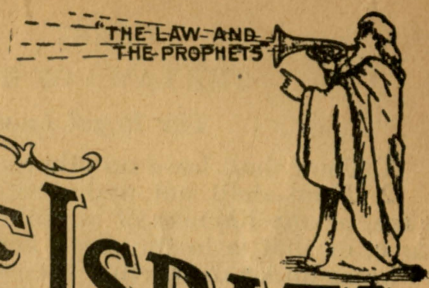


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The

REMNANT OF ISRAEL



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"All ye inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth, see ye; when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountain and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye."—Isaiah, 18:3.

Vol. 10

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., MAY, 1928

No. 3

The Book of Law Found Again

(Taken from the book by this name, written by the late G. G. Rupert.)

Said Christ to the Jews: "You have the Key of Knowledge, you will not go in yourselves, but you hinder those who would enter." Luke 11:52. John speaks of the Philadelphia Church thus: "He that hath the key of David that openeth and no man shutteth and no man openeth." Rev. 3:7. The Throne of David (Christ) we are told is located between the cherubims over the ark that contains the laws of God. Why, then, did the Jews, then above all other people, have the key of knowledge? Paul answers thus: "What advantage then hath the Jew, or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way chiefly because unto them were committed the oracles of God." Rom. 3:2. But we ask again what were the oracles of God? Stephen says the lively oracles were delivered unto them at Sinai, "that they might give them unto us." Acts 7:38. Thus it is easy to see that the laws given at Sinai were the oracles of God.

The place prepared by King Solomon in the temple for the ark to rest under the two Cherubims was called the oracle. First Kings 8:6. The instruction of Moses to the King on earth that ruled in the government of God on this Throne of the Lord, was to take a copy of this Book of the Law and read and meditate on it day and night that he might rule according to the will of God. Deut. 17:18, 19. Thus it is clear, First, That the key to the throne of David possessed by the Jews and the Philadelphia Church is the book of the law of Moses which "openeth the door" that leadeth into an understanding of the True Government of God's people. Second, the Philadelphian Church, being the Church that will constitute the remnant people will teach those laws as written by Moses—not a part but the whole book as the key that

opens the whole Scriptures of truth. Third, we learn from the above that the Jews were the race to whom God committed these lively oracles to give unto us. This showed God designed they should be a light to the World through which all Nations might receive the light of the Gospel. But in the place of their filling this important mission they lost sight of its true teaching and became blind to its truth. Hence they lost the key they possessed and only stood in the way of those who would enter.

Fourth, the book is again found as it was in the days of King Hezekiah and also in the days of Ezra. This third and last finding is for the Remnant people of God.

God wants men and women now who will proclaim the truths of the book of the law and thus raise up the true Remnant of Israel that they may be prepared to meet David their King when he comes to rule on his own throne and govern a people who will be subject to his will. There never was but one man authorized to write legal precepts and that was Moses. All other writers of the Bible were but teachers of what laws he wrote. Never was there in the World a man aside from Moses so closely associated with Christ as he. Never was there a man who was a prophet like unto Christ so near as was Moses. The remnant people sing of Moses and the song of the Lamb. The things taught in this book are as sure of success as that God rules. The truth of God cannot fail, but happy is the man or woman who breaks the yoke now upon them and frees themselves from tradition and Babylonish errors, and comes out clear on the side of truth.

May God speed the circulation of this book everywhere till every true child of God may know the truth and be free.

CHART
THE LAWS OF GOD

The Royal Law

1. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.
2. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself before them, nor serve them, for I the Lord thy God as a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generations of them that hate me, and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.
3. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain, for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.
4. Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labor, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God; in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy man-servant nor thy maid-servant nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates; for in six days the Lord made the heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day; wherefore the Lord blessed the Sabbath day and hallowed it.
5. Honor thy father and thy mother that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.
6. Thou shalt not kill.
7. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
8. Thou shalt not steal.
9. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife, nor his man servant, nor his maid servant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor anything that is thy neighbor's.

