

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.2.2

This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF continues the book *The Remnant Bride*. Included are chapters 6-9.

I hope you are beginning to see how God has chosen to reveal truth through the means of parables. Adam's bride being a parable of the Bride of Christ is just one example.

In the first book of this series we looked at the history of Israel in bondage in Egypt, their deliverance on the night of the first Passover, their journey through the wilderness, and battles to conquer the land of Canaan. We observed that all of these events served as a

type and shadow of the journey of man from his bondage to sin to a full conquest of the land of his flesh.

Yahweh delights to speak through parables. They serve a double purpose. They both hide and reveal the truths of God's kingdom.

The Bible tells us the following:

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of kings is to search out a matter.

Christians are declared to be a nation of kings and priests. It is our glory to search out hid-

den things in the word of God.

As you begin to see how God has used these historical and natural events to show forth the mysteries of His kingdom, I hope you will begin looking at the Bible as a book containing many hidden treasures. Become a treasure hunter.

If you knew treasure was hidden in a field, what would your attitude be in seeking it out? Would you be casual about it, or focused and active in searching for it?

In your Bible you have a book of hidden treasures. Dig. Dig. Dig.

Food for Thought

"We turn to God for help when our foundations are shaking only to learn that it is God shaking them."

Charles West

"Trials are medicines which our gracious and wise Physician prescribes because we need them; and he proportions the frequency and weight of them to what the case requires. Let us trust his skill and thank him for his prescription."

Isaac Newton

Scripture Memory

Psalms 119:11

Your word I have hidden in my heart, that I might not sin against You.

Parables Newsletter

- Series 1.2.2
- *The Remnant Bride*
- Chapters 6-8

The Remnant Bride

The Deep Sleep of Adam

In the formation of Eve we see many parallels to the formation of the Bride of Christ. One of the very striking parallels between these two brides is that they are both taken from a body that has been cast into a deep sleep. To examine this, let us begin with the description of Eve as she is removed from the body of Adam.

21 So Yahweh God caused a deep sleep to fall upon the man, and he slept; then He took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh at that place.

22 And Yahweh God fashioned into a woman the rib which He had taken from the man, and brought her to the man.

23 And the man said, "This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh; she shall be called woman, because she was taken out of Man."

Genesis 2:21-23

In this passage we see described the formation of the bride of the first Adam. The primary things I want you to note in this description are: first, a deep sleep came upon Adam; second, a separation occurred in the body of Adam that resulted in a bride being formed. A remnant was removed from his sleeping body to form his bride.

In this very hour in which we live such a separation is taking place. One of the predominant scriptures being proclaimed by prophets and teachers of God in this hour is from the book of Revelation where God's saints are commanded to come out of the great harlot which typifies the apostate church of our day.

"Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues..."

Revelation 18:4

This is further borne out by prophecies that have proclaimed that the year 2000 will begin a period of tremendous separation. This is revealed in the number 2000, itself. The number 2 represents division or separation, for any time that a whole unit is divided, separated, or broken, it must become no less than two separate and distinct pieces. Separation in scripture is often typified by the mention of two things as in: the light was separated from the darkness; the land was separated from the waters; the waters below the firmament were separated from the waters above the firmament; Adam's body was separated and became man and woman; the scriptures are divided into the Old and New Testaments, etc..

In these things we can see that the number two speaks of separation. That the year 2000 is a multiple of 2 (2 X 1,000), it symbolizes that the separation that ensues at this time will be greatly multiplied. It will not be a common separation, but one of great magnitude. Even so, the Bride of Christ being separated from the body of Christ speaks of an extraordinary separation.

Now, concerning that which we see in type in the deep sleep that came upon Adam, we see spoken of by Paul in reference to the body of the Last Adam, Yahshua the Messiah. Paul indicated that a similar deep sleep would come upon the body of Christ prior to the Bride of Christ being removed from it.

Paul spoke to the Thessalonian believers and said that those who were afflicting them would be judged at the appearing of the Lord. Their judgment would include their being excluded and removed from being partakers of the glory of the Lord which would be revealed IN those

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believers who were found faithful.

9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed.

II Thessalonians 1:9-10

We see clearly in this passage that Paul is speaking of the day of the Lord's return. Contrary to what many believers expect, Christ is to be revealed IN His holy saints at His next appearing, not in the clouds of the sky as many teach. The scriptures do say that Christ will return in the clouds, but He is first to be revealed in His saints as Paul describes here. As we will see, these ones who will have the glory of the Lord to rise upon them (Isaiah 60:1, 2) will be the remnant that constitute the Bride of Christ.

Returning to the scripture passage in II Thessalonians, we see that Paul is speaking of the day of the Lord's return in His saints. Paul then goes on to describe what will occur just before this day.

3 Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction,

4 who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

II Thessalonians 2:3-4

The key to understanding this passage is discerning what temple Paul is referring to in verse

4. We know that Yahshua completely fulfilled the Law and by His sacrifice He abolished the need to anymore keep the ceremonial law. This ceremonial law was primarily focused on the temple which was located in Jerusalem. The passing away of this temple built of wood and stone in its function of being the location where God would meet with man was immediately demonstrated at Christ's death by the veil of the temple barring the entrance to the Most Holy Place being rent in two as Yahshua breathed His last breath.

