

A Strange Thing: Mystery in the Garden

by Steve Barwick

There's a secret hidden within God's Word that, once revealed, widens our understanding of the Gospel message and demolishes a well-meaning church tradition that's kept Christians in the dark about Christ's enemies for centuries. Unfortunately, most Christians, upon hearing this secret, consider it to be a strange thing, and reject it altogether. In this study we'll let God's own Word reveal that secret, so readers can determine for themselves whether to accept it or reject it...

In the great book of Hosea, we read of Father's lamentation that His people count His Word as a "strange thing." As it's written:

Hos 8:12 I have written to him the great things of my law, but they were counted as a strange thing.

In this verse our heavenly Father complains that His people – and make no mistake about it, Christians *are* His people today -- regard His Word as *foreign doctrine*.

That's what the phrase "strange thing" means, in the context of the verse above. In the Hebrew language, it's the equivalent of the word *apostate*, or one who has fallen away from the truth.

In other words, Christians have become so unfamiliar with God's Word that when they finally hear key doctrine taught as it's *actually written* in the Word of God, it often floors them to the point they think it's foreign, or apostate doctrine.

They can't believe what they're hearing. And they won't accept it as doctrinal truth, because it sounds so foreign to them.

But why should God's Word sound foreign to His own Christian people?

Church Traditions v/s the Doctrine of God

It's because God's Word is simply not taught in the churches anymore. Instead of teaching God's Word, the churches teach a Bible verse here and a Bible verse there, and fill in the gaping blank spots with *church traditions* that have been completely made up, and over time, accepted as truth.

These church traditions often sound very religious...very spiritual. But as Christ explained in Mark 7:13 and other places in the Scriptures, they make God's Word of no effect, because they're a *substitute for the truth*, and they therefore lead people *away* from the truth rather than *toward* it.

In the remainder of this study, we're going to take a look at one of the most egregious examples of vital doctrine from God's Word being counted by His Christian people as a "strange thing."

I like to call what we'll be learning "the Mystery in the Garden." Some churches who snub their collective noses at this Bible doctrine, sneeringly call it the "serpent seed doctrine." But in reality, it's the *doctrine of God*. And as we shall see, it was taught by Jesus Christ Himself, as well as by the apostles, St. Paul and by our heavenly Father.

So count it "strange" if you must. But know for a fact that this teaching comes direct from your heavenly Father, and is easily documentable in the Word of God, as we shall see throughout the remainder of this study.

What you're going to learn has to do with the events described in God's Word that took place in the Garden of Eden some 6,000 years ago – events so startling and so graphic, religious people of old felt they had to create a "cover story" about *apples* to protect the tender ears of children from hearing it.

Unfortunately, over long periods of time that cover story became *church doctrine* – not just for children, but for the adults too. And the actual doctrine as taught by God Himself was cast out the window. Indeed, to this very day, not one in ten thousand adult Christians understand what actually happened in the Garden of Eden as it's written in the Word of God.

Nor do they understand how and why the hidden events that took place in the Garden of Eden so long ago *still dramatically impact Christians and non-Christians alike* in the final days of this flesh earth age.

This is why, in Psalm 78 our heavenly Father through the Psalmist warned that we are not to keep the wisdom of His Word hidden from our children. Instead, we are to pass it down from generation to generation in order to prevent it from becoming lost, and help prevent our people from being led astray from His Word.

With all of that said as background, let's get started with the study...

The Mystery of God

In chapter 10, verse 7 of the great book of Revelation, we're told, "But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets."

What is this mystery? And why does it remain *unfinished* all of the way to the sound of the seventh trumpet that ushers in the return of Jesus Christ, only to be finished at that point?

Some preachers will tell you that what's being referred to in this verse is the mystery spoken of by St. Paul in Ephesians 3:3-6, in which the gentiles are to be given place in the kingdom of God alongside God's People Israel.

Others might say this has to do with the mystery St. Paul spoke of in 1 Cor 15: 51-55, in which we'll all be changed into our new spiritual bodies, in the twinkling of an eye, at Christ's second advent.

Still others might say it's speaking of the fall of Mystery, Babylon the Great – the world system that will be set up by the antichrist, and which comes tumbling down at the second advent of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All of those contentions are essentially correct, for they are all parts of the mystery of God. But they are only *parts*. If you don't understand the whole mystery, from its very foundation in the Garden of Eden, you're going to miss out on a LOT of vital understanding of your heavenly Father's precious Word. And in this particular case, that can lead to some extremely serious negative spiritual consequences for you.

So to get the rest of the picture and begin to more fully understand this great mystery that starts in the Garden of Eden and ends at Christ's second coming, let's start with Christ's teachings in Matthew 13, and begin learning what actually happened all of the way back to the Garden of Eden, and how it impacts us even today as we await the events that will usher in the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The question is, will you count this great mystery a "strange thing" once you've heard it taught with understanding? Or will it open the eyes of your spiritual understanding and bring the Bible back to life for you, as it has for so many others who have had this mystery revealed to them?

The Parable of the Tares

In the parable of the tares, our Lord and Savior reveals to His disciples a great secret – something that happened a long time ago. We're going to find out what that secret was, in just a few minutes. But first, we need a little bit of explanation:

It's important first to know what a "parable" is. A parable is a riddle, or a metaphorical story in which *spiritual truth* is often symbolized by *physical objects and events*, and brought forth for those who understand the symbolism.

God's Word is rich in parables, riddles, allegories and symbolism. And if you don't understand them, you lose much of the meaning of His entire Word.

In the parable of the tares, we're going to see a perfect example of this symbolism being used by Christ. And the best part is, Christ Jesus Himself *explains* the symbolism afterwards, so plainly even a child can understand it.

So let's start at Matthew 13:10, where Christ is explaining to His disciples why He teaches the religious multitudes in parables:

Mat 13:10 And the disciples came, and said unto him, Why speakest thou unto them in parables?

Mat 13:11 He answered and said unto them, Because it is given unto you to know the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven, but to them it is not given.

Mat 13:13 Therefore speak I to them in parables: because they seeing see not; and hearing they hear not, neither do they understand.

The knowledge of the mysteries of the kingdom of heaven are given to God's faithful servants because He knows He can trust them. He knows they'll seek out and embrace the wisdom within those mysteries, rather than reject it as a "strange thing."

But it is quite the contrary with the religious multitudes. Christ explains here that while the multitudes have working eyeballs, they fail to see spiritual truth even when it's staring them in the face. And while they have a working pair of ears on their heads, they fail to hear spiritual truth with any significant degree of understanding.

Why? As I pointed out earlier, it's because they've become so steeped in church and religious tradition, the truth often sounds completely *foreign* to them. And it is counted as a "strange thing." But let's allow Christ Jesus to explain it:

Mat 13:14 And in them is fulfilled the prophecy of Esaias, which saith, By hearing ye shall hear, and shall not understand; and seeing ye shall see, and shall not perceive:

Mat 13:15 For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted, and I should heal them.

Christ wanted to convert and heal the multitudes, spiritually speaking. He could tell them the truth flat out, but He knew they would simply reject it because they were so steeped in their own religious traditions. And if they were to reject the truth after hearing it taught plainly by the Living Word of God Himself, then they would be culpable. Their souls would be at greater risk of damnation.

As it is written in 2Th 2:10 regarding the religious multitudes who end up worshipping the antichrist thinking he's their Lord and Savior, "And with all deceivableness of unrighteousness in them that perish; *because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved.*"

Simply put, this means they loved the vain religious traditions of man more than they loved God's Word when they heard it. And as a result, they receive the greater condemnation, because they rejected the truth when it was plainly set before them.

His Word is *always* there for us to draw truth from. But how many Christians today actually take the time to seek out for ourselves what the Word of God *actually* says, and compare it to what the church is teaching? Too few, I'm afraid.

After all, when you stand before your heavenly Father on the judgment day, there will be no church between you and Him. No preacher. No teacher. You will be judged on *your* efforts to understand and live His Word. As Wisdom says, in Proverbs 8:17, "*I love them that love me; and those that seek me early shall find me.*"

Christ continues speaking to the apostles:

Mat 13:16 But blessed are your eyes, for they see: and your ears, for they hear.

Mat 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.

In verse 16 Christ tells His disciples they are blessed indeed, because they can see and hear the truth with understanding, and *handle* it. His parables of truth are perfectly clear to them, when explained. They are not rejected, or counted as a “strange thing,” but instead, enthusiastically *embraced*.

In verse 17, Christ goes on to emphasize the extent of the blessing upon His disciples, explaining that many prophets and righteous men (no gender intended, it includes righteous women, too) down throughout the ages had desired to live in the generation that would witness His first advent, and hear Him speak to mankind. But the disciples were chosen, instead.

As we now approach the *second* advent of our Lord and Savior in the final days of this flesh earth age, we have the identical situation. The religious multitudes remain steeped in religious tradition, mostly substituting weekly church-going and listening to feel-good sermons for actually taking the time to *learn* the Word of God.

But in this generation Christ has also given eyes to see and ears to hear to those He has chosen to serve Him as the events of these final days unfold. They seek His Word, out of sheer love for the truth. And Christ opens the truth up to them through His Holy Spirit of understanding as they seek out and study His Word on a daily basis.

So without further delay, let’s skip down to verse 24, and begin learning this great parable of the tares, as taught by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, which will begin our journey of learning that hidden doctrine of God – that mystery of what *really* happened in the Garden of Eden so long ago, and how and why it’s been covered up to all but the faithful servants of God...

Mat 13:24 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

Mat 13:25 But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

Remember, the details of this parable are *symbolic*. The parable is a metaphor for something else. Here we see a man sowing good seed (i.e., wheat) into a field. But when no one is looking, the man’s enemy sneaks in and sows tare plants among the wheat.

The man, the good seed, the field, the enemy and the tare plants are all representative of something. We'll see *exactly* what they represent shortly, in Christ's own words, when He explains this parable to His disciples.

But first, it's important point out what a "tare" is. It's a form of false wheat, called darnel, or *zizanian* in the Greek language. The Arabs call it *zuwan*.

It's quite well-known in the Middle East, even to this day, because while in its initial stages of growth it's virtually indistinguishable from wheat to the naked eye. But at the very end of the growth cycle, toward the time of harvest, it becomes apparent to the trained eye that it's not wheat at all, as the heads of the grain turn dark and change shape compared to true wheat or barley.

The problem is this: The grain of the tare plant is extremely poisonous, to the point that if it were mistaken for wheat or barley and eaten, the result would be severe convulsions leading to death. So having tares sown among a fresh, young field of grain would be a serious situation indeed.

With that in mind, let's continue learning the parable:

Mat 13:26 But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

Mat 13:27 So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares?

Here we see the servants of the householder come to him and say "Hey, didn't you use good seed when you sowed that field. How come those poisonous tares are growing up among the wheat?"

Mat 13:28 He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

The householder now reveals that an enemy is responsible for sowing the poisonous tares in the field of wheat. Again, this is a parable, so the "enemy" is going to be representative of someone. Can you guess who? Again, we'll learn exactly who it is, when we get to the part where Christ *explains* this parable to His disciples.

Don't overlook the fact that the servants of the householder ask him, "Should we go root those tares up?"

Mat 13:29 But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

The householder orders his servants to stand down. They are not to uproot the tares, because in the process they might accidentally uproot some of the wheat also. Such is the startling physical similarities between the wheat plants and the tare plants at this early stage of growth.

The householder continues to instruct his servants on what to do:

Mat 13:30 Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

The householder instructs his servants to wait until the time of harvest – the very end of the growing season when the tares turn visibly different in color and shape from the wheat.

The householder goes on to explain that he'll have the professional reapers -- that is to say, people trained in harvesting grain -- gather up the poisonous tare plants first and bind them into bundles for burning. And then they'll be able to gather the wheat into his barn without risk of losing any.

That ends the parable of the tares. In just a moment, we'll read Christ's *explanation* of the parable. But first, let's skip down to verse 34 where we'll learn a little bit more about why Christ taught in parables such as this one.

Mat 13:34 All these things spake Jesus unto the multitude in parables; and without a parable spake he not unto them:

Christ would not speak to the religious multitudes, except through parables. As explained earlier, He knew they would reject the truth. So He could not give truth to them in a straightforward manner without putting their very souls at risk. To understand the truth, and *reject* it in favor of church religious tradition is a very serious thing!

Mat 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 of the world.

Don't overlook this verse. Christ quotes from Psalms 78:2, explaining that by speaking in parables He's revealing things which have been kept secret from the "foundation of the world" – which is to say, going all of the way back to the Garden of Eden!

As it is stated in first few verses of Psalm 78 where Christ quoted from:

Psa 78:1 Maschil of Asaph. Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth.

Maschil of Asaph, means "Instruction to the assembler of the people." In other words, it is the instructions from God to His preachers and teachers. The very first part of the instruction is to hear God's law and listen to the words of His mouth. Which is to say, listen to what the *Word of God* has to say to you, rather than the empty religious traditions of men.

Psa 78:2 I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old:

Here's where Christ quoted from. In teaching the parable of the tares He was fulfilling this verse. He was saying, "I'm going to tell you something that goes way back, but is not greatly understood, so *listen up!*"

Psa 78:3 Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us.

What Christ would be revealing in His explanation of the parable of the tares, which we're about to read, was once known by our forefathers.

Psa 78:4 We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.

We are not to hide this wisdom from our children, as Christians have done out of a misguided belief that children need to be protected from the truth. Instead, we are to continue to pass it down from generation to generation. And why? "*To show forth the praises of the LORD, and His great strength, and His wonderful works,*" so they will KNOW these things, and not be sidetracked away from God by vain religious tradition.

Yes, the knowledge in the parable of the tares was supposed to have been passed down from generation to generation, from the very beginning. But church tradition eventually displaced it. This is why Christ felt the necessity of teaching it again in the form of that great parable of the tares, and in His explanation which follows.

In short, in telling the parable of the tares Christ is revealing a hidden truth that goes all of the way back to the beginning of this flesh earth age...and He expects us to teach this truth to our children from generation to generation.

We are not to allow the vain religious traditions of man to cover up the startling yet vital wisdom Christ is about to impart to us in His explanation of the parable of the tares – not even from our children and grandchildren. So with that in mind, let's get started, and listen diligently to what our Lord and Savior has to say:

Mat 13:36 Then Jesus sent the multitude away, and went into the house: and his disciples came unto him, saying, Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field.

Even Christ's disciples didn't fully understand the parable of the tares. So don't feel bad if you don't either at this point. Fortunately, our Lord and Savior is going to explain this parable in wonderfully simple detail.

The question again, is can you hear it? And if you hear it, will you *accept* or *reject* the startling truth contained within it? How steeped in church tradition are you? And are you too good for the truth, even if it's brought to you *straight from the mouth of your Lord and Savior?*

Here's our Lord and Savior's explanation of His parable of the tares:

Mat 13:37 He answered and said unto them, He that soweth the good seed is the Son of man;

Jesus Christ is the Son of man. So your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the sower of the good seed. Pretty simple, so far, huh?

Mat 13:38 The field is the world; the good seed are the children of the kingdom; but the tares are the children of the wicked one;

The field represents this old world we live in -- earth. Now that's not too hard to understand, is it?

The good seed are the children of the kingdom. They are *God's* children. After all, we learn in Isaiah 61:3 that we are the "planting of the Lord," right? We're not here accidentally. We're *His* planting. He put us here.

But Christ reveals that the tares are "the children of the wicked one." Whoa! Who's this wicked one? Let's find out...

Mat 13:39 The enemy that sowed them is the devil; the harvest is the end of the world; and the reapers are the angels.

Well, there you have it. The tares are the children of the wicked one. And the enemy that sowed them into this world is the devil.

Can it be any plainer than that? Christ has revealed the simple fact that *the devil has literal, physical children on this earth*, just like God does!

What's more, we've now learned that the reapers – whose job it is to root up the tares during the harvest – are the angels of God. And the harvest itself is the end of this flesh earth age. In other words, this "harvest" represents a time-frame, i.e., Christ's second advent.

Isn't that the time-frame during which the "mystery of God should be finished," as we learned earlier in Revelation 10:7? Yes indeed, it is!

Keep firmly in mind this is no longer a parable. We've already heard Christ teach the parable of the tares to the multitudes in Matthew 13:26-30. Now, in these verses, He's *explaining* the parable to His disciples.

In other words, what you're now reading are the *facts*, as set forth by your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. He's explaining the plain and simple truth hidden within the parable. It's not allegory or metaphor any longer. Christ is *revealing what the parable actually meant*. So don't ever let anyone tell you that His explanation is allegory. It's not. It's the bottom line truth.

Is it not interesting that in Matthew 13:19-23, where Christ is explaining a completely different parable – the parable of the sower – the Scripture repeatedly uses the word "seed." But in those

verses the Scripture uses the Greek word *speiro* (see Strong's #4687), meaning *to scatter*, or *sow seed*. This is the usual word used for planting a grain crop.

But from the very start in the parable of the tares, which is also about seed-planting, the Scripture uses the Greek word *sperma* (see Strong's #4690) for seed. Sperma, of course, means *male sperm*.

You see, in regards to the seed that was sown in the parable of the tares, Christ purposely chose instead to use the word that means *male sperm*.

Do you think He might have done that on purpose, to see if His disciples were paying attention to His words? To see if they'd understand that this parable is *not* at all about wheat and tare plants, but instead, about two different kinds of *peoples*, one of good *sperma*, and one of very bad *sperma*?

So let's review Christ's simple yet startling explanation of the parable of the tares:

- We've learned that Christ Jesus Himself is the householder in the parable, i.e., the one who sowed the good seed into the field.
- We've now learned directly from Jesus that the field represents the world – which is to say, this old *terra firma* earth we live on.
- We've learned that the good seed represent the children of the kingdom of God, planted by Christ Himself. We are here, because He *put us here* in a very natural fashion, through the seed line of Adam and Eve. As it is written in the great book of John, "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.*" (John 1:2-3)
- Furthermore, we've learned the tares represent the children of the wicked one, sown into this world by the devil himself. Remember, this is direct from the mouth of your Lord and Savior. You either believe Him, or you don't.
- We've learned that the reapers represent the angels of God, who will come at the end of the "harvest."
- And we've learned that the harvest represents the end of this world, at which time the reapers will come forth and gather up the tares – i.e., the wicked children planted in this world by the devil himself.

Pretty simple, isn't it? But can you *accept* it? Or as Christ stated earlier, in Matthew 13:15, is your heart "waxed gross," your ears "dull of hearing," and your eyes closed to the truth of His Word?

If you're like most Christians, you've probably never heard this simple parable taught in its fullness – line by line, and verse by verse -- in your church.

Why? Because the truth hidden within this parable completely contradicts most church doctrine, which states we are *all* God's children. Well, all *souls* are certainly from God – that's a Biblical fact (Ez. 18:4). But not all flesh bodies are of God's planting. The devil himself sowed a seed line of people into this old earth. He is *their* father.