The Natural Law

By the word of the Lord, were the heavens made. He commanded, and it stood fast. Ps. 33:6, 9.

The firmament sheweth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night showeth knowledge. Ps. 19:1, 2.

And he said unto Adam, cursed is the ground for thy sake. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee. Gen. 3:17, 18.

And the Lord said unto Cain, now art thou cursed from the earth, which hath opened her mouth to receive thy brother's blood from thy hand; when thou tillest the ground, it shall not henceforth yield unto thee her strength. Gen. 4:11, 12.

By one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin. Rom. 5:12.

The whole creation groaneth and travaileth in pain together until now. Rom. 8:22.

The Civil Law

He that smiteth a man, so that he die, shall be surely put to death. Ex. 21:12-14.

If a man shall steal an ox or a sheep, he shall restore five oxen of a nox, four sheep for a sheep. Ex. 22:1.

And he that curseth his father or his mother shall surely be put to death. Ex. 21:17.

If a false witness rise up against any man to testify against him that which is wrong; then ye shall do unto him, as he had thought to have done unto his brother. Deut. 19:16-20.

And the man that committeth adultery with his neighbor's wife, the adulterer and adulteress shall surely be put to death. Lev. 20:10.

They found a man that gathered sticks upon the Sabbath day and the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall surely be put to death. Num. 15:32, 35.

Eye for eye, tooth for tooth, hand for hand, foot for foot. Ex. 21:24.

If a man put away his wife, let him write her a bill of divorcement. Deut. 24:1.

Voice of the Prophets

Isaiah: Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law. Blessed is the man that keepeth the Sabbath . . . I will give him an everlasting name that keepeth the Sabbath from polluting it.

Jeremiah: Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and walk after other gods, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations? If ye hallow the sabbath day, kings and princes shall ride through thy gates and Jerusalem shall remain forever.

Ezekiel: Her priests have violated my law, and have hid their eyes from my sabbaths.

Christ: Pray ye that your flight be not on the sabbath day.

Paul: I had not known sin except the law had said Thou shalt not covet.

James: Whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, is guilty of all.

John: He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

Teaching of Christ

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself. On these two commandments, hang all the law and the prophets. Matt. 22:37, 39, 40.

It is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail. Luke 16:17.

This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments. 1 John 5:3.

Think not that I am come to destroy the law. Matt. 5:17.

The Dietetic and Sanitary Law

The leper shall cry unclean. Lev. 13:45. Thou shalt put out of the camp every leper. Num. 5-2.

Camp and city sanitary laws. See Deut. 23.

These are the beasts that ye shall eat, whatsoever parteth the hoof and cheweth the cud, the ox, sheep, goat, hart, etc.

These shall ye not eat: camel, hare, coney, swine, etc.

Unclean fowls, eagle, owl, hawk, stork, heron, pelican, etc.

Whatsoever hath fins and scales, ye shall eat.

Law of Blessings and Cursings

When ye shall pass over Jordan . . . set thee up great stones, and plaster them with plaster: And

thou shalt write upon them all the words of this law.

If thou shalt keep the commandments of the Lord thy God . . . Blessed shalt thou be in the city, the field, when thou comest in and when thou goest out. Blessed shall be the fruit of thy body, thy ground and thy cattle. The Lord shall cause thine enemies to flee before thee seven ways.

If thou do not all his commandments. Cursed shalt thou be in city, in field, in basket and store, fruit of thy body, thy land, thy kine, thy sheep. The Lord shall smite thee with consumption, fever, all the diseases of Egypt, and every sickness, every plague, and the sword. They shall be for a sign and wonder upon thee and thy seed forever. Deut., chapters 27 to 31.

Law of the Priesthood

If a soul shall sin through ignorance against any of the commandments of the Lord . . . If the priest that is annointed sin according to the sin of the people . . . when a ruler hath sinned, and done somewhat through ignorance against any of the commandments of the Lord . . . And if any of the common people sin through ignorance the priest shall make an atonement for them, and it shall be forgiven them. Lev. 4. It is the blood that maketh an atonement for the soul. Lev. 17:11.