The covering of the veil of the Temple was mandated by God to prevent those who were un-sanctified from gazing on the presence of God. To look on His presence was to invoke His immediate judgment, and death was the penalty. By the veil being torn and the Most Holy Place exposed, God was signifying that His presence no longer would be found in a building made of wood and stone. His temple was now the temple of man's body, a building built of living stones. This was further demonstrated by God when forty years later, in AD 70, the Temple in Jerusalem was COMPLETELY destroyed by the Romans so that not one stone remained upon another.

Since the death of Christ the temple that God has revealed His presence in has been exclusively a temple formed of the bodies of men and women. When Paul then speaks of the man of lawlessness taking his seat in the temple, he is not talking about a temple built of wood and stone, but one built of living stones. It would not offend God at all

God was signifying that His presence no longer would be found in a building made of wood and stone.

for a rebuilt temple in Jerusalem to be defiled because God's presence will no more be revealed in such buildings. What angers God is for the man of lawlessness to take his seat in the living temple, the temple of man's body where God's Spirit dwells, for this is the temple where the

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glory of God is to be revealed.

The apostasy that Paul speaks of which must occur before Yahshua is revealed in His saints, refers to a rejection of the truth by those who are of the household of God. The word apostasy is defined by Strongs Hebrew/Greek Dictionary as: "defection from truth." This is why Paul describes the last days to Timothy as being "perilous times", for men will not listen to truth, but will heap to themselves teachers who will tickle their ears and tell them what they want to hear (II Timothy 4:3).

As the church experiences this defection from truth because they have not loved truth, the man of lawlessness will take a seat in the temple which is the bodies of God's saints. This lawless-

*Apostasy is defined... as:
"defection from truth."*

ness is a rejection of the authority of God, a failure of obedience to the Lordship of Christ (remember Vashti?). Yahshua demonstrated that this was the nature

of lawlessness in the following passage.

21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven.

22 "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?'

23 "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'

Matthew 7:21-23

These ones are lawless because they did not

"do the will of [the] Father." They were prophesying according to their own will. They were casting out demons according to their own will. They were performing miracles according to their own will. No matter how much they said "Lord, Lord" it did not change the fact that they were not subject to the Lordship of Christ. Rather than being led of the Spirit of God in all of their activities, they were led by their own will. This is a great note of caution, for many are prophesying in this day, and casting out demons, and even performing miracles. But they are not all doing so by the leading of the Spirit of God. These are lawless ones and Paul prophesies of the "man of lawlessness" being revealed, taking his seat in the temple of God, which temple we are.

A large majority of believers were wholly led into a confession of Christ that downplayed the Lordship of Christ and the message of the cross and which emphasized prosperity, self-fulfillment, and fire insurance to keep oneself out of hell. Such believers have never embraced a love of the truth, and a love of the person of Yahshua the Messiah, as well as a desire to be made holy and to be conformed to His image. These believers wanted to have a ticket to get into heaven when they die and the freedom to pursue the pleasures of the world while they walk on this earth.

Because these believers motives have been impure, not loving the truth, God has sent them a strong delusion.

10 because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved.

11 And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false,

12 in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wicked-

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ness.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12

Many Christians misidentify who is being referred to here because of the statement in verse 10, "so as to be saved." They assume that this is speaking of mans' initial salvation (spirit salvation), and so they assume that it is not speaking of believers, but of the lost. However, the scriptures reveal that there is a further salvation for the saints of God to partake of, but many will disqualify themselves for it.

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Hebrews 9:28

The salvation spoken of in II Thessalonians 2:10 is the same salvation spoken of in Hebrews 9:28. This is a second salvation. Some refer to it as soul salvation. The salvation we receive through Christ's death and resurrection by faith is spirit salvation, for the scriptures state that "that which is born of the Spirit is spirit" (John 3:6). There remains a further salvation of the soul, and a final transforming of our bodies, bringing us to a fulness of salvation.

Putting all this into perspective, we know that Christ is soon to come back for His Bride, a remnant Bride. In order for the Bride to be separated from the body, a deep sleep must come over the body, even as it did with Adam's body. What Paul has described here as a deluding influence from God in II Thessalonians 2:11 corresponds to the deep sleep that came over Adam. Remember, it was God who caused a deep sleep to come upon Adam, and we are told that it is again God who sends a deluding influence upon those of His household who have not received a love of the truth.

To confirm the correlation between this delusion and sleep let us examine the following scriptures.

10 For Yahweh has poured over you a spirit of DEEP SLEEP, He has shut your eyes, the prophets; and He has covered your heads, the seers.

11 And the entire vision shall be to you like the words of a sealed book, which when they give it to the one who is literate, saying, "Please read this," he will say, "I cannot, for it is sealed."

