals** → “But those that encamp before the tabernacle toward the east, *even* before the tabernacle of the congregation eastward, *shall be* Moses, and Aaron and his sons, keeping the charge of the sanctuary for the charge of the children of Israel; and **the stranger that cometh nigh shall be put to death.**” – Numbers 3:38

“Whosoever *toucheth* the **dead body** of any man that is dead, and purifieth not himself, **defileth the tabernacle of the LORD**; and **that soul shall be cut off from Israel**: because the *water of separation* was not *sprinkled* upon him, he shall be **unclean**; his **uncleanness is yet upon him.**” – Numbers 19:13

**Nationwide** → “And the children of Israel spake unto Moses, saying, BEHOLD, we **DIE**, we **PERISH**, **WE ALL PERISH**. **Whosoever cometh any thing near unto the Tabernacle** of the LORD shall **DIE**: shall we be **consumed with DYING?**” – Numbers 17:12-13

**The Way of Escape** → “Ye shall **keep the charge** of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar: **that there be no wrath any more upon the children of Israel.**” – Numbers 18:5

Oh my reader, God has a good answer to Israel’s cry, “shall we be consumed with dying?” But will you understand it!? As you can see, if the Levites neglected their vocation and failed to instruct the people of Israel, a situation of national security emerges. Look upon them, my reader! Listen to them! Their voices howling and crying out, “WE ALL PERISH!” Saints were turning sinners – Israelites sinners – in the hands of an angry God! Without the Levites instruction there would be nationwide uncleanness, and then...national disaster. In such a time and circumstance the Lord condemned the priests and prophets foremost of all, for they, in their violation, cause the downfall of the entire nation. “Scornful men bring a city into a snare: but wise men turn away wrath” (Prov. 29:8).

“Her *priests* have violated my law, and have profaned mine holy things: they have **put no difference** between the **holy** and **profane**, neither have they **shewed difference** between the **unclean** and the **clean**, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths, and I am profaned among them” – Ezekiel 22:26

“Her *prophets* are light and treacherous persons: her *priests* have **polluted the sanctuary**, they have done violence to the law.” – Zeph. 3:4

“For both *prophet* and *priest* are profane; yea, **IN MY HOUSE** have I found their wickedness, saith the LORD” – Jer. 23:11

“And ye have not kept the charge of mine holy things: but ye have set **keepers of my charge** in my sanctuary for yourselves” – Ezek. 44:8

You see, my reader, the Levites were “the porters [the door keepers] at **the gates of the House of the Lord**, that none which was **unclean** in any thing **should enter in**” (2 Chron. 23:19). This means that, if they fall...Israel falls. Their offended God who is in their midst identifies His impending wrath as it relates to His very presence, saying in one place, “I should go far off from My

sanctuary” (Ezek. 8:6), and in another place, “I will profane My sanctuary” (Ezek. 24:21). The two threats are one in the same! The Lord is going away from His sanctuary was because it has become a hateful place, as it is written, “He hath abhorred His sanctuary” (Lam. 2:7), and when He leaves His sanctuary, my reader He will return...He calls forth the armies of the heathen, joins their battle line, empowers their effort to conquer...God, through the heathen, destroys His own House and people!

“He said furthermore unto me, Son of man, seest thou what they do? even the great abominations that the house of Israel committeth here, **that I should go far off from my sanctuary?** but turn thee yet again, and thou shalt see greater abominations.” – Ezek. 8:6

“Speak unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, **I will profane my sanctuary**, the excellency of your strength, the desire of your eyes, and that which your soul pitieth; and your sons and your daughters whom ye have left shall fall by the sword.” – Ezek. 24:21

“Wherefore, as I live, saith the Lord GOD; Surely, because thou hast **defiled My sanctuary** with all thy detestable things, and with all thine abominations, therefore will **I also diminish thee; neither shall mine eye spare, neither will I have any pity.**” – Ezek. 5:11

“The Lord hath **cast off His altar**, He hath **abhorred His sanctuary**, He hath **given up into the hand of the enemy** the walls of her palaces; they have made a noise in the House of the LORD, as in the day of a solemn feast.” – Lam. 2:7

God takes ownership of Israel’s destruction, declaring, “I will profane My sanctuary” (Ezek. 24:21), even though its profanation was through the instrumentality of heathen armies. When wrath of this magnitude did break forth upon Israel (like in the Assyrian and Babylonian invasion into Israel and Judah, ending in their captivities), the heathen armies are called God’s beating “rod” and hewing “axe” (Isa. 10:5, 15). Knowing this, the prophets lifted up their prayers to God, saying, “Behold, O LORD, and consider to whom **Thou hast done this**. Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long? shall the *priest* and the *prophet* be **slain in the sanctuary of the Lord**” (Lamentations 2:20)? “How is the gold become dim! How is the most fine gold changed! The stones of **the sanctuary** are poured out in the top of every street” (Lam. 4:1)! The people who were formerly unconquerable, their fenced cities of walls unbreachable, their Temple of excellency incomparable, they were conquered, breached, and profaned! Those persons who were formerly forbidden entrance –*unholy persons* – did invade and *defile* that which is holy!

“The people of **Thy holiness** have possessed it but a little while: our **adversaries** have **trodden down Thy sanctuary.**” – Isa. 63:18

“O God, the **heathen** are **come into Thine inheritance**; Thy **Holy Temple** have they **defiled**; they have laid Jerusalem on heaps.” – Psalm 79:1

How terrifying it is! How awful! And yet understandable because, this judgment is retributive justice against a great evil – when Israel forsook God’s **holy** and **clean** ways. They were insolent, in violation of His law, thus the Lord reckoned with them:

“In that ye have brought into my sanctuary **strangers, uncircumcised** in heart, and **uncircumcised** in flesh, to **be in my sanctuary**, to pollute it, **even my House**, when ye offer my bread, the fat and the blood, and they have broken my covenant because of all your abominations. And ye have not kept the charge of Mine holy things: but ye have set keepers of My charge in My sanctuary for yourselves. Thus saith the Lord GOD; No **stranger, uncircumcised** in heart, nor **uncircumcised** in flesh, shall **enter into My sanctuary**, of any stranger that is among the children of Israel.” – Ezek. 44:7-9

You see my reader, when God annihilates Israel by leaving them, joining their enemies to destroy them, Israel cried out for God’s return, saying:

“O God, why hast thou cast us off for ever? why doth thine anger smoke against the sheep of thy pasture? Remember **thy congregation**, which thou hast purchased of old; the rod of thine inheritance, which thou hast redeemed; **this mount Zion, wherein thou hast dwelt. Lift up thy feet** unto the perpetual desolations; even all that **the enemy hath done wickedly in the sanctuary**. Thine **enemies roar in the midst of thy congregations**; they set up their ensigns for signs. A man was famous according as he had lifted up axes upon the thick trees. But now they break down the carved

work thereof at once with axes and hammers. They have **cast fire into thy sanctuary**, they have **defiled by casting down the dwelling place of thy name to the ground**. They said in their hearts, Let us destroy them together: **they have burned up all the synagogues of God in the land.**” - Psalm 74:1-8

“The **adversary** hath spread out his hand upon all her pleasant things: for she hath seen that the **heathen entered into her sanctuary, whom thou didst command that they should not enter into thy congregation.**” – Lam. 1:10

When God speaks of redemption, it is an answer to these prayers, thus its language is in reference to the whole of Israel’s salvation – God’s presence, God’s Temple, with **holiness** and **cleanliness** restored!

“And I will encamp about Mine House because of the army, because of him that passeth by, and because of him that returneth: and **no oppressor shall pass through them any more**: for now have I seen with Mine eyes. Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.” – Zech. 9:8-9

“In that day shall there be upon the bells of the horses, **HOLINESS UNTO THE LORD**; and the pots in the **LORD’S** house shall be like the bowls before the altar. Yea, every pot in Jerusalem and in Judah **shall be holiness** unto the **LORD** of hosts: and all they that sacrifice shall come and take of them, and see the therein: and **in that day there shall be no more the Canaanite in the House of the LORD of hosts.**” – Zech. 14:20-21

My reader have you heard the terrifying question? “**LORD, WHO shall abide in Thy Tabernacle? WHO shall dwell in Thy holy hill**” (Psalms 15:1)? Marvel at this and be astonished! NO wicked persons are allowed in God’s House (Lev. 20:14)! In an OT sense that is, “No **strangers**” (Num. 3:38, Ezek. 44:7-9), no “**Canaanite**” (Zech. 14:20-21), no “**oppressor**” (Zech. 9:8-9), no “**uncircumcised**” (Ezek. 44:7-9) are allowed in God’s House! Whether “the **enemy**” (Ps. 74:1-8, Lam. 2:7), Israel’s “**adversaries**” (Isa. 63:18, Lam. 1:10), “the **heathen**” (Ps. 79:1, Lam. 1:10), those **unclean** by dead bodies (Num. 19:11, 13), or simply put – the “**unclean**” (2 Chron. 23:19) – all were expelled from the hallowed honor granted to humanity in that, on earth, they were enabled to stand before God’s immediate and special presence! In an OT sense as it pertains to The Priesthood, Aaron’s sons who are “**holy**” (Lev. 21:7), “**anointed**” (Lev. 21:12), and “**washed**” (Ex. 30:20-21, 40:12, Lev. 16:24, 26), having “**put on his linen garment**” (Lev. 6:10-11), these are enabled to minister in the sanctuary...none else. If any of Aaron’s sons are **defiled by dead bodies** (Lev. 21:11, Num. 19:13), or otherwise, has “a **blemish**”, is “a **blind man**” (Lev. 21:18, 23), or in any regard, has “**uncleanness**” upon him (Lev. 7:20, 21:17-23, 22:3), these are disallowed entrance into the sanctuary of God. Ceremonially they must be “purified”, “sprinkled”, and in “separation” (Num. 19:13). Under the pain of death, God warned: “Whosoever he be of all your seed among your generations, that goeth unto the holy things, which the children of Israel hallow unto the **LORD**, having his **uncleanness** upon him, **that soul shall be cut off from My Presence**, I am the **LORD**” (Lev. 22:3). Finally, as for OT sacrifices, they are acceptable only if they are “**perfect**” and with “**no blemish**” (Lev. 22:21).

My reader if you don’t understand this, you don’t know “how amiable” (Ps. 84:1) the House of God is! You don’t understand “the beauty of the **LORD**” (Ps. 27:4)! You have not “loved the habitation” of His House (Ps. 26:8). You don’t understand what it is to be “before Him” (Ps. 96:6) as one that is standing in His immediate presence, in His House (Jer. 7:10-15)! You don’t know the blessedness of the “**blessed**” man (Ps. 65:4) who worships God in “the beauty of **holiness**” (Ps. 96:9, 29:2)! You have no idea who is fit and worthy to, God says, “enter at these gates to worship the **LORD**” (Jer. 7:2), the place where men have been appointed to “keep the charge of the sanctuary” (Num. 3:32) by putting a “**difference** between the **unclean** and **clean**” (Ezek. 22:26). All who appear there are “**cleansed**” or expelled (2 Chron. 30:19), Hallelujah! Shout for joy at this! Or are you included in the vast number of “Christians” who are at this time, without the crying prayer, “O Lord, righteousness belongeth unto thee, but unto us confusion of faces, as at this day” (Dan. 9:7)! As it is written in the law of Moses, all this evil is come upon us: yet made we not our prayer before the **LORD** our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Thy truth. Therefore hath the **LORD** watched upon the evil, and brought it upon us: for the **LORD** our God is righteous in all His works which He doeth: for we obeyed not His voice” (Dan. 9:13-14)! Or will you say, my reader, what wrath? What law? What unclean laws? Oh my reader, the impudence! The mockery! Have you never read?

“But as he which hath called you is **holy**, so be ye **holy** in all manner of conversation; **Because it is written**, Be ye **holy**; for I am **HOLY.**” – 1 Peter 1:15-16

“If any man **defile** the Temple of God, **him shall God destroy**; for the Temple of God is **holy**, which Temple ye are.” – 1 Corinthians 3:17

“For ye are the temple of the living God; **as God hath said**, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people. Wherefore **come out from among them**, and be ye *separate*, saith the Lord, and **touch not the unclean thing**; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty. Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us **cleanse** ourselves from all **filthiness** of the flesh and spirit, perfecting **holiness** in the fear of God.” – 2 Corinthians 6:16-7:1

You may, my reader, seek eternal-safety and personal well-being as you continually resort to “the sanctuary” in the House of God (your Church), but unknowingly, by your unsanctified body, soul, and spirit (1 Thess. 5:23-24) you are defiling God’s house, and shockingly, the place where you sought refuge from His wrath became the grounds by which you provoke His wrath, and where, at first, you sought to escape judgment, God will there, at that place, begin His judgments. Did you never read, “judgment must begin at the House of God” (1 Pet. 4:17), even so it was written of old... “Slay utterly old and young, both maids, and little children, and women... and **begin at my sanctuary**. Then they began at the ancient men which were **before The House**” (Ezek. 9:6).

Oh! How we have not “walked mournfully before the LORD of hosts” (**Mal. 3:15, 1 Cor. 5:3**, Ezek. 9:4)! How we have violated His laws of spiritual companionship, how we have spurned separation, how we have failed to stand in judgment and “discern between the righteous and the wicked, between him that serveth God and him that serveth Him not” (Mal. 3:18)! How the law is slacked, the people at ease, and the faithful few persecuted! How the wicked have risen and the righteous are hidden, and the happy rebels cast slander at us like gravel the mouth! In the midst of such a scene, my reader, there is hope... “they that feared the LORD spake often one to another: and the LORD hearkened, and heard it, and a book of remembrance was written before Him for them that feared the LORD, and that thought upon His Name. And they shall be Mine, saith the Lord of hosts, in that day when I make up My jewels; and I will spare them, as a man spareth His own son that serveth Him” (Mal. 3:14-18). Come Lord Jesus, come.