And he took the cup, saying, Drink ye all of it. For this is my blood . . . which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Matt. 26:27.

Repent and be baptized for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38. For sin is the transgression of the law. 1 John 3:4.

All the tithe of the land is the Lord's Lev. 27:30.

The tithes I have given to the Levites to inherit. Num. 18:24.

Law of Yearly Sabbaths and Feasts

The fourteenth day of the first month is the Lord's passover. On the fifteenth day of the same month, is the feast of unleavened bread.

When ye shall reap the harvest, on the morrow after the sabbath, the priest shall wave the sheaf before the Lord.

Count from the day ye waved the sheaf fifty days; ye shall offer a new meat offering and two wave loaves. They are the first fruit.

In the first day of the seventh month shall ye have a blowing of trumpets.

The tenth day of the seventh month shall be a day of atonement.

The fifteenth day of the seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days.

The fifteenth day of the seventh month shall be the feast of ingathering. Lev. 2:3.

The forty-ninth year on the day of atonement shall the trumpet of the jubilee sound. A jubilee shall be the fiftieth year be unto you. Lev. 25:8.

THE KEY THAT OPENETH AND NO MAN SHUTTETH

CHAPTER I

The laws of God are not a code of creeds to be believed, but a requirement to be performed.

They are not a rule of confession of faith, but a guide to holy and right living. They are not some

thing upon which to build a denomination, but are the foundation of God's government which all Christians are expected to obey.

They are not a rule for the common people only, but for Kings and rulers as well.

"Which the Lord destroyeth before your face. so shall ye perish: because ye would not be obedient unto the voice of the Lord thy God."

"When thou are come unto the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee. and shalt possess it. and shalt dwell therein, and shalt say, I will set a king over me, like as all the nations that are about me;

"Thou shalt in any wise set him king over thee, whom the Lord thy God shall choose; one from among thy brethren shalt thou set king over thee: thou mayest not set a stranger over thee which is not thy brother."

"And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests.

"And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the Lord his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them:

"That his heart be not lifted up before his brethren, and that he turn not aside from the commandment, to the right hand, or to the left: to the end that he may prolong his days in his kingdom, he, and his children, in the midst of Israel."

Deut. 17:14-15, 18-20.

Law is the basis of all government whether it be civil or both civil and religious. True citizenship is based on obedience to law. Law breakers are a curse to any society, religion or state. It is what the Bible terms sound doctrine, separate and distinct from faith or the gospel. The gospel is a means of grace provided through faith in Christ for a remedy for sin. Law contains the knowledge of sin and a sinner who needs the gospel is one who has transgressed the law and become a sinner and under the condemnation of the law. Law, is the foundation of the Bible, and without it the foundation of all scripture would be simply sand. This is true of all profession of christianity which has not laid a foundation of God's law.

The last instruction of Joshua to the people was: "Be strong and of good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I swear unto their fathers to give them.

"Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

"This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success." —Joshua 1:6-8.

Over and over are similar instructions given in in the bible. Obedience is the highest proof of love to God that can be rendered. Obedience, is that which God requires of his subjects as a test of their loyalty to him. The Lord told Abraham to offer up Isaac. Abraham at once proceeded to carry out the instruction, but just as the act was in performance a voice said to Abraham "do the child no harm for now I know thou fearest God."

Any religion based on feeling or imaginary acceptance and not first laid in deep repentance for sin

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which is in the transgression of the law, is worthless.

God said that children who dishonored their parents were to be stoned to death, the same as those who committed adultery, worshipped idols, and broke the Sabbath. Show me a family which has no government over their children and as a rule you will see poor citizens.

Said Christ as the people were praising the mother that bore him: "Yea rather blessed are those who hear the word of God and do it." When you speak of the Gospel you may talk of the love of Christ, the work of the spirit, peace, joy in the holy ghost, and so on. But when you wish to develop men and women who will make good citizens, good people who will pay their debts and keep their promises,—people who will love their neighbor as themselves and love God with all the heart, then talk law and obedience. It is the life that God recognizes and on which He bestows his blessings.

