

**The Nazarene Fellowship Circular Letter**  
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**EDITORIAL**

**“Who can fathom the Spirit [mind] of the Lord,  
or instruct the Lord as his counsellor?” (Isaiah 40v13)**

Greetings to all, in the name of Lord Jesus Christ.

All too often, it seems there are those who would have us all think they have the authority to discern all things spiritual. That they have the greatest insight and interpretation of God's word, and His mind.

No one can claim to know Gods mind, to fathom His spirit, as we are told in that chapter of Isaiah, so we must treat this with much caution. Many false prophets and teachers have been, and will be. So, can we know what it is He would have us know, which of course will come from the divine mind (spirit)? The answer is yes, we can, though we cannot claim to know more than we ought.

The Apostle Paul tells us in 1 Corinthians 2 v. 5 that "so that your faith might not rest on human wisdom, but on God's power" he would show how this works. Quoting again from Isaiah (Ch. 64) he points out that the world (carnal mind) cannot understand God's ways.

"What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived" the things God has prepared for those who love him"

He says, "None of the rulers of this age understood it"; and that applies to this day and age also.

God has wonderful things prepared to tell and give to all those who have truly come to know Him, and these are things which foolish human understanding alone will never see. These things can only be understood through spiritual illumination. Paul concludes that Isaiah 64 v.4 means that "these are the things God has revealed to us by his Spirit."

He goes on to say; "The person without the Spirit does not accept the things that come from the Spirit of God but considers them foolishness, and cannot understand them because they are discerned only through the Spirit."

We will receive God's Spirit, if we are true followers of Christ. He will be in us, and will make us wise unto salvation. This is being "conformed to the image of His Son," and this is the great joy of

our Christian life, that which we have faith in, hope in, and by which we are saved by God's grace through Christ. So, when the world says "we have the answers, we are the wise", or some bible teacher comes along with very grand claims that he/she will make you wise, remember the closing words of Paul in that chapter – "But we have the mind of Christ"

Pray for this wisdom, and in all humility; give God the glory, for He works in us, and through us, and it is as a witness to His power and authority that we play our part.

Much love, in these last days, may God abide with us always, in Jesus Christ. Julian

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## **Is Brass a Symbol of Sinful Flesh?**

No! It is not true to state that in Scripture, both the serpent and brass, are used as symbols of sinful-flesh. This is an invented notion designed to support the false teaching that 'sin' can literally dwell in human flesh. The phrase "Sinful-flesh" occurs only once in the King James version and here it is no translation at all of the Greek *hamartia sarx* which are the words Paul used. The Greek was written in the possessive case and implies ownership – we are possessed by Sin in the same way as a Ruler possesses slaves to do his bidding. In the Bible we are said to have been sold to King Sin by Adam and now all his posterity are in "Sin's Bondage" and condemned. Paul explained in an earlier chapter - Romans 6:12, "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof."

All 'in Adam' are in bondage to sin, so we need to die with Jesus in the symbol of baptism and rise to newness of life 'in Jesus.' By so doing we are no longer 'in Adam' and no longer are we in bondage to the law of sin and death. This is our redemption in Jesus Christ.

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## **Sister Helen Brady's Consideration of Paul's Letter to The Romans**

Romans, the first of Paul's letters is reckoned to be the longest and most influential, written at the height of the apostle's career. It conveys the richness of his personal experience of Jesus and the full maturity of his thinking. Paul sets forth the gospel which he has been preaching and the general theme is the good news about Jesus and the reconciliation He has procured for us. It displays all the glory of the atonement.

The letter was written in the winter months of 57-58 AD from Corinth, during Paul's third journey. It is much less personal than his other letters, since he is not acquainted with those to whom he writes. It is rather more a treatise than a letter. Paul dictated his letters, but often added covering notes and greetings in his own bold handwriting. Evidently the first fifteen chapters of the letter's sixteen chapters are likely to constitute the original letter as sent to Rome, while the last three verses of chapter 16 might well have been Paul's covering note accompanying the letter to Rome. It is also likely that a copy of the original letter would have been retained at Corinth.