### In The New Testament – *how it is*

Firstly, let the reader understand – The **Sanct-uary** of God is **sanct-ified!** Therefore its population must also be **sanct-ified**. “The Sanctuary” is a sanctified **place**, a holy **place**, provided for a holy people to come before a holy God. By its name alone it is inherently understood, unholy and unclean persons are disallowed entrance. In this wicked and adulterous generation that we live in, the holy is profaned, whether in matrimony with man or God all boundary marks have been TRESPASSED! Tragically, the dangers which a man of God once prophesied are upon us... William Booth said, “The chief danger of the twentieth century will be: religion without the Holy Ghost, Christianity without Christ, forgiveness without repentance, salvation without regeneration, heaven without hell.” So today, alas, we have *unholy men* who think they have the *Holy Ghost!* And they, while yet unsanctified, attend an assembly at a place what they call “The Sanctuary”! But my reader, while *this people or this place* remain **unsanctified**, can it be called “The Sanctuary”?! If God, The Sanctifying One, is not in “The Sanctuary”, be sure of this *it is not a sanctuary!* But how does a man become **sanctified**? My reader, birth into Christ, “Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and **sanctification**, and redemption” (1 Cor. 1:30), is the only means by which men are **sanctified**. Therefore the redeemed of God and none else, being sanctified, are enabled to approach the **hallowed** and **sanctified** place wherein Jesus Christ said, shockingly, “there am I in the midst of them” (Matt. 18:20). All the people gathered together are, Christ said, “in My Name”, therefore whether in prayer or purpose, all who are gathered together “agree” (Matt. 18:18-20)! Being utterly possessed and encompassed by One – Jesus Christ – Who is within them and in the midst of them, this causes a blessed “unity of the Spirit” (Eph. 4:3). Jesus Christ, standing within and around those who have gathered together, means that, the many persons are in One Person, and thus, they “stand fast in one Spirit, with one Mind” (Php. 1:27), not merely one physical gathering. No, they are altogether in the sanctification of one Name – “one body, and one Spirit... one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all” (Eph. 4:4-6) – and consequentially, the people are one in prayer and purpose, their gathering is in “one accord” (Acts 4:24), and such prayers, being empowered thereto by the unanimity of Christ’s Person, transform this *earthly place* into a *heavenly place* (Note: by definition the word “saint” means, “a sanctified one” or “a holy one”, which in turn means, “a heavenly one” – Heb. 3:1, 6:4). All conditions fulfilled, this place becomes hallowed, especially and immediately heavenly, and because of this – what is done “on earth” is one with what is done “in heaven” (Matt. 18:18-19)! This means what is done *in this place*, on **earth**, is simultaneously done in **heaven!** Behold the apex, the chief goal,

the essence of what a Christian assembly is - how that, by experience, we are enabled to live out the answered prayer of Jesus Christ: "Our Father which art in *heaven*, hallowed be Thy Name. Thy Kingdom *come*. Thy will be done, *as in heaven, so in earth*", "Thy will be done *in earth, as it is in heaven*" (Lk. 11:2, Matt. 6:10).

#### The Code of the Priesthood

In the New Testament Code of the Priesthood there is a *holy washing* and a *holy water* like as the OT type (Lev. 16:24, 26, Ex. 30:20-21, 40:12), only this *washing* is for the NT holy place called, the "House of God" (see Heb. 10:19-25), which is namely, "the assembling of ourselves together" (Heb. 10:25, Matt. 18:20, Jn. 5:21)! So my reader, what about you? Are you "*washed with pure water*" so that you might "*draw near*" with assurance that your presence in the House of God will not *defile* it (1 Cor. 3:17)? No Israelite would have "boldness", or fearlessness, "to enter into the holiest" of the New Testament House of God without the *ceremonial preparations* which God has mercifully provided (Heb. 10:19-22). After being "*washed*" and "*sprinkled*" (Heb. 10:22, 1 Pet. 1:2), then they would have boldness to stand before God; because they were made ceremonially qualified they will not die. Therefore, my reader, there is a NT "*washing*", without which no man can enter the House of God, and it is called "*the washing of regeneration*" (Titus 3:5)! Yea, there is a ministration of Church officers (Eph. 4:11) who are gifted and employed in a Divinely-empowered task (Eph. 4:8, 12, 1 Cor. 3:5-10), a task which they, through the Lord, "labour" to accomplish (1 Cor. 3:9, 2 Cor. 11:2, Col. 1:28-29) what Christ died to accomplish (Col. 1:22, Jude 24), so that through Holy-Ghost preaching (2 Tim. 1:14), otherwise known as the "*washing of water by the word*" (Eph. 5:26, Col. 1:28-29, John 7:38), the Bride would be beautified into an acceptable condition when she is finally presented to Christ (Eph. 4:26-27, 2 Cor. 11:2)! Such a great Bride must be prepared and made ready (Rev. 19:7)! She must be ceremonially, spiritually, and gloriously arrayed, even so. "Awake, awake; put on thy strength, O Zion; put on thy beautiful garments" (Isa. 52:1)! This Bride has typological parallels, for she is also called "God's building" (1 Cor. 3:9) and "the Temple of God" (1 Cor. 3:17), and such a "great House" as this must be built with acceptable materials - gold, silver, and precious stones, rather than wood, hay, stubble, and earth (1 Cor. 3:12-18, 2 Tim. 2:19-21) - therefore "let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon" (1 Cor. 3:10); let it be with God's wisdom not worldly wisdom; let a man so wash the Bride with holy waters rather than polluted waters; yes, lest it happen to him what is warned against - the man built, he defiled, and he died (1 Cor. 3:10-18). To keep the saints washed, this is a typological parallel to keeping them acceptably arrayed, namely, in the NT *priestly garments*.

"But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood**, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Which in time past were not a people, but are now the people of God: which had not obtained mercy, but now have obtained mercy." - 1 Peter 2:9-10

The NT believers have become "a royal priesthood" in Christ, and what are their *priestly garments*? Or do you, to your destruction (1 Cor. 3:17), allow priests to attend the House of God with no "linen garment" (Lev. 6:10-11)? My reader, "the fine linen is the righteousness of the saints" (Rev. 19:8), imputed and imparted through Christ! The local NT House of God will literally cease to exist if the priesthood that attends it has "defiled their garments" (Rev. 3:4). Christ is our "Living Way" (Heb. 10:20), our "High Priest" (Heb. 10:21), and we, born from Him (Heb. 2:13, Rom. 8:29, Ex. 28:1), are employed in His everlasting order; the order of Melchizedek (Ps. 110:4, Heb. 7:3). He is our "Lively Hope" (1 Pet. 1:3) and Linen Garments, yea, for as much as He is our righteousness - "and if Christ be in you, the body is dead because of sin; but **the Spirit is life because of righteousness**" (Rom. 8:10)! New Testament priests, have you attended to the "putting on" and "putting off" regulations of the NT House of God? Do you have a "death-penalty awareness" that, if you enter the House of God without being properly arrayed in the Divinely prescribed *priestly garments* - you will DIE?

"But **put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ**, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfill the lusts thereof" - Rom. 13:14

"As many as have been baptized into Christ have **put on Christ**" (Gal. 3:27)! My reader, Christ is our *priestly garment* which we must "put on". He is The Garment of our priestly acceptance? He is our ceremonial preparation and perfection, once and forever to its completion (Col. 2:10), if indeed we "continue in the faith grounded and settled...not moved away from the hope of the gospel" (Col. 1:23). Practically, experientially, and evidently, the life of the believer will be priest-like in appearance. By this I mean, in the NT reality of what priests have become: according to Ephesians 4:22-24, to "**put off**" the "old man" results in a "putting away" of: lying, anger, stealing, corrupt communication, bitterness, wrath, clamor, evil speaking, malice, and unforgiveness (see Eph. 4:22-32); according to Ephesians 4:22-24, to "**put on** the new man" results in a renewal of the entire-man, in thought, word, and deed, because the new man is "created in righteousness and true holiness", and thus the man speaks the truth, works hard, gives to the needy, and with edifying speech, is kind, tenderhearted, and forgiving (see Eph. 4:22-32); according to Colossians 3:9-10, to "**put off** the old man" results in putting off of: anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy

communication, fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, covetousness, and idolatry (see Col. 3:5-17); according to Colossians 3:9-10, to “**put on** the new man” results in a renewal of the entire-man, in thought, word, and deed, because the new man is “the image of Him that created Him”, which means that “Christ is all, and in all”, therefore the man is merciful, kind, humble, meek, longsuffering, forbearing, forgiving, charitable, peaceful, thankful, and because he is of a continual mind to meditate on wisdom in his own personal time, he zealously pursues opportunity to teach and sing to others (see Col. 3:5-17)! Let The Code of the Priesthood be understood by all! Those who are arrayed in Christ, these are priests! And this Christ is, by the specification of the former passages of scripture, their *Priestly Garment of Righteousness* in which they are emboldened to draw near, attend, and minister within the New Testament House of God!

My reader, there is no other purpose for which Christians should enter within the House of God, but that they are ministering to God! And what is our ministration? We, the priests, take up censer and incense to perfume the Presence of God with Spirit-filled prayers (1 Tim. 2:1-8, Eph. 6:18-20, Jude 20-21). The priests maintain a continual attendance to and ministration within the House of God *firstly*, to offer themselves as sacrifices to God (Rom. 12:1-2, Gal. 2:20, 1 Cor. 15:31), and when the personal perfection (Lev. 22:20-23) of each individual priests sacrifice is accepted by God, then we, *secondarily*, as a whole Church, are offered up together as **one sacrifice** to God (Rom. 15:15-19, Php. 2:17-18, 1 Cor. 10:16-17) – and let the reader take note that, according to scripture, the personal and corporate sacrifice to God must be “holy”, “acceptable”, “perfect”, “without blemish”, and “sanctified” in a New Testament sense of what these ceremonial qualifications mean. Furthermore, extending into another vein of typological application: The priests, who “minister about holy things”, we do “live of the things of the Temple” (1 Cor. 9:13). Yes, “and they which wait at the altar are partakers with the altar” (1 Cor. 9:13). “We have an altar, whereof they [all others] have no right to eat”, because we “serve the Tabernacle” (Heb. 13:10). Yes, my reader, “Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us” (1 Cor. 5:7), therefore from this altar we do “eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood” (Jn. 6:53, Matt. 26:26-29), and by interpretation Christ said, “it is the Spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: **the words** that I speak unto you, they are **Spirit**, and they are **Life**” (Jn. 6:63)! The holy altar which the New Testament priesthood does continually attend to and eats from, this is the altar which bears upon it the broken body and shed blood of the Lord Jesus, and we eat from it and obtain Life (Ezek. 42:13-14), which means by interpretation, we hear the preaching of the Word of God and we eat it (1 Cor. 1:21, Rom. 10:14, Col. 1:28-29, Eph. 4:11-12, 5:26, Ezek. 2:8-3:4), for the “words” that Christ speaks are “spirit” and “life” (Jn. 6:63, 2 Cor. 5:18-20, 1 Pet. 4:11, 1 Thess. 4:8, Jn. 13:20, Lk. 10:16, Matt. 10:40, 1 Jn. 4:5-6), they are “the words of eternal life” (Jn. 6:68), thus whosoever hears these words and believes in them has eternal life (Jn. 6:64)!

It is not that we are seeking a carnal House or physical habitation to perform these priestly duties. No, our gathering together IS our House. Our gathering together as true, regenerated, God-ordained priests IS our House, Temple, and Habitation, *wherever it is* (Matt. 18:20, 2 Cor. 6:14-7:1). Even so, my reader, the Lord – Himself – must become “thy habitation” (Ps. 91:9-10). The hour was coming, which now is, when the people of God no longer worship at a certain place, a certain “mountain”, nor “at Jerusalem” (Jn. 4:21), but the Man Jesus Christ, “He shall be for a Sanctuary” (Isa. 8:14). He said again, “yet will I be to them as a little Sanctuary” (Ezek. 11:16)...and how? Jesus Christ has become “the chief corner stone” (Eph. 2:20) for the New Testament Sanctuary, and those persons who assemble together within this “Spiritual House” are the “holy priesthood”, who also are “as lively stones” “framed together” (see Eph. 2:19-22, 1 Pet. 2:4-5, Ps. 118:19-24, Isa. 8:13-22). Therefore the New Testament Priesthood attends to and ministers within the House of God, which is, spiritually and literally, “the assembling of ourselves together” (Heb. 10:25, Matt. 18:20), and when we gather together we are coming to the Lord who said, “I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people” (2 Cor. 6:16). Therefore in this context it is written to the New Testament Priesthood: “To whom coming, as unto a Living Stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, ye also, as lively stones, are built up a Spiritual House, an Holy Priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ” (1 Pet. 2:4-5). Unto Christ they come, for He is among them, and when gathered together they do “offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. But to do good and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased” (Heb. 13:15-16). Yes! Here they “worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness” (Ps. 29:2, 96:9), but who are all these other people who have invaded the ministry of God’s holy priesthood? Who are all these people who are, “in word or deed”, not “in the Name of the Lord Jesus” (Col. 3:14-17), and yet, they are singing psalms and hymns? Alas, they are singing, but they are not “spiritual songs”, for they are not sung “with grace in [their] hearts to the Lord” (Col. 4:14-17)! Who are all these who have invaded the priesthood to speak “psalms and hymns”, but they are not “spiritual songs” (Eph. 5:19-20)? Who are these persons that are giving “thanks always for all things unto God and the Father”, but they are not “in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ” (Eph. 5:19-20)? They are offering sacrifices, yes...but with their sacrifices God is not well pleased! Their sacrifices are unacceptable because they are not “spiritual sacrifices” (1 Pet. 2:4-5)! They are in the assembly of the priesthood, yes, but they are defiling the “Spiritual House”...and why? They, “having not the Spirit” (Jude 19), are unspiritual and unholy, therefore they are disqualified for any priestly service to God and man – their

presence is an invasion into the “Holy Priesthood” (1 Peter 2:4-5)! They have taken up censer and burnt incense, yes, but the odor of their prayers are foul, unholy, and unacceptable to God! My reader, this is because they are not saints! Acceptable incense is offered by the “holy priesthood” alone because they are the persons who pray in the Name and Person of Jesus Christ, “the prayers of saints” (Rev. 5:8)! It is written of old, “Even *them* will I bring to **My Holy Mountain**, and make them joyful in **My House of Prayer**: their *burnt offerings* and *their sacrifices* shall be *accepted* upon Mine *altar*; for **Mine House** shall be called an **House of Prayer** for *all people*” (Isaiah 56:7). Yes, foreshadowing this great climax of the ages it was written, “Let my prayer be set forth before thee as *incense*; and the lifting up of my hands as *the evening sacrifice*” (Psalms 141:2). Hallelujah! “*And the smoke of the incense*, which came with *the prayers of the saints*, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand” (Rev. 8:4)! Amen! Thus “it is written, My House shall be called the House of Prayer” (Matt. 21:13)! But who are all these unregenerate persons, these “strangers”, these persons who are “without God in the world” (Eph. 2:12-13)...yet they have come “nigh” to “the Household of God” to offer incense (Eph. 2:14-19)!? They have boldly drawn near (Heb. 10:22, Titus 3:5), but without ceremonial qualification! They have boldly drawn near as if they have “access by one Spirit unto the Father” (Eph. 2:18), but they are yet, even still, without the Spirit of God, therefore they are still “strangers and foreigners” (Eph. 2:18-19). They are not “fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the Household of God”, namely because they are not saints (Eph. 2:19)! I say again, who are these strangers who have invaded the house of God, who have offered “strange fire” (Lev. 10:1-2)? Alas, they are strong-willed, high-handed sinners, like Uzziah, lifting themselves up beyond their measure, “for he transgressed against the LORD his God and went into the Temple of the LORD to burn incense upon the altar of incense” (2 Chron. 26:16). Even so, “It appertaineth not unto thee, [oh unregenerate men], to burn incense unto the LORD, but to the priests the sons of [Christ], that are consecrated to burn incense: GO OUT of the Sanctuary; for thou hast trespassed; neither shall it be for thine honour from the LORD God” (2 Chron. 26:18)! Oh unregenerate man, will you listen to me, lest it happen to you what happened to Uzziah when he, being reprov’d, was struck with leprosy in the forehead (2 Chron. 26:16-21)! As Uzziah was opposed by the fourscore priests, even so I oppose you, oh man! Hear me, the priesthood does not belong to you! Will you hear me? Or will you become “utterly unclean” like Uzziah with a plague in your head? Think of it, everlastingly rending your clothes and crying aloud – “U-N-C-L-E-A-N, U-N-C-L-E-A-N” (Lev. 13:43-46) – and like Uzziah you are, irreversibly till death, “**cut off from the House of the LORD**” (2 Chron. 26:21)! Before continuing my reader, please pause and read Numbers chapters 16 & 17 very carefully.