THE LAST INSTRUCTION OF MOSES

"And Moses wrote this law, and delivered it unto the priests the sons of Levi, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord and unto all the elders of Israel.

"And Moses commanded them, saying, At the end of every seven years in the solemnity of the year of release, in the feast of tabernacles.

"When all Israel is come to appear before the Lord thy God is the place which he shall choose, thou shalt read this law before all Israel in their hearing.

"Gather the people together, men, and women, and children, and thy stranger that is within thy gates, that they may hear that they may learn, and fear the Lord your God, and observe to do all the words of this law:

"And that their children, which have not known any thing, may hear, and learn to fear the Lord your God, as long as ye live in the land whither ye go over Jordan to possess it."—Deut. 31:9-13.

THE LAW IS CALLED THE SONG OF MOSES.

"Now therefore write ye this song for you, and teach it the children of Israel; put it in their mouths, that this song may be a witness for me against the children of Israel.

"And it shall come to pass, when many evils and troubles are befallen them, that this song shall testify against them as a witness; for it shall not be forgotten out of the mouths of their seed: for I know their imagination which they go about, even now, before I have brought them into the land which I swear.

"Moses therefore wrote this song the same day, and taught it the children of Israel.

"And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were finished.

"That Moses commanded the Levites, which bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord, saying,

"Take this book of the law, and put it in the side of the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, that it may be there for a witness against thee.

"For I know that after my death ye will utterly corrupt yourselves, and turn aside from the way which I have commanded you; and evil will befall you in the latter days; because ye will do evil in the sight of the Lord, to provoke him to anger through the work of your hands."—Deut. 31:19, 21, 22, 24-26, 29.

"And Moses came ad spake all the words of this song in the ears of the people, he, and Hoshea the son of Nun.

"And Moses made an end of speaking all these words to all Israel:

"And he said unto them. Set your hearts unto all the words which I testify among you this day, which ye shall command your children to observe to do, all the words of this law."—Deut. 32:44-46.

Let it be remembered in this connection that the Remnant people sing the song of Moses and the song of the lamb, and no man can learn that song but the one hundred and forty and four thousand which get the victory over the beast and its image. They have heeded the admonition of Malachi, "remember ye the law of Moses which was commanded for all Israel."—Mal. 4:4. Said Moses to the Levites: their duty shall be to "teach Jacob my statutes and Israel my law."

HOW TO STUDY THE LAWS OF GOD.

This must be done with some system. God's laws being the basis of all government, both civil and religious, there must be different codes. As God led Israel out of Egypt there was formed a theocracy which meant God was the direct ruler and his laws were to govern them in both civil and religious matters and duties. The basis of the covenant made with Israel was their agreement to comply with His laws. We read:

"Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then we shall be a peculiar treasure until me above all people: for all the earth is mine."—Ex. 19-5.

"And Moses called and called for the elders of the people, and laid before their faces all these words which the Lord commanded him.

"And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do. And Moses returned the words of the people unto the Lord."—Ex. 24:7-8.

In order to teach systematically, that the reader may fully understand the teaching of the whole Bible on the law question, it is necessary to here give a condensed example of each of the different laws written by Moses for the government of God's people, and also the ten commandments as written by Christ on Sinai.

Let the reader now study each code and the purpose for which each code was given. Then read some new testament statements as written and spoken by Christ and the Apostles and you will have a connected understanding of the whole of the Bible. In this way they will see first, that Christ and the Apostles simply taught and explained each of these codes as given, and our duty to them now.

"Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the Lord their God, and David their king; and shall fear the Lord and his goodness in the latter days."—Hoseah 3:4-5.