William Tyndale wrote a lengthy prologue to his translation of the letter to the Romans and for the most part it is taken from Martin Luther's prologue, and it goes as follows:-

"Forasmuch as this epistle is the principle and most excellent part of the new testament, and most pure evangelion, that is to say glad tidings and that we call gospel, and also a light and a way in unto the whole scripture, I think it meet, that every Christian man not only know it by

rote and without the book, but also exercise himself therein evermore continually, as with the daily bread of the soul. No man verily can read it too oft or study it too well: for the more it is studied the easier it is, the more it is chewed the pleasanter it is, and the more groundly it is searched the preciouser things are found in it, so great treasure of spiritual things lieth hid therein.”

“First we must mark diligently the manner of speaking of the apostle, and above all things know what Paul meaneth by these words, the law, sin, grace, faith, righteousness, flesh, spirit and such like, or else read thou it never so oft, thou shalt lose thy labour.”

The failure to discern these terms properly as used in Romans may truly be said to be the cause for Christadelphians to “lose their labour.” Their intransigent determination to misapply Romans 8:3 in order to bolster their false doctrine of original sin is something to be wondered at. As a friend from long ago once remarked, “Christadelphian Bibles must automatically drop open at Romans 8 they relish it so.”

When in Romans 7 Paul says, “What I would, that I do not: but what I hate, that I do,” he is not to be understood as saying that there was in his physical make-up something which compelled him to do evil or conversely prevented him from doing good: this would be in direct contradiction of his own claim: “I can do all things through Christ.” So when Paul says, “In me, that is in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing,” he is speaking from the standpoint of a Jew under the Law or as Dr. Thomas phrases it, “an unenlightened son of the flesh.”

The imputation of sin does not make our flesh physically sinful: it alienates us from God legally. When Paul recognized this state he put on Christ as we can. For Jesus’ one act of obedience, when applied to the individual by faith in the symbol of baptism, can restore us to grace and favour. That is why Paul can commence the 8th chapter with the words “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus.” This is no mere figure of speech but for the true believer, a present reality to be prized above all else.

“Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.” James 4.

Love to all, Helen Brady.

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## **A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE**

Sin is defined for us in 1 John 3:4 as transgression of law; in some places it means sin-offering; it is never used as a synonym for human nature. Christ was human nature. He was not sin. He became a sin-bearer in exactly the same way as a sacrificial lamb under the law became a sin-bearer, i.e., by suffering the penalty due to the sinner by whom it was offered. Jesus bore our sins in His own body to the tree when the Lord laid on Him the iniquity of us all, in the same sense as the scape-goat carried in its body into the wilderness the sins confessed over its head by the High Priest on the Day of Atonement. He was made sin for us when on Calvary He was treated as if He were guilty of the sin and surrendered by His Father to the power of evil as if He has been the personification of the whole load of sin and wickedness committed by mankind from Eden onward. But He Himself was ever holy, harmless, undefiled and separate from sinners morally and physically; in Him personally was no sin; He never forfeited the Sonship and harmony with His Father which belonged to Him by birth.

Extract from “Why Christ Died” Ernest Brady.

## **Ye Are All The Children of God Through Faith in Christ Jesus.**

One thing is certain and reliable from the words of Jesus to those who profess to be the Children of God, and they embody the first and great commandment to Israel under Moses and also the second like unto it, “The first of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; the Lord our God is one Lord: 30. and thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. 31. And the second is like, namely this, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. There is none other commandment greater than these. (Mark 12:29-31). Interpret these two commandments by and through the impartiality of God’s Love that you may be identified as His Children. “For He maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust”.

The testimony of Jesus is witness here that God is the creator, and His Love for creation overrides the evil that men do and the fact that in giving rain, sunshine and fruitful seasons to those who seek firstly His Kingdom and His Righteousness, the evil and the unjust are partakers also of these blessings. Paul and Barnabas also “bore witness to this in their encounter with the people of Lystra and the priests of Jupiter one of their false gods. Acts 14:15, “Sirs, why do ye these things? We also are men of like passions with you, and preach unto you that ye should turn from these vanities unto the living God, which made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all things that are therein: Who in times past suffered all nations to walk in their own ways, nevertheless he left not himself without witness, in that he did good, and gave us rain from heaven, and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness.” Exact confirmation of Genesis 8:22 “While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease.” Genesis 9 - “I do set my bow in the cloud.” This is the token of the covenant, which I have established between me and all flesh that is upon the earth.”