Let's continue with Christ's explanation of the parable, and see what else we can glean from it:

Mat 13:40 As therefore the tares are gathered and burned in the fire; so shall it be in the end of this world.

Again, we've got a specific time-period being given here, i.e., "the end of this world" is when the tares will be gathered and burned. So when is that?

Well, Christ's second advent ushers in the Lord's Day – that one thousand year teaching period known as the millennium (Rev. 20:1-4). And at the end of the Lord's Day the great White Throne Judgment takes place, at which time all things that offend will be done away with in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

Why must the tares and all things that offend be burned up in the lake of fire at the great White Throne Judgment of God? Our heavenly Father simply will not allow the eternal age to begin until He's cleaned out all of the riff-raff, meaning all of the wicked and the lawless ones. He's promised us a joyous, peaceful, harmonious and completely secure eternal household. And He will indeed provide it. This is part and parcel of the Gospel message of God.

So, it's at the end of the millennium teaching period, during the great White Throne Judgment, that all of the wicked ones who failed to repent and embrace salvation through Jesus Christ will be done away with.

Mat 13:41 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity;

The word "offend" in this verse is the Greek word *skandalon* (see Strong's 4625). It's the word from whence we derive our English word "scandal." In the Greek, it refers to a trap stick, or a snare, as in something that causes one to stumble and fall, or figuratively, triggers displeasure or sin. In short, it means a stumbling-block. Something that trips you up and gets in the way of your salvation through Christ.

Christ of course is referring to those who work to stumble God's children in their faith, and keep them from finding salvation through the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. This is mostly accomplished by planting false doctrine into the church, in the form of religious traditions. And this is one of the chief characteristics of the children of the devil being spoken of in this verse. They don't want you to learn the truth, largely because, if you did, *you'd know who they were!*

The word “iniquity” in this verse is the Greek word *anomia* (see Strong’s 458). It means to wickedly violate the law of God. It can also mean sheer unrighteousness. This of course is another characteristic of the children of the devil. While they are very religious, as you’ll see shortly in this study, their religious activities are simply a cloak for their wickedness. Behind their religious facade, they are wicked, unrighteous law-breakers. And the ungodly precepts of their religion make them all the more so.

Mat 13:42 And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth.

Again, our heavenly Father has promised us an eternity free from the turmoil, deception, wickedness and unrighteousness. He has promised us an eternal family household of peace and harmony and unbreakable security. And that’s what He intends to give us.

So, short of repentance during the millennium teaching period – i.e., the Lord’s Day – the children of the devil and anything else that offends will be burned in the lake of fire, never to exist again.

Mat 13:43 Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.

What you’ve just read is the Gospel message, in a nutshell – probably unlike any time you’ve ever heard it. This is the story of the kingdom of God on this earth, in this flesh earth age we now live in:

God planted His children into the field, which is this old world. But the devil came along and planted children here, too. And these two “plantings” have grown up side by side together since the time of the “foundation of this world” – i.e., all of the way back to God’s creation and the Garden of Eden – with the evil planting working to stumble and trip up God’s good planting, and spoil the field with lawlessness and wickedness.

Nevertheless, at the end of the millennium, during the time of the great White Throne Judgment, God intends to gather together the evil planting of the devil out of His kingdom on this earth, and destroy them in the lake of fire.

At that time, the righteous among His own children – which is to say, those who seek His Word and understand it in its simplicity and fullness -- will indeed shine forth in the Kingdom, for there will be nothing left that offends.

Accept or Deny?

As this point, you have only to accept or deny God’s Word. It’s either a “strange thing” to you. Or it’s finally beginning to make some sense. (By the time you’re done with this study, you’ll understand a LOT more, I promise!)

To deny that the devil has children on this earth is to deny Christ's own explanation of the parable of the tares, and substitute one of your own. That's treading on some pretty dangerous ground, my friend, spiritually speaking.

Look, we've now learned that the devil has sown children into this earth, right alongside God's own children of the kingdom. In other words, there's a people on this earth who were quite literally sired through Satan himself, and who are here to stumble others in their faith and cause wickedness and iniquity.

But at what point in God's Word did the devil sire these wicked children? Does the Scripture tell us where, and when, and how? Yes, indeed it does. And in just a few minutes, we're going to go to the great book of Genesis and see exactly how the planting of this evil seed took place.

Christ and the Jews Who Professed to Believe on Him

But before we do that, let's take a quick look at Christ's words in chapter eight of the great book of John, where our Lord and Savior is addressing a group of Jews who claimed to be children of Abraham, and what's more, who claimed to believe on Him.

Surprisingly, our Lord takes issue with their claims. Can you hazard a guess as to why? Well, there's no need to guess. They claimed to be of one planting. He claimed they were of quite another. We'll just let our Lord and Savior speak for Himself:

Joh 8:31 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;

These Jews had just begun professing to believe on Jesus. Christ tells them that if they continue in His Word, then they will be His disciples indeed. Why do you think He'd bring this up to these guys? Do you think He might have detected a lack of staying power on their part?

The word "continue" in this verse is a very special word. It's the Greek word *meno* (see Strong's 3306) and it means to continuously *dwell* and to *endure* . And it's a kindred word to the Greek word *mone* , which Christ used in John 14:2, and is translated as "mansions," i.e., "In my Father's house are many mansions..."

In other words, the characteristics of a true Christian are to not just believe in Christ, but to continuously *dwell* and *endure* in His Word. Over time, as you study His Word, it should gradually become as familiar to you as every room in your home. It should be your spiritual dwelling place.

Unfortunately, these guys will last all of ten minutes, as you're about to discover. Christ is about to say something to them that will really set them off.

Joh 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Now that's a beautiful saying. Yet it's about to trigger great animosity from these Jews. Why?

The word “truth” as used here is the Greek word *aletheia* (see Strong’s 225). It means the *unconcealed truth*, or to state it in modern terminology, the plain, unvarnished truth.

The word “free” as used in this verse is the Greek word *eleutheroo* (see Strong’s 1659). It’s a very interesting word which means to liberate, but even more so, to *exempt from mortal liability*. Wow.

In other words, what Christ is telling these Jews is this: “Stick with me and you’ll learn the raw, unvarnished truth, and that truth will liberate you from the death sentence of sin.”

Now that’s a startling statement. In essence, Christ was telling them that He’s more than just a good teacher, He’s the Savior of mankind. Perhaps that’s why these Jews immediately began to respond to Christ in the negative.

Joh 8:33 They answered him, We be Abraham's seed, and were never in bondage to any man: how sayest thou, Ye shall be made free?

Wow, what touched such a nerve? Instantly, these Jews began to challenge Christ’s statements, after having initially professed to believe on Him. They claimed to be of Abraham’s seed, as if they suspected Christ was challenging their bloodline origins. What’s more, they claimed they “were never in bondage to any man” and therefore did not need to be liberated.

Now that’s interesting, isn’t it? After all, God’s People Israel – the descendants of Abraham through Isaac -- had gone into bondage to the Egyptians, down to the very last man. There were no exceptions.

And when they were liberated from Egyptian captivity some 400 years later by God through Moses and Aaron, and given the Promised Land, they then proceeded to go astray, even to the point of setting up two golden calves in Samaria to worship, and setting up groves where worship of phallic symbols took place in Jerusalem.

So this time God allowed the Assyrians to take the northern ten tribes of Israel into captivity. And some 200 years later God’s People Judah also went were sent by God into bondage in Babylon.

Yet these Jews claimed to be of Abraham’s seed, yet had *never* been in bondage to *any* man. They may have been of Abraham’s seed. But were they *really* of God’s People Israel? Could they *really* be Jews if their claim of having never been in bondage to any man were true? No, they couldn’t.

Seems to me their little slip of the tongue is beginning to let the cat out of the bag. (Think in terms of the parable of the tares. One seed sown by Christ. One by the devil. Living side by side in the field.)

Joh 8:34 Jesus answered them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin.

“Verily, verily” means *truly, truly*. In other words, what Christ is about to say, you can take to the bank.

The word “committeth” in this verse is from the Greek word *poieo* (see Strong’s 4160). It means to abide in, bear with, bring forth or to make an ongoing practice of something. In other words, here Christ is talking about *habitual* sin – practicing sin as a way of life, which is the most devastating and destructive form of bondage there is, for it completely separates you from God. Habitual sin makes you a slave to sin.

In essence, Jesus turns the table on them in this verse. While they were talking about being free from flesh bondage, He lets them know He’s talking about being free from *spiritual* and *religious* bondage, that is to say, their bondage to false religion and false doctrine. That’s what the truth would set them free from.

But there’s a very interesting hint in this verse, and I don’t want you to miss it, for it will help you understand why these Jews suddenly became so testy with Christ. So for just a moment I’m going to take you all of the way to chapter 4 of the great book of Genesis and remind you about a conversation God had with Cain, just before Cain killed his brother Abel.

In Genesis chapter 4, God was talking to Cain. And Cain was quite upset because when he and Abel had come of age together, they both made sacrifices to the Lord. This was the custom back then, whenever young males reached the age of accountability, or what we today call the age of “manhood.”

So at the age of manhood, they both made sacrifices to the Lord. But God had *accepted* Abel’s sacrifice as righteous, and had *rejected* Cain’s sacrifice as wholly inadequate.

You see, Abel had sacrificed his very best sheep, the fattest of the firstlings of his flock, probably a first-born lamb in accord with God’s Word. In making that sacrifice he was openly acknowledging his own shortcomings and demonstrating that he understood he needed God’s forgiveness in order to be free (i.e., liberated) from his sins. What’s more, he understood that shed blood was required to pay the price for his sins. He made this sacrificial offering wanting to begin his manhood with a fresh slate from God.

In other words, the sheep Abel sacrificed represented in the futurist sense *Christ Jesus, the very Lamb of God*, who would so many centuries later give His life for the sins of the world. Thus through his righteous sacrifice Abel acknowledged and honored God’s Word of salvation, and looked forward to the “once and for all time” sacrifice of Christ, the Lamb of God.

But Cain had sacrificed some fruit he’d grown. Cain’s sacrifice was *not* a sin offering. It did not acknowledge a need to begin his manhood with a fresh slate from God. It was like saying, “I don’t need to acknowledge any sin, and I don’t need your forgiveness in order to be free from sin.”

In short, Cain's offering *failed* to acknowledge and honor God's Word of salvation. It was more of a self-righteous slap in the face to God than a sacrifice. Nevertheless, it greatly displeased Cain that Abel's sacrifice was found acceptable of God, and his own sacrifice was found lacking.

Here's the conversation in Genesis chapter 4 that I want you to remember, in relation to the verse above in which Christ tells the Jews who were following Him, "Whosoever committeth sin is the servant of sin."

Gen 4:6 And the LORD said unto Cain, Why art thou wroth? and why is thy countenance fallen?

God says, "Why are you ticked off, Cain? And why are you wearing that long face?"

Gen 4:7 If thou doest well, shalt thou not be accepted? and if thou doest not well, sin lieth at the door. And unto thee shall be his desire, and thou shalt rule over him.

In other words, in the original Hebrew language God basically said [simplifying], "If you'll do right by Me, I'll accept you. But if you do wrong by Me, you're going to end up so steeped in sin you'll be perpetually engaged in it. It will be your way of life."

Dr. Bullinger points out that the word "sin" in that verse is translated from the Hebrew word *chata*, or *chattath*, and can also mean a *sin offering* – the very thing Cain had failed to provide. Under this interpretation, God was in essence speaking in irony to Cain, saying, "If you'll do right by Me, I'll accept you. But if you do wrong by Me, the sin offering crouches at the entrance [of the temple] and you're going to be so steeped in sin you'll end up the ruler over sin offerings."

This was the lifelong habitual religious sinfulness Christ referred to in John 8:34 above, when answering the challenge from the Jews who had professed to believe on Him. Though they made sin offering after sin offering in the temple, even in accord with the law, the religious beliefs of these Jews leave the true Lamb of God completely out of the picture, just as Cain did by refusing to make a proper sin offering to the Lord. Thus, like Cain before them, even their *religious practice* is pure sinfulness in its utter disregard of God's great plan of salvation.

Christ was saying to those Jews who had professed to follow Him, in essence, "Much like self-righteous Cain, you think you're already liberated from sin. You think you don't need Me to set you free from sin. But in reality, you're thoroughly steeped in sin as a way of life. Your religious practice is pure sinfulness before God. And without my truth to liberate you, it's impossible for you to enter into God's kingdom."

You see, Christ knew something about these Jews that most of their fellow countrymen didn't know, and most Christians still don't know today. And as you'll see, His words to them will continue to strike a raw nerve.

We'll learn more about why Christ would refer back to Genesis 4:6-7 by the time He finishes dressing down these self-righteous followers.

By the way, as you read the following verses keep in mind that directly after God told Cain that he'd either better straighten up and fly right, or he'd end up as *sin personified*, Cain then proceeded to lure his brother Abel out into the field, and murder him. Isn't that interesting? Watch for the parallels here as we return to John chapter 8 where we left off...

Joh 8:35 And the servant abideth not in the house for ever: but the Son abideth ever.

Again, Christ is saying [paraphrasing]: "Only the Son, who lives forever in the eternal kingdom of God, can liberate you from your sinfulness and provide you with eternal life. You can't make it into the eternal family household of God on your own. You certainly can't make it in simply by claiming to be of Abrahamic bloodline. You must have the Son."

Joh 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.

If you stick with Christ – the Living Word of God – you will indeed be liberated from sin, and be granted life eternal.

Christ could tell them that, because He knew He was going to pay the price for the sins of all mankind. (Which is exactly what Abel acknowledged when he sacrificed his best sheep.)

But if you drift away from Christ, or fail to acknowledge Him as the necessary atoning sacrifice for your sins, then you have no way to be liberated from sin and enter into that eternal kingdom.

Joh 8:37 I know that ye are Abraham's seed; but ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you.

Aha! Just as sinful Cain killed Abel out of jealousy that Abel's righteous sacrifice was accepted of God while his own unrighteous sacrifice was not, so these guys now seek to kill Christ Jesus, the righteous once-and-for-all sacrifice for the sins of mankind!

Christ is saying [paraphrased]: "I know you have this flesh bloodline claim that makes you believe you have no need to be liberated from sin. But you're wrong to think claiming to be of Abraham's seed gets you off the hook. You're convicted of sin by the very fact that you seek to kill me, after having heard my Word and rejecting it."

Again, Christ refers them back to God's conversation with Cain in which God told Cain, in essence, "If you do right by me, I'll accept you, but if you *don't* do right by me your life will be steeped in sin to the point even your religious practices will be considered sin before Me." The point being, of course, that unrighteous sacrifices are unrighteous sacrifices, no matter how well cloaked they are in religious ritual.

Now I know this might be a little bit confusing for some. But it's about to become a LOT clearer, if you'll listen to your Lord and Savior's words very *carefully* in the following verses, keeping in mind what you've learned from Christ already in the parable of the tares which we studied earlier. Christ continues speaking:

Joh 8:38 I speak that which I have seen with my Father: and ye do that which ye have seen with your father.

Wow. Once again, Christ speaks of *two* fathers. One is obviously God. But who is this other father he speaks of? (Keep the parable of the tares in mind. Growing right up among God's children are the children of *another father altogether*, which is to say, the devil.)

Joh 8:39 They answered and said unto him, Abraham is our father. Jesus saith unto them, If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham.

Here they again make that claim to be children of Abraham. But Abraham's children are known by their works, which is to say, their *actions*. The Abrahamic seedline are a righteous people. And overall, they truly love God.

As St. Paul so rightly taught in the great book of Galatians, your flesh bloodline can't save you. It is *your faith in Christ* that makes you Abraham's seed, and therefore an heir to the promise of eternal life:

“For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.” (Galatians 3:26-29).

Christians are Abraham's seed, spiritually speaking. And again, as St. Paul taught in the great book of Romans, not all that claim to be of Israel are truly of Israel. And not all that claim to be of the seed of Abraham are actually children of the kingdom of God.

For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called.

That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed.” (Rom. 9:6-8)

You see, there's a condition to being liberated from sin, and thus being able to enter into that eternal family household of God. And that condition is that you must have faith in the promise of salvation through Jesus Christ.

You simply can't get into the kingdom of God based upon some tenuous relationship to Abraham, or anyone else for that matter. Bloodline does not provide salvation. Only faith in Christ will do it. Period.

Joh 8:40 But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham.

Abraham never sought to kill Christ. On the contrary, he looked forward to Christ's day (ref: John 8:56). But just as soon as Christ had referred back to Cain while talking with these Jews who professed to be believers, it touched a raw nerve in them. Like an electric shock. And just that fast they began seeking to kill Him.

Why? Because it was obvious to them that Christ knew *exactly who they were*. As we'll see, He knew they were not Jews at all, but instead, the children of the devil.

Joh 8:41 Ye do the deeds of your father. Then said they to him, We be not born of fornication; we have one Father, even God.

Christ tells them again that they have a father of their own, and it's their father's deeds they work to accomplish in seeking to murder Him. And once again they challenge Him, claiming to be the children of God. Indeed, to this day, that is their claim, even claiming to be "God's chosen."

But these guys know Christ is on to them, which is why they've reacted so strongly to His words in such a short matter of time. They're angry with Him, because He keeps pointing out that their bloodline claims to be children of Abraham, and their actions, don't mesh.

What they didn't realize is, while claiming to be *God's children*, they were standing *in the very presence of God*, and He knew their very heart and soul from the inside out.

Their claim to be "not born of fornication" once again takes us straight back to the Garden of Eden. They knew what Christ was driving at. There was indeed a sin in the garden that had nothing to do with eating an apple. But it did have to do with *fornication* – a sexual liaison that led to the birth of the first murderer, as we shall see shortly.

Joh 8:42 Jesus said unto them, If God were your Father, ye would love me: for I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but he sent me.

Now Christ is really dressing them down. Note He says "*If God were your Father...*", clearly making the point that God *wasn't* their father.

The very fact that these Jews have no real love for Him is all the evidence needed that God is not their Father. After all, Christ "proceeded forth and came from God." And as we learn in Hebrews 1:3, Christ is "the brightness of His glory, and the express image of His person," meaning He is the very *physical manifestation of God on this earth*.

So here was Christ, the express image of the Father, the very brightness of His glory, standing in front of these Jews, and they were plotting to kill Him because they didn't like what He was saying – and all the while they had the nerve to claim *God* was their father! Think about that for a minute.

Joh 8:43 Why do ye not understand my speech? even because ye cannot hear my word.

The Word of God was a “strange thing” to them. They were so steeped in the word of *their own father*, they could not hear the simple truth of salvation Christ was trying to impart to them. Like Cain feeling no need to make a sin offering to God, these Jews felt no need for the salvation message Christ offered. It was anathema to their religious tradition.