12 Then the book will be given to the one who is illiterate, saying, "Please read this." And he will say, "I cannot read."

13 Then Yahweh said, "Because this people draw near with their words And honor Me with their lip service, but they remove their hearts far from me, and their reverence for me consists of tradition learned by rote,

14 Therefore behold, I will once again deal marvelously with this people, wondrously marvelous; and the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the discernment of their discerning men shall be concealed."

Isaiah 29:10-14

Note that here God speaks of pouring over the people a spirit of DEEP SLEEP. It was a deep sleep that God brought upon Adam before He removed the remnant from his body to form a bride. This deep sleep is further defined in this passage as: shutting the eyes of the prophets; covering the heads of the

In order for the Bride to be separated from the body, a deep sleep must come over the body.

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seers; sealing up the vision; cutting off their wisdom and discernment. Isn't this a perfect parallel to Paul's words of God sending delusion to those who did not love the truth?

So we see that before the return of the Lord to appear in glory in His saints that a deep sleep will once more come from the Lord upon the body. This does not indicate that the body will

When Adam sinned the glory departed and he was left uncovered and realized that he was naked.

just be lying around doing nothing, for many will be prophesying, casting out demons, and performing miracles, but they will be doing so of their own

volition for the man of lawlessness will take his seat in the temple made of living stones. At this time a breach will be made in the body of Christ as is being manifested by God's words to "come out of her My people." God will then fashion a Bride for His Son from this remnant portion removed from the body.

Now a further thing of interest is revealed as we examine the scriptures. As we look at the principle of covering we see a wonderful truth, but first a brief word on the principle of covering. God reveals examples of covering throughout scripture. The earth of Genesis chapter one was covered by the waters below the firmament and the waters above the firmament. The Ark of the Covenant where the glory of God appeared had two coverings, the cherubim and the cloud of incense. The Tabernacle of Moses likewise had two coverings. Women are instructed to have two coverings on their heads, their hair and a covering of cloth.

These coverings and many others in scriptures symbolize some important principles relating to power, glory, and authority. However, as this book is not a teaching on the principle of covering, I will not go into this now. What I want to state is that the soul of man in his original creation before the fall also had two coverings.

He had his physical body and a covering of glory. How do we know that he had a covering of glory? Simply because we are told that man was created not only in the image of God, but in the image and glory of God (I Corinthians 11:7).

However, when Adam sinned the glory departed and he was left uncovered and realized that he was naked. Being naked means to be uncovered. Many have supposed that Adam and Eve were always naked and that when they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil that they were simply made aware of their nakedness. This is not true. Adam and Eve were originally clothed. Their clothing was the glory of God and when they sinned their clothing of glory was removed for the glory of God and the presence of sin cannot abide together.

The fact that sin and glory cannot abide together is why only those who had sanctified and cleansed themselves from sin could serve in the Temple and Tabernacle. The glory of God resided there. This is why the High Priest had to go through such meticulous procedures of purification and cleansing before entering the Most Holy Place on the Day of Atonement. Sin cannot abide in the presence of God. Paul said that sin dwelt in his flesh, and God said that no flesh could stand before Him. The two are incompatible.

After Adam and Eve sinned they were naked. Their covering of glory had been removed. God therefore gave them a substitutionary covering made from the skin of an animal, and men and women have had need of wearing a covering over their flesh to this day.

One principle of covering shows that because life (soul life) is in the blood, blood must be covered. God demonstrated this even in the matter of killing an animal to eat it.

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"So when any man from the sons of Israel, or from the aliens who sojourn among them, in hunting catches a beast or a bird which may be eaten, he shall pour out its blood and cover it with earth."

Leviticus 17:13

When one poured out the blood of an animal on the ground it was to be covered with earth. It was also from earth that man's flesh was formed and man's flesh was a covering for the life of his soul which was in his blood. He also had the second covering of glory, and after he sinned he had the substitute covering of clothing.

Now when comparing this principle to the scriptures we have already looked at in II Thessalonians we see the covering that will be given to the Bride of Christ. All sin will be removed from the Bride and the glory of God will once more adorn her and serve as a covering. Again, let us look at this scripture where Paul contrasts the wicked and the righteous of God's household.

9 And these will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power,

10 when He comes to be glorified in His saints on that day, and to be marveled at among all who have believed-- for our testimony to you was believed.

II Thessalonians 1:9-10

Paul speaks of longing for this day of our clothing with glory in this way.

1 For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven;

3 inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked.

4 For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

II Corinthians 5:1-4

This is a marvelous thing. Just as Eve was separated from the sleeping body of Adam, so is the Bride of the Last Adam being separated from His sleeping body. She will then be clothed with glory. A deep sleep was brought upon both bodies by God. Just as God took that remnant portion of Adam's body and formed it into woman, so God will take the remnant removed from the body of Christ and form a Bride. Yet the Bride of Christ will not have a covering of sinful flesh overlaid with the skin of an animal, but she will have a glorified body that is clothed with the glory of Christ.

The Bride of Christ ... will have a glorified body that is clothed with the glory of Christ.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is.