The sceptic will say there is nothing phenomenal or miraculous about a rainbow, it is caused through natural circumstances by means of the sun’s rays penetrating the rain drops. Be it so, there would be no bow with sun only, and no bow with rain only, so as a result of God causing his sun to rise on the evil and the good and sending His rain upon the just and unjust, the rainbow, His token of the covenant with the earth and all generations is seen as witness that He is God and Creator of the heavens and the earth.

God has never left Himself without witness. The nation of Israel were His witnesses, when there was no strange god among them, Isaiah chapter 45, but they relinquished this role after their rejection as a nation of their Messiah, but God was still gathering His elect according to His foreknowledge and predestination as I shall draw attention to later. It was in consequence of this fact that the gospel was preached to the Gentiles as well as the Jews. Peter stated, Acts 15:7 “Men and brethren, ye know how that a good while ago God made choice among us, that the Gentiles “by my mouth should hear the word of the gospel and believe. And God, who knows the hearts, bare them witness, giving them the Holy Spirit, even as He did unto us; and put no difference between us and them, purifying their hearts by faith. But we believe that through the grace of the Lord Jesus Christ we shall be saved, even as they.” With the Apostle Paul, it is my hearts' desire and prayer to God that Israel after the flesh of the present time will realise this condition of faith expressed by Peter and re-emphasised by him when disputing with some of the Jews who had rejected Jesus of Nazareth, “This is the stone which was set at nought of you builders, which is become the head of the comer. Neither is there Salvation in any other; for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved.” This fact is not being observed universally; only individually, by those whom God is taking out as a people for His Name, both Jews and Gentiles, putting no difference between them when they observe the conditions of belief, faith, and covenant relationship with Him. It is life eternal to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He sent. While Paul waited at Athens for Silas and Timotheus to join him, his spirit was stirred within him, when he saw the city wholly given to idolatry. Therefore

disputed he in the synagogue with the Jews, and with devout persons, and in the market daily with them that met him. Among other things he preached unto them Jesus, and the resurrection, two very important facts of the Gospel, but which Paul perceived would not be understood by worshippers of an unknown God, so later as he stood on Mars Hill he declared unto them the God of Abraham and Father of Jesus Christ, He who was the creator of the world and all things therein, and seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed anything, seeing He giveth to all life, and breath and all things and made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though He be not far from every one of us; for in Him we live, and move and have our being... forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device."

Paul shows and demonstrates clearly to the idol worshippers of gold, silver and stone, (graven images to be exact) that men could not be produced from them, but that men of one blood are the Creation of a Living God who has spoken and revealed Himself and also the purpose of His Creation. Paul does not mean all men are children of God by natural birth - but all men, just and unjust, are the result of His Creation, having given reproductive powers to the human species. God's purpose with the earth and man up until the completion of His Kingdom and personal involvement when He is all in all, necessitates that the "blessings He sends on the earth for His own children will be shared by those who are not in that relationship. But there have "been cases where God has intervened in Judgment upon the wicked by extricating His own people from the scene, but this is a different matter than when we are speaking of the whole earth and the Creator giving rain from heaven and fruitful seasons filling people's hearts with food and gladness. This has been the case since creation yet famine and drought has persisted in several parts of the world, and to a great extent man has been to blame for his lack of consideration, preparation, and distribution to the needy, but in other cases it has been the result of Divine judgment for reasons known only to God Himself except where they are given. God said to Abraham concerning Sodom, "If there be ten righteous in the city, for their sakes I will not destroy it. There was not even ten. The alternative therefore, of not destroying the righteous with the wicked was to extricate the righteous, but by their own free-will and faith of course. God did so with Lot and his two daughters, lack of faith and obedience to God's word causing death to Lots' wife on the way as she looked back and became a pillar of salt. Jesus in Matthew 24:15-17 gives a similar warning. Despite the confusion of tongues to impede the tower builders, the practice has still continued even until now in addition to idolatry of the worst kind. The lesson Paul tried to teach at Athens has never been learned and accepted, only by the true servants of God, and now in modern times a city is not a city if it does not have a Cathedral with its towers or spires reaching unto heaven and its vast tomb-like interior full of darkness with the exception of a little candlelight on man-made altars, with crosses of brass and other images of gold, silver or stone graven by art and man's device. Temples of idolatry necessary for military parades, State funerals, Royal Weddings, tourist attraction etc. and commercial gain; a far cry from the Divine instruction to Moses.

