

LIGHT

GEN.1:1-3 Let there be light.

II COR.4:6 "For God that commended the light to shine out of darkness has shined in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

Gen. 1:1 A time of LIGHT

Lucifer - bright one

Gen. 1:2 Lucifer rebelled - confusion and DARKNESS

Gen. 1:3 God said "Let there be light".

Adam sinned - time of DARKNESS

Christ's ministry - a time of LIGHT

Before Christ's time - a time of ignorance which Christ winked at.

After Christ's presence taken - a time of DARKNESS

Till today: a time of LIGHT

Today, the last or 2nd era of God's message going out as opposed to the first era of John the Baptist.

Today, another time when people will be without excuse

Then a famine of the word - a time of spiritual DARKNESS

A time when no man can work - the night.

A time - physically of thick DARKNESS

Christ's return - a time of LIGHT - Satan bound

End of Millenium, Satan loosed - a time of DARKNESS

New Jerusalem - a time of LIGHT

John 12:35 "Then said Jesus unto them, yet a little while is the light with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness come on you. vs. 36 While you have light (ie. Christ with you) believe in the light that you may be (be Gr. become) the children of Light." ie. while it is the one while Christ the light is with you believe

CHRIST - Tree Of Life - WISDOM

Was Christ the tree of Life in the garden (& Satan, the other tree)?
Gen.2:9. & Gen. 3:24."So He drove out the man; and He placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep THE WAY OF THE TREE OF LIFE."

John 14:6 Christ said "I am the way, the truth and the life.

Rev. 2:7 "To him that overcomes will I give to eat of the tree of life which is in the midst of the Paradise of God.

Rev. 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments that they may have right to the tree of life and may enter in through the gates into the city."

John 6:51 "I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live forever:"

Gen. 3:22.."Now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever:"

John 6:27 "Labour not for the meat which perishes, but for that meat which endures unto everlasting life."

:35 "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of Life:.."

:58 "This is that bread which came down from heaven; not as your fathers did eat manna and are dead: he that eats of this bread shall live forever.

Prov.3:18 "She (wisdom) is a tree of life to them that lay hold upon her."

Luke. 11:49 "Therefore also said the wisdom of God (Christ to the Jews) I will send them prophets." (Matt.23:34)

In effect this is saying Christ is the tree of life or synonymous with it.

Prov. 11:30 "The fruit of the righteous (Heb. a righteous one) is a tree of life.

:8 "The righteous (Heb. a righteous one) is delivered out of trouble, and the wicked (a wicked one) comes in his stead".

Could this be prophetic of Christ and Satan?

Prov.13:12 "Hope deferred makes the heart sick; but when the desire comes it is a tree of life".

Apart from the obvious meaning could this also be prophetic of Christ?

Hag.2:7 "And I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come: and I will fill this house with glory, said the Lord of Hosts."

Tree of Life(cont.)

Prov. 15:4 "A wholesome tongue is a tree of Life..."

Could this also be prophetic of Christ as the word?

Prov. 8:12,22,23 "...The Lord possessed me in the beginning of His way;....
..I was set up from everlasting, from the beginning, Or ever the earth was.."
vs. 30 "Then I was by Him, as one brought up with Him..."

Is wisdom personified here as prophetic of Christ?

I Cor. 1:24 "But unto them which are called both Jews and Greeks, Christ
the power of God, and the wisdom of God."

Col.2:3 "in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge."

Prov.9:1-6 "Wisdom has builded her house,

Is this prophetic of Christ
building His church and of
the spiritual house He is
building in each one of us?
I Cor. 5:1-4

She has hewn out her seven pillars:
She has killed her beasts; she hath
mingled her wine; she has furnished
her table. She hath sent forth maidens:
she crieth upon the highest places of
the city, Whoso is simple, let him turn
in hither: As for him that wanteth
understanding, she saith to him, Come
eat of my bread, and drink of the wine
which I have mingled. Forsake the
foolish, and live; and go in the way of understanding."

Is this prophetic of the 7
eras of God's church?

The wedding feast of Christ
Matt.22. and the servants sent
sent out with the invitations?