The crown, the diadem, the sacrifice, the prince, and King were all taken away. The ephod and teraphim of the high priest and the ark also were removed. Since that time the Lord's people have been subject to such laws as have been enacted by the nations of the earth. The code so far as being enforced ended six hundred years before Christ. But if we wish to know the very best laws in civil matters, study God's laws. Let the reader now remember there is no new code of civil laws given in the new testament. In fact no new laws of any kind are there given. The breaking up of that government was the breaking up of the old covenant with Israel as a nation and that was six hundred years before Christ, at the time of the captivity by Babylon. Keep this point in mind.

(To Be Continued.)

Why This World Was Created

DR. W. W. WALKER

This world was created to play a drama between Christ and Satan, or Lucifer, who was next to Christ in power and authority among the heavenly creatures, until sin was found in him. Ezek. 28:15-17. This was one of the highest created beings among the angelic hosts. He was perfect in beauty and had great wisdom. By reason of his brightness he became proud and thought there was not enough importance shown him. So by reason of his wisdom and brightness iniquity was found in him.

When this world was created Satan extended his work of deception and in the garden of Eden he appeared to Adam and Eve in the form of a beautiful serpent. And here we will notice that Satan can transform himself into what appears to many as being beautiful and pleasing to the sight. So it was in the garden of Eden. Satan promised them they would be as Gods, knowing good and evil.

One of the first things they realized was a fear of God their creator and a knowledge that they had disbelieved God and obeyed Satan. Satan has been performing his work of deception and destruction ever since. He has built systems among the human race calling them churches. All are supposed to be founded on the Bible. No difference what opinion an individual may have of God, Satan has an organization to suit him. Satan has gotten it established, that wars, plagues, famines and all calamities come from God, keeping himself behind the curtain. Jas. 1:17.

The work of God toward this earth is only good, and He would that all might believe and receive the blessing. This was demonstrated by the Son of God when he came to this earth to represent his father, and to teach us his righteous and true character.

We call your attention to what happened to Job, to show the characters of the two rulers in this world:

"6. Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them.

7 And the Lord said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

8 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

9 Then Satan answered the Lord, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

12 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord."—Job. 1:6-12.

Here the representatives of all the worlds had met before Christ, and Satan appeared to represent this world. The Lord asked him (Satan) where he was from and he said from the earth. The Lord asked him if he knew Job, an honest and upright man. Satan answered that he did. Then he tried to make it appear that Job was afraid of him. And insinuated Christ was especially blessing Job to get him to serve him.

Here is an incident where a righteous man had to suffer loss to establish the truthfulness and character of the Lord before these representatives of other planets. The remaining verses of Job the first chapter, show the character of Satan. When the Lord withdrew the hedge Satan destroyed all that Job had. And so it is with nations and individuals. Disaster, wars, plagues and calamities can only come to those who have not merited God's protection. Choose ye this day whom ye will serve.

To further show the character of God and Satan we read:

"Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.

2 And the Lord said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the Lord, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

3 And the Lord said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movest me against him, to destroy him without cause.

4 And Satan answered the Lord, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

6 And the Lord said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life."—Job 2:1-7.

How often these sons of God met is not stated. Possibly every Sabbath, or new moon, as we'll do in the new earth. Isa. 66:23.

Here Satan had the audacity to make another accusation, after having been defeated the former time

in his attempt to prove God false.

This drama continued between Christ and Satan till his first advent. And while Christ was here Satan worked every conceivable means to deceive him. Offered him all the kingdoms of the earth if he'd fall down and worship him. He also read scripture to support his theory that if Christ would leap from the pinnacle of the temple the angels would carry him safely to the ground. Matt. 4:5-10.

When Satan succeeded in crucifying Christ the drama was completed. It had been fully demonstrated before the Sons of God and the angelic host that Satan was an enemy to God and his plan of governing a world was only destruction.

There was a division among the angelic hosts. Rev. 12:7. There was war in heaven between Christ and the angels who stood true to God, and Lucifer or Satan and the angels who followed him.

The crucifying of Christ convinced all the universe of God, and the heavenly hosts, that Satan was

a traitor and deceiver, and that all that God had charged him with was true.

This war was the result of at least 4,000 years of Satan's demonstrating his plan of governing a world.