All these guys had to do was turn from their sinful ways and follow Him, and everything would have been well. Similarly, all Cain had to do was turn from his sinful ways and follow God. But instead, Cain called Abel out into the field, and murdered him, in an attempt to cut off the very seed line that would one day lead to Christ’s birth. And these so-called Jews were now plotting to murder Christ. Are you beginning to see the parallels? Same nature. Like father, like son.

Christ would have given them the truth, and the truth would have liberated them from the religious lies of the devil they were so steeped in as way of life. But they didn’t want it, any more than young Cain wanted to change his sinful ways and to start his manhood with a fresh slate from God.

Now listen very carefully to what your Lord and Savior says to these Jews:

Joh 8:44 Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.

There’s a LOT said in that verse. And for the sake of space we’re not going to cover it all here. You should look up some of the meanings of the words in a Strong’s Concordance.

We’re only going to look up one word, and that’s the word “of.” Christ tells these Jews “Ye are of your father the devil...”

The word “of” in that sentence is translated from the Greek word *ek* (see Strong’s #1537.) It’s a primary preposition always denoting *origin*. As the great Bible scholar Dr. E. W. Bullinger has pointed out, this word in the Greek governs only one case (the Genitive) and denotes *motion from the interior*.

In essence, it means “out from the interior of.” These Jews were “of” – or more rightly stated “out from the interior of” – their father the devil. That was their origin!

Suffice it to say, Christ was letting them have the truth with both barrels. No more beating around the bush with them. He told them they’re of their father the devil – yes, the same devil who planted the evil seed (i.e., child) into the field (i.e., the world) of wheat (i.e., God’s children). And He emphasized that the devil’s lusts were their own lusts. In other words, again, *like father, like son*.

You see, in the verse above, Christ also told them their father was a “murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth.” When was this “beginning”? Well, the word “Genesis” means “the beginning,” doesn’t it? Indeed, in the Hebrew language, the first book of the Bible – Genesis -- is called *Bereshith*, which literally means “in the beginning.”

So here we see Christ referring these so-called Jews all of the way back to the very beginning of the Bible, just as He had been doing since the very start of His conversation with them.

In response to their claim that they weren't born of fornication, He tells them their father is the devil himself. And then he reveals that they're related to the first murderer. So who was the first murderer? Well, it was *Cain*, wasn't it?

So that would make Cain the son of the devil. And these guys descendants of Cain, the first murderer.

Now do you see why these so-called Jews were suddenly so touchy when Christ initially referred to God's conversation with Cain in the garden? He had identified them as not Jews at all, but instead, the *children of Cain, the son of the devil*.

This explains why they were so quick to want to kill Him. They knew He had them all figured out -- He had known from the *very start* that they were the children of Cain. And He knew that like Cain, they had no real faith in the Lamb of God. They were of their father. And the lusts of their father they would do.

And now He tells them that just as Cain lusted to murder Abel over Abel's sacrifice of a sheep, so they too lusted to murder Him, knowing Him to be the Lamb of God, the sacrifice for the sins of mankind!

Didn't we learn in the parable of the tares that the qualities of the children of the devil were that they stumbled others in their faith, and committed wicked lawlessness against the Word of God?

Just as Cain preferred sin to righteousness, so did these supposed Jews. Indeed, as Christ reveals in the above verse, they reject the truth and speak only the lies of their father the devil – which is to say, they love *church tradition disguised as religion and substituted for the Word of God*.

Joh 8:45 And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life. But the truth is simply not in these guys. That's because the devil is their father, all of the way back to the first murderer, Cain. So like their father, they reject the truth, in favor of the lie.

How about you? Do you believe your Lord and Savior? Or is this a “strange thing” to you? Are you beginning to understand what you've been missing from the Word of God, by not studying it for yourself but instead taking your religious instruction from those who peddle empty church tradition in place of the Word of God?

Joh 8:46 Which of you convinceth me of sin? And if I say the truth, why do ye not believe me?

The word “convinceth” here should be translated “convicteth,” or simply, “convict.”

In other words, Christ asks them, “Which one of you can convict me of committing any sin?” He knew they couldn’t even point to a single sin on His part. And He asks them, “When I tell you the truth, why don’t you believe me?”

Now here’s the clincher, which Christ delivers matter-of-factly:

Joh 8:47 He that is of God heareth God's words: ye therefore hear them not, because ye are not of God.

In verse 41 above, they had contradicted Christ, claiming they had “one Father, even God.” Even today they call themselves “God’s chosen.” But here Christ lets them know that in spite of all of their protestations to the contrary, He knew they were not God’s children. They were the children of the wicked one, the murderer from the beginning – Cain – through his father the devil.

You see, being religious, they may have referred to “God” often, but the “god” they referred to was their own father, the devil, and not our heavenly Father who sent Christ Jesus to pay the price for our sins. They couldn’t accept Christ’s words of salvation, because they were simply not of the same God who had sent Christ to give His life for the sins of mankind!

These so-called Jews continue to argue with Christ for another 12 verses or so, at which point they even pick up stones in an attempt to stone Him to death. Such was the nature of these oh-so religious men, who claimed God was their Father, yet they were ready to murder the very glory of God, and the express image of His person, right here on this earth. They had murder in their hearts, like their forefather Cain, who we’ve just learned was the devil’s own son on this earth.

Confirmation: Cain Is the Son of The Devil

As I’ve promised, we’re going to head back to the book of Genesis, and take a look at how the planting of the children of the devil actually took place. But first I want to make a short pit-stop with you, so to speak, in God’s Word, so you’ll have the necessary Scriptural back-up to handle what you’re about to learn.

So, as background, let’s go to the first Epistle of John, where St. John writes about the same subject matter covered by Christ in the parable of the tares, which is to say, the two plantings of “seed” (i.e., sperma) on this earth, i.e., the children of God and the children of the devil. As you’ll see, those of the planting of God have one distinct characteristic regarding habitual sin, and those the devil planted have quite another characteristic altogether in regards to habitual sin.

Indeed, what St. John the Beloved teaches in the following verses is going to sound very much like a replay of Christ’s words to the false Jews who claimed to believe on Him, but who, in reality, lusted in their hearts to murder Him once He began to expose them as children of Cain.

1Jn 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.

We are that planting of the Lord – the very children of God in the flesh. He is our Father, who created us, whether through Adam and Eve or through the sixth day creation (another study, for another time). And when He shall appear at His second advent, we will no longer be in these old flesh bodies, but in our spiritual bodies, just like Him.

1Jn 3:3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.

The word “hope” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *elpis* (see Strong’s 1680). It would more accurately be translated *expectation*, or even *confidence*. You see, we are confident of our Lord’s second coming, and our gathering back to him (II Thess. 2:1-4) at the seventh trump. And because of that, we sanctify ourselves in His Word, absorbing it with understanding, and embracing it *for what it actually says*.

We are not too good for God’s Word. Unlike all too many of the churches, we have no need to make stuff up to cover over the uncomfortable or controversial parts.

1Jn 3:4 Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.

Now that’s interesting: The word “committeth” in this verse is the very same word Jesus used in John 8:34 when He began shaking up the false Jews who had professed to believe on Him, and who turned out to be children of Cain, the son of the devil.

It’s the Greek word *poieo* (see Strong’s 4160). And again, it means to abide in, bear with, bring forth or even to make an ongoing practice of something. In other words, it’s something you do *religiously*. So Christ was actually telling these so-called Jews, “Whoever practices sin as a way of life breaks the law, for sin is the breaking of the law.”

This tells you St. John was not just talking about someone smoking a cigarette, or saying a curse word, or drinking a beer. The subject here is breaking the law of God *as a way of life* – even to the point of making a religion out of it. It is the substitution of religious tradition in place of the very Word of God.

1Jn 3:5 And ye know that he was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.

Christ Jesus, the Lamb of God, and the physical manifestation of the Word of God, had no sin. Under the Old Testament law of kinsman redeemer, only the shed blood of the *innocent* could pay the price for the sins of the guilty. He did this for us when He gave His life on the cross.

1Jn 3:6 Whosoever abideth in him sinneth not: whosoever sinneth hath not seen him, neither known him.

Most preachers teach this verse as meaning real Christians never sin. That's a load of hogwash, because being in the flesh we all fall short of the glory of God (Romans 3:23) on a daily basis. And if we say we have no sin, we are liars, "and the truth is not in us" (1 John 1:8).

What the verse says, when read in conjunction with verses four and five above it, is that when we abide in Christ, He blots out our sins. And as all Christians should know, His very nature begins to rule in our lives through the influence of His Word and the Holy Spirit, driving out the sinful influences of our past, including any false religious or church traditions we may have been steeped in before God called us into the truth.

But those who "sinneth" (which, sticking with the subject matter set forth in the previous verses, is to say those who *practice sin, breaking the law of God as a way of life*), wouldn't know God even if He was standing right in front of them, so steeped are they in their sinful ways.

Once again, you'll remember back to John chapter 8 that those so-called Jews who had professed to believe on Christ, *also professed to be children of God*. Yet they didn't recognize Christ even though He is the "express image" of God, and the "brightness of His glory."

Therefore, as Christ so sternly pointed out to them, they were not of God at all. They had *another* father altogether.

Be sure to check out the word "abide" in the above verse. It's the very same word Christ used in John 8:31, when he told the false Jews who had professed to believe on him that they had to "continue" in His Word, or they'd never be liberated from their sinful nature.

Again, it's the Greek word *meno* (see Strong's 3306) and it means to continuously *dwell in, to abide in, or even to endure*. And it's a kindred word to the Greek word *mone*, which Christ used in John 14:2, and is translated as "mansions," i.e., "In my Father's house are many mansions..."

In other words, it's when you abide in Him, by embracing His Word *as it's written*, rather than embracing the vain church traditions that contradict His Word, that His shed blood covers your sins.

What's more, your sincere repentance of your sins, combined with your love for Him, is what purifies (or better stated, *sanctifies*) you, setting you apart from the rest of the world as one of God's children – and particularly setting you apart from the tares as "good wheat" destined to enter the eternal kingdom of God.

1Jn 3:7 Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous.

Why does St. John address Christians as "little children"? Because you're one of the "good seed" of the parable of the tares – the "children of the kingdom"!

Here St. John points out that you can tell the righteous from the unrighteous very easily. The righteous practice righteousness -- with Christ, the Righteous One, as their example. It's part of

their very nature. They are little chips off the Old Rock, so to speak, with the Old Rock being our Lord and Savior.

Would it surprise you to learn that the word “doeth” in this verse is the same Greek word *poieo* (i.e. Strong’s 4160), meaning to practice something as a habitual way of life? You see, the children of the devil practice law-breaking and wickedness as habitual ways of life. It is even part of their religious tradition to *reject* Christ Jesus as a heretic.

But the righteous children of God *practice righteousness* as a way of life. It is habitual with them. They embrace Christ Jesus, the Righteous One of God. And they follow His Word.

St. John is drawing a very stark contrast between the two seed lines. The habitual sinners and the doers of righteousness are as different as night and day. The one seed rejects Christ. And the other embraces Him wholeheartedly as the Living Word of God.

This is why Christ came down so hard on the false Jews who had professed to believe on Him, yet internally, they lusted to murder Him when He began telling them the truth.

As St. Paul would say, while speaking of those who rejected Christ in II Corinthians 6:14, “*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness?*”

There should be no fellowship between the children of God and the children of the devil. You cannot mix good and evil, righteousness and unrighteousness. Nothing good can come of it, even though Satan, who is the “tree of the knowledge of good and evil,” would like you to believe otherwise.

That’s why our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, as well as St. John, St. Paul and others in the Scriptures have gone to such great lengths to help you understand the difference between the two opposing seed lines, which is to say, the children of the kingdom, and the children of the devil.

Again, I must ask: Have you *ever* heard this taught in your church? If not, you might want to ask yourself *why* your church glosses over such important information. And you might also want to re-evaluate your presence there. There are better places to be spiritually fed than a church that is too good to teach God’s Word as it’s actually written.

1Jn 3:8 He that committeth sin is of the devil; for the devil sinneth from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.

Once again, the word “committeth” is the same Greek word *poieo* (i.e. Strong’s 4160), meaning to practice something as a habitual way of life. The translators of the New Testament did readers no favor in translating that word so many different ways. Nevertheless, this is why we have good tools such as the Strong’s Concordance of the Bible, with which we can dig deeper into our Father’s Word and discover the many simple yet profound truths He has set forth for our understanding and edification.

In the verse above we learn that those who practice sin as a way of life are of the devil. What is their main sin? As we've learned, they refute the Word of God, substituting religious traditions in its place. They reject Christ Jesus as the righteous sacrifice given for the sins of mankind. And they try to stumble God's children in their faith in Christ by so doing. Their job is to keep as many of God's children from Christ as possible, through whatever means of deception they can.

Note that St. John clearly states in this verse "the devil sinneth from the beginning." Yes, all of the way back to the Garden of Eden, to the book of *Bereshith* (i.e., Genesis), which translated from the original Hebrew literally means "in the beginning."

In other words, the devil practiced sinfulness as a way of life all of the way back to the Garden of Eden. And in so doing, he even planted some children into this flesh earth age, to help him do his bidding. That's part and parcel of his "works" – his labor, or toil. He planted that evil seed into this world in an attempt to derail the Gospel message from coming forth to the world in its simplicity and fullness.

But as we see in the verse above, our Lord and Savior Christ Jesus came into this world to destroy those works of the devil. Yes, even as you learned in Christ's explanation of the parable of the tares in Matthew chapter 13, at harvest time, which is Christ's second advent, the angels will come forth and gather up the children of the devil. And short of repentance on their part, they'll ultimately be "cast into a furnace of fire." Thus, the works of the devil shall indeed be destroyed, because he and his "workers of iniquity" will be destroyed (Matthew 13:41).

As I've promised, we are next going to visit the great book of Genesis, to see exactly how the devil pulled off this evil planting we've been discussing throughout this study. But let's first finish learning what we need to understand here in the first epistle of John. As St. John continues, we learn once more in the following few verses that there are *two distinct and separate plantings of seed*:

1Jn 3:9 Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in him: and he cannot sin, because he is born of God.

Once again, the word "commit" is from the Greek word *poieo* (i.e. Strong's 4160), meaning to practice something as a habitual way of life. If you're of the planting of God, you don't work against God and His Savior Jesus Christ as a habitual way of life. Why? Because you're of God's seed, which is to say, of His *planting* on this earth.

Through Christ, the very nature of God dwells within you. So while you may fall short from time to time, and have need of repentance, working against God as a way of life is simply not in your nature. Instead, *the love of God* is what's natural to you.

Let me ask you this question: If Christ were here today, teaching you this doctrine as He taught it to those supposed Jews who claimed to believe on Him in John chapter 8, would you take

offense at His Words and pick up stones to murder Him, as they did? Or would you embrace His Word?

That's the profound difference between the righteous children of God and the unrighteous children of the devil. They seek to *stop* God's Word from going forth, and God's children seek to bring it forth in truth and fullness.

1Jn 3:10 In this the children of God are manifest, and the children of the devil: whosoever doeth not righteousness is not of God, neither he that loveth not his brother.

Well, look at that! St. John says there are *two kinds* of children on this earth, the children of God and the children of the devil. Where have we heard that before? Naturally, that should come as no surprise to anyone who has studied Christ's explanation of the parable of the tares in Matthew chapter 13.

The word "manifest" in this verse is from the Greek word *phaneros* (Strong's 5218). And it means to make something so apparent the truth literally shines forth from it.

And once again, the word "doeth" here is that Greek word we've become so familiar with, *poieo* (i.e. Strong's 4160), meaning to practice something as a habitual way of life.

What St. John is saying here is that those who work against God (i.e., habitual works of unrighteousness) are clearly not of God. And that one of the chief characteristics that really set the children of the devil apart from the children of God is that the children of the devil do not follow the golden rule to love your brother as you love yourself.

I hope you can see where St. John is going with this – yes, all of the way back to the Garden of Eden, of course, where Cain killed his righteous brother Abel, out of jealousy!

1Jn 3:11 For this is the message that ye heard from the beginning, that we should love one another.

That's the golden rule. God is love. And He loves all of His children. So much so, in fact, that He "is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that *any* should perish, but that *all* should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). Believe it or not, even a child of the devil can repent, embrace God through His Living Word Jesus Christ, and be counted as a child of God.

This is another reason our Lord and Savior taught, in the parable of the tares, that when we discover who the tares are, we are not to root them up, but leave it to the angels at the end of the harvest, which is to say, Christ's second advent. If there are any changes of heart among the children of the devil, the angels will know it.

Always remember that God created all *souls*. It is only in the flesh that the devil sired children. While the Scripture clearly tell us that not all souls will be saved, and that many will be lost in the lake of fire at the end of the millennium, it is our job to set forth God's Word fully and truthfully, with the purpose of helping save as many as possible.

The message is to “love one another,” to the end that *as many lost souls as possible* are converted by the Word of God, and brought back into the family household of God.

1Jn 3:12 Not as Cain, who was of that wicked one, and slew his brother. And wherefore slew he him? Because his own works were evil, and his brother's righteous.

Well, there you have it. The devil has children, starting with Cain, the first murderer. Christ taught this simple truth in His explanation of the parable of the tares. He taught it again in John chapter 8 when he dressed down the hypocritical and self-righteous false Jews who had professed to believe on Him, only to try to murder Him by stoning afterwards. And here we see St. John the Beloved teaching the same Gospel truth: the devil has children, and it all started in the Garden of Eden, with Cain.

If you want further confirmation, check out the word “of” in the verse above, i.e., “not as Cain, who was of that wicked one...” Once again, you’ll find that it’s the Greek word *ek* (see Strong’s 1537). It’s a primary preposition always denoting *origin*. And as the great Bible scholar Dr. E. W. Bullinger has pointed out, this word in the Greek governs only one case (the Genitive) and denotes *motion from the interior*. In essence, it means “out from the interior of.”

So Cain was “of” – or better stated, “out from the interior of” – that wicked one. He was the devil’s son.

Is that a “strange thing” to you? At this point in the study, it certainly shouldn’t be. Instead, it should be clear as a bell that Cain was the son of the devil, and that his descendants are the tares, which is to say, the children of the wicked one.

“But how could this possibly be?” you might well ask. After all, Cain and Able were the sons of Adam and Eve, right? Well, that’s only *partially* right. As we’ll verify in the final part of this study, one of Eve’s children – Cain – was not sired by Adam at all. He had another father altogether.

So if you’re ready to learn how that evil planting in the Garden of Eden took place, let’s get to it...

Mystery in the Garden

We’re going Genesis chapter 3. But first, we need to identify a character we’re going to run across in that chapter. So for just a moment let’s go to the great book of Revelation and learn a simple truth that, surprisingly, a lot of Christians don’t seem to understand.