3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

I John 3:2-3

We live in awesome days. The church is asleep and a remnant is being removed. We should live with an anticipation for what is soon

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to occur.

A last thought; even as the Jews at the time of Christ's first coming did not recognize the day of their visitation, so the church of our day will not recognize the day of her visitation. They will be asleep. The Jews of Christ's day were looking for

Not all will recognize the coming of Christ.

Christ to appear in a form that was different from His actual appearing. They were looking for a conquering King to come and reestablish the throne of David and

give them back their nation. Today the church has similarly embraced faulty ideas of the coming of Christ. They do not anticipate that His appearing will be IN His saints. They are looking for Him to come on the clouds of the sky.

Even as the eyes of the Jews were veiled to the presence of the Son of God in their midst, so will much of the church's eyes be veiled. Not all will recognize the coming of Christ as they have been taught.

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, **to those who eagerly await Him.**

Hebrews 9:28

Did you note that Christ will appear "to those who eagerly await Him?" Not all will see His appearing. It will be those who are awake and alert and who are looking for His return who will see Him. As the church slumbers the separation is taking place. Christ will appear at an hour when the church thinks not and as a thief He will break into His house and steal that which is most precious to Him, His Bride. The others will awaken with a start and realize that they were not ready when the Bridegroom came for the Bride. They will seek to enter in, but the door

will have already been shut. They will have to go through the cleansing of the great tribulation and by their patience and perseverance purchase robes wherewith to be clothed.

Evidences of Separation

Not all Christians will freely receive the message of a remnant Bride. Those who are content with the things of the world and who are enjoying the pursuit of their own interests will find the message to be somewhat threatening to their idyllic existence. The western church is full of "easy believism." The message of the cross is largely absent from our midst.

It is those who fail to walk in integrity before the Father who would cry foul at the notion of God treating individual saints differently. The righteous have nothing to fear. Those who are passionately pursuing their Savior have only longing and expectation for His appearing.

There is no fear in love; but perfect love casts out fear, because fear involves punishment, and the one who fears is not perfected in love.

I John 4:18

The Bible is full of images of separation. God has always made a distinction between those who please Him and those who do not. Our error today is in assuming that everyone who is saved and who claims the name of Christian is pleasing to the Father.

Do not be deceived, God is not mocked; for whatever a man sows, this he will also reap.

Galatians 6:7

In the design of the Tabernacle of Moses, which was constructed in the wilderness, God showed that there would be a distinction made

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among those who could approach Him. This structure was divided into three distinct parts: the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Most Holy Place. Each area represented a different level of intimacy with, and approach to, the Father.

I do not have the space to go into an exhaustive teaching of the design and significance of the tabernacle here. I will simply point out a few truths that are pertinent to an understanding of the Bride. I want you to see that there is tremendous support for the idea that Yahshua has chosen a special remnant out from among His body to be the Bride.

As has been mentioned, the Bride is made up of those who have made themselves ready. They are pure and radiant. They are holy and blameless before God. Those who have soiled their garments are forbidden from being a part of the Bride.

In the design of the tabernacle, holiness has everything to do with access to the different parts. The outer court is the least restrictive portion. Virtually all of the congregation of Israel had access to the Outer Court. In the church the Outer Court represents the level of spirit salvation. All who are saved have access to this area.

The next level, the Holy Place, was more restrictive. Only priests from the tribe of Levi were allowed into the Holy Place. This represented a significant decrease in access from the Outer Court. The priests who served in the tabernacle also had requirements placed upon them. They had to be without defect or disease to perform service in the tabernacle. We see a double refinement here. Only one tribe of Israel could enter and only those who were without blemish or defect.

It was not God's original intent that only one tribe should have access here. God's original desire was that the whole nation should be priests

before Him (Exodus 19:5,6). It was only after Israel refused to turn from the idolatry of Egypt that Levi was chosen. This transfer of the priesthood from the entire nation to the tribe of Levi occurred after the nation sinned when Aaron made the golden calf for them to worship. Levi alone stood faithful to God and refused to enter into idolatry (Exodus 32:25-27).

God's original purpose was that the firstborn male of every household should be holy and dedicated unto Him as a priest. After Israel sinned in their idolatry, God substituted the entire tribe of Levi for the firstborn of all Israel. God had every firstborn male of Israel numbered by tribe. They were then ransomed and released from their dedication as a priest before God by having a Levite male take their place. There were more firstborn males from Israel than there were Levite males, so the remaining number had to be redeemed with money (Numbers chapter 3).

The Bride is made up of those who have made themselves ready.

The double refinement of the Holy Place was therefore a refinement that weeded out idolaters and only allowed access to those who were dedicated to God. Furthermore, these dedicated ones had to be without disease or defect (Leviticus 21:17-23). This is reflective of the Bride of Christ who is to be "without spot or wrinkle or any such blemish, but holy and blameless" (Ephesians 5:27).

The Most Holy Place represented a final refinement. Only the High Priest could enter here, and only after much preparation. His entry was further restricted to one day out of the year. The Most Holy Place was where the ark of the covenant was kept and it represented the presence of God.