The warning message through
the P.T., W. T. N., etc.?

Again Christ calling them to
eat of his flesh and drink of
his blood?

Prov. 8:1-6 "Does not wisdom cry?

Christ's warning message?

And understanding put forth her voice?

She standeth in the top of high places,
(margin - places of vantage) By the way in
(margin- the places where the paths meet)
the places of the paths. She crieth at

don't we seek out the most
prestigious places of vantage
for the P.T.?
Airports & railways terminals
gates - where are gates of the
cities?
doors - entrances, how many shop
entrances are P.T. stands in?

the gates, at the entry of the city,

At the coming in at the doors. Unto you,

O men I call; And my voice is to the sons

of man. O ye simple, understand wisdom:

And ye fools, be ye of an understanding

heart. Hear; for I will speak of excellent

(Heb. and margin: prince or representative)

things (words, hence truths, hence -

representative truths)."

Is not the message representative
of God's kingdom and are we not
all representatives of a better
way?

Is blindness a vicious circle?

Was the time Christ was on earth 'a separate time? Likewise today, is it a separate time?

John 12:35 "Then said Jesus unto them (the general people of his day) Yet a little while is the light (ie. Christ) with you. Walk while you have the light, lest darkness come on you.

:36 While you have light believe in the light that you may be (Gr. become) the children of light.

Was this not an admonition from Christ to the people to heed what he was saying or otherwise darkness - blindness- would come upon them. But on the other hand if they heeded they could become the children of light - God.

Luke 11:49 "Therefore also said the wisdom of God (Christ to the Jews) I will send them prophets and Apostles, and some of them they shall slay and persecute:

:50-51 That THE BLOOD OF ALL THE PROPHETS, which was shed from the foundation of the world, MAY BE REQUIRED OF THIS GENERATION; from the blood of Abel unto the blood of Zacharias which perished between the altar and the temple verily I say unto you It shall BE REQUIRED OF THIS GENERATION" WHY? Was it because they were not ignorant?

Matt. 11:16 "But where unto will I liken this generation..."

To whom much is given much is required. Luke 12:48

Are we judged according to the quality of the witness against us?

Was Christ's generation a separate time? Is today likewise a separate time? Were they without excuse? They had a witness to the point that they could make a decision: Listen and obey or not listen and disobey! Likewise today, God is sending out a witness. The warning and witness is available. The quality of the witness will be comparable to Christ's (John 14:12. and greater things will they do) therefore the people will be without excuse?

Why would God send a warning message and witness if those to whom He was sending it could not heed the warning and come to Him and change because they are blinded?

Matt. 11:20-24 "Then began He to upbraid the cities where-in most of His mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto you Chorazin...Bethsaida...Capernaum...."

Matt. 11:12-13 "And from the days of John the Baptist until now the Kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force. For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John."

It would seem those before Christ "were winked at".

Were the people of Christ's time left without excuse because of the miracles that were done before them? Because of the miracles and Christ's presence were the people responsible and sin imputed to them?

John 15:22-24 " If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin ; but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hates me hates my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin; but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father."

Luke 16:16 "The law and the prophets were till John: since that time the Kingdom of God is preached, and every man presses into it."

Matt. 13:35 "That it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophet saying I will open my mouth in parables, I will utter things which have been kept secret from the foundation (casting down, destruction) of the world. From John on, it was a different time.

Acts 18:6 'Paul said to the Jews who would not listen "your blood be upon your own heads."

Matt. 13:15 "For this people's heart is waxed gross and their ears are dull of hearing and their eyes THEY HAVE CLOSED..."

Is blindness a vicious circle?

The warning goes out, the witness is given. The people choose not to heed. Therefore they are blinded from understanding anything more. Therefore the Father will not draw them.

IIThess. 2:11-12 "...because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie."

Luke 8:18 "Take heed therefore HOW ye hear..."