Rev. 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

If you don't get this verse, you miss out on the meaning of the entire Bible. Satan is that serpent of old who spoke with our mother Eve – all the way back to the Garden of Eden some 6,000 years ago.

It was not a snake mother Eve spoke with in the garden. It was a man -- a supernatural being who goes by the titles “dragon,” “serpent,” “Devil” and “Satan” among many others.

These are simply titles that denote his evil characteristics. As a second witness, these titles are given again in Revelation 20:2, so you cannot mistake it. The serpent of the garden is none other than the devil, our old adversary known as Satan.

Did not our Lord and Savior tell us, in His explanation of the parable of the tares, that the wicked seed were sown into this old earth by the devil? Of course, He did. Now you know the devil is the same as that old serpent. And that should give you another great big confirmation as to *when* the wicked seed was sown by the devil. Way back *in the beginning*.

So without further delay, we're going to Genesis chapter 3 and start learning about what took place in the beginning, in the very Garden of Eden. Because if you can't understand the beginning of a thing, I can guarantee you won't understand the end.

Gen 3:1 Now the serpent was more subtil than any beast of the field which the LORD God had made. And he said unto the woman, Yea, hath God said, Ye shall not eat of every tree of the garden?

A talking serpent? Don't let religious tradition trap you into that notion. Here we find that old serpent – the devil, who planted the evil seed into this world. And he's smooth-talking poor old mother Eve. Even his title – serpent – in the original Hebrew language (*nachash* – see Strong's 5175) denotes an ability to enchant. He's a deceiver extraordinaire!

Indeed, you'll note that he's described as being “more subtil than any beast of the field.” The word “subtil” is from the Hebrew word *arum* (Strong's 6175). It means cunning, or crafty. That old serpent, the devil, is one slick dude.

In fact, the Hebrew word *arum* is from the root word *aram*, meaning “to make bare.” You give that old serpent half a chance, and he'll strip you bare of any protective knowledge or covering you might have, in more ways than one. We're going to see an example of this, in his conversation with mother Eve. She should have known *not to even talk to him*. There's nothing to gain in talking with Satan.

You'll note the serpent asks Eve a simplistic question about eating from the trees in the garden. Of course, these would be fruit trees. But are we really talking about *trees* here? Remember the various symbolisms in the parable of the tares, for example, how the wheat and the tares represented two different plantings of people?

And do you remember how, in Isaiah 61:3, our heavenly Father called His People “trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord”?

And in Ezekiel 31:3, does not our heavenly Father liken the Assyrian, one of Satan's titles, to a cedar tree, "with fair branches, and with a shadowing shroud, and of an high stature; and his top was among the thick boughs."

And in Hosea 14:8, does not our heavenly Father even liken Himself to a tree, saying, "I am like a green fir tree. From me is thy fruit found"? Of course, He does.

Or what about Mark 8:22-24, when Jesus healed the blind man by putting spit on his eyes and touching him. When the blind man was asked what he saw, he looked up and replied, "I see *men as trees*, walking"?

You see, symbolism abounds in God's Word. It's nothing unusual. The blind man was not only able to see after Christ intervened in his life, but he was able to see *spiritual truth* – *all of the way back to the Garden of Eden* where we're going to discover two fruit-bearing trees "in the midst of the garden." We'll find out exactly *who* those trees represent, in just a moment!

Getting back to the verse above, Satan asks mother Eve, "Didn't God say you're not allowed to eat of the trees of the garden?" And Eve replied unto him thusly:

Gen 3:2 And the woman said unto the serpent, We may eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden:

Eve corrects the old serpent, clarifying that she and Adam were indeed allowed to eat of the fruit of the trees of the garden. Poor old mother Eve doesn't even realize that this subtle one – the serpent himself -- is setting her up with this seemingly innocuous question.

Eve continues to answer him, not suspecting the trap:

Gen 3:3 But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.

Adam and Eve were allowed to "eat" (think: *partake*) of the fruit of any of the trees in the garden, *except for one*.

As we'll see, there are going to be two trees "in the midst of the garden". But one of them produces good fruit, which is to say, Godly doctrine. And the other produces very poisonous fruit, which is to say, *ungodly* doctrine.

Before we go any further, please do note that so far, there's not been a word said about "apples." Indeed, apples are not mentioned *anywhere* in the story of Adam and Eve and the serpent in the garden. Not anywhere! The actual subject matter – going back to verse 2 above – is the "fruit of the trees in the garden." And those trees are living beings.

Eve tells the serpent that God has commanded her and Adam not to eat of one of the trees in the midst of the garden, nor "touch it." And that the penalty for doing so would be death.

But where in God's Word did our heavenly Father actually give this command to Adam and Eve? Let's take a quick detour, for just a moment, and learn:

Gen 2:8 And the LORD God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed.

Adam was placed in the garden first, even before Eve was formed from him by God.

Gen 2:9 And out of the ground made the LORD God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of good and evil.

There's your two trees, right in the midst of all of the other trees in the Garden of Eden. One is the "tree of life." And one is the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil."

Why are these two trees pointed out to us in the Scripture? Because these two trees are not ordinary "trees." One is our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, whose "fruit," or doctrine, is certainly "good for food." And the other is our adversary, the devil. (Remember how the blind man healed by Christ Jesus saw "trees as men, walking"?)

Let's skip down to verse 15:

Gen 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Adam was a vinedresser. His job was to keep the garden in good shape. It is our job, too. The garden is symbolic God's Word. We are to keep – i.e., preserve and protect – God's Word from being distorted with vain church traditions.

Gen 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Here comes the actual command, straight from God. God tells Adam, you can eat the fruit of all of these trees, but...

Gen 2:17 But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

That's interesting, isn't it? Again, no apples mentioned. That's because we're not talking here about actual fruit. We're talking about *doctrine* – very ungodly doctrine. God tells Adam you can eat of all of the trees of the garden, but do not eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, or you'll "surely die".

In the original Hebrew, the phrase "surely die" is a repetition of the Hebrew word *muth* (See Strong's 4191). This word means "to die," or "to be destroyed." In other words, the

verse says *muth muth*, or “die die,” and is therefore translated “surely die” because God’s repetition of the Hebrew word *muth* is considered to have been done to emphasize to Adam the solemn gravity of His statement.

But for the deeper student, it demonstrates that God was warning there are *two distinct deaths* that take place when you embrace the doctrine of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. The first death of course is the death of the flesh body, which basically we all must experience. But the second death is the death of the *soul* in the lake of fire.

This is why Christ Jesus would say, in Matthew 10:28 *“And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear Him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

Our heavenly Father is telling Adam that eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil will get you sent straight to hell, where both body and soul perishes, never to exist again.

But did you notice something? In Genesis 3:3 above, Eve stated to the serpent, in regard to the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, “God hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, lest ye die.”

But that’s not really what God said in Genesis 2:17 above, is it? Eve *added* the phrase, “...neither shall ye touch it...” Why do you think she added additional detail to God’s Word regarding this “tree”?

It’s interesting that the word “touch,” in the Hebrew language, is *naga* (see Strong’s 5060). It means to touch, or to lay the hand upon. But more importantly, it’s also a common euphemism in the Hebrew language meaning “to lay with a woman.”

Indeed, that’s how the same word is used in Genesis 20:6, where God tells Abimelech, the king of Gerar, not to “touch” Abraham’s wife Sarah, who Abimelech had taken from Abraham. *“And God said unto him in a dream, Yea, I know that thou didst this in the integrity of thy heart; for I also withheld thee from sinning against me: therefore suffered I thee not to touch her.”*

Similarly, the same word is used in this regard in book of Ruth, where Ruth is told she can go gather crops in the field where the young men are working and they won’t be allowed to “touch” her. *“Let thine eyes be on the field that they do reap, and go thou after them: have I not charged the young men that they shall not touch thee? and when thou art athirst, go unto the vessels, and drink of that which the young men have drawn.”*

In both cases, the word “touch” is the same Hebrew word *naga*, and the meaning euphemistically refers to having sexual intercourse. The question, again, is this: Why would Eve add that phrase to God’s command, unless she was at least a little bit suspicious that the old serpent had something up his sleeve *other than talking to her*?

Keep that in firmly mind, as we return now to where we left off in Genesis chapter 3...

Gen 3:4 And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die:

Satan, in his role as the serpent, that old seducer, begins to spring his trap on mother Eve, by contradicting God. He tells her “You won’t die” from eating the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

Gen 3:5 For God doth know that in the day ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil.

So that old serpent tells Eve, essentially, that God’s been keeping something from her. He tells her that contrary to God’s Word, when she eats of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, rather than die she’ll actually gain insight she’s never had before, and that she and Adam will become like gods, understanding both good and evil.

Gen 3:6 And when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.

Eve took the bait. She believed the serpent when he told her this “tree” was good for “food.” She fell for his devastating good looks. (Is it not interestingly that the word “pleasant” in this verse is the Hebrew word *ta'avah* (see Strong’s 8378), signifying a strong longing, or even a lusting for something?) She even believed that partaking of the fruit of this “tree” would make her wise. What’s more, once she partook she also shared what she had just learned with her husband Adam.

In light of what you’ve learned in the parable of the tares in Matthew 13, and in Christ’s rebuking of the false Jews in John chapter 8, and in St. John’s teachings in chapter three of his first epistle, do you really think it was a piece of fruit from a tree that did all of this?

Let’s see what happens next...

Gen 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Wow. That fast, they lost their innocence. And they hurried to sew fig leaves together, to make aprons. If they had actually eaten an apple off a tree, or any other kind of fruit for that matter, why would they sew fig leaves to make an apron? An apron covers one’s private parts, right?

Clearly, they were not in an apple grove, but instead, a fig grove where fig leaves were abundant. But what were they trying to cover up with those aprons of fig leaves?

Could the “fruit” they partook of have been what we would call today *forbidden fruit*, which is to say, fornication -- the very “fornication” the false Jews who argued with Christ in John chapter 8 claimed they were not born of? Well, let’s see if anything relating to sexual relations gets brought up in the remaining verses of this story.

Gen 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

They were so ashamed of what had just happened, they hid themselves from the presence of God among the trees in that fig grove.

Now that's interesting, isn't it? God was there in the Garden of Eden with them. Hopefully by now you've figure out He was that "tree of life" that stood in the midst of the garden where also the evil "tree of the knowledge of good and evil" was located.

In this flesh life, God always gives us a choice. We can partake of His righteous fruit, which is to say, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ who brings forgiveness, salvation and life eternal. Or we can partake of the devil's ungodly fruits, which are lies, deception and death.

Gen 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

He knew exactly where Adam was. And He directed His voice to him.

Gen 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

That old tree of the knowledge of good and evil had laid them bare, alright. They were naked and ashamed before the Lord.

And they had not just lost their flesh innocence; they lost their *righteousness*, too. As we know from Revelation 19:8, our spiritual garments are our righteous acts in Christ. But when we lose our righteousness by turning away from the Word of God and embracing that which has been forbidden, *we lose those spiritual garments*, and end up naked and ashamed before the Lord.

As the Scripture says in Revelation 16:15, "*Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame.*"

Gen 3:11 And he said, Who told thee that thou wast naked? Hast thou eaten of the tree, whereof I commanded thee that thou shouldest not eat?

God knew exactly what had happened. He asks them, "Have you disobeyed my command to refrain from eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil?"

I could ask that same question to *you*, today. There are two trees in the garden of God. One of those trees is completely evil, *setting forth religious deception under the guise of increased insight and personal transformation*. Partaking of that tree leads to *muth muth*, which is to say, death of both body and soul.

The other tree in the garden of God is righteous, even the Son of Righteousness, setting forth truth, deliverance and salvation which leads to life eternal. Which tree do you eat from? If you have not heard this teaching before, you might be eating from the wrong tree, my friend!

Gen 3:12 And the man said, The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

Just like a man, isn't it? Always blaming the woman. But more importantly, Adam here is blaming *God*. "You gave me this woman, God!" He might as well have told God "It's *your* fault I ate of this tree!"

Gen 3:13 And the LORD God said unto the woman, What is this that thou hast done? And the woman said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

The word "beguiled" is translated from the Hebrew word *nasha* (see Strong's 5377). It means to utterly delude, or even to *seduce*. He sure did, didn't he? The old slick really took her in.

In a while, we'll visit II Corinthians chapter 11, where St. Paul has something to say about this beguilement in the garden. But right now, listen *very carefully* to the next two verses of God's Word, as you're about to get confirmation of Christ's explanation of the parable of the tares:

Gen 3:14 And the LORD God said unto the serpent, Because thou hast done this, thou art cursed above all cattle, and above every beast of the field; upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life:

That's a statement of degradation. God is saying to that old serpent, "For doing this, you are the low life of all low lifes."

Gen 3:15 And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel.

What's this? God says He's going to put *enmity* (i.e., perpetual hostility) between the serpent and mother Eve, as well as between the serpent's seed and the woman's seed.

Is that not two different seed lines? Of course it is! The word "seed" used in this verse is translated from the Hebrew word *zera* (see Strong's 2233), meaning in this context "posterity" or children.

The woman's seed, meaning her children through her husband Adam, would have a high point many years into the future with the birth of Christ Jesus as shown in the genealogy of Mary in Luke chapter 3.

But that old serpent, the devil, also has seed, which is to say, he has also sired children on the face of this earth. And we are told here by our heavenly Father that the serpent's seed line will always be naturally opposed to the children of God through Adam and Eve.

There will be “enmity,” meaning hostility, between these two seed lines. And of course, since Christ Jesus was of the posterity of Adam and Eve, that enmity between the children of the devil and the children of Adam and Eve would naturally spill over onto Christ at His first advent.

Yes, the children of the devil would even attempt to kill Him, as we saw in John chapter 8, previously in this study. Indeed, it will ultimately be the children of this wicked seed line that will have Christ delivered up to the Roman government and crucified.

So when our heavenly Father states to the serpent in the verse above, “. . .it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel,” He’s saying that while the serpent will strike at Christ’s heel (by having those nails driven into His feet, on the cross), Christ will crush Satan’s head in return, at His second advent.

The old devil and his wicked children will be done away with in the lake of fire, at the great White Throne Judgment at the end of the Lord’s Day, which is to say, the end of the millennium.

Has your church taught you this? Or do they consider this doctrine to be a “strange thing”? As you can see, it comes *straight from your heavenly Father*. So I do hope it is taught with the appropriate reverence to Him wherever you are being spiritually fed. For to deny His Word, and consider it “strange” or foreign, is to deny His very Christ *who taught this profound truth repeatedly* in the parable of the tares and elsewhere throughout the Scriptures.

So let’s continue here in Genesis so we can learn exactly how Satan’s seed got born into this old world. . .

Gen 3:16 Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee.

We can now see that all along the subject matter has been *seed lines, conception and child-bearing*. Indeed, it’s a running theme throughout God’s Word. Something happened during Eve’s little discussion with the serpent. She partook of the *forbidden fruit*, known to adults as fornication. It was not just a physical encounter with that old serpent the devil, but a *sexual* encounter.

The phrase “greatly multiply” in the above verse is quite interesting. It’s the same Hebrew word, repeated *twice* for emphasis. Kind of like *muth muth* in Genesis 2:17, meaning “die, die.” But here it’s *rabah rabah* (see Strong’s 7325) meaning “increase, increase” or “more, more.”

The word “sorrow” in the above verse is translated from the Hebrew word *itsabon* (see Strong’s 6093), meaning labor pain. And the word “conception” is translated from the Hebrew word *herayon* (see Strong’s 2032), meaning pregnancy.

In other words, Eve’s labor pain and pregnancy would be multiplied. Do you think she’s about to have *two* children at once? Of two different seed lines?

Again, from the very get-go the subject has been *seed lines* and *conception*. If God caught Adam and Eve eating apples off a fruit tree, why would they have covered their private parts with fig leaf aprons? And why would He immediately begin speaking of *conception* and two different *seed lines*?

You really need to think about that question, because your answer to it will literally determine whether or not you understand the rest of the Bible, and fully understand the Gospel message.

In the remaining verses of chapter 3, our heavenly Father drives Adam and Eve from His presence in the Garden of Eden, as part of their punishment.

Let's jump down to verse 1 of chapter 4 and see if we can learn a little bit more on this subject of conception, which God Himself brought up immediately upon finding that Adam and Eve had partaken of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil:

Gen 4:1 And Adam knew Eve his wife; and she conceived, and bare Cain, and said, I have gotten a man from the LORD.

The word "knew" in the verse above is translated from the Hebrew word *yada* (see Strong's 3045), meaning to know a thing, or to ascertain something by seeing it visually. But like the word *naga*, translated "touch" in Genesis 3:3, *yada* is also frequently used in the Bible as a euphemism for sexual intercourse.

So Adam and Eve had sexual intercourse. And she conceived and gave birth to Cain, and said she'd gotten a man from the Lord. That makes perfect sense because God had said in Genesis 3:16 that He was going to be in charge of bringing forth children through her, i.e., "I will greatly multiply thy sorrows [labor pains] and conception..."

Cain was obviously her first-born son. God is indeed in charge of bringing life into this world. There is no conception that can take place without His permission.

But properly translated and punctuated, the above verse should read, "And Adam knew Eve his wife." Period. Then she conceived. Period. And then she bare Cain, and said, "I have gotten a man from the LORD."

I make that distinction for an important reason. You see, Eve had *already* conceived Cain in her womb before she and Adam had sexual intercourse. In fact, she had just been seduced in the fig grove by that old serpent, the devil, who was also the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in the midst of the garden. So it's important to understand that after having sexual intercourse with her husband Adam, she conceived *again*.

Yes, she conceived *two children at once*, from two different fathers. They were conceived in the same womb, at close to the same time. In science and medicine, this is called *heteropaternal superfecundation*. Yes, that's quite a mouthful. And while it's rare, it *is* a reality, and it's actually much more common than you might think.

It simply means that two different men, having intercourse with the same woman in close proximity of time (i.e., within hours or days of each other) can sire two different children in the same womb, who will grow together in that womb and be born as “twins” at the same time.

According to a medical study published in the Journal of Forensic Science in 1994, “*If a female has sexual intercourse with two males at short intervals within the same ovulatory period, superfecundation may occur. This article reports two cases of paternity identification in twins. The results showed that each twin had come from a different father.*”

According to Wikipeda.com, “*Superfecundation most commonly happens within hours or days of the first instance of fertilization with ova released during the same cycle. There is a small time window when eggs are able to be fertilized. Sperm cells can live inside a female’s body for 4–5 days. Once ovulation occurs, the egg remains viable for 12–48 hours before it begins to disintegrate. Thus, the fertile period can span 5–7 days.*”

Wikipedia continues: “*Though rare in humans, many cases have been documented...In 1994 a woman gave birth to twin girls named Skylar and Ariana who have different fathers. In June 2008, a Texas woman gave birth to fraternal twins fathered by different men. In that case, a DNA test concluded that there was a 99.999 percent chance that the twins had different fathers. The twins' mother acknowledged having had intercourse with more than one man in a short period of time close to the conception date.*”

This phenomena has been widely reported in the news media, so it is nothing new. You can do a Google search for “twins with different fathers” and learn a lot more about it.