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We see in this picture that as one approached the presence of God, greater requirements had to be met. At each level the number of those who had access decreased tremendously. It was not treated as a trivial thing to come into God's presence. The same is true in the church age.

Throughout scripture, the church, individually and corporately is referred to as a temple or tabernacle. God has designed this living temple along the same lines as the physical. The requirements for approach to the presence of God are the same.

The church, individually and corporately is referred to as a temple .

You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Yahshua the Messiah.

1 Peter 2:5

20 having been built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Yahshua Himself being the corner stone

21 in whom the whole building, being fitted together is growing into a holy temple in the Lord;

22 in whom you also are being built together into a dwelling of God in the Spirit.

Ephesians 2:20-22

The place of intimacy is the Most Holy Place. It is here that the Bride will consummate the marriage. The Bride that is allowed here is a Bride that has been made ready, a purified and holy Bride as described in Ephesians 5.

26 that [Christ] might sanctify [the Bride], having cleansed her

by the washing of water with the word,

27 that He might present to Himself the [separated out ones] in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she should be holy and blameless.

We see in the pattern of the tabernacle that access to the presence of God is not given in the same measure to all individuals. Holiness and preparation were required to go deeper into God's presence. The number of people who met the requirements for access dropped precipitously at each level.

In this temple of living stones that God is fashioning, we see three separate areas. This corresponds to three groups of Christians. Your access to the Father and to His most holy things is determined by what group you belong to. Your discernment of what is righteous and what is profane, and your diligence to walk in a manner that is worthy of the Lord are keys to further entrance into the holiest portions of the temple of God. Those who attain to the Most Holy Place are the Bride of Christ. For them there is no veil of separation.

Look again at the following verse:

You also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Yahshua the Messiah.

I Peter 2:5

In this verse we are told that as Christians, we are members of a holy priesthood. However, even among the priests of Israel we know that not all priests were accorded equal honor. Some walked worthily and some did not. God made a distinction among them, even as He has among

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those who are called the church. The things of the Old Covenant are very relevant as types and shadows for us who are of the New Covenant.

Now these things happened to them as an example, and they were written for our instruction, upon whom the ends of the ages have come.

I Corinthians 10:11

In the book of Ezekiel we are told of God making a distinction among the priests of the tribe of Levi. The passage is prophetic, speaking of service in a future temple, a temple of living stones. Access to the most holy things and to God Himself was determined by how worthily one walked before God.

10 "But the Levites who went far from Me, when Israel went astray, who went astray from Me after their idols, shall bear the punishment for their iniquity.

11 "Yet they shall be ministers in My sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the house and ministering in the house; they shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister to them.

12 "Because they ministered to them before their idols and became a stumbling block of iniquity to the house of Israel, therefore I have sworn against them," declares Yahweh GOD, "that they shall bear the punishment for their iniquity.

13 "And they shall not come near to Me to serve as a priest to Me, nor come near to any of My holy things, to the things that are most holy; but they shall bear their shame and their abomina-

tions which they have committed.

14 "Yet I will appoint them to keep charge of the house, of all its service, and of all that shall be done in it.

15 "But the Levitical priests, the sons of Zadok, who kept charge of My sanctuary when the sons of Israel went astray from Me, shall come near to Me to minister to Me; and they shall stand before Me to offer Me the fat and the blood," declares Yahweh GOD.

16 "They shall enter My sanctuary; they shall come near to My table to minister to Me and keep My charge.

Ezekiel 44:10-16

What a tremendous loss was incurred by the disobedient priests who went with the people in the pursuit of their idols. They were relegated to the service of the building. They were forbidden to serve directly in God's presence. They could not come near unto Him, nor unto any of His holy things, the things considered most holy. Their service was a service of the Outer Court as is indicated in verse 11:

Access to... God was determined by how worthily one walked.

Yet they shall be ministers in My sanctuary, having oversight at the gates of the house and ministering in the house; they shall slaughter the burnt offering and the sacrifice for the people, and they shall stand before them to minister to them.

Your current love and passion for God will determine whether you see the above passage and its judgment on the idolatrous priests as

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tragic or not. Some may think that their punishment doesn't sound too bad. After all, they were still priests and they were still allowed to serve at the temple. There is great tragedy in it, however.

The temple itself is nothing without the presence of God. The temple is merely a vessel that contains a great treasure and the great treasure is the presence and person of God. The idolatrous priests are being told that their service and access in the temple will be restricted to the building itself, the true treasure will be withheld from them.

It is much like being given a present of inestimable worth and then being told that you can

The temple itself is nothing without the presence of God.

only keep the box that the gift came in. This directly correlates to the judgment brought upon Queen Vashti in the book of Esther. She was a queen, but she

was denied access to the presence of the king. What joy is there in being the bride of the king if you are denied access to him?

The idolatrous priests are not only forbidden from serving in God's presence, they are denied access to the things which are the most holy things of God. Because of the abominations they have committed, they must bear their shame.