**“The censurers of these sinners against their own souls” – Numbers 16:38**

In the days of Moses and Aaron certain men invaded into the Aaronic priesthood, and it was written, “there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men **that offered incense**” (Num. 16:35). These were those of the congregation that **offered incense** because they wanted to be a part of the priesthood. What was their crime? It is the shadow of the NT crime which is flagrant and awful, committed every Sunday, because unregenerate men attend and minister within the Church of God, performing Christian services which are in New Testament reality: priestly sacrifices (Heb. 13:15-16, Php. 2:17, 1 Peter 2:5) and incense offerings (Rev. 5:8, 8:3-4). God says to the unregenerate Church goers, “seek ye the priesthood also” (Numbers 16:10)? Incense of the priests was an OT institution (Exodus 30:7-9, 34-38, Lev. 16:11-13) which has become a NT Christian reality. It is spiritual sacrifices which only “spiritual men” (1 Cor. 2) can accomplish, as it is written in 1 Peter 2:5. Even as David prayed “Let my prayer be set forth before Thee as incense; and the lifting up of my hands as the evening sacrifice” (Psalm 141:2). These are the prayers of the righteous and the “holy hands” of the saints (1 Tim. 2:8). As for the wicked unregenerate, they do not have “broken and a contrite heart” (Ps. 51:17). “O Lord, open thou my lips; and my mouth shall shew forth Thy praise. For Thou desirest not sacrifice; else would I give it: Thou delightest not in burnt offering. The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, Thou wilt not despise” (Psalm 51:15-17). Therefore, “the sacrifice of the wicked is an abomination to the LORD: but the prayer of the upright is His delight” (Prov. 15:8). The sacrifice of the unregenerate, wicked, professing Christian is an abomination to the Lord “forasmuch as this people draw near Me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from Me, and their fear toward Me is taught by the precept of men” (Isaiah 29:13). “The LORD is far from the wicked: but He heareth the prayer of the righteous” (Prov. 15:29), and “we have an altar, whereof [the world has] no right to eat which serve the Tabernacle” (Heb. 13:10).

The Church of God is “called the house of prayer,” but “he that turneth his ear from hearing the law, even his prayer shall be abomination” (Prov. 28:9). Christians are they which are the called of God, not as these men in Numbers 16. Christians are the saints of God, the holy ones, “having every one of them harps, and golden vials full of odours, which are the prayers of saints” (Spoken of the elders in heaven, but applicable for NT priests, Rev. 5:8). In a sense we do offer “much incense” **to the angel** of heaven, “that he should offer it with the prayers of all saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, which came with the prayers of the saints, ascended up before God out of the angel’s hand” (Rev. 8:3-4). These men of Numbers 16 invaded the priesthood that was not theirs, offered an abominable incense to God, even as Nadab and Abihu who offered “strange fire” before the Lord and were consumed by fire (Lev. 10:1-4). God delighted in the incense offered by Aaron

(Num. 16:45-49), but He consumed all others who offered an abominable, inordinate, strange incense. Unregenerate professing Christians, like Korah and all his company, God says to you: “ye take too much upon you” (Num. 16:7). Learn the lesson now, and don’t test God, you must fear God and know that “the man whom the LORD doth choose, he shall be holy” and all others will be consumed for their usurpation of God-ordained priestly services, incense offerings, and sacrifices (Num. 16:7).

My reader, we live in an hour when the Lord threatens all evil, defiled congregations saying: “separate yourselves from among this congregation, that I may consume them in a moment” (Num. 16:21). Now is the hour of the gospel call! It announces that God will receive us - **but we must come out!** The NT call to “come out from among them” (2 Cor. 6:17) is spoken with the same urgency as the calling of old, for God is ready to “consume them in a moment” that are without (Num. 16:21). “And he spake unto the congregation, saying, **Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.**” Yes, my reader, because “them that are without God judgeth” (1 Cor. 5:13), “wherefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person” (1 Cor. 5). “SO THEY GAT UP from the tabernacle of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram, on every side: and Dathan and Abiram came out, and stood in the door of their tents, and their wives, and their sons, and their little children.....the ground clave asunder that was under them: and the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit, and the earth closed upon them: and they perished from among the congregation. And all Israel that were round about them fled at the cry of them: for they said, lest the earth swallow us up also. And there came out a fire from the LORD, and consumed the two hundred and fifty men **that offered incense**” (Numbers 16:26-27, 31-35).

God now says “come out from among them” (2 Cor. 6:17) with the same urgency as He said through Moses “depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men” (Num. 16:26)...and why? What urgency? They are all an “unclean thing” (2 Cor. 6:17) and the wrath of God is coming upon them, yea, “the wrath of God abideth on [them]” (Jn. 3:36), therefore God commands us today that we “touch not the unclean thing” just as Moses said to these disqualified and rejected priests, “touch nothing of theirs” (Num. 16:26)! Unless they come out from among these men and “touch nothing of theirs”, Moses said they would “be consumed in all their sins” (Note: uncleanness, like leaven, spreads its defiling touch whithersoever the unclean body goes, therefore it is written “a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump” -1 Cor. 5:6, Gal. 5:9)! These worldlings, these Church-intruders, these priesthood-invaders, remember what consuming fire is determined for them! “The day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Peter 3:10). Remember how of old, “there came out a fire from the LORD” (Num. 16:35), and remember how now, just ahead, what consuming fire shall quickly come upon them, and that without remedy (Num. 16:35)! My reader, seeing that the flaming and annihilating wrath of God is falling upon all flesh, the world, and worldlings, let us respond therefore to the gospel call, “come out from among them” (2 Cor. 6:17), and let us assemble acceptably before God! “Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, **what manner of persons** ought ye to be **in all holy conversation and godliness**” (2 Peter 3:10-11)!? Why was Numbers 16-17 written? “Now all these things happened unto them for ensamples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come” (1 Cor. 10:11). Therefore let it be understood by us that these things were written “to be a memorial unto the children of Israel, that **no stranger**, which is not of the seed of [Christ], **come near to offer incense before the LORD**; that he be not as Korah, and as his company: as the LORD said to him by the hand of Moses” (Num. 16:40)!

Shockingly, men don’t believe the NT God sets His face against anyone, and certainly not those who have deigned to step foot into the sanctuary of God Almighty! Most “Christians” are so busy loving themselves, naturally, they think God loves them (Ps. 10:3-6). Most “Christians” identify love from others when they are flattered (Dan. 11:21, 32, Ps. 5:9, 78:36, Mal. 2:17), and they feel “strong in faith” when built-up in SELF-esteem. Shockingly, God teaches us to DENY self, while these men teach its esteem. These “Christians” do lip-service to Christ by adoring His sacrifice, but they live a life of self-satisfaction and no-sacrifice (1 Cor. 4:8-10, 3:18). To them...self is “god”. They don’t imagine God is of a different mentality or personality than themselves. To what end? My reader, because of all this they feel that the preaching of God’s love – the cross – is a message of hate (1 Cor. 1:18, Jn. 3:19, 7:7)! They can’t comprehend how a message of self-death is the means

**The New Testament**  
“For he that will **love life**, and **see good days**, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile: Let him eschew evil, and do good; let him seek peace, and ensue it. For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers: but **the face of the Lord is against them that do evil**. And who is he that will **harm you**, if ye be followers of that which is

**The Old Testament**  
“Come, ye children, hearken unto me: I will teach you the fear of the LORD. What man is he that **desireth life**, and **loveth many days**, that he may see **good**? Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile. Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it. The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. **The face of the LORD is against them that do evil**,

by which fallen humanity obtains everlasting life, and it is because they don't have a biblical comprehension of themselves (Rom. 7:24, Gal. 2:20, Ezek. 18:4). If they knew themselves they would agree with God – they would hate themselves (Ps. 5:5, Lk. 14:26) – and in so doing, *freedom* from SELF would be, to them, a message of amazing grace, astounding mercy, and unfathomable love; *freedom* from SELF would be an exceedingly good announcement, thus the gospel, which is “good news”, would be good news indeed (Jn. 8:34-36)!

*good?”* -1 Peter 3:10-13

“If any man **defile** the Temple of God, **him shall God destroy**; for the Temple of God is **holy**, which Temple ye are.” – 1 Corinthians 3:17

**to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.”** -Psalms 34:11-16

**“I will set my face against that man, and will cut him off from among his people.”** – Lev. 20:3

With the rules of the House of God continuously defied by the entrance and attendance of unconverted men, the saints, who are ceremonially qualified to attend, lose sight of the hallowed and fearful regulations which are natural to their regenerated nature. The people of God become leavened by the malice, wickedness, and insincerity of the mixed multitude because (1 Cor. 5:6-8), the pursuit of unity with persons who are at spiritual enmity wears down the moral sensitivity of the holy people – it blinds them. Before long, the grave communion that the saints once had with God turns into communities of men who are comfortable in their sin. God, who is of sin-killing HOLINESS, whose power is possessive and awe-striking... fades from memory. The sinners who are self-conscious and easily offended progressively succeed to intimidate the saints until the saints become political, civilized, respectable, lukewarm, and relaxed. The saints, out-numbered by sinners, learn to consider them, conform to them, and satisfy them, but in so doing they unlearn, walk in disconformity to, and dissatisfy God! In such a “Church” the people become more aware of men than God, thus all their goals and ideologies are guided by what they are consciously sensitive to! The “Church” is more inviting to sinners than it is to God! It has become a “House of Men” instead of a “House of God” – a “House” that is absent from God’s hallowed, separated, and sin-sensitive Presence! Suddenly now, in this generation, newly converted sinners who have been freshly plucked from the depths of hell... they stumble into a light-show sanctuary which showcases the twinkling-eyes and Sunday-smiles of handsome men and beautiful women! What an abomination! What deplorable blasphemy! If these new converts did abide at home for a little while... I mean, long enough to get some scripture into their heart, they would be appalled at the unbiblical organism this culture and country calls, “the Church”. These “Christian Churches”, GOD KNOWS, do logically, scientifically, and surgically remove scripture from the heart! They rob the second-born men of their righteousness! The saints, long wearied by contentious sinners, are Delilah-vexed into submission. Be astonished oh heavens at this! The Church which was, of old, a pure spring of water - she was a fountain for cleansing which was crystal and strong! - she carried into everlasting life as many to her did throng! But now she is “a troubled fountain and a corrupt spring” (Prov. 25:26), with all her righteousness turned wrong! How, oh how!? Why!? – this is what the righteous do groan and C-R-Y! Where, oh where is the Church for which Jesus did DIE!? What is God’s answer? It is written, “A righteous man falling down before the wicked is as a troubled fountain, and a corrupt spring” (Prov. 25:26). With the saints now relaxed the sinners feel they can relate, they feel that this isn’t a God they hate. With the sinners feeling respected, the true God is disrespected! - saintly righteousness is rejected! – and the Christians who were of old, world-offenders, are now by all men accepted! Such men have become “Christians” without Christ (1 Jn. 1:3)! They gather in “Houses” without Light (1 Jn. 1:5-7)! Therefore the blessedness and woefulness of God’s face, for or against you, killing and making alive, is a reality that, suddenly, ceased to exist in the New Covenant – a reality that, shockingly, men think absurd! But oh! If only men knew of all the NT typological applications of these ceremonial qualifications which regulated the Old Testament people of God, rules whereby they did live or die in God’s presence, then men would be silenced into holy terror!

As the Old Testament House of God was esteemed as holy, the people understood that they had to be ceremonially prepared to enter therein, and because death-penalties threatened all transgressors, attending the House of God was a grave consideration! All ceremonial qualifications and preparations which are demanded of God were fulfilled by Christ, and thus they are imputed into those who are in Christ, but do we approach the House of God with the same grave consideration that - all others who are not ceremonially prepared to attend the House of God, entrance within is denied. Furthermore, Christians who are complete in and ceremonially perfect by their union with Christ can, contrary to popular opinion, fall from the salvific merits of this sacred union because, at present, they have fallen from saving faith and repentance, which in turn means they are walking in the flesh instead of the Spirit, and thus they are, ceremonially, unprotected by Christ, in legal danger of the judgments which will come upon those outside of Christ, and therefore at present, they are ceremonially unprepared to enter the House of God.

## The Stones of God's Temple

### "The Temple of God is holy, which Temple ye are" – 1 Corinthians 3:17

Are you a congregant of the Church-Bride and Christ-Priesthood which is "a blemish" (Lev. 21:18, Eph. 5:27, 2 Pet. 2:13), so that you, with your attendance within the Church congregation, defile and make unclean the whole gathering (Lev. 21:23, 22:3, 2 Cor. 6:16-7:1, 1 Cor. 3:17)? Or are you "a blind" priest (Lev. 21:18, Rev. 3:17) who knows no sacrifice (Php. 2:17, 2 Cor. 4:10-12), who is treacherously satisfied with Divinely-rejected sacrifices (Lev. 22:21, Rom. 12:1-2, 15:15-19)? How do you not know what these scriptures mean? How have you become a Levite and not learned "the good knowledge of the LORD" (2 Chron. 30:22)? How is it that you have not known that a "Spiritual House" (1 Pet. 2:4-5) necessitates "spiritual men" (Rom. 8:5-14, 1 Cor. 2:11-16, Gal. 6:1), a "Heavenly" House (Heb. 8:1-5, 9:11, 23-24, 10:1) necessitates "heavenly" men (Heb. 3:1, 6:4, Php. 3:20), so also in the very same way, a man cannot serve in the House of God unless he becomes the House (Heb. 3:6, 1 Cor. 3:9, 16, 6:19-20, 1 Pet. 2:4-5, Eph. 2:19-22).

"Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh, who are called Uncircumcision by that which is called the Circumcision in the flesh made by hands; That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world: But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were **far off** are **made nigh by the blood of Christ**. For he is our peace, who hath made both **one**, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain **one new man**, so making peace; And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby: And came and preached peace to you which were afar off, and to them that were nigh. **For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father**. Now therefore ye are no more **strangers and foreigners**, but **fellowcitizens with the saints**, and of **the household of God**; And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being **the chief corner stone**; In whom all **the building** fitly framed together groweth unto **an holy Temple in the Lord**: In whom ye also are **builded together** for an **habitation of God through the Spirit**." - Ephesians 2:11-22

"To whom coming, as unto a **Living Stone**, disallowed indeed of men, but **chosen of God**, and **precious**, Ye also, as **lively stones**, are built up a **Spiritual House, an holy priesthood**, to offer up **spiritual sacrifices, acceptable** to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a **chief corner stone, elect, precious**: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded." - 1 Peter 2:4-6

If you are going to serve in *the sanctuary* of heaven's King, you must be cleansed with the cleansing that purified *the heavenly sanctuary* and heavenly things – the blood of Christ (see Heb. 8:1-5, 9:11-28, Eph. 2:11-20) – thus your ministry exists in God's *earthly sanctuary* because you are positioned within Christ, the High Priest, who ministers in the *heavenly sanctuary*. If you are truly saved then it can be said of you, just as Christ is a King, and this makes you a co-heir, so also Christ is a High Priest, and you, being born into His priesthood, are made a priest unto God. Likewise yet again, Christ is the "Living" and "Chief Corner Stone", therefore the Lord Jesus is the place "in Whom all the Building fitly framed together groweth unto an Holy Temple in the Lord: In Whom ye also are builded together for an Habitation of God through the Spirit" (Eph. 2:20-21). This House exists "through the Spirit", which by essence is a **Holy Spirit**, and those who are in the Spirit of God are all-together made one "**Holy Temple in the Lord**". Such stones (God's people) which are built together with the "**Living Stone**" – Jesus Christ – must also be, like Him, "chosen of God", "elect", and "precious", therefore as He is "a Living Stone", they are "**lively stones**" (1 Pet. 2:4-8). Now consider this, my reader: What is *choice* about the "**chosen**" stones of God's Temple? What warrants the *election* of these "**elect**" objects? How is it that these men are called "**precious stones**" by God? What is the *preciousness* of these "**precious stones**"? For scriptural answers, the following paragraphs which are numerically ordered below will be enlarged upon in the subsequent paragraphs:

- 1) The people are elect for **honorable, glorious, and everlasting** purposes. *This means that the honor and glory of these persons is everlasting like as gold, silver, and precious stones out-last and abide through the furnace of fire. The honor and glory of these persons cannot be destroyed like the glory and honor of wood, hay, stubble, and earth is annihilated by fire. When casting a heap of objects into the furnace, look for what out-lasts the destructive flames – these objects are precious! By such a burning you may renew the brilliant image of such objects, and thus refine them into a purer*

*expression of what was always there, but the essence of what was honorable was not reduced. The essence of what is honorable about these objects is unalterable, unchangeable, and indestructible, and when put to the flames it is refined and purified, but never reduced!*

- 2) These honorable and glorious purposes are manifest by the indwelling of an **honorable and glorious PERSON – Jesus Christ**. *What is honorable, glorious, and everlasting about these men is, the Person who possess them.*
- 3) This indwelling Person is, in essence, “**incorruption**”, “**glory**”, “**power**”, “**spiritual**”, and “**heavenly**”. He is all the qualities which are characteristic of the undying, imperishable, God-made Kingdom which shall be established at the consummation of all things. In this way, the Kingdom of Heaven **within men right now** is exactly like the worldwide Kingdom of Heaven which is *to come*. The consummation of the Kingdom of God is when the **incorruptible, glorious, powerful, spiritual, and heavenly** essence which has indwelt the saints does, in the same way, transform, reform, and fill all the world with Itself. *Therefore, by taking note of what objects are used to build the Kingdom of God in its consummated estate, we can understand that such objects are, both then and now, the metaphorical essence of what is indestructible, unchanging, and everlasting.*
- 4) The **gold, silver, and precious stones** which we see on earth *right now* – “which Temple ye are” (1 Cor. 3:17) – do foreshadow the undying, imperishable, other-worldly, and heavenly **gold, silver, and precious stones** which will be used to build the everlasting Jerusalem which is *to come*.
- 5) When the Kingdom of God which is upon the earth does not represent the consummation of all things which exist in heaven, the Lord baptizes the people of God with fire. When that which is, by essence, “incorruption”, “glory”, “power”, “spiritual”, and “heavenly” (**gold, silver, and precious stones**), and yet it is becoming corrupt, profane, overpowered, spiritually defeated, and earthly, this is when the stones of the Temple of God are being defiled from their *first beginning* – and that defilement is by the vile body of death which still exists, which is yet without redemption, thus the man’s essence (the old man) should be violently and mercilessly killed every day (Rom. 8:13)! The everyday duty of saints to mortify their bodies is, just like, the everyday duty for priests to make sure the Temple of God is built with and compacted by objects that are biblically acceptable – namely, that it is purged from the defilements of the earth such as **wood, hay, stubble, and earthly-objects**. The purging of these objects from the Temple is a purging of our **earthly members** from ourselves, individually speaking (Col. 3:5, Rom. 8:13, Gal. 5:24), and it is a purging of our **earthly members** from our corporate-self which is the Church – the body of Christ – for we are *one man, one body, one Building, and one Temple* in the Lord (Matt. 18:1-20, 1 Cor. 3:17, 2 Tim. 2:19-22, 1 Cor. 10:7, 12:12, Rom. 12:5, Eph. 1:23, 2:15, 3:6, 4:12-13, Col. 2:19, 3:15).
- 6) What is done worldwide in the Last Days is a consummating fulfillment of what is done to the Church all throughout their days (this is God’s *end-time judgment* and *beginning judgment*). In the end, God will shake everything that can be shaken so that, only those objects that are sustained by unshakable powers do remain. In the end, God will burn heaven and earth with smelting and destroying fires (2 Thess. 1:6-10, 2 Pet. 3:4-14)...but for the Church which exists right now, this is done *all throughout their days* - God baptizes and burns them, He immerses them in *judgments of fire* so that, only those objects which *abide the fire* do remain as stones of the Temple of God.

As we have seen in the Old Testament, formerly addressed, there was a steep and exasperating *Code of the Priesthood*, without which no man could stand before God and LIVE. With exasperating meticulousness the priests were ceremonially prepared and selected, and in peculiar garments they were gloriously arrayed. Parallel and synonymous to this, but in another branch of biblical typology, *the materials of the House of God* were valuable, costly, laboriously obtained, brilliantly manufactured, and awesome to behold. The heathen world did hold their breath when hearing of it. The materials used, like the garments of the priests, were gloriously arrayed! For example, the “vessels for the House of the LORD”, whether “to minister” or “to offer”, were “vessels of **gold and silver**” (2 Chron. 24:14). Such vessels as these, men *take pleasure* in. Their great cost, illuminating colors, imperishable qualities, and all-around beauty grips their mind with human-adoration. Similar to this, and yet with vast differences, the inspired writers wrote: “Thy servants take **pleasure in her stones, and favour the dust** thereof” (Ps. 102:14). In context, the inspired text brings in view an exemplary “**pleasure**” and “**favour**” found in the people of God, but this pleasure was NOT an enjoyment in the **gold, silver, and precious stones** for the sake of *the objects themselves*. No, my reader, it was not so much *the object* that they favored...but the sanctifying power of *God’s presence* which hallowed the object, is what they favored. This glorious, uncreated, incomprehensible, invaluable, imperishable Presence – *God’s presence!* – this is what sanctified the objects and materials of the Temple; for this reason the “stones” and “dust” were sacred and invaluable (see Matt. 23:16-17). In Psalm 102:14, God is not speaking about, concerned with, and carried away with human-like emotion over these carnal things, is He? God, who inhabits the lofty and undiscoverable regions of heaven’s indestructible beauty, is not impressed and enthusiastic over *earthly objects*...not even the objects which are notable to humanity because of money, color, indestructible quality, and beauty. With certainty, God does not care for these things...but for what purpose was Psalm 102:14 written? My

reader, for the same reason that God wrote about oxen! Do you remember how the inspired apostle wrote, “Doth God take care for oxen” (1 Cor. 9:9)? Even so it can be said, “Doth God care for **gold, silver, and precious stones?**” “Or saith He it altogether for our sakes? For our sakes, no doubt, this is written” (1 Cor. 9:10). Yes my reader, for our sakes, that we might learn His heart toward His people, the persons he calls His sons and daughters. God has chosen *them* - **His people** - as a builder chooses select and precious stones to build with, but my reader this building is “GOD’S Building” (1 Cor. 3:9)! God is, *with them*, building an invaluable, beautifully unfathomable, everlastingly imperishable House for Himself!

- 1) The people are elect for **honorable, glorious, and everlasting** purposes. *This means that the honor and glory of these persons is everlasting like as gold, silver, and precious stones out-last and abide through the furnace of fire. The honor and glory of these persons cannot be destroyed like the glory and honor of wood, hay, stubble, and earth is annihilated by fire. When casting a heap of objects into the furnace, look for what out-lasts the destructive flames – these objects are precious! By such a burning you may renew the brilliant image of such objects, and thus refine them into a purer expression of what was always there, but the essence of what was honorable was not reduced. The essence of what is honorable about these objects is unalterable, unchangeable, and indestructible, and when put to the flames it is refined and purified, but never reduced!*

When God speaks of His *choice* and *redeemed people*, my reader, He uses *choice words*. Words like, “The **precious sons** of Zion, **comparable to fine gold**” (Lam. 4:2)! God expresses His affection in terms which are humanly understandable. The meaning is clear, God thinks of them with *precious thoughts*, values them as *precious objects*, and fashions them for Divinely *significant purposes* – and what greater purpose is there but that we, fallen humanity, might be a **Habitation for His Presence** (Eph. 2:22)!? To men, **gold, silver, and precious stones** are objects fit for holy, honorable, and dignified purposes, and in the very same way God has chosen a people who are to God, “**as gold and silver**” (Mal. 3:3). With the same meaning it is written in another place that, each person of the chosen people of God are, individually, a “**vessel unto honour**” (Rom. 9:21). This means that, shockingly, God created these people for purposes of *honor*. Like as a Potter forms a vessel of clay for a preplanned purpose, God created humans for *honor*...a predestined *honor*. Yes, my reader, they were predestined to the honor of becoming His redeemed people. According to God, these *vessels of honor* are created so that He might shower upon them “**the riches of His glory**”. This is so that the heathen, looking on, might be amazed at their *honor*. The people of God do, literally, represent God’s honor. The honor poured out upon these vessels is undeserved, therefore as much as they are *vessels of honor*, they are “**vessels of mercy**”. Therefore what the world beholds is, **the honor of blood-bought mercy!** These people exist so that “He might make known **the riches of His glory on the vessels of mercy**” (Rom. 9:23)! Staggeringly, He prepared them for this glory (Rom. 9:23)! “To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, and eternal life” (Rom. 2:7).

- 2) These honorable and glorious purposes are manifest by the indwelling of an **honorable and glorious PERSON – Jesus Christ**. *What is honorable, glorious, and everlasting about these men is, the Person who possess them.*

When God *chooses* a human being for this predestinated course of existence, the course of the man’s depravity is interrupted by irresistible grace. This irresistible grace seizes the *God-hating man*...and behold, he is a *God-loving man*! God’s choice of this human is, in this way, witnessed by all who watched on. Suddenly the man was subdued by God with a converting, transforming, translating, and regenerating GRACE, praise the Lord! And this is a grace that the onlookers cannot deny! As men watched on they saw “**old things are passed away; BEHOLD, all things are become new**” (2 Cor. 5:17)! The man who groped in the blindness of darkness was illuminated with light and brightness! The Breath of God Almighty did blow upon the man who was by nature, foul and odious, as a dead body is worm-eaten and rotten, and LOOK! Look how suddenly the dead man arose, went forth, and followed the Lamb! This man, gloriously changed, has a heaven-created “**new man**” (Col. 3:10), and yet his physical body has remained the same. The man does indeed have “**newness of life**” (Rom. 6:4), but this life came through the reformation of his “**inner man**” by *the indwelling of Christ* (Eph. 3:16-17). Therefore what is honorable, glorious, and everlasting about these men is, the Person who possess them.

- 3) This indwelling Person is, in essence, “**incorruption**”, “**glory**”, “**power**”, “**spiritual**”, and “**heavenly**”. He is all the qualities which are characteristic of the undying, imperishable, God-made Kingdom which shall be established at the consummation of all things. In this way, the Kingdom of Heaven **within men right now** is exactly like the worldwide Kingdom of Heaven which is *to come*. The consummation of the Kingdom of God is when the **incorruptible, glorious, powerful, spiritual, and heavenly** essence which has indwelt the saints does, in the same way, transform, reform, and fill all the world with Itself. *Therefore, by taking note of what objects are used to build the Kingdom of God in its*

*consummated estate, we can understand that such objects are, both then and now, the metaphorical essence of what is indestructible, unchanging, and everlasting.*

The “outward man” or “the body”, still unchanged, contains the same spiritual qualities as the formerly depraved and God-hating man, therefore the redeemed people of the Lord coexist with a *natural/carnal/earthly man* **and** a *spiritual/holy/heavenly man* (Rom. 8:5-10, 1 Cor. 2:14-16), and “though our **outward man** perish, yet the **inward man** is renewed day by day” (2 Cor. 4:16). Do you see what this means? As the days pass, the **outward man** is *perishing*...yea, because it is a *perishable man*. But look, the **spiritual man** is an *everlasting man*! The **inward man** is not like the **outward man**, the text states – look at him! – the days pass by and the **inward man** is not *increasingly dying*, but on the contrary he is *increasingly living*! The outward man is our carnal and natural body, and it, left unchanged by the operation of conversion, is still called a “**vile body**” of “**death**” (Php. 3:21, Rom. 7:24). It is called an “**earthly house**” and “**tabernacle**” which is destined to be “**dissolved**”, but the resurrected body is called a “**glorious body**”, “**a building of God, an house, not made with hands, eternal in the heavens**” (2 Cor. 5:1). The resurrection of the inner man is a foretaste of the resurrection of the whole man. We have a foretaste of what it will be like when “mortality” is “swallowed up of Life” at the final and glorious resurrection of our physical bodies, namely because, our inward man has already been resurrected by these eternal, all-glorious, and life-giving powers! Oh my reader, hear the cry of redeemed humanity! We desire that the operation of salvation which performed our *inward regeneration*, would break forth into *outward* and *earth-wide regeneration*. We desire that the *regenerating powers* would expand beyond the confinements of our mortal bodies, and thus *regenerate the world*. This is when the seed of salvation breaks forth from the confinements of its outer-body and springs forth into LIFE– and this seed is Christ (see 1 Cor. 15:35-50). Within us, my reader, therein dwells Christ. Like a seed sown into the earth, Christ was purposefully put within us. This implantation was so that He might break forth from our earthly-bodies and dominate the world with Himself! Even so, the seed that is planted into the earth does break forth from its outer-body and spring forth from the earth! Therefore it is written that our “natural body” – the body which confines the Kingdom of God within us – is called a body of “corruption”, “dishonour”, “weakness”, simply because it is “earthy”, and it will be shed like a seed sheds its outer-body (1 Cor. 15:35-50). The regenerated inner man, which is the life of the seed, will “change our **vile body**” “that it may be fashioned like unto [Christ’s] **glorious body**” (Php. 3:21), when it indeed breaks forth. This is the power of the resurrection which, at first, began within us in the **inner man**, and then by the very same powers it transforms the **outward man**. This transformed **outward man** has the same qualities of everlasting power which were the essence of the regenerated **inner man**, thus they both are, to God, “incorruption”, “glory”, “power”, “spiritual”, and “heavenly” (1 Cor. 15:42-50). The Spirit of God which indwelt the man – for the purpose of changing the **inner man** – does then transform the **outward man** by giving him “a spiritual body” instead of “a natural body” (1 Cor. 15:44). Therefore it is written, “**flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God; neither do corruption inherit incorruption**” (1 Cor. 15:50).