In short, mother Eve was seduced by that old serpent in the garden, and conceived. Shortly afterwards, she had sexual intercourse with her husband Adam, and conceived again (i.e., “she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and *gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat.*”) They both partook of that “forbidden fruit” of seduction, and both broke God’s law. And nine months later she began giving birth, with Cain being the first child to come out of her womb.

What happened next? Let’s go to the next verse...

Gen 4:2 And she again bare his brother Abel. And Abel was a keeper of sheep, but Cain was a tiller of the ground.

The word “again” in the above verse is translated from the Hebrew word *yasaph* (see Strong’s 3254). And it means to augment, or *to continue to do a thing*. In other words, mother Eve continued in child birth without stopping. She had given birth to Cain in verse 1 above, and then she continued to give birth, producing Cain’s brother Abel in verse 2 above.

That’s why many years later Cain and Abel would come of age *together*, and offer sacrifices to the Lord *at the same time* (Gen. 4:3-4), as we learned earlier in this study. You see, they were *twins*, but of two different fathers. Which is why they had two different demeanors and two different personalities altogether -- one being a righteous man who loved and honored God and raised sheep (a type of Christ), and the other being very unrighteous, who dishonored God and afterwards murdered his own brother (a type of the antichrist/Satan).

Hopefully, at this point you can understand how that old story came about in which Adam and Eve are said to have been given an apple to eat by the serpent in the garden. As we've seen in this study, the word "apple" doesn't even appear in the Scriptures regarding this event.

The "apple" story was likely originally concocted to prevent young children from hearing the truth about the seduction in the garden, and the participation of Adam and Eve in it. Using deception and sex, Satan stole Adam and Eve's innocence – and righteousness – from them. And very likely, early church Christians wanted to protect the tender ears of innocent of young kids from hearing about sex too early. So they came up with the "apple" story.

But unfortunately, over the centuries the "apple" story has become actual church doctrine, not just for children, but for adults too. In other words, a *tradition of man* has taken the place of God's Word, preventing Christians from understanding one of the key precepts of the Word of God, which is the fact that *the devil himself has sired children on this old earth, and they are at constant enmity -- even spiritual warfare – with the children of God.*

As we learned earlier in Psalm 78, we are not to hide God's Word from our children, but instead, reveal it, so they won't be so easily misled later in life when presented with religious tradition in place of God's Word: "*Give ear, O my people, to my law: incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done.*" (Ps. 78:3-4)

It's for good reason that the Scripture tells us that Satan is "more subtil than any beast of the field." He's very good at craftily using even the best of intentions of Christians – such as "protecting the children" -- to derail them from coming to a fuller understanding of their heavenly Father's precious Word. And Satan is particularly subtil (i.e., crafty) when it comes to hiding the truth about his own children on this earth.

But the Word of God, properly understood, teaches us all things. For example, you might want to note that in Genesis chapter 5, Adam's genealogy – the record of his posterity -- is given. But check out verses 1-3 below, and you'll see that Abel is missing from this genealogy, and his later son Seth is mentioned instead. That makes perfect sense, because as soon as Abel came of age, he was murdered by his brother Cain *before he could have produced children* that would have contributed to the genealogy.

Gen 5:1 This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him;

Gen 5:2 Male and female created he them; and blessed them, and called their name Adam, in the day when they were created.

Gen 5:3 And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son in his own likeness, after his image; and called his name Seth:

But, if you're paying attention, you'll notice that Cain is *also* conspicuously missing from Adam's genealogy. Indeed, Cain's genealogy is given separately from Adam's, in a previous chapter (see Genesis 4:16-22).

Why? Because, simply stated, *Cain was not Adam's son*. Any church system or any preacher that tries to tell you otherwise simply doesn't know what they're talking about. They're contradicting the very Word of God on the subject.

As St. John explained in 1 John 3:12, Cain was "of that wicked one." He was the serpent's son, through Eve. In other words, he was the first tare planted in the field. And his descendants constitute that tare crop which is going to be harvested by the angels at Christ's second coming, to be bundled together and burned in the fire (short of sincere repentance on their part, of course).

Meanwhile, like the false Jews in John chapter 8 who claimed to believe on Christ, but who turned out to have murder in their hearts like their ancestor Cain, the children of the devil continue on today in the wicked works of their father the devil. They deny God's Word regarding His Christ, which is to say, His Anointed One. And through their infiltration of the religious dynasty they inoculate the minds of the religious multitudes with erroneous doctrine – empty religious traditions of man – even to the point of pushing a substitute version of the Gospel message onto Christians.

The only problem is, *their religious traditions can't save anyone*. It's the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil (i.e., good doctrine and evil doctrine mixed together, to produce an evil outcome), and all it can produce is *muth muth* (Genesis 2:17; "surely die"), which is to say, death of both the body *and* soul in the lake of fire.

St. Paul's Teaching: Eve Was "Beguiled"

This is one reason why St. Paul would teach, in the II Corinthians chapter 11, regarding Eve's seduction in the garden, that it's extremely important for Christians not to allow their understanding of the Word of God to be co-opted by false teaching, regardless of the source.

Paul warned the Christians at Corinth that their very salvation could be at stake if they allowed themselves to be drawn away from the simple truth of God's Word, as Eve was. Let's take a quick look at what he had to say:

2Co 11:1 Would to God ye could bear with me a little in my folly: and indeed bear with me.

St. Paul says, bear with me just a minute, as I have something to say to you that might seem foolish, but it's important nevertheless.

2Co 11:2 For I am jealous over you with godly jealousy: for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ.

Paul says he's jealous with *Godly jealousy* over the Christian church in Corinth – a church he helped found.

And why was he jealous? For the same reason a man might be jealous if his virgin bride is being seduced away by a stranger. Apparently, some super preachers had come along and started preaching empty religious traditions rather than Bible truth to the Christians of Corinth.

So Paul tells the Christians from the church at Corinth, "I've espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." Clearly, he's being protective of this church, warning its members that they're being led away down Primrose Lane, away from Christ and the Gospel message.

In short, their *spiritual virginity* was in jeopardy. He was concerned that they could end up being impregnated with the lies of Satan himself, and led away from Christ to something else altogether. Something that would leave them naked and ashamed, spiritually speaking.

2Co 11:3 But I fear, lest by any means, as the serpent beguiled Eve through his subtilty, so your minds should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ.

The Gospel message is a simple one. As we learned in Christ's explanation of the parable of the tares, there are two forces involved: the children of God and the wicked children of the devil. The latter is always trying to derail the former. But in the end, Christ is going to come with His angels and gather the good seed, through salvation, into His eternal kingdom. And at the same time He will destroy (short of repentance) the evil seed through burning in the lake of fire at the end of the millennium.

Paul tells the Corinthians his greatest fear is that just as the serpent beguiled Eve through his craftiness, so they might lose sight of the simple truth of God's Word and be led astray as Eve was.

Be sure to check out that word "beguiled" from the above verse, in your Strong's Concordance. It's translated from the Greek word *exapatao* (see Strong's #1818), and you'll find it has one meaning and one meaning only. It means "to seduce wholly." And it implies being cheated or seduced from the inside out.

In other words, through the craftiness of the serpent – who is the devil himself – mother Eve was wholly seduced. The seduction was all-encompassing. She was cheated from the inside out by that old serpent, which is to say, cheated of her *physical* virginity, as well as her *spiritual* virginity.

2Co 11:4 For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him.

Here's what St. Paul was concerned about. The super preachers from the region were apparently preaching another savior. They called him "Jesus." But when you examined the details of their preaching, it wasn't our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ of the Scriptures. Indeed, in the original Greek, the phrase "another Jesus" is *allos Ieosous* (see Strong's #'s 243 and 2424), meaning an altogether *different* Jesus.

And St. Paul was afraid the Christians of Corinth would fall for this deception. This is much the same as today, when Christian preachers teach a "Jesus" who can "come at any moment now" to rapture us away, in direct contrast to the Holy Scriptures which teach us that the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth is *Satan*, in his guise as the false messiah, and that Christ cannot come until *after* Satan arrives to this old earth.

In other words, the any-moment-now "Jesus" so commonly taught by the church is not our Lord and Savior, but instead is the *antichrist* – the very devil himself, in his seductive role as the false messiah. And he's being taught right from the Christian pulpits of today. Similarly in Paul's day the false preachers were attempting to seduce the Christians of Corinth away from the Christ of the Gospel, and lead them to another "Jesus" altogether.

All of this, very much as Satan had seduced mother Eve away from her obedience to God's Word, leaving her naked and ashamed...and pregnant. As Christ said in Mark 13:17, "*But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days!*" He was not talking about childbirth. He was talking about *spiritual* seduction. When He arrives at His second advent to crush the head of the serpent who will be ruling from Jerusalem as the false messiah, will He find you spiritually impregnated by the lies of that old seducer? I hope not.

St. Paul rightly points out that just as God has His Savior, and His Spirit, and His Gospel, so the false religious leaders have their own versions...their own savior, their own spirit, their own gospel message (i.e., false religious traditions), which they seek to foist upon unsuspecting Christians through craft.

This is how the devil works through his wicked seed. The devil's children take God's Word and then put their own little twist on it, essentially changing the truth just enough to draw Christians unwittingly over to *their father the devil* rather than to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Just Who Are These Children of the Devil?

You may remember from the account in John chapter 8 of Christ's discussion with the Jews who had initially professed to believe on Him, that these individuals proclaimed themselves to be children of Abraham, but unlike Abraham they lusted in their hearts to murder the Lord.

Christ told them this was most definitely *not* a characteristic of the children of Abraham. And He pointedly told them they were of their father the devil, and the lusts of their father was what they would do. And indeed, within moments of hearing this they began gathering up stones in an attempt to stone Him to death.

Isn't it interesting that in Matthew chapter 3, where St. John the Baptist is baptizing people in the river Jordan, we see a similar situation? Let's take a quick look and see whether or not we can learn more about how to recognize these children of the devil:

Mat 3:5 Then went out to him Jerusalem, and all Judaea, and all the region round about Jordan,

Mat 3:6 And were baptized of him in Jordan, confessing their sins.

Multitudes of people from Jerusalem and the entire regions of Judaea and Jordan were coming out to hear John the Baptist preach, and to confess their sins and be baptized by him. He must have had one heckuva powerful message, right? After all, it's pretty hard to get people to leave the comfort and familiarity of their churches in droves, and take the long trek out into the wilderness to hear a preacher.

Mat 3:7 But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees come to his baptism, he said unto them, O generation of vipers, who hath warned you to flee from the wrath to come?

Here we see the Pharisees and Sadducees – the Jewish religious leaders -- coming out to the river Jordan where John was baptizing. They wanted to see what was going on. You see, John the Baptist was pretty much emptying their synagogues. And you can bet that was putting quite a crimp in their pocketbooks. That didn't set too well with these so-called men of the cloth.

But when John the Baptist sees these Jewish religious leaders coming, he immediately lights into them. He sternly berates them: “O generation of vipers, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

The word “generation” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *gennema* (see Strong's #1081). And it literally means “offspring.” It's from the base word *gennao* (see Strong's #1080) meaning “to procreate.”

And of course, the word “vipers” means a serpent, or poisonous snake.

In other words, St. John the Baptist tells these Jewish religious leaders, “You offspring of poisonous serpents, who has warned you to flee from the wrath to come?”

You see, John the Baptist recognized them as the children of the devil, that old serpent from the Garden of Eden who impregnated our mother Eve with Cain. They were Kenites, or *children of Cain*, masquerading as Jews. And as we shall see later in this study when we visit Jeremiah chapter 35, they had a long and continual relationship with the tribe of Judah stretching hundreds of years – to the point that many of them had actually weaseled their ways up to becoming the religious leaders among that tribe.

St. John the Baptist continues rebuking them:

Mat 3:8 Bring forth therefore fruits meet for repentance:

John the Baptist tells them they better start producing some fruit (i.e., religious works) suitable for repentance. In other words, he knew their works were evil, like the works of their father the devil, and like Cain's and that entire lineage all of the way back to the Garden of Eden. It was pure religious deception they brought forth. They love operating under the guise of religion.

As we studied earlier, when Christ would appear on the scene and preach the parable of the tares, He would reveal to His disciples that these children of the devil were growing up right alongside the children of the Kingdom. But most people didn't know it. And they certainly didn't realize that many of their own religious leaders were of the evil seed line.

But John the Baptist was not fooled for a split second. He was operating under the power of the Holy Spirit, and he understood the deeper truths of God's Word that had been hidden from the religious multitudes over the many centuries as the vain religious traditions of man had begun to replace God's Word in the minds of the people.

Mat 3:9 And think not to say within yourselves, We have Abraham to our father: for I say unto you, that God is able of these stones to raise up children unto Abraham.

Isn't that interesting? John the Baptist didn't even give them a chance to speak. He knew they would try to refute his accusation that they're the offspring of serpents (i.e., of the lineage of Cain) by claiming to be children of Abraham.

Isn't that the same thing claimed by the Jews who were disputing with Christ in John chapter 8 before He dressed them down and told them they were of their father the devil? Of course it was.

You see, *that's* what the children of the devil do. Just as the antichrist tries to take the place of Jesus Christ in the hearts of God's children, so these offspring of the serpent try to infiltrate God's children and pretend to be of the lineage of Abraham. They even call themselves "God's chosen." And they use that claim to take leadership roles in the synagogues –seizing the roles of religious teachers so they can insert their poisonous religious traditions directly into the minds of the multitudes.

St. John the Baptist continues dressing down these phony religious leaders who pretend to be children of Abraham:

Mat 3:10 And now also the axe is laid unto the root of the trees: therefore every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

Ahh...here's the two kinds of "trees" again. Remember the Bible concept of *trees as people*?

You've got trees that bring forth *good* fruit, which is to say, correct religious doctrine and righteous works for the Lord. Such trees are of the Tree of Life, which is to say, they are the children of God. And then you've got trees which consistently *fail* to bring forth good fruit. Instead, their works are quite evil and disruptive. In other words, they're of the tree of the

knowledge of good and evil, which is to say, they're of the seed line of that old serpent, the devil, through Cain.

St. John the Baptist tells them the "axe is laid unto the root of the trees, and cast into the fire" meaning short of sincere repentance on their part, and embrace of the Lord's salvation plan, these "trees" are going to be chopped down and sent into the lake of fire at the end of the millennium when the great White Throne Judgment takes place.

Mat 3:11 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and with fire:

St. John the Baptists reveals that the Messiah of God – the Christ Himself – was about to be step onto the scene. And that the baptism He'd bring with Him would ultimately be twofold: It would be of the *Holy Spirit* for those who deserved to enter into the Kingdom of God, or it would be of *fire* for those who deserved to be destroyed at the end of this earth age when the reapers (i.e., the angels) arrive to separate the evil from the good.

Mat 3:12 Whose fan is in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.

Two different seed lines: One of them considered to be "good wheat," spiritually speaking, and who are to be gathered into the garner, which is to say into the Kingdom of heaven. And the other considered to be nothing but chaff, which is to say, completely inedible, worthy only of being burned up in the lake of fire.

So the distinguishing characteristic of the children of the devil is that they simply will not bring forth good fruit for God. They are likened to corrupt trees (Matthew 7:17-23), because they reject the Gospel message of Christ altogether, and therefore bring forth no fruit (righteous works) for the Lord in relation to His great plan of salvation through Christ.

As Christ so plainly spoke in Matthew chapter 7:

Mat 7:17 Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit.

Good trees bring forth God's Word of salvation through Christ, in its fullness and truth. Corrupt trees work to derail the Gospel message by substituting empty religious traditions in place of God's Word. If you have understanding, you know they even work behind the scenes to convince the world of the imminent arrival of a spurious "messiah," which is their own father the devil. This is their evil fruit.

Mat 7:18 A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth good fruit.

A “good tree” won’t work to derail the Gospel message. Nor will a “good tree” try to lead people to a false messiah. Conversely, a “corrupt tree,” being of that evil lineage of the devil, won’t work to bring forth the Gospel message in its fullness, or to help people understand the difference between the antichrist, who arrives to this earth at the *sixth trump* pretending to be the Messiah of God, and the true Christ, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who arrives to this earth at the *seventh trump* to destroy the evil works of the devil.

Mat 7:19 Every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire.

We’ve learned this lesson over and over in this study. Short of sincere repentance, those “corrupt trees” are going to be chopped down and cast into the lake of fire at the end of the millennium, during the great White Throne Judgment of God.

Mat 7:20 Wherefore by their fruits ye shall know them.

If you want to be able to discern the “good trees” from the “corrupt trees,” watch their fruits. That is to say, watch their religious *works*. Do they work to bring for the Gospel message in its simplicity and its fullness, as we’ve been learning it in this study? Or...do they promote *another* gospel – a religious doctrine based upon vain church traditions that leaves out all of this vital information, and thus protects them from detection?

Mat 7:21 Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Religiosity will not get you into heaven. Even Cain was religious. After all, he did make a sacrifice to the Lord, just not a righteous one. Like righteous Abel, your works on behalf of God must reflect your love for God’s Word in its fullness and simplicity, and in particular for His great plan of salvation through Christ Jesus, which includes understanding the parable of the tares!

Mat 7:22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

Hey, you might have used the Lord’s name during your religious activities, but did you actually preach His doctrine? Or was it considered to be a “strange thing” unto you?

Mat 7:23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

God knows those who teach His Word exactly as it’s written, line by line and verse by verse. He knows those who strive out of love to bring forth the Gospel message in its simplicity and its fullness. But those who consider His Word to be a “strange thing,” He

in return considers to be foreign to Himself. He says, “I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.”

Going back to Mathew chapter 3 for a second, John the Baptist of course finished his ministry, and was later arrested and then beheaded by Herod. He never wavered in his bold faith in the Word of God. He taught it exactly as it was written, straight down the line. And he didn't care if the “corrupt trees” among the Jewish religious leadership heard him. He let them have it with both barrels.

Later, Christ would take some of these same Jewish religious leaders to task once again, much as St. John the Baptist had. Here's one example of what He had to say to them. Again, listen closely to your Lord and Savior's words in the following verses, and learn some more about the distinguishing characteristics of the children of the devil:

Mat 23:27 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye are like unto whited sepulchres, which indeed appear beautiful outward, but are within full of dead men's bones, and of all uncleanness.

He's talking to the religious leaders – the scribes and Pharisees – and pronouncing “woe” on them. “Woe” is an exclamation of grief. In other words, Christ pronounces great grief on these Jewish religious leaders.