Concerning the typical tabernacle or Temple of Christ's Body - "see thou make it after the pattern shown' to thee in the Mount." God dwelleth not in such temples of idolatry made with hands. "For thus saith the high and lofty one that inhabiteth eternity, whose Name is Holy; I dwell in the high and holy place, with him also that is of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble and to revive the heart of the contrite ones", Isaiah chapter 57.

Exaltation with God in order to sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus, is not by Cathedral towers that reach unto heaven of man's building, but through the veil, that is to say, Christ's flesh; though with boldness, yet by humility and contrite spirit which acknowledges that he is the Son of God and sacrificed his life for the life of the world which Adam forfeited to sin. Paul said of the believers in Corinth, "For ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God; and they shall be my people; Wherefore be holy and free



from idolatry, and I will “be a Father unto you and ye shall be my sons and daughters.” Paul here is quoting the prophets of Israel, and he is alluding to those who have accepted Christ and are Jews inwardly, constituting the Israel of God and the all Israel who will be saved when as it is written, “There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob, for this is my covenant unto them when I shall take away their sins.” (Romans 11:25-27). The robe of righteousness is acquired through the efficacy of Christ’s sacrificial death, and association with him by faith and understanding of the way appointed.

The robes or garments of deceit are acquired through the authority of man-made institutions such as Theological Colleges and Universities whereby the Divine pattern of things in the Heavens and the Heavenly things themselves are of no consequence provided the State or the establishment is not opposed and the people are generally content with what is taught by these State-ordained witchdoctors. The fleshly Jewish Rabbis are no better with their vain traditions, and are as much a disgrace to the examples of the Patriarchs as the Clergy are to the first century body of Christ, idolatry in all its forms has always been the snare to both. The Robe of righteousness must always be worn by those truly qualified as servants of righteousness and must not be discarded. But he who serves the idols temple must first put off and on the garments specified for his office - the long flowing robe or garment of deceit - and parade in full regalia as befits his rank, and with great show of superiority of wisdom over the congregation, teaching for doctrine the traditions and commandments of men who have changed the Truth into a lie. It is into this idolatrous state falsely called Christendom that people think they are rightly introduced by a few drops of water sprinkled on their foreheads, believing after a few years that this has qualified them to be Christians, though as infants they knew nothing, and little more as adults. This is the disrepute with which God’s Honour and Wisdom has been impugned.

There is also a parallel in this respect with the natural Jews, and the land of promise. But before I go any further let me stress a fact brought to our notice some time back by bro. Linggood, it is that the God of Abraham holds the title deeds of conveyance in respect of this land, and Abraham and his seed through Christ, are the rightful heirs. The natural Jews think they are the rightful heirs to the land of Israel by birth, and retention of the vain traditions and practices tenaciously held by their Pharisaic forefathers, which some of our modern Bible students like to describe in glowing terms as a retention of their identity, but it is an identity they must lose if they desire to be heirs with Abraham of the same promise they must accept the Messiah, Jesus of Nazareth whom their fathers crucified.