John 12:(35-40)39 "Therefore they could not believe" why?

because vs. 37 "But though He had done so many miracles

- before them, yet they believed not on Him
- Rom. 1:(20-32) 28 Because MEN decided that THEY did not want to retain God in their knowledge God gave them over to their own devices.
- IIPet. 3:5 "For this THEY (scoffers vs.3) willingly are ignorant of.."
- II Cor. 3:13-16 "...Nevertheless when IT (Israel) shall turn to the Lord the vail shall be taken away."
Why is this vail on them?
- Rom. 11:32 "For God has concluded them all in unbelief that He might have mercy on all."

Once they refused to heed the witness they were left vulnerable to Satan.

- II Cor. 4:4 "In whom the god of this world has blinded the minds of them which believe not lest the light (which Christ told them to walk in) of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them."

When Peter preached on the day of Pentecost his message was available to all in every language? What would have been the point of preaching to them and telling them to repent if they could not become the called, that is if they could not repent and change? Likewise today.

- Rom. 1:20 "For the invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead; so that THEY ARE WITHOUT EXCUSE:"

- :21 "Because that when they knew God, they glorified^{him} Him not as God neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations and their foolish heart was darkened."

If it were not possible for man to seek and find God would he have been continually enjoined to do so?

- Matt. 7:7-8 "...seek, and ye shall find...he that seeketh findeth; and to him that knocketh it shall be opened..."
- Rev. 3:20 "Behold I stand at the door and knock if any man hear my voice and open the door I will come in..."
- Isa. 55:6 "Seek you the Lord while He may be found, call you upon Him while He is near..."
- IIChron. 15:2 "The Lord is with you (speaking to King Asa of Judah) while you be with Him; and if you seek Him, He will be found of you. ."
- ICChron. 28:9 "And you Solomon my son, know you the God of thy father and serve Him with a perfect heart and with a willing mind:"

"for the Lord searches ALL HEARTS and understands the imaginations of the thoughts: if you seek Him, He will be found of you."

IIChron. 16:9 "For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth to shew himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect (whole) toward Him."

Acts 10:34-35 "Then Peter opened his mouth and said "Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that fears Him, and works righteousness, is accepted with Him."

But because God knows the end from the beginning and because He knows that it is not in man to do these things, He can prophesy that they will not turn to Him and that it will be only the few that do so.

Therefore He says continually:

Jer. 29:19 "Because they have not hearkened to My words, which I sent unto them by My servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them; but ye would not hear, saith the Lord."

Isa. 59:1 "Behold the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy that it cannot hear: But your iniquities have separated between you and your God."

Matt. 22:14 "For many are called but few chosen."

Doesn't this say many are the called - receive a calling - but few are actually selected or become the chosen? Why? Because they don't have the right garment - attitude of mind!

Where did this invitation (called, Gr. invited) go? Firstly to those who had already been officially invited (physical Israel, the Jews of Christ's day?) but THEY CHOSE not to go. Then the invitation went into the highways to "as many as ye shall find" vs.9. They all received the invitation, good or bad, but only those that met requirements of the Father (had right garment on) were the chosen.

Called - Gr. invited, called (ref. in Strong's concord. 2822) derived from 'kaleo' (ref. in Strong's 2564) to call or bid. The sense throughout the parable is 'invitation'.

John1:11-12 "He came unto His own, and His own received Him not. But as many as received Him to them gave He power to become the sons of God even to them that believe on His name."

This seems to say God gives the power to become God's chosen if they do something.

Matt. 13:19 "When anyone hears the word of the Kingdom and understands (Gr. attends to it) not, then comes the wicked one...." the emphasis is on the reaction of the individual

:23 "But he that receives the seed into the good ground is he that hears the word, and understands (attends to) it which also bears fruit and brings forth."

"understands" Strong's ref. No. 4920 Gr. suniemi, to put together i.e. mentally, to comprehend hence to consider, to attend to - Interlinear Greek - English New Testament, Baker.

Luke8:15 "But that on the good ground are they which in an honest and good heart having heard the word, Keep it and bring forth fruit with patience."

"keep" Strong's 2722, seize on, hold fast, retain.

Luke8:18 "Take heed therefore H O W YE HEAR: for whosoever hath to him shall be given and whosoever hath not, from him shall be taken even that which he seems to have."