Though Satan has succeeded in deceiving the greater part of this world and one third of the angels in heaven to disbelieve what God has declared to be true (Rev. 12:4), he has come down working with all signs and lying wonders "to deceive if possible the very elect."

Christ in speaking of the tribulations in Matt. 24: 21-22, that except those days be shortened there should no flesh be saved, refutes the argument of many that the flesh will not be saved, thus denying the resurrection. But the promise to us is, the dead in Christ shall rise first, and to those who look for him will he appear the second time without sin unto salvation to every one that believeth.

The Songs of Solomon

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The Songs of Solomon are beautiful and wonderful spiritual love songs teaching us the love of God for his people, and the love of Christ for his church; and it is a poor rule that will not work both ways, therefore we find in the Songs of Solomon the love of the people of God and of the Church of Christ manifest towards our Maker and our Redeemer.

We read in the Scriptures that we are to sing and make melody in our hearts to the Lord in Psalms and hymns and spiritual songs; also then shall we know if we follow on to know the Lord, and not that which is spiritual is first but that which is natural, afterward that which is spiritual, which is the equivalent to saying—natural things are used to teach us spiritual lessons, as Jesus through his parables taught us of things pertaining to the Kingdom of God and of Christ. So we are to follow on to know the Lord, singing and making melody in our hearts in the spirit, and not merely in the natural. Love in the natural has for us the greatest lessons of spiritual truth in the higher and better life. So the love contained in the Songs of Solomon spiritually speaking, inspires us to rise to the high and lofty, and noble spiritual heights.

The Songs of Solomon can then be called the Song of Songs which is Christ's. And we can consider ourselves the bride, the Lamb's wife, to whom the King (Jesus) in love is speaking. His name is as ointment poured forth, therefore do the virgins love thee. Jesus Christ means saviour anointed, and because he is all of that, the virgins, those who are undefiled with women, and the children of God who follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth, love him. Therefore do the virgins love thee because the King (Jesus) has brought them into his banqueting house and his banner over them is love, and his love for his people is enjoyed by them more than wine is enjoyed by those who love it.

It is the desire of the seeker after truth and righteousness to know where he feeds his sheep. So they

say in the words of the first Song of Solomon "Tell me Oh thou whom my soul loveth, where thou feedest, where thou makest thy flocks to rest at noon, for why should I be as one that turneth aside by the footsteps of the flock of thy companions. Like Mary, we desire to sit at Jesus' feet to be taught of him. Jesus returns this answer to us, "If thou knowest not, Oh! thou fairest among women, go thy way beside the shepherds' tent and feed the kids," which represents home and foreign missionary work of passing the good things that he gives us, on to the kids or young goats, the wild ones in this present evil world.

In the first Song of Solomon and the twelfth verse, we have a wonderful Bible prophecy already fulfilled by Jesus himself and the women who anointed him for his burial. The verse reads: "As the King sat at meat my spikenard sendeth forth the smell thereof." The King is Jesus who sat at the table at his meal when the woman with the alabaster box of ointment very precious, came and broke the box and poured it on his head anointing him for his burial as in Mark the fourteenth chapter, and Jesus said "wherever this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world, this that this woman hath done shall be told"; and commenting further, Jesus said "she hath wrought a good work on me."

In the second Song of Solomon, Jesus is likened unto the Lily of the Valley scratched and marred by the thorns of his persecutors as at his trial and crucifixion. Again the picture changes and he is likened to an apple tree whose fruit boughs furnish us the fruitful and refreshing things of life, and He as an apple tree is more valuable than the other trees of the wood. In this song you will find a prophecy on the signs of the times: Spring comes with the singing of birds and the turtle is heard in the land; the vines with tender grapes give a goodly smell. The signs of the times indicate the nearness of the coming of the Lord. Jesus quoted from the second Song of Solomon in his sermon on the signs of the times in Matthew 24 when he said, "When you see all these things come to pass, know that it is near, even at the doors." Then he spoke of his coming. Then the invitation is given, "Arise my love, my fair one, and come away."