- 4) The **gold, silver, and precious stones** which we see on earth *right now* – “which Temple ye are” (1 Cor. 3:17) – do foreshadow the undying, imperishable, other-worldly, and heavenly **gold, silver, and precious stones** which will be used to build the everlasting Jerusalem which is *to come*.

The power of God that regenerates the “inner man”, these are “the powers of **the world to come**” (Heb. 6:5). This signifies that, the same power by which God transformed the **inner man**, God will transform the **earthly man**...and also, shockingly, **the earth itself**. There is coming a day when, not only will *the earthly man* of Christians be “dissolved” (2 Cor. 5:1), but “**the earth** also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10)! My reader, “all these things shall be dissolved” (2 Pet. 3:11), not just the earthly body itself! The inward man was regenerated and then the outward man and actual earth follows suit, because inward regeneration is but a foretaste, a kind of first fruits of the power which is to come – a “working whereby [God] is able even to subdue **all things** unto Himself” (Php. 3:21)! This means that this *spiritual man* within Christians is an *everlasting man*, and those who walk in the Spirit of God dwell within an everlasting, invaluable, imperishable, and unshakable Kingdom! My reader, behold this Kingdom in its consummated, final, and everlasting estate:

“And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, **I will shew thee the Bride, the Lamb’s wife**. And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me **that Great City, the Holy Jerusalem**, descending out of heaven from God, Having **the glory of God**: and **her light** was like unto **a stone most precious**, even like a **jasper stone**, clear as **crystal**; And had a wall great and high, and had twelve gates, and at the gates twelve angels, and names written thereon, which are the names of the twelve tribes of the children of Israel: On the east three gates; on the north three gates; on the south three gates; and on the west three gates. And the wall of the city had twelve foundations, and in them the names of the twelve

## The Consummation →

apostles of the Lamb. And he that talked with me had a golden reed to measure the city, and the gates thereof, and the wall thereof. And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel. And the building of the wall of it was of **jasper**: and the city was **pure gold**, like unto **clear glass**. And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of **precious stones**. The first foundation was **jasper**; the second, **sapphire**; the third, a **chalcedony**; the fourth, an **emerald**; The fifth, **sardonyx**; the sixth, **sardius**; the seventh, **chrysolite**; the eighth, **beryl**; the ninth, a **topaz**; the tenth, a **chrysopterus**; the eleventh, a **jacinth**; the twelfth, an **amethyst**. And the twelve gates were twelve **pearls**; every several gate was of one **pearl**: and the street of the city was **pure gold**, as it were **transparent glass**. And I saw no temple therein: for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are the temple of it.” - Revelation 21:9-22

The power which formed this “**new man**” inside of fallen men is, by God’s definition, of *imperishable* and *undying* quality. The scripture states, we are “born again” “**not of corruptible** seed, but of **incorruptible**, by the word of God, **which liveth and abideth for ever**. For all flesh is as grass, and all **the glory of man** as the flower of grass. The grass **withereth**, and the flower thereof **falleth away**: But the word of the Lord **endureth for ever**. And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you” (1 Peter. 1:23-25). Seeing this, that the word by which we are born again is *imperishable* and *enduring*, so also, my reader, our love for God and one another should be *imperishable* and *enduring* (see 1 Peter 1:22 in context with 23-25). God would have us, “through the Spirit”, “mortify the deeds of the body” – and in this way God says, “ye shall live” (Rom. 8:13). “Ye shall live”, God said, because the *everlasting man* wrestled, overcame, and defeated the *perishable man*! In other words, the *spiritual man* killed the *carnal man*! We exist as Christians because “we live in the Spirit”, and by this Spirit we are commanded to run, wrestle, and fight – and in so doing we “walk in the Spirit” (Gal. 5:25) – but this walk exists because we have overcome and defeated the forces against which we run, wrestle, and fight. You see, my reader, we were sometimes carnal, earthly, fleshly, and natural men in body and nature, but after conversion we are spiritual, heavenly, holy, honorable, and empowered men in nature, therefore we have no excuse if we continue to “fulfil the lust of the flesh” (Gal. 5:16). Synonymously but with different metaphors, it was written, “For ye were sometimes **darkness**, but now are ye **light in the Lord**: walk as **children of Light**” (Eph. 5:8). The Image of the Person who has become our inward man, He must also become the Image the world sees in our outward man (Rom. 2:4-11, 8:2-4, 29, 13:8, Jas. 1:22-25, 2:20-26) – in fulfillment of this, Christ, who is in us, controls our words, thoughts, and deeds (1 Jn. 2:5-6, 4:17) – this means that through saving faith, Christ in us overpowers, dominates, rules over, and kills the carnal body, whose nature and essence is against God and resistant to His purposes (Rom. 8:5-13, 1 Cor. 9:27).

- 5) When the Kingdom of God which is upon the earth does not represent the consummation of all things which exist in heaven, the Lord baptizes the people of God with fire. When that which is, by essence, “incorruption”, “glory”, “power”, “spiritual”, and “heavenly” (**gold, silver, and precious stones**), and yet it is becoming corrupt, profane, overpowered, spiritually defeated, and earthly, this is when the stones of the Temple of God are being defiled from their *first beginning* – and that defilement is by the vile body of death which still exists, which is yet without redemption, thus the man’s essence (the old man) should be violently and mercilessly killed every day (Rom. 8:13)! The everyday duty of saints to mortify their bodies is, just like, the everyday duty for priests to make sure the Temple of God is built with and compacted by objects that are biblically acceptable – namely, that it is purged from the defilements of the earth such as **wood, hay, stubble**, and **earthly-objects**. The purging of these objects from the Temple is a purging of our **earthly members** from ourselves, individually speaking (Col. 3:5, Rom. 8:13, Gal. 5:24), and it is a purging of our **earthly members** from our corporate-self which is the Church – the body of Christ – for we are *one man, one body, one Building*, and *one Temple* in the Lord (Matt. 18:1-20, 1 Cor. 3:17, 2 Tim. 2:19-22, 1 Cor. 10:7, 12:12, Rom. 12:5, Eph. 1:23, 2:15, 3:6, 4:12-13, Col. 2:19, 3:15).

If in the process of our predestinated course we lose *saving faith*, the gloriousness of God’s grace which once overpowered and killed the flesh is lost. The man that once lived for God, he is overpowered by the outward man until he, like all others, does “live after the flesh” (Rom. 8:13). This means certain death: “Ye shall die” (Rom. 8:13), God said. The man who was once “in Christ”, it mattered how he lived his life! “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1). My reader, how do you walk? If in the process of time, “the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would” (Gal. 5:17), then YOU, my reader, are in a wrestling match for your very eternal life (Rom. 6:14-23)! My reader, hear me – “faith!” – it “is the victory that overcometh the world” (1 John 5:4) – but woe to the man whose faith is weakened from its

first beginning! The first beginning of faith is like the first implantation of Christ – the seed is “grounded and settled” – but like an overcome and wrestled-down man, the implantation of God is ungrounded, unsettled, and “moved away”, meaning that, shockingly...saving faith is lost (Col. 1:23, Jude 12). Woe to the man, for he is in “captivity” to the nature of the flesh (Rom. 7:23, 2 Tim. 2:26). He needs a deliverance, he needs liberty, back into the freedom for which Christ had “made [him] free” (Rom. 8:2, John 8:31-36). Let the reader understand: the certain experience of gospel-freedom and overcoming victory is, the redeemed man does not “walk after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Rom. 8:1) – this is eternal life (John 16:33, 17:2, 1 Jn. 2:4).

- 6) What is done worldwide in the Last Days is a consummating fulfillment of what is done to the Church all throughout their days (this is God’s *end-time judgment* and *beginning judgment*). In the end, God will shake everything that can be shaken so that, only those objects that are sustained by unshakable powers do remain. In the end, God will burn heaven and earth with smelting and destroying fires (2 Thess. 1:6-10, 2 Pet. 3:4-14)...but for the Church which exists right now, this is done *all throughout their days* - God baptizes and burns them, He immerses them in *judgments of fire* so that, only those objects which *abide the fire* do remain as stones of the Temple of God.

You see my reader, Christians are able to deny the life, will, work, and way of the everlasting man, choosing rather to live, desire, work for, and walk in the carnal and perishing man. This is a denial of the everlasting, other-worldly, heavenly, glorious, honorable, and incorruptible powers of the Spirit of God (Rom. 1:16, Titus 1:16, John 17:21-23, 1 Cor. 15:35-50), and it is a contradictory choice of union with the unholy spirit of the devil (Eph. 2:2-3, 5:3-8, Jas. 4:4-8) – therefore these people do join Lucifer’s parade of rebellion against God for the luster of **temporary rewards** (Lk. 6:24, 16:25, Matt. 6:2, 5, 16), enjoying the passing pleasures of sin though they be but **a season** (Heb. 11:25), expending their life and strength though it be **but a vapor** (Jas. 4:14), living for and loving the world and its lusts though they are **doomed to pass away** (1 Jn. 2:15-17, Matt. 7:21-17, 1 Pet. 1:24-25). This is a building again of those things which **were destroyed** (Gal. 2:17-18), it is a building of things which **can be destroyed** (wood, hay, stubble, and earth; see 1 Cor. 3:12-15)! Therefore, alas, the man who was, at the former time, HOLY unto God in spirit, soul, and body (1 Thess. 5:23), the man who was clothed and regenerated with the essence of what is everlasting (1 Jn. 5:11-12)! This man is now altogether ONE with the visible and invisible essence of everything that is without endurance and dying; the things which are corruptible, natural, earthly, dishonoring, weak, vile, and perishing (1 Cor. 15:35-50, Rev. 20:10, 12-15, 21:1, 8)! Oh that the man would, rather, despise *this world* and look for *the next* (Heb. 11:13-16, 13:13-14)! “Set your affection on things **above**”, my reader, “not on things on **the earth**” (Col. 3:2). All of creation is destined for one, unavoidable END. The prophet foresaw it, the time when “the **first heaven** and the **first earth** were **passed away**” (Rev. 21:1). My reader, will you hear him speak more? Do you know what happens after this great *passing away*! “I John saw **the Holy City, New Jerusalem**, coming down out from God **out of heaven**, prepared as **a Bride adorned for her Husband**” (Rev. 21:2)! This is *the everlasting City* which is full of the “glory of God”, my reader, “like unto a **stone most precious**, even like a **jasper stone**, clear as **crystal**”, like “**jasper**”, “**pure gold**”, “**precious stones**”, “**sapphire**”, “**chalcedony**”, “**emerald**”, “**sardonyx**”, “**sardius**”, “**chrysolite**”, “**beryl**”, “**topaz**”, “**chrysoprasus**”, “**jacinth**”, “**amethyst**”, and “**pearls**”!

Before this consummated and final expression of the Kingdom of God is manifest...shockingly, God is seeking worthy stones for its building. When God chooses men for its building, His hopes and intentions are good (for more on this topic see “[The Purpose & Intent for Salvation](#)”) Yes, He makes them into what they need to be (gold, silver, and precious stones). He creates them into the essence of what they need to **remain in** (“But he that shall **endure unto the end**, the same shall be saved” - Matt. 24:13, Mark 13:13). Nevertheless, according to His own wisdom and pleasure, the vessels which He *chooses* He *tries*...He wants to see if they will **endure the flames**. It is written, “The fining pot is for silver, and the furnace for gold: but the LORD trieth the hearts” (Prov. 17:3). For a closer study to discover how and why God genuinely “wants to see” the grade of men’s faith through observing the works they do in response to God-sent trials and fires, see [Abraham’s Exemplification](#). What is so noteworthy about God’s furnace of fires and trials, my reader? This furnace of trial, as is noted in these various chapters and sections, is an *eternally consequential experience*. In the process of trial these people, blood-bought and transformed into new men which are “**comparable to fine gold**” (Lam. 4:2), shockingly, are able to deny their blood-bought privileges and powers, and thus, they are able to walk in the deplorable and vile “old man” which they were freed from (Eph. 4:17-24, Col. 3:5-17, Rom. 13:11-14). When this happens, God laments, “How is **the gold become dim**! How is **the most fine gold changed**” (Lam. 4:2)! At such a time as this, alien and unholy metals have mixed with the gold. Like a wrestling man body-locks another man, invading metals mix into and defile the gold of God! Alas! These golden stones, God’s choice, select, and redeemed persons, are defiled by their unholy, alien, and unacceptable fleshly bodies – therefore the flesh is putting the Spirit to death instead of the Spirit putting the flesh to death. It is a resurrection reversal, a degeneration of the regeneration – where those who were once *washed*, go *wallowing* in the old-mire, and those who were once *healthy*, slurp up the old-pools of *poison* which were once vomited out (2 Pet. 2:18-22)! Oh my reader, how terrible! Now God is looking on with astonishment like heathen men did before watched on – only now the *heavenly citizens* become *earthly*, right before their eyes! God observes it with painful amazement because, *new*

*things are passed away, and behold, all things are become old* (2 Cor. 5:17, Rev. 3:1)! Those redeemed persons who were lifted on high, they fell from a great height (Rev. 2:4-5, Col. 3:1-10)! They dwell in darkness when once, a great Light (Eph. 5:14)! You see, my reader, carnality has overpowered spirituality (1 Cor. 3:1-4, Rom. 7:23)! As God watches on to see, alas, His glorious House defiled (1 Cor. 3:16-18), He only has one response: The Lord baptizes every stone with a smelting, purifying, refining, and destroying fire (Matt. 3:11, 1 Cor. 3:13-15)! What does this mean? It means, my reader, God has built for Himself a Holy Temple, and when His people disobey and transgress the purposes for which they were chosen, changed, and built together with Himself, He will cast them into a furnace of angry fires. Heretofore let the read understand, both the operation and potential end of these God-sent fires, for they are both purifying and destroying.