It would be reasonable at this point to ask what, if any, indication there is in scripture of God making a similar distinction among those who are His children in this present age. There is a parallel passage in the New Testament to the above scripture from Ezekiel, which reveals the same truths, bringing them forward into the era of the New Covenant.

42 And the Lord said, "Who then is the faithful and sensible steward, whom his master will put

in charge of his servants, to give them their rations at the proper time?

43 "Blessed is that slave whom his master finds so doing when he comes.

44 "Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions.

45 "But if that slave says in his heart, 'My master will be a long time in coming,' and begins to beat the slaves, both men and women, and to eat and drink and get drunk;

46 the master of that slave will come on a day when he does not expect him, and at an hour he does not know, and will cut him in pieces, and assign him a place with the unbelievers.

47 "And that slave who knew his master's will and did not get ready or act in accord with his will, shall receive many lashes,

48 but the one who did not know it, and committed deeds worthy of a flogging, will receive but few. And from everyone who has been given much shall much be required; and to whom they entrusted much, of him they will ask all the more.

Luke 12:42-48

Verse 44 reveals that not all Christians will have access to all of God's possessions. This is a privilege reserved for those who are faithful. What is it that will be withheld? It is God's most holy things and God's very presence. When Yahshua spoke of the faithful servant, "Truly I say to you, that he will put him in charge of all his possessions", He was speaking of a great honor being bestowed upon him, an honor that not all would share.

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Many Christians today have taken no thought to such things. Having obtained the free gift of salvation, they have become content and live much as the world does, pursuing the same idols of materialism, security, and comfort that the unbelieving masses pursue. It is but a remnant of the church that is actually pursuing God. It is but a few who are anxiously and passionately awaiting the return of the Son of God, keeping their robes unstained from the world.

God's standards have not changed for His church. Those who think they can pursue the same idols that the world chases after and still be given access to the most holy things of God are mistaken. Service in the presence of God will also be withheld from them. They will not be accounted as worthy to be a part of the Bride of Christ.

We are priests before God just as certainly as the Levites who were referred to in Ezekiel. The same standard of holiness required of them is required of us.

you also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house for a holy priesthood...

I Peter 2:5

Not all things are equal for all Christians. Salvation is God's free gift, but there is much beyond salvation. Many Christians stand in peril of suffering great loss, loss of that which they did not even know existed and was being offered to them. The church must wake up or experience devastation. Access to the very presence of God is at stake.

The Outer Court

We have stated that the Outer Court of the tabernacle is representative of spirit salvation and it is the furthest location from the Most Holy Place that is still part of the tabernacle. Many Chris-

tians have through ignorance or disobedience become content to remain in the Outer Court. The Outer Court is the part of the building that has access to the world outside. It rubs shoulders with the world.

Unfortunately, many in the Outer Court are looking the wrong way. Rather than looking farther into the tabernacle, into the Holy Place, and beyond to the Most Holy Place, they are facing the other direction. They are focused on the world. Because of their worldly focus, they are oblivious to the treasures that lie so close at hand.

Those who are called to salvation are all given an invitation to advance from the Outer Court, through the Holy Place, all the way to the Most Holy Place. Few make the complete trip, however. What hinders those who remain outside? As Paul told the Corinthian believers, "You are not restrained by us, but you are restrained in your own affections" (2 Corinthians 6:12).

Many, having received salvation, have clung tenaciously to their old affections. They have not allowed themselves to be transformed. The idols of the world are their idols. Some even believe that their relationship to God is of great benefit in pursuing the idols that they hold dear. In their deception they implore God to fulfill their lusts. James makes this clear:

Many Christians stand in peril of suffering great loss.

3 You ask and do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.

4 You adulteresses, do you not know that friendship with the world is hostility toward God? Therefore whoever wishes to be a

The Remnant Bride

friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.

James 4:3, 4

James is speaking to the church here. Why does he call such worldly saints adulteresses? Is it not because they are betrothed to Christ, but are unfaithful in their affections? Paul said, "For I am jealous for you with a godly jealousy; for I

To progress further inward, one must embrace the cross.

betrothed you to one husband, that to Christ I might present you as a pure virgin" (II Corinthians 11:2). All Christians are betrothed to Christ. Their love and

their passion is to be reserved for Christ alone. Many, however, are pursuing other loves.

All who receive salvation stand at the Outer Court of the tabernacle with an invitation to come further in. At the moment of confession and repentance they are facing the Most Holy Place with their back to the world. The call to come in is a call to intimacy. It will require an emptying, a laying down of all things of the world as the Holy Spirit of God brings conviction. To progress further into the temple requires refining. It requires embracing the cross. It requires one to keep his back steadily fixed toward the world and his eyes fixed on Christ.

But Yahshua said to him, "No one, after putting his hand to the plow and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Luke 9:62

The very furnishings of the tabernacle foretell of the necessity of embracing the cross. The furnishings are arranged in the shape of a cross. At the base of the cross is the brazen altar with the bronze laver just above it. These are in the Outer Court. Entering the Holy Place, on either side, forming the horizontal member are the golden candlestick and the table of showbread. Con-

tinuing on up the vertical member, entering the Most Holy Place, we find the altar of incense, and the ark of the covenant along with the mercy seat.