So we sing, "He is the Lily of the Valley, the fairest among ten thousand to my soul," and "come away to Jesus now." The second Song closes with, "My beloved is mine and I am him." Thus conversion is effected.

The third song of Solomon tells us of that struggle the sinner and the young convert pass through. They seek him but do not find him at first. Finally the true shepherd of the sheep finds the hungry soul and Jesus is soon enthroned within. Then the satisfied Christian says, "I would not let him go, and takes him home to live and dwell in his mother's house.

In Songs of Solomon 8:5 we read, "Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness leaning upon her beloved. I raised thee up under the apple tree. There thy mother brought thee forth; there she brought thee forth that bare thee." The careful prayerful student of the Bible will observe that there is not a text in all the Bible that tells exactly where Jesus was born. The New Testament says there was no room for them in the inn, and his parents went out. It does not say where they went. When the shepherds came at the message of the heavenly musical host they found the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes and lying in a manger, but that text does not tell us that he was born in a manger. The wise men from the East found him with his mother in the house and presented their gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, but it does not say that he was born in a house, neither does the Bible say when there was no room for them in the inn that they went to the barn; but Jesus himself, commenting on the place of his birth and home life said, "The foxes have holes, the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man hath not where to lay his head." We would conclude from this that when the King was born he was born out in the open on a pallet under the firmament of heaven without even a roof over his head. "The Son of Man hath no where to lay his head."

Going back to our text, "Who is that that cometh up from the wilderness?" The answer is, Joseph and Mary leaning upon her beloved. Picture the condition of Mary before the birth of her child, leaning upon her beloved husband, and speaking of her offspring, "I raised thee up under the apple tree." Jesus while a mere babe was taken to Egypt, and there out in the open under the apple tree was raised to a young boy. "There thy mother brought thee forth, there she brought forth that bare thee," indicates that he was born in Bethlehem of Judea under the spreading boughs of the apple tree with no where else to lay his head. Thus we come to the conclusion that the long looked for text has been found telling us where Christ was born. If this text does not solve that problem, there is no other text in the Bible that does.

We conclude then that the Songs of Solomon are spiritual love songs teaching the love of God and of Christ to the church, and the love of the individual members for their Creator and Redeemer.

Read and study the Songs of Solomon.

"EPHRAIM IS JOINED TO HIS IDOLS," "LET HIM ALONE"

By JOHN S. STANFORD

Dear Brother:

About the close of probation, I know that our heart closes up with slowness and sadness, our work of striving with the tardy and indifferent ones about us. We hate to realize that their day of salvation is

really past. That God's spirit no longer strives with them. But, brother it is like this, God says "Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone."

Now God does not say a thing like that to His people only after probation has closed. God wouldn't do a thing like that. God is not willing that any should perish." God is just as desirous to see people worked with to be saved as we are. And would stick to it longer than we would if there was any use. But while we, of ourselves cannot see that men have got to the point where they will not, ever, be turned, God can. And that point is the close of probation. (As we term it). Or, as God calls it, when, "My Spirit shall not strive with man." (Gen. 6:3). And gives as a reason, "For that he also is flesh." That is he is flesh instead of spirit. Or in other words he has made all his decisions for the flesh, and will not listen to my Spirit. Therefore "My Spirit shall no longer strive with man." Well, that is the close of probation. That is when God says to His children, "Ephraim is joined to his idols," do not try to do any thing more with him. "Let him alone." And it is for us to listen to God in this. And take the situation and treat the case as it really is. People that know the Bible and the truth carry no longer any burden for them. If we, ourselves, remain faithful children of God, we have got to part with all those who will not be, (some-time). And it might better be when God says do it than any other time. And a good deal better.

Of course, I know that we have got to have some way to know when probation has closed. So as to know when that Scripture applies. ("Ephraim is joined to his idols, let him alone.") So it is all right for you and me to look into the matter and see.