#### SAVED BY FIRE – burning works

##### Primary Texts in the New Testament

“For we are labourers together with God: ye are God’s Husbandry, ye are **God’s Building**. According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise **masterbuilder**, I have laid the **foundation**, and **another buildeth thereon**. But let every man **take heed how he buildeth thereupon**. For other **foundation** can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ. **Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man’s work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man’s work of what sort it is. If any man’s work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. If any man’s work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.** Know ye not that ye are **the Temple of God**, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? *If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are. Let no man deceive himself. If any man among you seemeth to be wise in this world, let him become a fool, that he may be wise.* For the **wisdom of this world** is foolishness with God. For it is written, He **taketh the wise in their own craftiness**. And again, The Lord knoweth the thoughts of the wise, that they are **vain**. Therefore let no man glory in men. For all things are yours; Whether Paul, or Apollos, or Cephas, or the world, or life, or death, or things present, or things to come; all are yours; And ye are Christ’s; and Christ is God’s.” - 1Cor. 3:9-23

“Nevertheless the **foundation** of God **standeth sure**, having this seal, **The Lord knoweth them that are his**. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ **depart from iniquity**. But in a **Great House** there are not only **vessels of gold** and of **silver**, but also of **wood** and of **earth**; and some to **honour**, and some to **dishonour**. If a man therefore *purge himself from these*, he shall be a **vessel unto honour, sanctified, and meet for the Master’s use, and prepared unto every good work**. Flee also youthful lusts: but follow righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a **pure heart**.” - 2Tim. 2:19-22

“The **gold**, and the **silver**, the **brass**, and the **iron**, the **tin**, and the **lead**”, according to scripture these are, “every thing that may **abide the fire**” (Num. 31:21-24). When these objects are put into a furnace of fire they are melted and separated from one another, but they are not *reduced* from the essence of what they are. By the essence of what they are, when made to “**go through the fire**” (Num. 31:21-24), they out-last and abide the destroying flames...but this cannot be said of objects like, “**wood, hay, stubble**” and “**earth**” (1 Cor. 3:12, 2 Tim. 2:20).

By way of summary and by way of introduction to the New Testament typology of salvific fires, let us understand its confining parameters set by the inspired writers themselves, noted in the following paragraphs.

**The builders** of the Temple are preachers (1 Cor. 3:5-10). **The objects** which are destined to undergo the fires of trial are “Christians”. The builders **by their preaching** do *positively* or *negatively* affect preexisting stones which were already built into the Temple of God, or in another circumstance, they make *positive* or *negative* additions to the Temple of God by building-in formerly nonexistent objects into the Temple of God. Concerning the **already existent stones** in the Temple of God, their preaching affects them *positively* in that, by preaching, the stones are washed and polished into greater glories (2 Cor. 3:18), and in so doing they *perfect* the Image of the whole Temple (Eph. 4:11-13). Also, concerning the **already existent stones** in the Temple of God, preaching affects them *negatively* in **two different potential grades**: (1) they tarnish, smudge, and dim the glory and holiness of the stones to whom they preach to, or, (2) the defiling affect of their preaching reaches a fatal degree, meaning that, alas, the image of glory and holiness the stone once had is utterly lost and defiled to a damning grade (the **gold, silver, or precious stones** are thus defiled, mixed, and overcome with **wood, hay, stubble, and earth**). At this time, according to the rules of the House, the very existence of every defiled stone is threatened with DESTROYING fires (“him shall God DESTROY” – 1 Cor. 3:17). Let the reader take note, the preaching of these preachers which is of a *positive* affect upon the stones (which is by

interpretation, washing, polishing, and perfecting them), this is **God's wisdom**, and the preaching of these preachers which is of a *negative* affect (which is by interpretation, defiling and degrading them), this is **worldly-wise preaching**. The stones which will totally perish in the fires are those which are, by essence, existing in the damnable grade (*wood, hay, stubble, and earth*), and thus when God, according to His warning, "taketh" (or destroyeth) "the wise" stones in what they think is wisdom, and they, remaining in a state which they refuse to change from, namely **worldly wisdom**, perish in the fires (1 Cor. 3:18-20). My reader, let us consider this scenario with a closer look.

A **true man of God** is capable of preaching **worldly-wise preaching** to a *non-damnable degree*, and this indeed happens if ever he preaches anything err from the truth, but he is still a man of God because the worldly-wisdom is not fatally violent in its effect but minor, therefore those to whom he preaches to are not adversely affected to a damnable degree. However, a true man of God is capable of preaching **worldly-wise preaching** to a *damnable degree*, and this indeed happens if, personally speaking, he himself has become backslidden and overcome by worldly wisdom to a damnable degree, therefore naturally, that which he ingests he feeds others, thus they all perish together (2 Pet. 2:18-22, 1 Tim. 4:16, Matt. 15:14, Rom. 6:16). Of course, at such a time, the man is no longer considered a man of God (Rev. 3:1), but he *was*...and if he repents and believes again he can become a man of God again (Gal. 2:11-21, 4:19, 6:1, Rom. 11:23). My reader, because the man of God himself is a **defiled stone** within the Temple of God, those he preaches to become like him (this is an unavoidable **spiritual law**, see Matt. 15:14, Lk. 6:39, 1 Tim. 4:16, Jer. 6:10, 23:17-18, 21-22, Matt. 23:16, 24). Let the reader take note of this truth: the builders who fatally defile others are defiled stones themselves, and to the whole lot of their evil grade, God warns, "If any man defile the Temple of God, him shall God DESTROY" (1 Cor. 3:17)! The Master of the House has determined that these stones are **DESTROYED**, but how? By **FIRE**. If the stones can be recovered from the state in which they presently are – a defiled state – so that the holy and glorious Image of Christ is revived again, in such a case, behold, these men were saved "**so as by fire**" (1 Cor. 3:15). If such men are revived, it is not *without* the fires but *by* the fires. That which was poured out upon them for *destruction*, for some it turned to *salvation*! Yes, in this way, the **FIRE** is both *destroying* and *saving*! For some who do not change from their ways, and so, faint into apostasy in the midst of the "furnace of affliction" (Isa. 48:10), they will be destroyed by the fires in which they were immersed. Think of it, my reader, if the Spirit of God departs from men because of their unrelenting apostasy, then they themselves become, in entirety, *wood, hay, stubble, and earth*, objects which are, in their entirety, perishable in the fire – they are objects which are, alas, without the Spirit of God and reprobated (Heb. 6:6, 12:17, 2 Cor. 13:5, Jude 19, 1 Jn. 2:24, 1 Cor. 9:27). You see my reader, "the **FIRE** shall try every man's work of what sort it is" (1 Cor. 3:13), which means by interpretation, the fire will try every stone of the Temple of God. "If any man's work **shall be burned**", meaning that which the preacher has labored to build by his preaching is burned, the preacher-builder "shall suffer loss", yes...because the work that he built was of *wood, hay, stubble, and earth* (it was defiling and degrading), but if, in the process of the trying fire, he himself is not perishing in the fires, this means that he himself is not, in entirety, *wood, hay, stubble, or earth*, therefore his preaching was not defiling others to a damnable degree – thus the Spirit of God has not departed from him. This means that the man is still *clean* and *holy*, a vessel which is *meet* or a stone which is *fit*, yea, for the very Temple of God itself, even though he is not sinlessly perfect he is perfectly accepted (Php. 3:10-16) - this is because whatever defilement he did by worldly-wise preaching was of the non-damnable kind, therefore even though he suffered loss, he did not lose all those things which he built! If he did, my reader, know this...the man would lose himself. If all those to whom he preaches perish, he is perishing – this is a **spiritual law** remember? If this was the case, as stated before, the man would be a defiled stone and he himself would perish in the fires. In which case, the man would not be *saved by* but *destroyed in* the fires.

With a more doctrinal focus, let the reader understand: The infection of worldly-wise preaching which hinders, bests, and defiles the people of God to a non-damnable degree, this is when the gold is tarnished, smudged, and dimmed, yes...but the glory and holiness of the object is recoverable *without* smelting fires. The object can simply be **washed** and **polished**, and the tarnish removed, thus will its glorious and holy shine be **renewed**. But if the infection of worldly-wise preaching (wood, hay, stubble, and earth) does reach the point of damnation, this is when the filthiness of the preaching has reached the flesh and spirit of the hearers (2 Cor. 7:1). This means that the object is *conformed to* instead of *transformed from* the world (Rom. 12:1-3). The object now exists as a *strange distortion* of the saving Image which did once shine (Rom. 8:29, Gal. 4:19). This means that the man was, in body, soul, and spirit, all-holy (1 Thess. 5:23-24, Rom. 8:13, Gal. 5:24), but, alas, he that was holy is now unholy (2 Cor. 7:1, Heb. 12:14, 1 Thess. 4:1-8). When the man was, by nature and deed, correctly *representing* and properly *conformed* to the Image of Christ, but now he is, merely, by nature only (Eph. 5:6-14), alive in the Person of Christ – that life in which he lives is but a flickering and sickly flame (Isa. 42:3, Matt. 12:20) which, behold, is ready to be put out (Heb. 12:13-14, Jas. 5:7-9). This means that the *governing force* of righteousness which once *ruled* over the whole man (Rom. 5:21, 6:11-23), is compromised. This means that the *government* of grace and salvation within the man is in jeopardy. This *governing force* of righteousness which

comes from salvation is called, scripturally, “*the law of the Spirit of Life in Christ Jesus*” (Rom. 8:2-4), and when this is legally interrupted it is by an opposing government, “*the law of sin and death*” (Rom. 7:23, Rom. 8:2, Rev. 3:2). Therefore now, the *force* which brought life, grace, salvation, and righteousness within **the regenerated man** is wrestled down, overcome, and suffocating for very life by an opposing *force*, **the old man** (Eph. 4:22, 24, Col. 3:9-10, Rom. 6:6, and for more details see [“Put on Christ – The Gospel of Regeneration” \(chapter 18, section 4\)](#)).

Are you God’s recognizable **son** or **daughter**: a recognizable **Temple-stone**, recognizable **citizen** of Heaven’s Country, or a recognizable **Bride**? Walk out your nature and you will be. This is to say, in other words, walk in your salvation (for more details see [“The NT Gospel Call to Worthiness” \(chapter 22, see all sections\)](#)).

Therefore, how do you **unmix** the **gold** from unholy **ore**? FIRE. How do you **sever** the deadly body-lock that **carnality** has on **spirituality**? FIRE. These proud men need to be humbled again! They need to rediscover the insufficiency, vanity, and finite essence of what **worldly wisdom** is (see 1 Cor. 1-2, 3:17-23, 4:8-21). If, in the immersion of fires, they watch their labor and livelihood burn before their eyes...such men will reconsider life! If they have been laboring and living for what God calls death, and then, behold, they watch it die, perhaps they will turn back to the Life that will never die. “We went through FIRE”, David said (Ps. 66:12), and afterward they understood the reason – “Before I was afflicted I went astray: but now have I kept Thy word” (Psalm 119:67), and again, “It is good for me to have been afflicted; that I might learn Thy statutes” (Psalm 119:71). “I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction”, God said (Isa. 48:10)! Yes, David’s confession is good, one that ought to be made by all backslidden men. Such men are put to the worst when they transgress because God loves them! He chastens them, and therewith He causes them to understand, “the way of transgressors is hard” (Prov. 13:15). They suffer under God’s beating which is, by providence, a God-ordained tribulation, and in such a “fiery trial” God seeks to burn and destroy those things which displease Him (1 Pet. 4:12). We need to reckon with this reality, dear saints. Therefore, my reader, listen to God. If you distort the Lord’s Image by misrepresenting Him, in so doing you defile the Name of God by which you are called, and in so doing you defile the Temple of God in which you are a part (1 Cor. 3:17) - at such a time God will “try YOU” so that (1 Pet. 4:12), “if God permit” (Heb. 6:3) or “peradventure” (2 Tim. 2:25-26), after the *burning* you might be better. Scripture states, “After that [you] have suffered a while”, that is, in **the fiery furnace**, then God willing by its burning you will be made “perfect”, thus God does “stablish, strengthen, [and] settle” the positional standing of your stone in the Temple of God (1 Pet. 5:10). At such a time as this, when you are suffering under the burning rebukes of God (Rev. 3:19), my reader, do as your Counselor suggests...the Lord Jesus Christ said, “I counsel thee to buy of me **gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be **rich**” (Rev. 3:18)! Yes, these are eternal riches. This means that those things which you are laboring and living for are everlasting and undying (see “Legalism: Law & Grace”)! What a glory! What riches! Yes, it is possible to be “rich in good works” (1 Tim. 6:18) and “rich toward God” (Lk. 12:21)! My reader, do you know the secret? “GREAT is the MYSTERY of godliness” (1 Tim. 3:16), scripture declares! And speaking to those who don’t know its mystery, Christ said, “how great is that darkness” (Matt. 6:19-24)! As a typological parallel to this lamentation, it was written again, “how is **the gold become dim**! How is **the most fine gold changed**” (Lam. 4:2)! My reader, a House-wide outbreak of the carnality-plague (wood, hay, stubble, and earth) merits a House-wide immersion into fire (Josh. 7:24-26, Lev. 14:33-48, Lev. 26:27-39, 1 Sam. 4:10-11, Ps. 78:60, Jer. 4:8-10, 19-22, 7:8-16, 10:18-22, 11:14-17, 12:7-13, 14:8-12, 15:1, 26:6-9, 52:13-22, 1 Kings 9:7-8, Ps. 74:6-8, Isa. 64:11, Lam. 2:7, 4:1, Ezek. 7:20-22, 9:5-7, 24:21, Mic. 3:12, Matt. 23:38, 24:1-2, Lk. 13:35, Rev. 2:5, 16, 23, 3:2-5, 11-12, 18).

## The Baptism of Fire – a corporate burning

“He shall **baptize** you with the Holy Ghost and **with FIRE**: Whose **fan** is in His hand, and he will **thoroughly purge** His floor, and will **gather** the wheat into His garner; but the chaff He will **burn** with **FIRE unquenchable**” – Luke 3:16-17

“But who may **abide** the Day of his coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is **like a refiner’s fire**, and like fullers’ soap: And He shall sit **as a refiner and purifier of silver**: and He shall **purify the sons of Levi**, and **purge** them **as gold and silver**, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.” – Mal. 3:2-3

God Almighty has a contorted face, filled with disdain, because of *what* has become of His people: because *the condition* they are presently in is deplorable, unacceptable, insulting, and defiling. At such a circumstance, consider the three branches of biblical typology addressed below.