The word “hypocrites” is a fascinating word, and I hope you'll *never* forget its meaning. It's translated from the Greek word *hupokrites* (see Strong's #5273). And unlike the English word “hypocrite” which means a person who says one thing and does another, this word actually means “an actor under an assumed character,” or “a stage player.” It can even mean a “pretender.”

You see, these Jewish religious leaders were pretending to be one thing. But in reality, they were quite another. And Jesus well knew it.

In fact, He likens them to “whited sepulchers,” meaning a white-washed tomb. And just as a newly painted tomb appears to be beautiful on the outside but is filled with dead men's bones and rotting flesh on the inside, so these religious leaders portray themselves as children of the Kingdom on the outside, but if you take a peek on the inside they're the children of that walking corpse himself, which is to say, the devil (Hebrews 2:14).

They only *pretend* to be children of God – even calling themselves “God's chosen” -- because they love the respect and admiration it brings them when they are in fact deserving of nothing more than disdain for their continual evil works.

Mat 23:28 Even so ye also outwardly appear righteous unto men, but within ye are full of hypocrisy and iniquity.

Outwardly, they look and sound so very, very religious. But their true inner nature is that of their father the devil.

Here the word “hypocrisy” is translated from the Greek word *hupokrisis* (see Strong’s #5272), meaning “acting under a feigned part.” Obviously, it’s a related word to *hupokrites* in verse 27.

And the word “iniquity” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *anomia* (see Strong’s #458), meaning “violation of the law” or “wickedness.”

(By the way, this word “iniquity” is the very same word Christ used in Matthew 13:41, in the course of His explanation of the parable of the tares when he explained that it was those “which do iniquity” who will be gathered up by the angels and prepared for burning.)

So you see here the very same characteristics of these Jewish religious leaders being addressed by Christ Jesus. They look just like the children of the kingdom, because that’s the role they like to play – taking even the leadership positions among the religious multitudes.

But they’re nothing more than *actors feigning a part*, violating God’s law by trying to take the place of the children of the Kingdom, and substituting their own religious traditions in place of the Word of God.

Indeed, ultimately, their goal is to have the children of the Kingdom end up unwittingly worshipping their father the devil, *in place of God*.

Mat 23:29 Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! because ye build the tombs of the prophets, and garnish the sepulchres of the righteous,

Mat 23:30 And say, If we had been in the days of our fathers, we would not have been partakers with them in the blood of the prophets.

Christ once more pronounces great grief upon these religious leaders, and once more calls them “hypocrites” – which is to say, *actors feigning a part*.

And why? Because while they repair and decorate the gravesites of the prophets, they piously proclaim that had they been living in the days of their fathers, they would not have participated in the *murders* of the prophets.

Mat 23:31 Wherefore ye be witnesses unto yourselves, that ye are the children of them which killed the prophets.

Christ says their own testimony convicts them of being the children of the murderers. Hmm. Wasn’t Cain the first murderer? And didn’t he kill righteous Abel, whose sacrifice prophesied of salvation through Christ? Yes, of course. We’ve covered that!

Mat 23:32 Fill ye up then the measure of your fathers.

He tells them, “Like father like son. So get to it. Do your worst.” He knew they were plotting to have Him crucified.

This should instantly remind you of Christ's words to the so-called Jews who had initially professed to believe on Him. He told them, "Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do."

You see, this evil seed is on this earth to do the works of their father the devil. And in so doing they're fulfilling the negative part of God's Plan. They're working to usher in the kingdom of their father the devil, in his role as the false Christ, or antichrist.

And God is looking to see which of *His* children are paying attention. Do you inadvertently *support* the children of the devil, thinking them to be pious and religious Jews – even "God's chosen"? Or can you tell the difference between the children of the Kingdom who love Jesus Christ, and the children of the devil who despise Him and seek to replace Him with their own father?

A great deception has been taking place for a l-o-o-o-n-g time now. Are you beginning to get the picture?

Mat 23:33 Ye serpents, ye generation of vipers, how can ye escape the damnation of hell?

Aha! There you have it, straight from the mouth of your Lord and Savior. Like John the Baptist before Him, He calls these Jewish religious leaders *serpents*, and points out that they're the *offspring* of vipers. In other words, they're the Kenites, the children of Cain, the son of that old serpent, the devil.

And contemplating the scope and magnitude of their evil works down through the ages, He asks with great exasperation, "How can ye escape the damnation of hell?" It's a rhetorical question, of course. He wasn't looking for an answer. He'd already given the answer in the parable of the tares in Matthew chapter 13. Short of sincere repentance, they would be gathered up by the angels of God and burned in the fire at the end of the millennium, when the great White Throne Judgment of God takes place.

Mat 23:34 Wherefore, behold, I send unto you prophets, and wise men, and scribes: and some of them ye shall kill and crucify; and some of them shall ye scourge in your synagogues, and persecute them from city to city:

These religious leaders did everything in their power to stop the salvation plan of God from being brought forth. Their ultimate goal is to substitute their own father – the ultimate play-actor of them all -- in *place* of Christ.

Mat 23:35 That upon you may come all the righteous blood shed upon the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel unto the blood of Zacharias son of Barachias, whom ye slew between the temple and the altar.

Who was it again who murdered righteous Abel? Oh, yes, it was Cain. You see, from Abel forward, this evil seed line has done nothing but work to destroy the plan of God, even to the point of slaying many of those righteous teachers God has sent forth over the centuries to warn His children.

In a very short time, this evil seed would even pressure the Roman authorities to have Christ crucified, not realizing, of course, that they were playing right into God's plan to institute salvation.

How about you? Can you see? Or are you so steeped in church tradition that all of this wisdom from your heavenly Father's Word is just a "strange thing" to you?

Mat 23:36 Verily I say unto you, All these things shall come upon this generation.

Christ is speaking of that *final* generation in which all of the children of the devil, short of sincere repentance, are to be gathered up and burned in the lake of fire at the end of the millennium after the great White Throne judgment of God, during which they will be convicted of all of their murders and iniquity.

And where is it that these wicked seed are chiefly based out of?

Mat 23:37 O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not!

You see, Jerusalem is God's favorite spot on the face of the earth. It's where he intends to set up His eternal kingdom. But the children of the wicked one work to secure that very spot for their father the devil, who seeks to play the role of God from that very city, ultimately deceiving the whole world into believing him (Rev. 12:9).

Indeed, the influence of the evil seed is so great in that city, the religious multitudes residing there would be duped into rejecting Christ only a short time after they'd been crying to Him "*Hosanna to the Son of David: Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord; Hosanna in the highest*". And He would be crucified by the Roman authorities as a result.

Mat 23:38 Behold, your house is left unto you desolate.

In this context, Christ is speaking of a *family house* – a bloodline. This is a curse pronounced upon that wicked seed by our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. You see, their father the devil is known as *the desolator* – the abominable one of Daniel 9:27 who lays waste to God's children through spiritual deception.

But Christ says it's their *own* house that will be left desolate – empty, waste, destroyed -- unto them. That is part and parcel of the good news of the Gospel of God. The evil seed line whose father is the desolator are the ones who are going to be destroyed in the lake of fire at the end of the millennium, right along with their father.

Mat 23:39 For I say unto you, Ye shall not see me henceforth, till ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord.

When you look to Jerusalem today, do you see anyone saying “Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord”? In other words, is Jerusalem a *Christian* dwelling place? No. It most certainly is not. In fact, with only a tiny exception of a small handful of Christians residing there – less than 3% of the population – Christ Jesus is utterly abhorred there, to the point they even have civil laws making it illegal to preach the Gospel of Christ to the residents of that city. Think about that!

Are you beginning to get the picture? Or must I ask once again, is what you’ve been learning here a “strange thing” unto you? Or are you beginning to understand?

How Did The Children of the Cain End Up Attached to Judah and Jerusalem?

By the time of Christ’s first advent it seems the tares – the children of the devil – had taken over much of the religious leadership of the nation of Israel, particularly in the capital city of Jerusalem.

As we’ve seen in the previous sections of this study, Christ repeatedly exposed and admonished them. John the Baptist exposed and admonished them. What’s more, St. John the Beloved taught of them, and warned that we should strive to love our brother, and be not like Cain who was of that wicked one, and who slew his brother.

And the tares are discussed in many other parts of the New Testament, as well – too numerous to go into here. (Which is another good reason you should make it a point to study your Father’s Word diligently, every day, in accord with your spiritual appetite of course.)

But how did this evil seed line end up attached to the nation of Israel, and in particular to the tribe of Judah?

For those who know their Bible history, you’ll recall that after the time of King Solomon, the Kingdom of Israel was divided into two geographical areas, with separate kings ruling over each area.

There was the northern kingdom of Israel, centered around the capital city of Samaria, consisting largely of the tribe of Ephraim plus parts of the tribes of Levi and Benjamin and small remnants of other tribes. And they had their own Israelite king.

And then there was the southern kingdom of Judah, occupying the land of Judah, south of Jerusalem, and it was comprised of the remaining ten tribes. And of course they had their own Israelite king.

According to the book of I Chronicles, chapter 2, it was at this time that the Kenites (i.e., sons of Cain) of the house of Rechab had become the scribes, which is to say, the religious bookkeepers or record-keepers, of the house of Judah.

As it is written in the very last line of I Chronicles, chapter 2, the Kenites had even *tagged themselves on to Judah's genealogy*:

1Ch 2:55 And the families of the scribes which dwelt at Jabez; the Tirathites, the Shimeathites, and Suchathites. These are the Kenites that came of Hemath, the father of the house of Rechab.

So way back in the time of the kings of Israel and Judah, the sons of Cain, from the lineage of one called Hemath, the father of the house of Rechab, had become religious record-keepers for Judah and had tagged themselves onto the tribe of Judah. Right from the start they had begun to infiltrate the religious hierarchy of Judah, even calling themselves “Jews.”

Does God's Word give a second witness to this? In chapter 35 of the great book of Jeremiah, we can learn from the mouths of the Kenites themselves exactly how they ended up tagging themselves onto the tribe of Judah. Let's take a look, and once again learn from our heavenly Father's Word what is not commonly taught in the churches:

Jer 35:1 The word which came unto Jeremiah from the LORD in the days of Jehoiakim the son of Josiah king of Judah, saying,

Jer 35:2 Go unto the house of the Rechabites, and speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the LORD, into one of the chambers, and give them wine to drink.

This is during the reign of Jehoiakim, king of Judah, who ruled between 608-597 B.C., and who was a particularly irreligious and even vicious king.

Here God commands the prophet Jeremiah to go to the house of the Rechabites – which, as we just learned in I Chronicles 2:55, is the very family house of the Kenites, the children of Cain. Jeremiah was to bring them right into the temple of God, into a certain chamber, and give them wine to drink. Why would God want Jeremiah to do this? Well, it's because He's got a point to make – a very important point!

Jer 35:3 Then I took Jaazaniah the son of Jeremiah, the son of Habaziah, and his brethren, and all his sons, and the whole house of the Rechabites;

The “Jeremiah” mentioned in this verse is not the prophet Jeremiah. It's one of the Kenites of the house of the Rechabites, who happened to have the same name. For confirmation, see Jeremiah 1:1, which reveals that the prophet Jeremiah was the son of *Hilkiah* (Jer. 1:1), not the son of Habaziah.

This is important to understand because it reveals something about the Kenites: they even tend to name their children with the *same names* used by the God's People. After

all, they have tagged themselves onto the genealogy of God's People, and are even trying to usurp control of the religious hierarchy.

So here's a question for you to consider: Could they here be staking out position within the religious community of God's people, hundreds of years in advance of Christ's arrival, so they could work against Christ and His followers once His ministry began? You might want to meditate on that. The Kenites are very long-term thinkers, master strategists, and they know God's plan of salvation a lot better than most religionists. But their job is to derail it, on behalf of their father the devil, who wants to take Christ's place.

Jer 35:4 And I brought them into the house of the LORD, into the chamber of the sons of Hanan, the son of Igdaliah, a man of God, which was by the chamber of the princes, which was above the chamber of Maaseiah the son of Shallum, the keeper of the door:

Jer 35:5 And I set before the sons of the house of the Rechabites pots full of wine, and cups, and I said unto them, Drink ye wine.

Jeremiah did exactly as he was told by the Lord. He brought the chief leaders of the house of the Rechabites right into the temple, and offered them wine to drink. Why did God tell Jeremiah to offer them wine?

Jer 35:6 But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever:

This is quite interesting, isn't it? Indeed, particularly considering the fact that Christ's first public miracle was to turn water into wine at a wedding feast, and that the wine would later come to symbolize His shed blood in the Holy Communion.

Could this prohibition against drinking wine symbolize that the Kenites of the house of Rechab were not to partake of communion with Christ Jesus when that time would come? In other words, could it symbolize the fact that they would be *against* Christ, just as God foretold in Genesis 3:15 when He said to Satan, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel."

Jer 35:7 Neither shall ye build house, nor sow seed, nor plant vineyard, nor have any: but all your days ye shall dwell in tents; that ye may live many days in the land where ye be strangers.

This should immediately remind you of the curse God placed on Cain in Genesis 4:11-12, after he had slain his brother Abel. "*And 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; a fugitive and a vagabond shalt thou be in the earth.*"

The Kenites did not sow seed, nor plant vineyard, because the ground simply would not yield its fruit for them. To this very day, even in Jerusalem, they have other peoples grow their crops for them.

What's more, for centuries they've been "strangers" (i.e., sojourners, wanderers, even fugitives) on this earth, traveling from land to land, being kicked out of many, and settling in others only to leave when they've either parasitically taken all they could get from the inhabitants, or have caused enough trouble to have overstayed their welcome.

Jer 35:8 Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters;

Jer 35:9 Nor to build houses for us to dwell in: neither have we vineyard, nor field, nor seed:

Jer 35:10 But we have dwelt in tents, and have obeyed, and done according to all that Jonadab our father commanded us.

Their ancestor Jonadab, also known in Scripture as Jehonadab (II Kings 10:15-17), was the one who many years earlier had been invited into the chariot of Jehu, king of Israel, as he led the slaughter against the evil house of Ahab. Our heavenly Father did not appreciate this, as king Jehu had taken this most prominent descendent of Cain, a child of the devil himself, right into his war chariot to accomplish the works of the Lord.

Later, the Lord would state, in Amos 6:14, "*But, behold, I will raise up against you a nation, O house of Israel, saith the LORD the God of hosts; and they shall afflict you from the entering in of Hemath unto the river of the wilderness.*"

As we learned just a bit earlier from I Chronicles 2:55, Hemath was the father of the house of Rechab, Jonadab's ancestor, a prominent Kenite. In short, from the time Jehu brought the Kenite into his chariot, to the time of the spiritual wilderness of the end of this flesh earth age (i.e., "river of the wilderness"), there would be nothing but trouble and affliction from any union between God's children and the Kenites.

As St. Paul would say many centuries later, in II Corinthians 6:14, when speaking to the Corinthians regarding those Jews who had rejected Christ, "*Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers: for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness? and what communion hath light with darkness? And what concord hath Christ with Belial? or what part hath he that believeth with an infidel?*"

The answer, of course, is that we are not to yoke ourselves to the children of the devil. There is no fellowship...no communion...no concord (i.e., harmony) between us.

Let's continue in Jeremiah chapter 35, and see what more we can learn about these children of Cain from the house of Jonadab and Rechab the sons of Hemath...

Jer 35:11 But it came to pass, when Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon came up into the land, that we said, Come, and let us go to Jerusalem for fear of the army of the Chaldeans, and for fear of the army of the Syrians: so we dwell at Jerusalem.

And that's how the Kenites became attached to Judah. They had moved into Jerusalem about the time King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon began threatening the land in that area with his armies.

Jer 35:12 Then came the word of the LORD unto Jeremiah, saying,

Jer 35:13 Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Go and tell the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, Will ye not receive instruction to hearken to my words? saith the LORD.

Jer 35:14 The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me.

These past three verses are your evidence that the Kenites of the house of Rechab were NOT of the tribe of Judah. God clearly delineates the one from the other. He says that while the Rechabites faithfully perform the works commanded by their father, the men of Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem (which included small remnants of the tribes of Benjamin, Levi and others) refused to receive instruction from God, or hearken to His words.

What was God's reason for having Jeremiah bring the children of Cain right into the temple? It was to make that very point: While the foreign Kenite element among them strictly obeyed their father's word, the men of the tribe of Judah – who were supposed to be the cream of the crop of the children of God, the very lineage of kings – would not even hearken to our heavenly Father's Word.

In other words, the children of Judah were very much like Christians today who sit in church week after week and listen to feel good sermons, never learning the vital truths of their heavenly Father's Word beyond "Jesus saves." It's all about empty religious tradition, and fairy tales like "Eve at an apple," which are designed to hide the presence of the Kenite enemy.

The children of Judah didn't even *want* to know the deeper truths of His Word, because that would require *obedience* to those truths. They'd have had to give up their little religious rituals in the groves, and their alliances with the children of the devil, which were likely quite profitable.

Today, some Christians who come upon these truths regarding the Kenite that dwells among our brother Judah and that pretend to be Jews do the same thing. They ignore it. Some even worry that if they accept and embrace this doctrine, they'll be called "racist," or "anti-semitic."

In short, God's truth can sometimes seem very uncomfortable. But it is *His* truth, nevertheless. And we are obligated to not only learn it, but embrace it and *follow* it exactly as it's written. Otherwise, He has no choice but to say, "I never knew thee, depart from Me, yet that work iniquity..."

Jer 35:15 I have sent also unto you all my servants the prophets, rising up early and sending them, saying, Return ye now every man from his evil way, and amend your doings, and go not after other gods to serve them, and ye shall dwell in the land which I have given to you and to your fathers: but ye have not inclined your ear, nor hearkened unto me.

The tribe of Judah had long since fallen away from the proper worship of our heavenly Father YHVH. They had replaced God's Word with the empty religious traditions of the play-actors among them. Oh, they called upon God's name, alright. And they played religion, attending the synagogues and putting on great sacrifices. They were a very religious people, much like Christians today. But as the Scriptures throughout the Old Testament reveal, they set up altars to Baal in the groves, prostrated themselves before the *asherahs* (phallic symbols) and altogether dishonored our heavenly Father, even though he sent many prophets warning them to repent.

Similarly, Christians today set up churches on every corner, and call on the name of the Lord, but don't understand even the very foundational doctrine of His Word. Many even unwittingly mistake the descendants of Cain for "good wheat," even referring to them as "God's chosen people," when to this day they still refuse the communion wine of Christ, and in fact hate, loathe and despise the sound of His very name!

Now listen up, and learn of the emotions of our heavenly Father...

Jer 35:16 Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them; but this people hath not hearkened unto me:

Once again, God clearly delineates between two separate peoples, the tribe of Judah and the Kenite Rechabites. They both lived in the same geographical area in and around Jerusalem. But they were from *two distinctly different seed lines*.