As I have said, they believe they are God’s chosen people through fleshly descent from Abraham and adherence and preservation of Judaism and the traditions handed down. In fact there are people who nowadays believe that by this identification the Jews of this type are fulfilling God’s word through Isaiah, “Ye are my witnesses that I am God,” but the context refers to the Jews of the period when these words were uttered, not to present day Jews after the flesh, the latter are not witnesses to the attributes of the God of Abraham but to the fact that they have gone astray from Him and that He is not among them because they have by association and practice involved themselves with the idolatry of the nations. “Wherefore come ye out... and I will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters saith the Lord.” God’s witnesses have been always those through whom he spoke and chose to reveal Himself, Jesus being the greatest example together with the prophets and Apostles. These constitute the people of God. Paul says “God hath not cast away his people whom he foreknew.” This is the Jew that matters of whom Paul speaks to the Roman believers ch. 2 vs. 28 and 29 “For he is not a Jew, which is one outwardly; neither is that circumcision which is outward in the flesh: But he is a Jew, which is one inwardly; and circumcision is that of the heart, in the spirit, and not in the letter; whose praise is not of men, but of God”. He is a Jew, who has accepted. Jesus Christ the Messiah of Israel, and God has been calling these from all parts of the world through the word of His Grace, a fact demonstrated throughout all generations, and revealed by His word. Examples of this stand out clearly, but which we tend to overlook, for example James ch.1 “James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, to the twelve tribes which are scattered abroad, greetings”. Also I Peter 1:1, “Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to the strangers scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia,

Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia; Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ - and has begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled and that fadeth not away - reserved for you - and to be revealed in the last time', These words were addressed to Jews who were elect according to the foreknowledge of God. Indeed God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. He gathered them in the days of the Apostles, he has been gathering them ever since, but it has been conditional on acceptance of Jesus Christ and his sacrifice, the seed singular of Abraham, and not by the Law of Moses. God is not interested in re-gathering those who call themselves Jews and are not, Romans 2:17, Revelation 2:9, in preference to those Gentiles who are willing to become the seed of Abraham by adoption and grace, in the Spirit and not in the letter, for it is One God, which shall justify the circumcision by faith and the uncircumcision through faith, and will gather and receive on this basis only, as all Scripture on the subject will reveal in the context if people refrained from an unjustified favouritism towards the natural Jews who as Paul says are as much under sin as the Gentiles. Romans 3:9 see also 11:21-23.

In consequence of these quotations I am not being high minded as may appear, but I accept the situation which the scriptures present to me and in fact it could not be presented better than in Paul's letter to the Galatians chapters 3 and 4 in reference to the two covenants, the old and the new, the former being Sinai in Arabia and answereth to Jerusalem which now is, and is in bondage with her children, and the latter; Jerusalem which is above, or in the heavenlies in Christ, which is free and is the mother of us all. See Isaiah 54:1. I hope I have proved that when God makes reference through the prophets to His sons and daughters, this is what they are by adoption and grace through the only means He has stipulated and this is through the Name of Jesus and all that is involved in that Name. I repeat the words of Peter: "There is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved, neither is there Salvation in any other." In the face of this, can we describe or address the natural Jews as God's people? Is not this equivalent as saying that they are Abraham's seed through the Law of Moses and not through the faith of Jesus Christ?

What then of "Operation Moses"? This is the term applied to the evacuation by air of those Ethiopian Jews known as "Falashas," but the term is unjustified and bears little resemblance to the Exodus from Egypt under Moses through the God of Abraham. The latter took place through the slaying and acknowledgement of the Lamb of God typified by the Passover, I doubt if anything resembling this took place with the former, and it has been said, they even thought there was a Temple like unto Solomon's in Jerusalem. Neither is it correct to say (as certain Christadelphian literature does on this subject) that this is in fulfilment of a certain chapter of prophecy relating to the gathering of God's people from Cush or Ethiopia, for I have shown and proved that these 'Falashas,' if they have kept their past identity, are not God's sons and daughters, they are not the seed of Abraham through Jesus Christ and therefore they have not Abraham to their father. The typescript sent to me by the Christadelphians contained the exact words and message I heard on the telephone as the result of an advert in the paper 'Operation Moses', if interested, ring this number etc, and give your name and address at the end. The leaflet, says the air-lift has been aptly named 'Operation Moses;' I have said it was not, and that the impression given in this leaflet is that the Bible is now being fulfilled and that God is gathering His people from among the nations. How can He "be said to be gathering His people if they are not His people. Paul has shown and interpreted from the prophets that it is a remnant that will be gathered from all parts of the earth but it will be as a result of their conversion to Christ, Isaiah chapter 11, and as a result of his presence in Zion and Jerusalem. Are we expected to believe that the natural unconverted Jew of the flesh will be gathered to the land of Palestine and consider it as his inheritance, in priority and to the exclusion of Abraham and his seed, Jews and Gentiles and rightful heirs to the land?