**Scriptural Theme** → “O the hope of Israel, the Saviour...why shouldest Thou be as **a man ASTONIED**!” – Jer. 14:8-9

- a) **The House of God:** The House of God which should be lined entirely with *gold, silver, and precious stones*, is defiled with miscellaneous interruptions from what is required because, scattered about the walls, alas, some *fool* has put in stones of *mud (earth)*. With what contortion of face would God, the Master-Builder, look on...disdaining the presence of these unacceptable stones? With what good reason would God, the Inhabitant of this House, be grievously dismayed...seeing that the stones of His House were so hatefully arrayed? To enlarge upon this, my reader, imagine another scenario.
- b) **The Gates of Heaven:** Imagine *earthly men* pounding on *Heaven's Gates*, demanding entrance into the *Heavenly Land*. With what contortion of face would the Lord of that Land disdain the nation from whence these people came? With what furious denouncement would He reject their person? With what arguments would He make known to them how unacceptable they are (by their race, skin color, and language, and by their familial and nationalistic alliances which are at enmity against the Lord of Heaven –Rom. 8:1-13)? With what contortion of face does a foreigner listen to the garbled tongue of another nation...even so, these men are strangers to God – and look – He is contorted and astonished in displeasure at their boldness before His Gates. What unfounded and unacceptable boldness!? Even so, my reader, consider another scenario.
- c) **The Bride of Christ:** Imagine a royal wedding ceremony in the act, *the presentation* just as it was planned (Eph. 5:26-27), even though – shockingly – the Bride's garment is blotted by a ruinous *blemish!* The doors flew open and the Bride appeared...but the wedding party stood ashamed, the Bridegroom was feeling utterly disdained, and the audience, taken in involuntary gasps, rumbles with murmurs and whispers of horror and amazement. Why? Because the Bride's attire is vile, unprepared, and unready for so worthy a presentation! With what unfounded boldness does the Bride debase her Bridegroom as she continues to walk the isle!?

When the gold is mixed with unholy pieces of matter to where, finally, the object of “choice gold” becomes unacceptable to God; this means that the mixture was heavy enough to distort the *beauty* of its image. Therefore because the stone's appearance is no longer *choice, precious, and elect*, its presence in the Temple is offensive to God. The stone is a glaring and unacceptable “eye sore” to the Temple of God! Its presence is so distinctly noticeable that it distracts men from the glory of all that is good, pure, and right about the House of God. Visitors of the Temple are more appalled at the presence of this unacceptable stone, and they, preoccupied therewith, fail to enjoy the glory and holiness of the entire House. This one object is such a foul intrusion into so holy an occasion that it renders the whole Temple unholy and unenjoyable! Like an unacceptable blemish on the attire of a Bride would *stall* the whole ceremony from its beginning, this unacceptable stone stands to insult the Al-dignity of God! To God, it is not only unacceptable, it is defiling...it insults the essence of what is holy, righteous, pure, and worthy to exist in God's immediate presence, therefore it must be cleansed.

Do you understand, my reader, not all backsliders do *savingly respond* to the *fires*? The fire burns them, but the Image of Christ is not restored! The holiness that is required by God to be a part of His House is not regained! Their saintly standing is lost! Such stones are therefore, deplorable objects, intruding and unacceptable stones in the House of God! It is utterly recognizable how they don't belong in the House of God! Even so, likewise, this is like an earthly man pounding on the Heaven's Gates, demanding entrance, and Heaven's Porters, looking back, wonder how this man is demented! With contorted faces of holy-disgust, they say, Heaven is for heaven-born men, men who walk according to the rule and law of a heavenly citizen, but you are an earth-born earthly-man! You, oh man, are a stranger to this Holy Land! You are a foreigner to God and a native to fallen man. Don't you know that behind these Gates, “there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that *defileth*, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life” (Rev. 21:27). Upon hearing this the earthly man ceased from pounding upon the Gates...“he was speechless” (Matt. 22:12). The man stood still and wondered, utterly aloof. He was dumbfounded and unknowledgeable of the truth. What truth?

**The “Language” Barrier** – 1 John 4:5-6, Luke 10:16, John 6:63, 7:16-17, 8:37, 43, 47, 1 Corinthians 2:14

**Heaven-Born Citizens Belong to Heaven's Country** – John 3:3, Ephesians 2:18-19, 1 Peter 2:9-11, 1 Corinthians 8:3, 1 Corinthians 3:22-23, Hebrews 11:13-16, 13:13-14

Heaven's principles and affections cannot be *comprehended* by earthly men (John 1:5). Yes, therefore did Heaven's Porter speak a *different language* than the earthly man; this is the reason that he could not *understand*. You see, spiritual words can only be understood by a spiritual man, but this man was an earthly man. Then the Poters, seeing the earthly man remained overwhelmed with confusion, they endeavored to vindicate the righteousness and true holiness of God by saying, “Blessed are

they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the Tree of Life, and **may enter in through the Gates of the City**. For **without** are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie” (Rev. 22:14-15). The earthly man, not realizing that he is irrevocably “thrust out” (Lk. 13:28), begins to shout to the Lord who dwelt beyond the City Gates, saying, “Lord, Lord, open unto us” (Lk. 13:25)! Then the Lord of Heaven answered him, “I know you not whence ye are” (Lk. 13:25)! This means, by interpretation, “I know not where you are from”! You see, this man was an unrecognizable person from an unrecognizable race, a place that is foreign to the Land and Country of Heaven (Heb. 11:13-16, 13:13-14, Jn. 14:2-6, 1 Pet. 2:9-11, 2 Pet. 3:10-14, Rev. 2:26-28, 3:4-5, 12, 20-21). But then the earthly man replied, “We have eaten and drunk in Thy presence, and Thou hast taught in our streets” (Lk. 13:26)! But the Lord of Heaven said, “I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity” (Lk. 13:27)! (For a closer study see “[God is a Stranger](#)”)

Imagine it, my reader, the “eye sore” of an earthly man dressed in rags, appearing in Heaven’s courtroom of golden-glass, the place where only white-robed heavenly men gather for the honor and glory of God! A synonymous situation which is equally abominated by God is, when earthly-stones which are heaven-rejects, are used for Heaven’s House. This is an appalling “eye sore” of degrading magnitude, making the whole House *feel* like a mere “common place”. Even so, likewise, a Bride, when presented to the Bridegroom, must be of a peculiar attire *worthy for the occasion*. If a woman walks the isle with unacceptable attire, this is not only ceremony-unworthy, but depending upon the severity of her blemish it is **ceremony-ending** (Eph. 5:26-27). Any honorable and dignified wedding would be **stalled**, rather than have the Bride presented with blemish-ridden garments. Imagine a wedding’s most glorious scene - the Bride walking the isle – but her white and glamorous dress is covered with a horrid and ruinous blemish! What devastating harm would such blemish wreak!? Those of us who deign to call ourselves, “The Bride of Christ”, need to understand the quality and beauty that makes her the desire of God’s eyes. When the greatest known beauty of invisible creation is defiled, the beauty is out of mind. When an object of the most sacred value is scarred, the preciousness of the object is not cherished for the stature in which it exists...it becomes an emblem of great loss. The beauty, value, and preciousness of the object, now marred, stands as an object of lamentation instead of adoration, and all the preparations which were made for its beautification turn into additional pain. Therefore with the Bride, the object of God’s eyes: The bright white dress in which the woman did shine, and the glittering jewelry which should have dazzled the mind, they all became unnoticeable and blackened out of mind because shockingly, the woman’s glorious dress is blackened with smears of filthy mud (earth). No matter all the other bridal preparations, no matter all her adornment and her decorations, if she is **spotted** and **blemished**, the crowded audience will erupt with involuntary gasps of horror at the moment of her appearance! And yet, my reader, consider the impudence of the Bride when and if, after she had heard the audience erupt in disdain, she continued to walk the isle! She, being blind to sense or shame, steps forward, only for the audience to agonize the appalling *presentation*! Only for the Bridegroom to frown upon the *unacceptable scene*! My reader, the Father will not have such a wedding for God the Son! The Bride of Christ must be presented to her Bridegroom accordingly: “not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish” (Eph. 5:27)! Yes, even if God must **stall** (2 Pet. 3:4-9) the wedding ceremony until “His wife hath made herself **ready**” (Rev. 19:7), He will do so. He will do all that is necessary to prevent such an abominable, unholy, unworthy, and undignified *presentation* of the Bride!

The conclusion of these three typological metaphors is: if there is **one blemish**, if **one stone** is un-kept and is by gold *unfinished*, the Bride of Christ and House of God are rendered disqualified from the promise – “I will receive you” (2 Cor. 6:17). God will reject anything not of this specified stature. Such blemishes and God-rejected stones, these are the people God knows not (1 Cor. 8:3), like as God denounces and refuses earthly born men who demand entrance into His Heavenly Land. These are the people God spoke of when He commanded, “from such withdraw thyself” (1 Tim. 6:5) and “from such turn away” (2 Tim. 3:5). See also 2 Jn. 1:10, 1 Jn. 2:19, Jude 3-4, Php. 3:1-3, Matt. 15:13-14, 23:13, Gal. 4:29-31, 1 Thess. 2:16, 1 Cor. 5:6-8, 11, 13, Lk. 12:1, Matt. 16:6, 11-12, Jude 16, 2 Pet. 2:3, 13-14, 18, 3:17, 2 Cor. 6:17-7:1. In such a situation as this the people of God are given clear commands:

**The New Testament** → “Nevertheless **the foundation of God standeth sure**, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are His. And, Let every one that nameth the name of Christ **depart from iniquity**. But in a great house there are not only **vessels of gold and of silver**, but also of **wood and of earth**; and some to **honour**, and some to **dishonour**. If a man therefore **purge himself from these**, he shall be a vessel unto **honour, sanctified**, and **meet** for the Master’s use, and **prepared** unto every good work. Flee also youthful lusts: but **follow** righteousness, faith, charity, peace, **with them** that call on the Lord out of a pure heart.” - 2 Timothy 2:19-2

These actions must be taken when the objects of God's House have become, at present, defiled and marred into an unrecoverable condition. By excommunication (in obedience to the command to "*purge*") **the heat of the furnace** waxes to its climax. In the midst of suffering within God's **hottest flames**, God is able to make these excommunicated objects gold again (like as He is able to "graft them in again" –Rom. 11:23). While they burn and perish as wood the fire (Zech. 13:8-9), while they sink and suffocate as in a rotten pit of mire, if they call aloud and weep, if they utter vows to keep, and they don't think of God a liar...even from "the belly of hell" God will pluck them out (Jonah 2)! Praise God! The *visitation* of **annihilating fire** is inevitable, **if** the spiritual condition of the people of God does warrant it. In such a time, God said, "Shall I not *visit* them for these things?" "Shall not My soul be avenged on such a nation as this" (Jer. 9:9)? My reader, read the whole passage and consider the situation:

"Oh that My head were waters, and Mine eyes a fountain of tears, that I might weep day and night for the slain of the daughter of My people! **Oh that I had in the wilderness a lodging place of wayfaring men; that I might leave My people, and go from them!** for **they be all adulterers**, an assembly of **treacherous men**. And they bend their tongues like their bow for lies: but they are not valiant for the truth upon the earth; for **they proceed from evil to evil**, and they know not Me, saith the LORD. Take ye heed every one of his **neighbour**, and trust ye not in any **brother**: for every **brother** will utterly supplant, and every **neighbour** will walk with slanders. And they will deceive every one his **neighbour**, and will not speak the truth: they have taught their tongue to speak lies, and weary themselves to commit iniquity. Thine habitation is in the midst of deceit; through deceit they refuse to know Me, saith the LORD. Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, **Behold, I will melt them, and try them; for how shall I do for the daughter of my people?** Their tongue is as an arrow shot out; it speaketh deceit: one speaketh peaceably to his neighbour with his mouth, but in heart he layeth his wait. Shall I not **visit** them for these things? saith the LORD: shall not my soul be avenged on such a nation as this?" – Jer. 9:1-9

At such a time as this, like the former typological instances which were rehearsed as New Testament scenarios, this is a typological Old Testament scenario. God's people are treacherous "adulterers", lovers of lies, and instead of going from "glory to glory" they "proceed from evil to evil". Their degenerating estate is waxing worse and worse, and therefore, earth is beckoning to heaven for **The Baptism of FIRE** – a fire which is for the *destruction* and *preservation* of Israel, lest the defiling spirit of whoredom and adultery does seize and overcome all (Hos. 4:12, 5:4, Jas. 4:4). The people are in a condition which their Inhabitant – God Almighty – refuses to inhabit the land, therefore the Lord speaks of "the wilderness" as a lodging place where He might find some holy and pure "wayfaring men", men He would not be grieved to dwell among (Jer. 9:2). The Israel of God, which is now rejected, builds a "habitation" by worldly wisdom, "in the midst of deceit", and "through deceit they refuse to know" God, the Lord said (Jer. 9:6) – therefore God also said, "Behold, **I will melt them, and try them;** for how shall I do for the daughter of My people" (Jer. 9:7)? This melting and trying is a baptism of fire capable of total annihilation, but because Israel is called by God's Name the Lord will not bring them to a total end. It is written:

"Yea, thou heardest not; yea, thou knewest not; yea, from that time that thine ear was not opened: for I knew that thou wouldst deal very treacherously, and wast called a transgressor from the womb. For My Name's sake will I defer Mine anger, and for My praise will I refrain for thee, that I cut thee not off. **Behold, I have refined thee, but not with silver; I have chosen thee in the furnace of affliction.** For Mine own sake, even for Mine own sake, will I do it: for how should My Name be polluted? and I will not give My glory unto another. Harken unto me, O Jacob and Israel, My called; I am He; I am the first, I also am the last." - Isaiah 48:8-12 [see also Deut. 32:26-27]

Therefore this *purging*, my reader, is one of destruction and redemption, and those who savingly respond to the fires are saved by them. Here, God burns Israel to save her. The fires of God are simultaneously intended to save and intended to annihilate, but not all will savingly respond to the fires (Amos 4:11, Jer. 6:28-30), whose heat increases by phases of intensity, until a near annihilation transpires with a remnant plucked out (Isa. 48:9). The *purging* that transpires here is, a **corporate purging**. The *burning* which transpires is, a **corporate burning**. This means that the whole House is **baptized in fire**. This is what Christ meant when He said, "Behold, **your House is left unto you desolate**" (Matt. 23:38). He baptized all of Israel with the fires of judgment, namely, the 70 AD destruction of Israel. "He shall **baptize** you with the Holy Ghost, and **with FIRE**", John the Baptist said (Matt. 3:11). But what is this fire? Continue reading and you will see what John said the fire does! John said, "He shall **baptize** you with the Holy Ghost, and **with FIRE**: Whose **fan** is in His hand, and He will **thoroughly purge** His floor, and **gather** His wheat into the garner; but He will **burn up** the chaff with **unquenchable FIRE**" (Matt. 3:11-12, Isa. 41:21). At such a time as this, times which were a typologically parallel to the 70 AD judgment-fires, God said again, "**I will turn My hand upon thee**", and for what? Here it is written again that He will turn His hand to *purge away* from the whole House of Israel everything that offends, defiles, and is unclean!