People who don't 'hold on' the truth let it slip either in the process of conversion or after; therefore the admonition not to 'neglect so great salvation'. It is interesting that those who leave the church become as those who never knew. Are they being concluded in unbelief with the bulk of mankind?

The explanation of the parables were not given to the general people because they contained the mystery of God and that all people would get their chance, i.e. that some were blinded now, since they rejected God; that God may have mercy on them all. It just was not expedient for them to know this.

Acts 3:39 "For the promise (of the Holy Spirit vs. 33) is unto you (the entire audience of people listening) and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord shall call." (call - Strong's 4341)

And who are the "as many as the Lord shall call"?

"Go therefore unto the highways and as many as ye shall find, bid (call or invite) to the marriage." Matt 22:9

Matt. 22:10 "So those servants went out into the highways, and gathered together all as many as they found.."

This calling went out as a broad invitation, broadcast far and wide, disseminated to all.

Mark. 3:13-14 "And He goes up into a high mountain and calleth
 (Gr. summons, Strong's 4341, as above) unto Him whom
 He would: and they came unto Him. And He ordained
 (or appointed) twelve that they should be with Him."

These disciples were there with Him and He called them aside
 and then selected. The same word is used (Strong's 4341) when Christ
 called the multitude to Him in Matt. 15:10 to tell them something.

Do all have opportunity but sadly are not willing, except the
 very few? These few have their eyes opened to greater understanding
 as they yield to God for it. Are some like Jonah - God intends to
 have them and goes to great lengths to get them because He has
 specific jobs for them? Are some worked with more specifically to
 draw them at any cost? But because most are unwilling (unwilling
 because everything else is far more important to them), they are
 simply and mercifully concluded in unbelief; while we on the other
 hand are indeed a chosen priesthood because of our future?

But because of the pulls of this world and flesh not many
 noble or worldly wise become the chosen. They are not ready in mind.
 I Cor. 1:26 "For ye see your calling brethren .."
 "calling" Strong's ref. no. 2821 an invitation.

2Pet. 1:10 "Wherefore the rather, brethren give diligence to make
 your calling and election sure." (calling St. 2821)

We are admonished to give diligence NOT to be sure to enter
 God's Kingdom, NOT to be sure to be in the first resurrection, NOT
 to be sure to be a part of the born again family of God; but the
 emphasis is rather we are told to give diligence to make our calling
 and election sure. Be diligent to be called. Be diligent to make
 sure we are "the good ground" and that we "keep", retain, and hold
 fast as admonished in Luke 8:15 "having heard the word, keep it and
 bring forth fruit.

What would be the point of telling a blind man to change the
 colour of his shirt if he can not see what colour it is or understand
 what colour you want. Why would God allow man to suffer the
 indescribable anguish, pain and heartache of the tribulation and
 World War III, because he has not been found worthy of escape, because
 he has not kept God's laws. And the reason he has not kept them is

because he is blinded and cannot come to understand the truth - he cannot understand the Sabbath, the Holy Days or true repentance. He cannot have his eyes opened to his sin and therefore stop sinning and change, repent and start keeping God's sabbath, Holy Days and all God requires of us. And isn't a member one who is doing this. And therefore only members can escape.

John 6 :44 "No man comes to me except the Father draw him and I will raise him up at the last day."

Isn't Christ showing by this verse and the following how intricately both He and the Father work together to bring sons to glory. (Heb.2:10.) That they all shall be taught of God as the prophets said - vs. 45. - everyman that has heard and learned of the Father comes to Christ. Vs.46 - no man has ever seen God the Father except Christ; therefore he that believes on Christ (ie. trusts -Gr. 4100 ref. Strong - his life to Christ - which is total commitment) has everlasting life. Therefore Christ can conversely say: No man comes unto the Father but by me. No matter how much a person tries they cannot come to understand unless by a miracle of God opening the mind and drawing.

John12:32 "And I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me."

:46 "I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believes on Me should not abide in darkness."

:44 "...He that believeth on Me, believeth not on Me, but on Him that sent Me."