In the first place, God plainly tells us that "Ye brethren are not in darkness," concerning that day. (1 Thes. 5:4). The children of God are all "Children of Light." (5th verse). That is, they are in the Light and have Light on all the things that God does for them. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing (for His people), but that He revealeth His secret.")

So we can see by that that God's people are to know. Actually know when probation does close. Now the way, of course, that God gives His people to know such things, is not by blowing a trumpet, or any physical manifestation that way but has as He always has done, reveal it to the prophets, have it written down and then for you and me to study it out. So, brother that shows us that we are to know when probation closes.

The close of probation is what Jesus meant when He said, (speaking in Luke 21:34-36, of the day coming "unawares"), "Take heed to yourselves, (34th verse) "For as a snare shall it come, (35th verse), "Watch ye therefore, and pray always that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before The Son of man." The expressions, "Take heed to yourselves" and "Watch ye," both mean the same thing, namely watch that ones character, is every day as the Lord would have it. (that every day at waking, before sin gets in and gets control), we open the heart to Jesus and have Him enthroned, so that we do not (during any day), get overthrown, but kept each day (and day by day) by Jesus, dwelling in the heart "By Faith." That's what the watching means. "Watching" does not mean being afraid that any moment, (we don't know when), Jesus might come, and we would be caught. But if, every morning of our lives our hearts are given to Jesus, that's "Watching."

Then the next expression, "Pray always", means that we are to always when we pray, pray prayers of faith and thankfulness and praise and joy, and love. Not just be teasing God all the time to be merciful and save us. Just as though He hated to do it or hesitated to do it, or wouldn't do it unless we kept on doing like the woman had to do with the "Unjust judge", of Luke 18. Keep on teasing Him till we worried Him to it, (like she did the unjust judge). But we are not to be that way. We are to look up and lift our heads. We are to "Rejoice in the Lord always." "The Lord is at hand" (Phil. 4:4-5).

So, that is the kind of praying we are to do. And if we know and believe that we are children of God, (as it is our right and privilege to do) that is the kind of prayers we will pray, too.

Then the next expression, "That ye may be accounted worthy to escape", (36th v.) shows that it means the close of probation. (For that is when the "Accounting" is done). "He that is holy", let him stay that way. (Accounting, you see).

So we are to be accounted (worthy, or unworthy as the case may be) at the time that probation closes. So that is what Jesus meant in Luke 21:34-36, and also in Mat. 24:42, and 25:13, and Mk. 13:35, and Acts 20:31. All those Scriptures that speak of watching, lest we be overtaken as a thief, mean the close of probation. Not watching for the coming of Jesus in the clouds of heaven to get His people. To watch for that would not amount to anything if years and years before that we had not watched how we stand at the close of probation. For all know that there is going to be a close of probation sometime. A Decree that "He that is holy let him be holy still." Then the last expression in those three verses of Luke 21:34-36, shows still further and plainer that it is probation that is meant when it says "And to STAND before the Son of man". Then is when we "stand" or "fall", (as the case may be) (when probation closes). The cases are all settled before He comes. For, when He comes "His reward is with Him". Having been determined (you see) before He leaves Heaven to come after us.

So, dear brother, we can see how important the close of probation is, to us. What an important event it is. How joyous it is to us, (if we have passed successfully). And how awful it is to them who have not watched their character and passed the Dead Line as God would have them do.

I remember that I have not (so far) given you Scriptures to show when that time is. Haven't got to that yet. But I am moved to dwell a while upon the serious reality of it so that we may realize, more fully the importance, of what we speak of as the "close of probation", but which God words as the time when "He that is holy let him be holy still."

Then think, for a moment why probation has closed. It is that the last man, woman or child that ever will turn to God has made their decision. God knows this and knows that if probation was let to continue on, no others would receive Him nor His Son nor His Holy Spirit. They have a cup of iniquity which they have been adding to along, all through life and when they fill up their cup of iniquity, reject God, (The Father), reject The Son and last of all reject the Holy Ghost, why of course no more can be done for them, so God speaks up and ends the matter. "The harvest is passed, the summer is ended" for them.

(To be Continued)

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