Did not God say of Abraham, "In thee shall all families of the earth be "blessed"? Please let us get our priorities right. Please let us keep to the context of what the prophets are saying in the many

references listed in the leaflet, for I have found this to be a grave weakness with Christadelphians, and quite a few of their own members are beginning to find the courage to speak out and to correct many of the accepted errors in doctrine as well as the Jewish question. One member even said that Christadelphians are due for a shock before very long, and events and matters connected with them would be very disturbing, and even he himself regarded the B.A.S.F, as of no consequence to him; but the most revealing news from one in Australia whose book entitled "A More Perfect Way," shows the many flaws in the doctrines handed down from Dr. Thomas, R. Roberts, and in 1958, John Carter and Cooper in connection with the Unity Basis, and he has also confirmed the truth of many of the things for which we contend yet he still considers himself a Christadelphian, in the meaning of the name I suppose, and still retains some of the errors.

Please excuse my digression as I return to the Jewish question and the wresting of the scripture from its context. A notable example of this is found in Christadelphian literature in pointing attention to the Jews returning to Palestine. They say it is a fulfilment of the parable of the fig tree mentioned by Jesus in Luke 21:29, "Behold the fig tree and all the trees; when they now shoot forth ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand". Jesus has mentioned nothing about the Jews nor their revival and return to Palestine, neither does His use of the fig tree lesson give this impression. The lesson He makes is that when the fig tree and all trees shoot forth buds and leaves it is apparent from experience in the past (ye know of your own selves) that summer is now nigh at hand. I have told you of events that you have not yet witnessed, which ye do not know of your own selves but which God has revealed by His Spirit that when you see and experience the signs I have mentioned vs. 25-27, when they begin to come to pass then look up and lift up your heads for your deliverance draweth nigh." I agree with the view of many that the fig tree represents the Jewish nation, but in this case I do not myself think Jesus is using it for that purpose, but as it is the most common to the Jews even as the oak in my part of England is the most common, he gave priority to it in that sense, "Behold the fig tree, and all the trees, when they now shoot forth ye see and know of your own selves that summer is now nigh at hand". Substitute the budding forth of the leaves for the signs Jesus speaks of, and substitute 'summer' for the fulfilment of the signs which indicate the nearness of the Kingdom of God and you have the true meaning of the parable, 'summer', being the Kingdom of God.' We are to look for the signs spoken of by Isaiah in chapters 15 and 14, Joel 2:51 and also chapter 5, Haggai 2:6, this terrible shaking of the earth and heavens can be a literal fact and the atmospheric dust resulting from it would cause the sun to be darkened and the moon to appear blood-red to the people witnessing these things and it would appear from the reading of Joel 5:1-7 that this is the time when God will bring again the captivity of Judah and Jerusalem and plead with the nations on behalf of His Heritage whom the nations have driven out of Palestine and sold for slaves and prostitution. Jesus said "no man knoweth the day nor the hour but my father only." But he does give many indicative signs with the advice to be ready; "for in such an hour as ye think not the Son of Man cometh." Matthew 24:44. When the Apostles quote the prophets in their epistles and give their interpretations we can be sure that they are reliable and more enlightening to us who may read from the same scriptures, even as Philip enlightened the man of Ethiopia who was an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasures, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, he need not have been Ethiopian by birth, and it does not say he was; he may have attained his position through similar circumstances as those of Joseph who was sold into Egypt, but he knew that Jerusalem was the place where men ought to worship and where God had chosen to place His Name, and he had come for an important reason involved in his worship, I myself believe he was a devout Jew and possessed the scriptures of the prophets and at the moment Philip joined him in the chariot, by divine providence, he was reading from Isaiah chapter 55 and Philip expounded unto him the suffering of Christ and the glory which should follow. Even so with Paul, in his epistles to the Romans and Galatians we should pay attention to his teaching and advanced learning and understanding of the Jewish question where his statements and lessons brought to our notice in chapters 5 and 4 of Galatians are co-ordinated with Isaiah ch. 54; ch. 60; and ch 62, also Revelation 3:12 and Hebrews 12:22, which are sufficient to convince us that only the Elect of God and who are predestinated according to His Purpose and Grace will be gathered out of the nations.