To progress further inward, one must embrace the cross. To turn and face the world is to turn one's back on the cross. A decision must be made. Which way will the saint go? There is no possibility of compromise. One must discern the difference between the holy and the profane. Idols must be abandoned. Fears must be confronted. Lusts must be denied.

Unfortunately, many don't recognize the idols to which they cling. Anything that is exalted in your life can be an idol. Success can be an idol. Material possessions of all types can be an idol. Leisure can be an idol. Comfort can be an idol. Security can be an idol. Health can be an idol. The respect and praise of men can be an idol.

When we stand at the Outer Court, the world and its idols are not silent. They shout at us. Family and friends tell us we would be fools to not pursue them. Our flesh also cries out with the memory of its lusts. As the flesh views the cross terror assails it. How foolish it seems to go this way. The world cannot embrace the cross and most of the church will not. Why should we?

Now those who belong to Christ Yahshua have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.

Galatians 5:24

Who are those who belong to Christ, referred to in the above verse? The Bride belongs to Yahshua. Those who belong to Yahshua must crucify the flesh with its passions and desires. To fail to do so indicates that our heart belongs to another, that we have idols in our life.

Satan has deceived many believers into thinking that their lot in eternity will be the same as

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all other Christians. They believe there is nothing required of them other than believing in Christ for their salvation and confessing Him. They pursue the life of their dreams and lusts and anticipate a blissful eternity. What unexpected grief will be theirs when they realize that the choicest things of God are denied them, things that will make the most prized possessions on Earth seem as dung in comparison. Those who pursue the things this world has to offer are truly blind.

Paul spoke of pressing on toward the goal (Philippians 3:14). Those who would progress to the Most Holy Place must “press on” toward it. Resistance will be present. The heavenly goal must be kept at the center of attention. All diligence must be supplied to attain to the goal. Those who are at ease in Zion will not attain to the Most Holy Place.

The pattern and testimony of scripture is that the vast multitude remains at the Outer Court. It is a much smaller number that will enter the Holy Place and a mere remnant in comparison who will make it to the Most Holy Place. Knowing this should make the concerned Christian take heed. There is no room for resting on one’s laurels. Paul describes the intensity that should be a part of the Believer’s life, comparing it to an athlete running a race, a soldier going to war, and a hard-working farmer anticipating the fruit of his labors.

3 Suffer hardship with me, as a good soldier of Christ Yahshua.

4 No soldier in active service entangles himself in the affairs of everyday life, so that he may please the one who enlisted him as a soldier.

5 And also if anyone competes as an athlete, he does not win the prize unless he competes according to the rules.

6 The hard-working farmer

ought to be the first to receive his share of the crops.

7 Consider what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.

II Timothy 2:3-7

Paul is speaking to Timothy of the necessity of embracing the hardship of a soldier, the rigorous discipline of an athlete, and the patient work ethic of a farmer, always keeping the goal in mind.

The soldier desires to please the one who enlisted him. This is the key to his advancement. The athlete strives for a prize, and Timothy is reminded that there are rules that must be adhered to. The farmer anticipates being the first to receive a share of the crops that he has labored to bring forth. Each one focuses on his individual reward and applies whatever discipline, rigor, and patience is necessary, participating according to the guidelines set forth.

The pattern and testimony of scripture is that the vast multitude remains at the Outer Court.

Paul is not speaking to Timothy of pursuing the salvation that is given freely to us by God. Paul is speaking of something beyond this salvation. He is speaking of reward. He is also referring to a further salvation, one that Christians know little about, the salvation of the soul.

so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him.

Hebrews 9:28

What is this "salvation without reference to sin" that Christ will appear a second time for?

The Remnant Bride

Most Christians know of only one salvation, that which I have referred to as spirit salvation and which is commonly referred to as being 'born again.' God, however, desires that we should be saved spirit, soul, and body. Whereas spirit salvation is a free gift, soul salvation must be worked out. It is this salvation that the following verse refers to.

So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling...

Philippians 2:12

If there were only one salvation and we are told that it is a "free gift, not of works, lest any man should boast", then why would Paul then say to "work out your salvation with fear and

trembling?" This puzzle can only be unraveled when one discerns that there is more than one salvation being referred to in scriptures. This is also typified in the tabernacle. We have previously mentioned that the Outer Court corresponds to spirit salvation. We can now affirm that the Holy Place corresponds to soul salvation.

Much could be spoken of this, but I will not venture into this area at this time. It is enough to state that there is much that remains after one receives his or her new birth and is born of the Spirit of God. It is this that is beyond our initial spirit salvation that Paul has spoken of to Timothy. Paul speaks a similar message to the Corinthian believers.

24 Do you not know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may win.

25 And everyone who competes in the games exercises self-control in all things. They then do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we an imperishable.