And unfortunately, the evil seed line practiced more obedience to *their father's word*, than the children of Judah practiced to *God's Word*.

Jer 35:17 Therefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, the God of Israel; Behold, I will bring upon Judah and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem all the evil that I have pronounced against them: because I have spoken unto them, but they have not heard; and I have called unto them, but they have not answered.

Once again, God contrasts the ongoing obedience of the Kenites to the word of their father, with the rampant disobedience of His own children to His Word. It angers and saddens our heavenly

Father that the children of the devil are more obedient to the word of their father, than His own children are to Him. Therefore, He tells His people He will allow evil to proceed against them.

Soon after this conversation in the temple between Jeremiah and the Kenites, Nebuchadnezzar the king of Babylon – who is a type of the antichrist of these end days -- would mount numerous assaults upon Jerusalem and carry the tribe of Judah away into captivity into the land of Babylon.

Jer 35:18 And Jeremiah said unto the house of the Rechabites, Thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Because ye have obeyed the commandment of Jonadab your father, and kept all his precepts, and done according unto all that he hath commanded you:

Jer 35:19 Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.

The bottom line is that our heavenly Father is impressed with the traits of obedience and discipline – traits that are all too often sadly lacking in His people of old, as well as in His Christian people of today.

The long-term inter-generational obedience of the Kenites to the words of their father was impressive. And through the prophet Jeremiah, God promised the Kenite they would always have a representative to stand before Him, forever.

Thus even to this day the Kenite carries out the negative part of our heavenly Father's great plan to save His wayward children. They are part and parcel of God's rod of correction upon His own children.

Christ's Warning About the False Jews

As we've seen throughout this study, the Kenites have remained attached to the tribe of Judah, even holding many of the high religious positions by the time of Christ's first advent.

As our Lord and Savior would tell His disciples at that time, in Matthew 23:2, "*The scribes and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat.*" Which is to say, they had taken over the very office of the law giver!

Would Christ teach any further about these usurpers? Yes indeed, He would.

In fact, some 60 years *after* His crucifixion, Christ appeared to St. John on the isle of Patmos, and dictated to him the words of the great book of Revelation.

This included, in chapters 2 and 3 of the great book of Revelation, Christ's prophetic statements regarding the fate of the seven churches of Asia. And within those prophetic statements, He once again makes reference to the false Jews, and their nature and characteristics.

We'll take a look at what Christ said to John in just a minute. But first, to set the stage, here's some important background information:

Prophetically speaking, the seven churches Christ spoke of in Revelation chapters 2 and 3 are representative of *the entire Christian community* of these end days. Of the seven churches, Christ found grave fault with five – fault so grave, in fact, that He threatened them with loss of their candlestick, which is to say, loss of their position in His presence during the eternity.

Indeed, only *two* churches –the church of Smyrna and the church of Philadelphia – did He find no fault with at all, but instead lauded their faith and works, and gave them instructions on handling the events that would eventually befall them.

And to both of these faithful churches He made a similar statement about the false Jews. We'll now take a look at what He said to each of these two churches.

To the church of Philadelphia, He said:

Rev 2:9 I know thy works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but thou art rich) and I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan.

This church apparently had righteous works, but suffered tribulation and even poverty. Nevertheless, they were rich in faith. And Christ tells them He's quite aware of all they're going through, including having to put up with the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, but are actually lying about their origins, being in reality "the synagogue of Satan."

The word "synagogue" is translated from the Greek word *sunagoge* (see Strong's 4864), meaning an assemblage or collection of persons.

Note that Christ didn't say these false Jews were "of" the synagogue of Satan. Instead, He said they ARE the synagogue of Satan. They are the assemblage of that wicked one himself.

In other words, they were the devil's children, masquerading as religious Jews, just like the ones Christ Jesus had dealt with in John chapter 8 which we studied earlier, and again in Matthew chapter 23, and who John the Baptist dealt with in Matthew chapter 3, and who we saw with Jeremiah in the very temple of God in Jeremiah chapter 35.

Continuing in Christ's message to the faithful church of Smyrna:

Rev 2:10 Fear none of those things which thou shalt suffer: behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that ye may be tried; and ye shall have tribulation ten days: be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life.

Well, well. There's that old devil again. Never found too far away from his own kids. Here Christ prophetically warns the faithful church of Smyrna that the devil himself would be here on this earth, and cast some of them into prison, for trial. And they'll have tribulation ten days.

These are the trials spoken of in Mark 13:9-13, in which God's elect will be delivered up before the synagogues of Satan for a testimony, just before Christ's second advent. As it is written, the Lord Himself will speak through them at that time, revealing to the world the great deception that has come upon them. This of course will take place during the last ten days of Satan's reign on this earth, as he plays out his role as the false Christ.

But our Lord and Savior tells this faithful church of Smyrna not to worry, He's got it all under control. If these faithful Christians of Smyrna *remain* faithful during those trials even under threat of the penalty of death – and they will – then they'll have earned their crown of life, which is to say, they will be given immortal souls -- eternal life!

Rev 2:11 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

Can you hear what the Spirit of God is saying? Or is it a “strange thing” to you? If through your faithfulness to God's Word you overcome the deception of Satan and his lying children in the final days of this flesh earth age, you cannot be hurt of the second death, which is to say, the death of the soul. Instead, you'll have gained eternal life in return for your faithfulness to God's Word!

Let's see what Christ said to the second and final church He found no fault with, out of the seven churches He prophesied of. Here are His words to the faithful church of Philadelphia:

Rev 3:7 And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write; These things saith he that is holy, he that is true, he that hath the key of David, he that openeth, and no man shutteth; and shutteth, and no man openeth;

Christ identifies Himself purposely, so you cannot mistake the fact that these are the very words of Christ Jesus, your Lord and Savior, so listen up!

Rev 3:8 I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept my word, and hast not denied my name.

Christ approves of the works of this church. They have not become weak-kneed like so many other churches, substituting fairy tales like “Eve ate an apple” and other simplistic feel-good doctrines in place of God's Word.

Instead, they've kept His Word faithfully. The word “kept” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *tereo* (see Strong's #5083), meaning “to guard from loss or injury.” This faithful church would not allow God's Word to be watered down or altered for the sake of political or religious correctness!

And as a result of their great faith to His Word, He's set an open door before them, meaning He's given them understanding of the deeper truths of His Word.

As He once stated to His disciples, in John 10:9, “*I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*”

That pasture is the Word of God. And to partake of it you must enter into the sheepfold through Christ, the door. If you want the deeper truths of God’s Word, you must go through the door He’s provided for you!

Christ would also say, “*Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber.*” (John 10:1).

In other words, there are some who attempt to infiltrate the sheepfold without entering through Christ. These infiltrators reject Him, denying the teachings of God such as those we’ve been learning throughout this study, and substituting the vain religious traditions of man in their places. We are about to meet some of these infiltrators again, in the very next verse...

Rev 3:9 Behold, I will make them of the synagogue of Satan, which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie; behold, I will make them to come and worship before thy feet, and to know that I have loved thee.

They love to tell you they’re “God’s chosen,” and that therefore you have an obligation to support them. But they are nothing but a bunch of play actors. They’re complete religious fakes that lie about their true origin.

This is what this faithful church of Philadelphia has in common with the faithful church of Smyrna: They both had to deal with the lying shenanigans of these false Jews who constitute the synagogue of Satan and have fabricated their very origins so you won’t know they’re the children of Cain.

Is this a “strange thing” to you? I certainly hope not, because it’s *your Father’s Word*.

Christ says that at His second advent, these false Jews will fall at the feet of Christ and His faithful servants. Indeed, as it is written of that time, “Every knee shall bow...” (Phillipians 2:10).

Rev 3:10 Because thou hast kept the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth.

There’s that Greek word *tereo* (see Strong’s #5083) again, translated “kept” and “keep” in the above verse. Remember, it specifically means “to guard from loss or injury.”

God blesses this church of Philadelphia with a very special promise, because of the efforts they’ve put into guarding His Word from loss or injury by teaching His Word exactly as it is written: When the hour of temptation arrives – that great test during which Satan in his role as the false Christ will deceive the world into worshipping him as God – *the church of Philadelphia*

will not fall for it. Instead, because they faithfully preserved and protected His Word, Christ will in turn preserve and protect them!

Do you guard your Father's Word from loss or injury? Or do you go along with whatever the local church on the corner says, even if it's a fairy tale like "Eve at an apple"?

Rev 3:11 Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.

Christ tells this faithful church of Philadelphia to hold fast to the truth and understanding they've garnered from His Word regarding these false Jews who lie about their origins, so that no man – including that man of sin, the son of perdition, which is to say, the devil himself – can steal their crown. You don't want to allow the enemy to dupe you out of your place in the eternal kingdom of God at the last minute.

Rev 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name.

Christ says that those who overcome Satan's deception will be made pillars in the temple of God. A pillar is what holds things up, my friend. That's a pretty responsible position. Are you one that holds up the straight truth of the Word of God, and won't cave in to empty traditions of man such as "Eve ate an apple," that have largely taken the place of God's Word in the churches? I sure hope so.

Christ says He will write upon these faithful overcomers "the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name."

That's CITIZENSHIP in the eternal kingdom, beloved. More precious than any church membership. Stick with the truth of God's Word – even if others consider it a "strange thing" – and that eternal citizenship is *yours*. You'll be written into the rolls of the eternal habitation of God!

Be sure to note the fact that "new Jerusalem" isn't the *earthly* city of Jerusalem we know of today. This city "cometh down out of heaven from my God." This is why St. Paul would say, in Hebrews 11:16, "*But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city.*"

Those who understand their Father's Word know that the *earthly* Jerusalem will come to an ignoble end, as Christ warned in Mark 13:2. At His second advent He will cleanse it of Satan's stench, and as the Scripture clearly states, "*...there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*"

But the heavenly Jerusalem, that *eternal* kingdom that never ends, comes down to this earth from our Lord out of heaven at the end of the millenium. And it is in that eternal temple that God's faithful overcomers will dwell with Him, forever.

As it is written in Revelation 21:2-4, "*And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.*"

We so look forward to that precious time. One more verse to complete Christ's message to these two faithful churches of Smyrna and Philadelphia...

Rev 3:13 He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches.

Can *you* hear what the Spirit of the Lord is saying to the churches? Or is it counted as a "strange thing" to you?

This is your heavenly Father's Word, your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ doing most of the speaking. Can you accept the simple truth that the devil has evil and blasphemous children masquerading as "Jews" among His people in Jerusalem?

God even foretold of it a long ago, when he showed the prophet Jeremiah two baskets of figs, set before the temple. Let's take a look...

Two Baskets of Figs

As it was prophesied long ago in the great book of Jeremiah, two baskets of figs would be laid before the temple of the Lord in Jerusalem:

Jer 24:1 The LORD shewed me, and, behold, two baskets of figs were set before the temple of the LORD, after that Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon had carried away captive Jeconiah the son of Jehoiakim king of Judah, and the princes of Judah, with the carpenters and smiths, from Jerusalem, and had brought them to Babylon.

God showed the prophet Jeremiah that after the tribe of Judah was taken into captivity by the king of Babylon, there would be two baskets of figs set before the temple of the Lord. This is prophetic of an event we'll cover shortly – the planting of the fig tree in the middle east land of Israel, in May of 1948. Two seed lines would be planted there.

But why symbolize them as figs? Do you remember what it was that Adam and Eve utilized to make aprons to cover their private parts after Satan had seduced Eve in the garden? It was *fig* leaves, of course (Genesis 3:7).

The very foundation of God's Word centers around what happened in that fig grove. Yet so very few Christians understand about the two distinct seed lines that were planted in that garden.

Jer 24:2 One basket had very good figs, even like the figs that are first ripe: and the other basket had very naughty figs, which could not be eaten, they were so bad.

In this prophetic parable, the tribe of Judah at Jerusalem, in the final days of this flesh earth age are represented by the basket of good figs. And the wicked seed from the Garden of Eden are represented by the basket of "very naughty figs" who were born of fornication, though they vehemently claim not to be. Indeed, they claim to be the very people of God – even "God's chosen" -- when in reality they are the children of the devil himself. Both baskets of figs have been set before the temple, which is to say, in Jerusalem.

Jer 24:3 Then said the LORD unto me, What seest thou, Jeremiah? And I said, Figs; the good figs, very good; and the evil, very evil, that cannot be eaten, they are so evil.

Again, it's important to remember that the events described in this prophetic parable are taking place in Jerusalem (vs. 1). And of course, Judah is the tribe that has returned to Jerusalem at the end of this flesh earth age, beginning in 1948. But right there among them are the Kenites – the evil figs -- who have always tagged along with them wherever they go. Indeed, over the centuries, our brother Judah has suffered much animosity and misunderstanding because of the actions and influence of the evil figs among them.

As we learned in I Chronicles 2:55 and Jeremiah chapter 35, these evil seed have attached themselves to our brother Judah, and with great discipline have risen to the ranks of leadership and power within that tribe. Even today they're widely believed to be "God's chosen people" – particularly by unwitting Christians -- when in reality they're the very children of the devil.

But we must never forget that there are both *good* figs and *bad* dwelling together at Jerusalem. We must be very careful not to libel our brother Judah with the evil works of the imposters among him.

So how do you tell the difference between the two? Well, now, let's see. We've covered that pretty well, haven't we? When Christ spoke to the false Jews who had initially believed on Him, He told them that if they'd abide in His Word, they'd come to know the truth, and the truth would set them free. But instead, they *rejected* His Words, and quickly turned against Him, even attempting to kill Him by stoning.

You see, they simply don't like "things Christ" or "things Christian," so to speak. Their father the devil is the *substitute* for Christ. He is the false Christ who, as it is written in Revelation 12:9-12, will soon come to this old earth to "deceive the whole world."

Therefore one of their most telling hallmark characteristics is that the evil figs vehemently reject, resent and despise Jesus Christ and His followers, *as a matter of their religious doctrine*. They reject the Living Word of God altogether. And they tend to follow instead the vain religious

traditions of man as spelled out in their own religious texts which both contradict and supersede the Word of God.

As our Lord and Savior stated, “Ye shall know them by their fruits.” That is to say, you can tell them by their works. Do they work to usher in the kingdom of Christ Almighty, to the glory of God the Father? Or do they vehemently reject our Lord and Savior and work to usher in the kingdom of their own father the devil who will soon arrive to Jerusalem in his role as the false Christ? By the answer to that question you will know them.

St. John’s Teaching on the Antichrist

As St. John so eloquently taught in chapter two of his first epistle:

1Jn 2:18 Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that antichrist shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.

St. John warns that just as sure as the antichrist shall come to this old earth in the final days of this flesh earth age, even now there are *many* antichrists. In other words, Satan’s children are here, doing his bidding and paving the way for his arrival in his role as the false messiah.

The word “antichrist” is translated from the Greek word *antichristos* (see Strong’s #500). It means “instead of Christ,” or even “instead of the anointed one.” In other words, Satan comes to this earth *in the stead* of Christ Jesus, seeking to portray himself as the very Anointed One of God.

And his children, who call themselves Jews and play the role of “God’s chosen” seek to subordinate Christians – who are the *true* anointed ones of God through the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ -- under themselves!

Now check out this next verse carefully:

1Jn 2:19 They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us.

This is the lesson you’ve been learning in this study, over and over again, ever since we first looked at John chapter 8 where Christ admonished the false Jews who had professed to believe on Him.

St. John says the reason the little antichrist deceivers had departed from the Christian community in Jerusalem of that time, is that they were not of the same origin. “They went out *from* us, but they were not *of* us.”

Once again, that word “of” in this verse is translated from the Greek word *ek* (see Strong’s 1537), meaning “out from the interior of,” and denoting one’s place of origin. They are not of the same origin as God’s children. Their origin is Satan. And our origin is God Almighty,

through His creation in the very beginning. We are of the planting of *our* Father. And they are of the planting of *their* father the devil.

1Jn 2:20 But ye have an unction from the Holy One, and ye know all things.

Through the leading of the Holy Spirit of God, you know in your heart what you're learning here is true.

1Jn 2:21 I have not written unto you because ye know not the truth, but because ye know it, and that no lie is of the truth.

The deceivers had rejected Christ Jesus, claiming He was not the Anointed Messiah of God. And they separated themselves from the believers in Christ, because they despised all things Christ and all things Christian. They have a "messiah" of their own, and that "messiah" is their father the devil, the false Christ – the one whose arrival they await, and are preparing for in Jerusalem even today.

But God's children *know* the truth. They don't fall for the deceitful claims of the evil seed, who subtly work to prepare the world to accept their father the devil as the Messiah of God.

1Jn 2:22 Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.

Again, if you want to know the chief characteristic of the children of the devil, it's that they deny Jesus is the Christ, which is to say, the Anointed One of God.

Those so-called Jews who, as a matter of their religious tradition, vehemently reject and even despise our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, are "antichrist" -- which is to say, they substitute themselves and their father the devil in place of Christ and His children. They even call themselves "God's chosen" *while rejecting the very Son of God who is the express image of God!*

1Jn 2:23 Whosoever denieth the Son, the same hath not the Father: (but) he that acknowledgeth the Son hath the Father also.

This is about as simple as it can be put: If they deny the Son, they don't have the Father, *no matter how hard they might try to argue that they're "God's chosen."*

Only those who acknowledge the Son as the Living Word of God have the Father. Period. Dot. End of argument.

1Jn 2:24 Let that therefore abide in you, which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall remain in you, ye also shall continue in the Son, and in the Father.

The words “abide,” “remain” and “continue” in this verse are all translated from that same beautiful Greek word *meno* (see Strong’s 3306), which we learned earlier in this study. Remember, it means to continuously *dwell* in, or *abide* in.

In light of that, let me re-translate: “Let that therefore *continuously dwell in you* , which ye have heard from the beginning. If that which ye have heard from the beginning shall *continually dwell in you* , ye also shall *continually dwell in the Son, and in the Father* .”

Wow...stick with the truth, going all the way back to the beginning, and you’ll have your eternal dwelling place in the Lord.

As Christ said to the faithful church of Philadelphia, “... *hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown* .” Keep the faith. Your Father’s Word is the absolute and final authority on this matter, regardless of what kind of “Eve ate an apple” fairy tale the local church on the corner might want to feed you.

1Jn 2:25 And this is the promise that he hath promised us, even eternal life.

The reward for staying faithful to the truth, even under pressure, is eternal life. Always keep in mind that Christ Jesus IS the Living Word of God. He *is* the way, the truth and the life.

Therefore, staying faithful to the truth means staying faithful to Christ, and not being seduced into worshipping the false Christ who the children of the devil are paving the way for in Jerusalem, and who the vast majority of Christians are also unwittingly awaiting thanks largely to the “Jesus can come at any moment now” rapture doctrine.