“Behold, I will send My messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall **suddenly come to His Temple**, even the messenger of the Covenant, whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. <sup>2</sup> But *who may abide* the Day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner’s FIRE, and like fullers’ soap: <sup>3</sup> **And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and he shall purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver**, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.” – Mal. 3:1-3

“Therefore saith the Lord, the LORD of hosts, the mighty One of Israel, Ah, I will **ease** Me of **Mine adversaries**, and **avenge** Me of **Mine enemies**. **And I will turn my hand upon thee**, and **purely purge away** thy **dross**, and **take away** all thy **tin**.” - Isaiah 1:25

“And I will **purge out** from among you **the rebels**, and them that transgress against me: I will bring them forth out of the country where they sojourn, and they shall not enter into the land of Israel: and ye shall know that I am the LORD.” – Ezek. 20:38

“They are all grievous revolters, walking with slanders: **they are brass and iron**; they are all **corrupters**. The bellows are burned, **the lead is consumed of the fire**; the founder **melts in vain**: for the wicked are not **plucked away**. **Reprobate silver shall men call them, because the LORD hath rejected them.**” - Jeremiah 6:28-30

“Behold, the eyes of the Lord GOD are upon **the sinful kingdom**, and I will **destroy it** from off the face of the earth; saving that I will not **utterly destroy the house of Jacob**, saith the LORD. For, lo, I will command, and I will **sift** the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is **sifted** in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth. All **the sinners** of my people shall die by the sword, which say, The evil shall not overtake nor prevent us.” - Amos 9:8-10

“And it shall come to pass, that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein. **And I will bring the third part through the fire**, and **will refine them as silver is refined**, and **will try them as gold is tried**: THEY SHALL CALL ON MY NAME, and I WILL HEAR THEM: I will say, It is my people: and they shall say, The LORD is my God.” - Zechariah 13:8-9

Blessed be the Name of the Lord Jesus Christ that **not all perished!** That a remnant was left alive! A remnant who, in the midst of the burning flames did weep, cry aloud, repent, and vow! Yes, this is what Zechariah meant in 13:9, “they shall call on My Name, and I will hear them!” My reader this is God’s way (Amos 5:15, Zeph. 2:3, Jer. 36:3, 7, Ezek. 12:3). The remnant that was left alive did finally understand God’s heart, that He was “broken with their whorish heart” which “departed” from Him, and by this understanding Israel did finally “lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations” (Ezek. 6:8-10).

God’s terrifying judgment which does *in this way* begin at the House of God (1 Pet. 4:17-18), we are told in scripture that it will eventually turn upon the whole world! I mean, my reader, a **worldwide** baptism of FIRE! Concerning this worldwide judgment of fire the psalmist spoke, “Thou **puttest away** all the wicked from the earth **like dross**: therefore I love Thy testimonies” (Ps. 119:119)! Yes my reader, End Time Judgment is a type of what is coming *right now*, to the Church. In a very real way God is going to **baptize the world** with **destroying** and **smelting fires** – destroying the evil and regenerating the redeemable (2 Thess. 1:6-10, 2 Pet. 3:3-14). Are you doing the will of God that **abides forever**, or are you doing the will of man which **perishes** (1 Jn. 2:15-17)? The fires are sent to **try** the metals to see if they are **perishable** or **imperishable**...until only that which is **imperishable** and **pure** remains. Heaven is everlasting, yes, and the things of heaven are everlasting. The Kingdom of Heaven is an everlasting Kingdom, yes, and those who walk according to the rule of Heaven are everlasting men (Col. 3:1-3, Php. 3:17-21). These men think, speak, walk, and live God’s will, yes, and He that doeth the will of God lives forever! Everything else is **finite** and **perishing**, built upon a foundation that will crumble with its **shaking** (Matt. 7:26-27, Heb. 12:26-29). The men who walk in the manners of life which exist forever, these men live forever – and by God-sent FIRES these men are sifted from among the multitude and REVEALED!

“Many shall be **purified**, and made white, and **tried**; but the wicked shall do wickedly: and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand.” - Daniel 12:10

“Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now **for a season**, if need be, ye are in heaviness through **manifold temptations**: That the **trial**

of your faith, being **much more precious than of gold that perisheth**, though it be **tried with fire**, might be found unto **praise and honour and glory** at the appearing of Jesus Christ:" - 1 Peter 1:5-7

"My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into **divers temptations**; Knowing this, that **the trying of your faith** worketh patience. But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing." - James 1:2-4

How does a man's faith reward to him "**praise and honour and glory** at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Pet. 1:7)? The man's faith was evidenced, "being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the **glory and praise** of God" (Php. 1:11). This yield of Spirit-empowered fruits was of "**patient continuance** in well doing", therefore the man's life was lived "for **glory and honour and immortality, eternal life**" (Rom. 2:7, 10). Living by and walking in the Spirit – who is Eternal Life (John 3:15, 5:11-12) – is living, moving, thinking, and doing those things which will **last forever**. The flesh and its works, is a perishing way of life, literally. Recognizing this, that all such men are doomed to die, we are commanded to "love not the world neither the things that are in the world...for all that is in the world...is not of the Father...and **the world passeth away**, and the lust thereof: but **he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever**" (1 Jn. 2:15-17). The world and its wisdom in the essence of its existence, is perishing, but he that does the will of God – the essence of everlasting life – lives forever. The world, its wisdom, ideologies, appeal, and hope appear to be "good" and "pleasant to the eyes", as something "to be desired to make one wise" (Gen. 3:6), but the shelter it provides will all come crashing down! A well-built, fully furnished, architecturally sharp house would appear to be a good shelter, as someone might say, but when it is tested by **the storms of judgment**, "the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it FELL: and great was the FALL of it"! Why? The house was not "founded upon a rock" (Matt. 7:24-27)! My reader, the foundation was wrong! Even so, judgments are ready to come upon the world, and before long, my reader, its wisdom, ideologies, appeal, and hope will lose their grip upon the human mind. When the world itself shakes like a leaf, when the mountains are removed into the sea, when the stars come crashing down to earth, the sky is rolled back like a scroll, when the world itself totters to and fro like a drunken man, then the world will understand – "this life" is passing away, and he that does the will of God lives forever. The Almighty is going to shake everything that can be shaken (Heb. 12:25-28), and my reader, will you remain unshaken? This **shaking** is a **testing, a trying**, and its purpose is for "the removing of those things that are shaken, as things that are made, that those things which **cannot be shaken may remain**" (Heb. 12:27). My reader, are you one who, through God's eternal Spirit, have been established upon the unshakable foundation of Christ as your life, ambition, goal, and ideology, as your wisdom, plan, desire, and hope? God will **try** all men, my reader, to see if we will be shaken from our claim to and connection with Christ – the unshakable, ever-enduring, everlasting Man. For this reason Christ bids us, "I counsel thee to buy of me **gold tried in the fire**, that thou mayest be **rich**" (Rev. 3:18). Saints God has, by the second-birth, given us imperishable wealth – the indwelling Spirit of God who is our "**new man**" – but this sacred union exists because of saving faith, and if saving faith is lost...men will perish in the fires which, for others, did only purify. It is God's will that, by judgment-fires, "after that ye have suffered a while", God would "make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, [and] settle you" (1 Pet. 5:10)...but some people are so easily shaken in faith when heated by the Lord's judgment-fires of tribulation! They are offended to hear the commandment: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning **the fiery trial** which is to **try you**, as though some strange thing happened unto you" (1 Pet. 4:12).

❖ **Purifying Fires:** Dan. 12:10, 1 Peter 1:5-7, James 1:2-4 – *the fires are kindled with scripturally expressed intentions, therefore when we are feeling heated and melted in the burning fire let us not be amazed. Bound with these burnings are promises of hope and everlasting life.*

For example consider the saved man, King David, who certainly went through chastisement, but for him it was remedial. His description of personal and corporate chastisement follows the pattern of phases which Leviticus 26 foretold. As for him and his household, along with those that followed after his leadership, they all responded to the chastisement which was here called, "a proving" whereby God "proved us", a trial in which they "**went through FIRE**", a fire whereby God "**tried us as silver is tried**". As you read of David's experience, my reader, consider this question: will you "abide" the fire (1 Cor. 3:14)? Reckon it, my reader, to us belongs, not only the Baptism of the Spirit, but also the Baptism of Fire!

"O bless our God, ye people, and make the voice of His praise to be heard: Which holdeth our soul in life, and suffereth not our feet to be moved. For Thou, O God, hast **proved us**: Thou hast **tried us, as silver is tried**. Thou broughtest us into the net; Thou laidst affliction upon our loins. Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; **we went through FIRE** and through water: but Thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place. I will go into Thy House with burnt offerings: I will pay thee my vows, Which my lips have uttered, and my mouth hath spoken, when I was in trouble. I

will offer unto thee burnt sacrifices of fatlings, with the incense of rams; I will offer bullocks with goats. Selah.” - Psalms 66:8-15

For King David, the fires of God were not *destroying* but *purifying*. The final vessel which came out of the furnace was **perfected** by the fires, and thus it was “a vessel for **The Finer**” (Prov. 25:6). This, my reader, is a vessel “meet for the Master’s use” (2 Tim. 2:19-22) because it is purified from the lump of earth’s ore. Yes, it is free from the contaminating and unholy metals! It is written, “**Take away the dross from the silver**, and there shall **come forth a vessel for The Finer**” (Proverbs 25:4). My reader, consider Job when he said:

“But He knoweth the way that I take: **when he hath tried me, I shall come forth as gold.**” - Job 23:10

The experience of Job, how terrifying it was (see “*Tender Mercies*”)! And yet here, in another branch of typological thought, Job reflects on his situation with good hopes and a happy future. Though he is still engulfed in fiery troubles, Job said, “I shall **come forth as gold**” (Job 23:10)! Do you know what this means? Job does here acknowledge that the melting was painstaking, and yet it was Masterful. Like a Finer purifies and tries ore while the gold is yet hidden from the human eye, Job says that God, in the same way, burns him. Yes, God’s eye sees just what He seeks after, and He knows how to draw it out! Job acknowledges how, after the masterful process of melting fires take their course upon a mass of filthy earth like himself, shockingly, gold comes forth! Praise God!

But sadly, not all *savingly respond* to the fires of God. Some who should be *hopeful* are *hopeless*, and while undergoing Divine-chastisements and holy-burnings, alas, they are emboldened to further rebellion and willful denial (see Jer. 18:1-17)! Oh that woeful confession... “There is no hope” (Jer. 18:12)! They should have rather, like the remnant, made the confession of Lamentations 3:1-20. This was good confession of HOPE, yes, even though the remnant was burned inside of an exceedingly hot furnace of fire. After reading Lamentations 3:1-20, consider how the remnant said, “This I recall to my mind, therefore I have **HOPE**. It is of the LORD’S mercies that **we are not consumed**, because His compassions fail not...It is good for a man that he bear the yoke in his youth. He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath born it upon him. He putteth his mouth in the dust; **if so be there may be HOPE**” (Lam. 3:21-22, 27-29). Those who are weary and hopeless in the fires should rather pray alongside the remnant who said, “Thou hast heard my voice: hide not Thine ear at my breathing, at my cry” (Lam. 3:56), for we should remember that God is not an unrighteous Judge. Therefore “men ought always to pray, and not to faint”, for God will “avenge His own elect which cry day and night unto Him, though He bear long with them” (Lk. 18:1, 7). Concerning the Last Day’s Baptism of Fire, Christ said, “I tell you that He will avenge them speedily. Nevertheless when the Son of Man cometh, shall He find faith on the earth” (Lk. 18:8)? Indeed, my reader, “He doth not afflict willingly nor grieve the children of men” (Lam. 3:33)...but it is “that we might be partakers of His holiness” (Heb. 12:10). “Shall we not much rather be in subjection to the Father of spirits, and live” (Heb. 12:9)? But woe to those who refuse to be subject to God the Father even though He chastises them seven times for their sins (Lev. 26:27-45). When in the furnace of affliction, heated seven times (Lev. 26:28), men ought to yield to God! But, alas, it was written of them, “In vain have I smitten your children; they received no correction: your own sword hath devoured your prophets, like a destroying lion” (Jer. 2:30). “O LORD, are not thine eyes upon the truth? thou hast stricken them, but they have not grieved; thou hast consumed them, but they have refused to receive correction: they have made their faces harder than a rock; they have refused to return” (Jer. 5:3). For all such, the fires are not *saving* but *destroying*.

❖ **Destroying Fires:** *the fires are kindled with scripturally expressed intentions, but when men were feeling heated and melted in the burning they became unrighteously amazed and hopeless (despising the chastening of the Lord), therefore though an opportunity of salvation was available to them it was beyond their attention.*

"For, behold, the day cometh, **that shall burn as an oven**; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, **shall be stubble**: and the day that cometh shall **burn them up**, saith the LORD of hosts, that it **shall leave them neither root nor branch.**" (Malachi 4:1)

“And the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, the house of Israel is to me **become dross**: all they are **brass, and tin, and iron, and lead, in the midst of the furnace**; they are even **the dross of silver**. Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Because ye are **ALL become dross**, behold, therefore I will gather you into the midst of Jerusalem. As they gather **silver, and brass, and iron, and lead, and tin, into the midst of the furnace**, to blow the **fire** upon it, to **melt it**; so will I gather you **in mine anger** and in **my fury**, and **I will leave you there, and melt you**. Yea, I will gather you, and blow upon you in **the fire of my wrath**, and ye shall be **melted** in the midst thereof. **As silver is**

**melted in the midst of the furnace, so shall ye be melted in the midst thereof; and ye shall know that I the LORD have poured out my fury upon you.” - Ezekiel 22:17-22**

“I have overthrown some of you, **as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah**, and ye were as a firebrand plucked out of the **burning**: yet have ye not returned unto me, saith the LORD.” - Amos 4:11

God-sent fires of baptism are also of the destroying kind, the kind which annihilated Sodom and Gomorrah. If God had no reservation to keep Israel alive for the sake of His own Name, they too would have been annihilated. The furnace was kindled and heated **for annihilation**, but God, by the means of plucking men out, plucked them out of total annihilation! This means that the process of destruction had well-begun, the intention for destruction was real and genuine, but God, wondrous in pity for His own Name’s sake, plucked them out before they burned up! “Holiness becometh Thine House” (ps. 93:5), the psalmist declared, therefore let us reckon this truth! HOLINESS! Let us understand, God will have His House hallowed. God’s chosen people, which are as stones, will be a “peculiar treasure” of a holy and glorious grade, a grade representative of the Lord’s Image (1 Pet. 2:9, Ex. 19:5-6, Deut. 14:2, 26:18, Eph. 2:19), or else, my reader, He will **burn, refine, melt, purify, purge, sift, fan, sever, baptize**, and those who are **imperishable** will be thus **revived**. God will fulfill the word which said, “The glory of **this latter House** shall be greater than of the **former**, saith the LORD of hosts: and in this place will I give peace, saith the LORD of hosts” (Hag. 2:9). “Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you **the former rain** moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and **the latter rain** in the first month” (Joel 2:23)! “And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the Name of the LORD shall be delivered: for in Mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the LORD hath said, and in the remnant whom the LORD shall call” (Joel 2:32)!