26 Therefore I run in such a way, as not without aim; I box in such a way, as not beating the air;

27 but I buffet my body and make it my slave, lest possibly, after I have preached to others, I myself should be disqualified.

I Corinthians 9:24-27

The imperishable wreath Paul refers to represents the eternal prize he is striving for. He exercises discipline over his body so that he might not be disqualified. Again, this disqualification is not speaking of spirit salvation, but of reward. As Paul spoke to the Corinthians at an earlier place in the same letter, "If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire" 1 Corinthians 3:15.

Satan has purposely blinded the eyes of the church to the issue of personal reward. If a saint believes that his lot in eternity will be the same, no matter how he lives his life before God, he will have an increased temptation to walk carelessly and with little regard to the ramifications of his behavior. He will have less motivation to walk in a circumspect and disciplined manner in pursuit of the high calling of God upon his life.

The effects of removing personal reward can be seen in many of the countries of the world under communism. When personal property is taken away and the profit motive removed, productivity drops precipitously. When all receive the same reward, no matter how diligently they labor, performance drops and mediocrity becomes the order of the day.

In the same way, the church has become me-

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diocre. It is hard to tell the saint from the unsaved. Both groups are subject to the same maladies. The same idols are pursued. Values are nearly identical. There is little to differentiate the believer from the unbeliever.

Some may question, "Isn't it selfish for a saint to focus upon reward?" The answer is, "Not if the reward is something that the Father has told us to pursue." In the book of Hebrews we are told of the great heroes of the faith. They were pursuing a goal. They were looking for a city not built with hands (Hebrews 11:10,16). They were looking to eternal reward. Yahshua also encouraged His disciples to lay up treasures for themselves in heaven (Matthew 6:20).

The average saint today is aware of nothing beyond salvation. Most have never heard a sermon on eternal reward. Most are under the false delusion that the same reward awaits all believers. However, Yahshua said, "Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man *according to what he has done*" Revelation 22:12. Failing to understand this has led to so many saints unwillingness to embrace the cross. It has persuaded multitudes to be content with the Outer Court.

*It is hard to tell the
saint from the
unsaved.*

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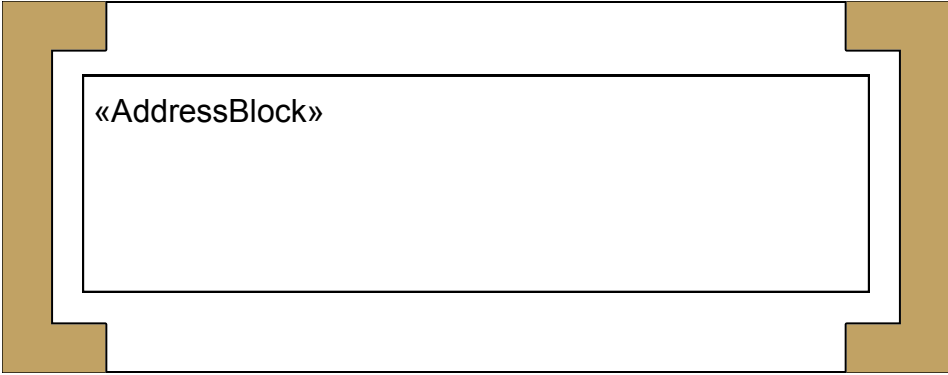
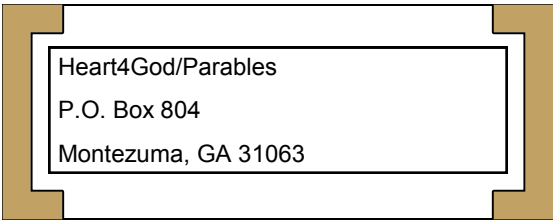
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PARABLES PRECEPT—The Hebrew Alphabet



(Image source: Ancient Hebrew Resource Center’s Website)

The Hebrew letter pictured above is Vav. In the left most picture you can see that it looks like a tent peg. This is what it was intended to represent. The ancient nomadic people would take a Y shaped wooden peg and drive it into the ground to use as an anchor to secure their tent with ropes. The Y shape would keep the ropes from slipping off the peg.

Words formed that use this letter often have some association with

the idea of joining, or attaching things to one another. An interesting word that reveals this usage of the letter Vav, is the Hebrew word that means “sojourn.” To sojourn means to visit as a stranger. It speaks of someone who journeys from his homeland to dwell in another place.

The Hebrew word for sojourn is Guwr (goor) spelled Gimel, Vav, Resh.



The letter Gimel resembles a man’s foot, which quite naturally lends itself to the thought of traveling. The letter Resh is a picture of a man’s head.

Reconstructing the origin of Paleo-Hebrew words is not an exact science. There is guesswork involved. In the word Guwr one must ask, what do these three symbols have to do with the word sojourn.

Perhaps these symbols were chosen to denote a man whose foot comes to a stop while on a journey. Or perhaps it denotes a man who is tied to traveling.

Unraveling the origins of how the early Semitic people arrived at the meaning of words is very much like unraveling a PARABLE.