1Jn 2:26 These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you.

Like their father the devil who seduced mother Eve, so these little seducers wish to seduce *you* and the entire Christian church into turning their backs on the truth of God’s Word.

They want you to believe they’re “God’s chosen” – in spite of their outright hatred for the Son of God. And ultimately, they want you to worship their father the devil who will be the first supernatural being who sets foot on this earth claiming to be “God” or the “Messiah.”

Once again, this is how to tell the good figs from the bad figs. If their religious doctrine fails to acknowledge and embrace Christ Jesus as the Living Word of God, but instead disdains Christ as a matter of policy, and rejects this teaching, then they are indeed *very bad figs* .

What’s more, never forget that no matter how much they might claim to be “God’s chosen,” they can’t possibly be if they reject Christ Jesus, for without the Son you can’t have the Father.

Parable of the Fig Tree

At one point, Christ would tell his disciples to learn the parable of the fig tree. Indeed, He directly *ordered* them to learn this parable.

It's a short parable, and since it directly relates to the two baskets of figs – the good figs and bad figs we learned of earlier in Jeremiah 24:1-3 -- it would be wise and prudent to take a moment and learn it ourselves.

Here, Christ is speaking directly to His disciples:

Mat 24:32 Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh:

This is a young, *freshly planted* fig tree. Fig trees are not planted from seeds. They're planted as *shoots*. And as the shoot takes root in the ground, and starts growing, it then begins to sprout leaves.

According to Christ in the above parable, you're to know that summer time is near, when you see the tender new shoots of growth coming forth from the young branches of that freshly planted fig tree.

What does this fig tree represent? And why is *summer time* brought into the picture by Christ?

We know from Amos chapter 8, verses 1 through 3, that the fig tree represents the people of Israel, and “summer” represents the end of this flesh earth age. Indeed, as the prophet Amos wrote in those passages:

“Thus hath the Lord GOD shewed unto me: and behold a basket of summer fruit.

And he said, Amos, what seest thou? And I said, A basket of summer fruit.

Then said the LORD unto me, The end is come upon my people of Israel; I will not again pass by them any more.

And the songs of the temple shall be howlings in that day, saith the Lord GOD: there shall be many dead bodies in every place; they shall cast them forth with silence.”

Note the geographical location of this basket of summer fruit: It's the temple of God, which of course means Jerusalem, geographically.

Our heavenly Father tells us this basket of summer fruit – which you can bet were *figs* – represents the end coming upon His People Israel. In other words, “summer” represents the very end of this flesh earth age, when all things leading up to Christ's arrival will come to pass. It is the harvest time, which as we learned in the parable of the tares is when the reapers (i.e., the angels of God) arrive to separate the evil from the good.

Why all of the dead bodies in that final verse above? Think spiritually. The time-frame is the very end. Who's in the temple of God at Jerusalem at the very end of this flesh earth age, just before Christ's second advent takes place?

In II Thessalonians 2:1-4 earlier, St. Paul explains that just before Christ's coming and our gathering back to him, there would first be a great falling away from the truth, and that "man of sin, the son of perdition" would seat himself in the temple of God, pretending to be God. As it is written:

"Now we beseech you, brethren, by [i.e., regarding] the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by [i.e., regarding] our gathering together unto him, That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand.

Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

You see, the second advent of Christ Jesus and our gathering back to Him cannot take place, until AFTER that great falling away from the truth takes place and that man of sin, the son of perdition seats himself in the temple of God, demonstrating himself to be "God."

The dead bodies mentioned in Amos 8:1-3 are the *spiritually dead* multitudes who at that point in time have come to Jerusalem to worship Satan, mistakenly thinking he's God. They're not *physically* dead. But they're considered "dead" to the Lord, because they've fallen for the deception of the antichrist. They've allowed themselves to be seduced by him, believing him to be their savior.

And yes, the songs in the temple shall be "howlings"(i.e., wailings of grief) in that day. Why? Because like mother Eve and father Adam who found themselves naked and ashamed before the Lord after Eve was seduced by Satan, so these multitudes in Jerusalem and around the world will be found be naked and ashamed before the Lord at His second advent.

As it is written in Revelation 6:15-17, so great will be the shame of the multitudes who were deceived, they will call for the mountains and rocks to fall on them:

"And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains;

And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: For the great day of his wrath is come; and who shall be able to stand?"

Who shall be able to stand at the time of Christ's second advent, when the entire world will have spiritually fallen for the false one? Only God's faithful servants who know to "keep God's Word" and retain their spiritual virginity by refusing to bow to the antichrist shall stand. All of

the rest will have been spiritually slaughtered in the great deception ushered in by Satan and his children.

Will you be one of those who make a faithful stand at that time? Will you remain a spiritual virgin to Christ? Or will you be seduced like mother Eve by the wiles of the devil as he plays the acting role of his life?

Or is all of this still a “strange thing” to you? I certainly hope you’re beginning to see how important it is to correctly understand what happened in the garden going all of the way back to Genesis chapter 3. Everything that happened there comes full circle to the end of this flesh earth age.

Just two more verses to finish up with Christ’s parable of the fig tree:

Mat 24:33 So likewise ye, when ye shall see all these things, know that it is near, even at the doors.

Christ says when you see all these things coming to pass, know that the very end is upon you. When you see all *what* things? Well, the planting of the fig tree in the middle east land of Israel, of course. The fresh little green shoots springing forth from that tree. And the two types of figs – good and bad – being set forth before the temple in Jerusalem.

Jesus says in verse 32 above, when you see those tender shoots coming off that young fig tree, know that the end is very near at hand. And in verse 33 He reiterates the meaning. “Know that it is near, even at the doors.”

If you know your recent history, you should be well aware of the fact that the nation of Israel was reconstituted – with good figs and bad figs alike -- in May of 1948. That’s when a remnant of the tribe of Judah with many bad figs among them began to return to the middle east, and reconstituted the land of Israel. That is the planting of the fig tree your Lord and Savior said would signal the final generation when all things finally come to pass.

Mat 24:34 Verily I say unto you, This generation shall not pass, till all these things be fulfilled.

The generation that sees the planting of the fig tree will be the generation that also sees the fulfillment of all of these things, including the deception of the antichrist at Jerusalem, and the second advent of Jesus Christ.

You’re privileged to live in that very generation – and right about now it’s getting pretty long in the tooth. The bad figs in Jerusalem have been busy preparing for the arrival of their father the devil in his role as the false Messiah.

And unfortunately, the vast majority of Christians have been busy preparing for the arrival of the *same guy* – the any-moment-now “Jesus” come to rapture them away – mistakenly thinking it’s

their Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. But it's the antichrist – the instead-of-Christ – the very devil himself playing the role of God's Savior.

Christ's Encounter With The Fig Tree

During one point in His ministry, Christ had an interesting encounter with a fig tree. Let's see what we can learn from it, particularly in relation to what we've just learned in the parable of the fig tree:

Mat 21:18 Now in the morning as he returned into the city, he hungered.

The city, of course, is Jerusalem.

Mat 21:19 And when he saw a fig tree in the way, he came to it, and found nothing thereon, but leaves only, and said unto it, Let no fruit grow on thee henceforward for ever. And presently the fig tree withered away.

Isn't it interesting that in Jerusalem it's now actually *against civil law* to teach the Gospel, or to attempt to convert a Jew to Christianity? In other words, by civil law you're not allowed to produce fruit for the Lord God!

Because of this, the tiny Christian population of Israel has been dwindling for decades, to the point where Christians now make up only 2.1% of the entire population, and most of those Christians are Arabs. There is very little good fruit left on this fig tree, my friend! It does not produce for the Lord. It produces mainly for the devil.

Mat 21:20 And when the disciples saw it, they marvelled, saying, How soon is the fig tree withered away!

Spiritually speaking, *in the same generation it was planted it began to wither*, and quit bearing fruit for the Lord. That means from 1948, forward.

Mat 21:21 Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done.

And so it is. When Christ's faithful servants are delivered up to the trials described in Mark 13:9-3 in the final days of Satan's reign in Jerusalem as the false Messiah, the Holy Spirit will speak through them, as it is written, and that unfruitful fig tree will be withered up and die *completely*. What's more, Satan's one-world kingdom (i.e., symbolized by the "mountain") will be removed and cast into the sea, meaning it will be utterly destroyed. The truth – straight from God's Holy Spirit through the mouths of His elect – will do the job.

As Christ told the apostles regarding what would happen to the great city Jerusalem at His second advent, when He returns to destroy the works of the devil (I John 3:8), "*There shall not be left here one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down.*" (Mt. 24:2)

Question: Do you have the enduring faith to know this is true, and will indeed happen exactly as it's written? Or is it still a "strange thing" unto you, because it contradicts so much empty church tradition?

Time is getting short, my friend. You really need to decide which one means more to you: God's Word, or church traditions and religious fairy tales.

Why Are the Children of the Devil Allowed to Be Here?

As you've seen, Christ taught us in both the parable of the tares and in His subsequent *explanation* of that parable, that the children of the devil are among us even *now*, and will remain among us all of the way to the end of this flesh earth age.

And at that time they'll be gathered out from among the children of the Kingdom by the angels to be burned in the fire (short of sincere repentance on their part, of course).

Indeed, in the parable itself we are taught not to ever try to uproot the tares once we discover who they are, but instead to leave them alone and let them grow up alongside the children of God.

To reiterate that point, let's take just a quick second to re-visit Christ's words in Matthew 13:28-30:

He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.

Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn.

Those are our Lord and Savior's direct orders. We are to leave the evil tares alone, physically speaking. You see, the children of the devil have a *purpose* on this earth, and that purpose is to fulfill the negative part of God's Plan, deceiving the people and ushering in their father the devil in his role as the false messiah.

In their murderous lusts, they helped bring about Christ's crucifixion, not realizing their wicked act was part and parcel of God's great plan of salvation, and that it would result in the establishment of the Christian church on this earth through which faith in God's Savior would be taught.

And today, in their lust to deceive God's children into worshipping their father the devil when he arrives to this earth at the sixth trump in his role as the false messiah, they once again do not

realize they're being used by God – this time to help *correct* His wayward children by showing them how their willful ignorance of God's Word always leads to egregious idolatry.

That lesson will be the most important lesson of their lives, for as the Lord's Christian people stand naked and ashamed before Him at His second advent, their consciences will be convicted and they'll know they've let their Lord down by turning their backs on His Word in favor of religious fairy tales and empty church traditions. They'll realize they've not only embraced the children of the devil, thinking they were "God's chosen," but they embraced the devil himself, thinking he was "Jesus" come to rapture them away.

You see, our heavenly Father is in complete control *even of the activities of the enemy*. Our job is simply to teach the truth exactly as it's written, all of the way to the end, thereby *preserving* it, and setting it forth accurately for God's children to either accept or reject (Ezekiel 2:1-10).

As it is written in the great book of Jude:

Jud 1:3 Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.

St. Jude said, "I was going to write to you about simple salvation. But instead I realized it was more needful for me to emphasize how important it is that you should fight for the faith that's been passed down through the ages by God's faithful servants.

Jud 1:4 For there are certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.

St. Jude knew of those ungodly men of old who had "crept in unawares" among God's people, but who deny the salvation of God through Christ Jesus. He tells us we are to "contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints," meaning we are to set forth God's Word in its fullness, simplicity and truth, not being afraid of the ruckus it might cause or the feelings it might hurt.

In short, the children of the devil are here to fulfill the negative part of God's plan to save His wayward children. And God's faithful servants are here to make sure God's Word continues to go forth in fullness and truth, in the face of the massive deception that has overtaken this old world in relation to those who "say they are Jews, but are not and do lie, and are the synagogue of Satan."

Are you one of those faithful servants? Or is all of this still just a "strange thing" unto you?

The Hidden Wisdom

Once again I must ask: Do you understand the hidden wisdom of His Word? As it is written in I Corinthians 2:7-16:

1Co 2:7 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory:

It's all part and parcel of God's great plan to save His wayward children. The evil seed has a role, which is to be the seducers and destroyers of this old world. And the good seed has a role, which is to stand against them by holding up the banner of truth, even though it will be rejected by the multitudes in favor of the doctrines of the seducers.

In the end, the multitudes will be left standing naked and ashamed before the Lord, like Adam and mother Eve. This is for their correction. They will be given their chance to repent during the great millennium teaching period known as the Lord's Day.

1Co 2:8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

If the Roman governor and his lieutenants had known this hidden wisdom – this great mystery – they would not have crucified the Lord of glory at the behest of the evil seed line.

1Co 2:9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.

The multitudes are still spiritually dull of hearing, and spiritually blind. Therefore, to this very day they do the bidding of the evil seed. But those who love God intimately understand the hidden wisdom of this mystery. It is not a "strange thing" to them.

1Co 2:10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.

The hidden wisdom of His Word has been revealed to God's servants by the Holy Spirit of God.

1Co 2:11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God.

Earthly men and women know of earthly things – too often encumbered by vain religious traditions like "Eve at an apple." On the other hand, men and women of God have been touched by the Spirit of God, with the Spirit of understanding. They faithfully set forth God's Word of truth exactly as it's written.

1Co 2:12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

The spirit of the world is Satan's spirit. As it is written in Ephesians 2:2, "*Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience...*"

But Father has seen fit to give us His Holy Spirit of truth, which we embrace with great thanks and humility, ready to serve Him in accord with His Holy Word.

1Co 2:13 Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

We teach God's Word in accord with His Spirit of truth, casting aside the vain religious traditions of man which have ensnared the world.

1Co 2:14 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned.

Without Christ's Holy Spirit, man simply cannot understand the wisdom of God's Word. It's considered foolishness – yea, even a “strange thing” – unto them.

And why? Because the simple truth of God's Word must be *spiritually discerned*. And if you are steeped in the religious traditions of man, which are anathema to the Spirit of God, then indeed, *you cannot hear the truth of God's Word* any more than the false Jews of John chapter 8 could when Christ was speaking with them.

You have to be willing to set aside the empty church traditions such as “Eve ate an apple,” and listen to your Father's Word exactly as it's written!

1Co 2:15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, we have discernment which allows us to judge truth from deception in all things. But the earthly man cannot do so, for the Word of truth we carry is not even comprehensible to them.

1Co 2:16 For who hath known the mind of the Lord, that he may instruct him? But we have the mind of Christ.

Who can instruct the Lord God in judgment? No one. But we've been given the mind of Christ, through the Holy Spirit of God, that we may discern all things necessary to serve God in truth and in Spirit.

Conclusion

We started out this study with a look at Revelation 10:7. And as we conclude, it's fitting to come back to the where we started.

Rev 10:7 But in the days of the voice of the seventh angel, when he shall begin to sound, the mystery of God should be finished, as he hath declared to his servants the prophets.

It's all over when the seventh trumpet sounds.

As we now know from Christ's explanation of the parable of the tares in Matthew chapter 13, the mystery that began so long ago in the Garden of Eden is indeed finished at His second advent. Everything comes full circle. He is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end.

And just as Adam and Eve were seduced by the serpent and ended up naked and ashamed before the Lord, so the religious multitudes of the world will be seduced by the serpent, and end up naked and ashamed before the Lord.

Then the Lord's Day – that one thousand year teaching period known as the millennium – takes place, during which time many people will be taught properly, perhaps for the very first time in their lives. And many souls shall be saved.

And the millennium will be followed by the great White Throne Judgment of Revelation 20:11-15, at which time our Lord and Savior will have all of the children of the wicked one gathered together and burned in the lake of fire (short of sincere repentance, of course). Which is to say, both their bodies and their spirits will be destroyed. They'll never live again, for our heavenly Father has promised us a joyous, peaceful, harmonious and thoroughly secure eternal family household. Deception will never be allowed again. It will have served its purpose.

So I must ask on last time: Is this a "strange thing" to you? It most definitely should *not* be, for it is your heavenly Father's Word. It is part and parcel of the Gospel message, and His great plan of salvation. And it was written to *you* for your edification in the faith.

The question remains: Can you accept it, or are the vain religious fairy tales of man too seductive for you?

-- End --

Addendum: Can The Kenite Obtain Salvation?

Some might ask, "Since the children of the devil are destined for the lake of fire as revealed in Christ's explanation of the parable of the tares, is there any way they obtain salvation and eternal life?"

And of course, the answer is YES!

After all, when Christ was admonishing the false Jews who had initially professed to believe on Him, He clearly told them in John 8:31-32, "*If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall set you free.*"

The flesh nature of the Kenite is to practice deception, disruption and even murder. But had they "continued" (i.e., *meno*, to *dwell* or to *endure*) in His Word, rather than rejected it when He began to teach them, they would have known the pure, unvarnished truth and would have been

set free of the habitual sinful nature that had beset them – even free of mortal liability. This means salvation would have been theirs for the taking.

You see, while the Kenite is evil by nature, you have to remember that our heavenly Father created their souls. Satan only sired their *flesh*. Their souls are just as important to Father to save as our own. This may sound like a strange statement, but it is very Scriptural. Our heavenly Father is "not willing that ANY should perish, but that ALL should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). That includes the Kenite.

This is why Christ would say in Rev. 3:9 regarding the Kenite, "...behold, I will make them to come and worship before they feet, and to know that I have loved thee."

We will be at Christ's side at that time (i.e., the millennium), and from this verse we can ascertain that many Kenites will come to worship at the feet of Christ, seeing the truth perhaps for the first time ever with their blinders off, and Satan's influence removed.

And God's elect will be there and see it with our own eyes -- Father's salvation extending even to the enemy, *if* they will accept it.

Even David stated regarding the second advent, in the Psalms "*Thou hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men; yea, for the rebellious also, that the LORD God might dwell among them*" (Ps. 68:18).

The word "received" in that verse should be translated "reserved." Even for the rebellious, our Lord and Savior has *reserved* the gifts of forgiveness of sin and salvation of the soul – *if* they'll just accept it sincerely and in truth.

In terms of souls, we're *all* His children. He created every one of us. And He wants to save as many as possible.

I'm not taking up for the Kenite. They have a LOT to answer for. I'd hate to be in their shoes. But God is the judge. And there's no telling how many might be saved during the millennium teaching period, with Satan's influence removed.

That too should not be a "strange thing" to you. It is your Lord and Savior's nature to extend His grace to any who will sincerely repent, turning from their evil ways to embrace salvation through Christ Jesus.

How many tares will accept His grace? It's difficult to say. In Revelation 20:7-10 it's written that when Satan is released from the pit at the end of the millennium to go forth to deceive those who had been seduced by him prior to Christ's second advent, many of them will follow him *again*, even though they've just had 1,000 years of teaching and discipline in God's Word.

That is perhaps one of the saddest parts of the Bible. But our heavenly Father has promised to separate out the evil from the good, so the eternity will be one of joy, peace, harmony and total security.

As it is written, so it shall come to pass.

-- End --

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