Does this not mean:

First, a person has to make the initial turn to seek God after he has had exposure to the truth. Then God opens the individual's mind to His truth which he could not understand if God did not spiritually and miraculously open that persons mind to the understanding of His plan.

Are we His chosen because He has opened up our closed minds; the rest being concluded in unbelief that He might have mercy on all?

No matter how much an individual were to turn to God he could not understand the truth or plan of God unless God chose to make it known to him.

Matt.13:17 "For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see and have not seen them; and to hear those things

"which ye hear and have not heard them.

Luke24:45 Christ to His disciples "Then opened He their understanding that they might understand the scriptures."

Matt.13:11-12 "He answered and said unto them, Because it is given to you to know the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven but to them it is not given. For whosoever has to him shall be given (ie. those that have a little understanding receive more as they turn to God) and he shall have more abundance: but whosoever has not from him shall be taken away even that he hath." (those who are exposed to the truth lose even that initial glimpse??)

Is proverbs 1:20-33 prophetic of the warning going out today?

Prov.1:20- "Wisdom crieth without; She uttereth her voice in the streets; She crieth in the chief place of concourse, In the openings of the gates: In the city she uttereth her words, saying, How long ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity? And the scorers delight in their scorning, And fools hate knowledge? TURN YOU AT MY REPROOF: Behold I will pour out my SPIRIT unto YOU, I will make known my words unto you. Because I HAVE CALLED AND YE REFUSED; I have stretched out my hand, AND NO MAN REGARDED; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, (Heb. Strong's ref. no. 6098 -by impl. PLAN, purpose) And would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear comes as desolation And your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; When distress and anguish cometh upon you. (Isn't this prophetic of the coming tribulation and war? God warns but they won't heed -He offers, they refuse, so) Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; They shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: (famine of the word?) For they hated knowledge, And did not CHOOSE the fear of the Lord: THEY WOULD NONE OF MY COUNSEL (plan): They despised all my reproof. Therefore shall they eat of the fruit of their own way...for the TURNING AWAY of the simple shall slay them, And the PROSPERITY (they don't need God) of fools shall destroy them. B U T whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, And shall be quiet from fear of evil."

Mr. Armstrong, you said recently in a World Tomorrow telecast that if people wanted to they could understand but that you thought they were just not willing. In the Nov.-Dec. P.T. it says "People could understand the Bible - if they were really willing to study it and accept it for what it says." from art. "Have you read the Book of the Year". In the March issue of the P.T. in your editorial you very strongly tell the readers that there is a way of escape and enjoin them to take action. Why is God inspiring you to say these things if it is not possible for them to come because they are (people in general) not being called and having their eyes opened?

Why did Paul go to such lengths to present himself the right way so that he might at any cost and in some way gain the more to the truth? I Cor.9:19-22 "...I made myself servant unto all, that I might gain the more.

And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews; to them that are under the law, as under the law, that I might gain them that are under the law...To the weak..weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some."

Is this why the presentation of the P.T. and other means of carrying the gospel is so important at this time?

Christ said He would make us fishers of men - nets thrown into the sea gather whatever comes along, the hook is cast out and available to any swimming by. The message goes out to catch any that will stop and heed. ?

I hearken back to a time when a man came to lay hands on Mrs. Armstrong when she was very ill. She was healed. But when this man had more truth exposed to him he refused to listen and take the call. He then lost contact with God.

It all comes back to the 'two trees'. Because God cut access off to the tree of life - Christ - after Adam sinned, He had to make a way back to Christ; to make a way of general access for all people. This of course being accomplished with His death and resurrection and with the veil (symbolising the separation between man and God) being rent in two from top to bottom.

There is so much more to add to this and the more I study into calling the more there is to see. For example there is so much in I Cor. 1:26-- . "For you see your calling ..." God often presents the result as the cause. The classic example being that God creates evil. Indirectly He does but only as a result of creating beings that have the potential

to do evil. Similarly God says He will bring all the curses upon Israel of Deut. 28. Indirectly He does but what He is really saying is He has set up laws that if broken will bring the curses on man. Likewise the reason He says not many noble or rich is because they WILL not - their nobility, riches and worldly wisdom being a snare to them.