This process has been going on from the beginning on the principle of faith in the atoning work of God in Christ and will culminate in the fulfilment of Isaiah's words concerning Zion and Jerusalem literal and spiritual, they are found in Isaiah chapters 60-61-62 and are confirmation of Revelation ch. 21 in respect of Salvation, Righteousness, the branch of my planting, the work of my hands, that I may be glorified saith the Lord.

In reading Ezekiel 20:33-38, it does not give me the impression that the Jews are returning to the land of Israel as a result of the work of God's hands, but through desperation and a desire for somewhere to settle and live. It fills me with anger and sorrow to witness what happened to Jews in Poland and Germany and also what is happening to the people in parts of Africa, Ethiopia and Sudan no matter what their race or their religion. I myself could not have differentiated in favour of help for the one more than the other in respect of food and clothing; they all felt the sickness, the pain, the hunger and the cold. Who can say that a suffering 'Falasha' child or adult was more worthy of help than those other Ethiopians? Evidently members of the State of Israel thought so and maybe some other people, for certain reasons. But it does not reflect the attributes of God and His over-riding Love and impartiality of which I spoke in my opening remarks, neither can people be said to be helping God to regather His people when it is a political matter and organised for other reasons and motives and could end, as some believe it may, with the destruction of many of these people who were air-lifted to Palestine. Any who care to read Isaiah chapter 49 in its proper sense and context will realise that it is "Operation Jesus Christ" that we must hope and pray for, and when reading from verses 1 to 13 let us bear in mind that verse 5, "O Israel" is descriptive of Jesus a 'Prince with God,' and 'Zion' is descriptive of the mother of the free who have become so through the Truth. Even as Jesus said, "The Truth shall make you free." John 8:52. What more can be said but that when the Lord dwelleth in Zion. Joel 5:21 and the signs spoken of by Jesus in Luke chapter 21 and Joel 2:51 and 52, "It shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the Name of the Lord, that is those who are called by the Name of the Lord, shall be delivered: for in mount Zion and in Jerusalem shall be deliverance, as the Lord hath said, and in the remnant whom the Lord shall call." Even so then at this present time also there is a remnant according to the election of grace, though blindness in part has happened to Israel until the fullness of the Gentiles be come in, that is to say, when the number of the elect is made up from among the Gentiles there shall come out of Zion the Deliverer and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob. For this is my covenant with them when I shall take away their sins, Jeremiah chapter 51. "And so all Israel shall be saved," - "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God I how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out; for who hath known the mind of the Lord? or who hath been his counsellor? For of him are all things; to whom be glory for ever."

Let us help the Jews by all means, whether spiritually or materially; the latter may be easier for some people because with the former they are not in the position that Philip was with the Eunuch in being able to expound from the scriptures the reason and necessity of Christ's Sacrifice for the salvation of both Jews and Gentiles; it is not in the forefront of their preaching, as the Apostles have shown it should be and that they had themselves a clear understanding uncluttered by the false theory that the death common to corruptible Adam and his posterity was not the death he incurred by sin, Adam having been created subject to natural decay and death as the Apostle Paul states in I Corinthians 15:44 to 49 and in Romans 8:20 and 21.

Thankfully we have in our fellowship a Jew inwardly who was convinced that our view of the Sacrifice of Christ harmonised with the Law and the Prophets. Our hope is that many more, Jews and Gentiles, will have the veil removed from their faces and will see clearly and know the peace of God which passeth understanding. Philippians chapter 4 verse 7.

To God only wise be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen.

Phil. Parry.

## Young People's Pages

Hello again everyone! I do hope and pray that you are getting to know the Great and Awesome God, Who created everything you see around you! His name is Yahweh - and He is the Only God! That is why we read the Bible - because He helped a number of men to write His words down for us, so that we could read about Him and what He has done - and what He still plans to do in the future! This collection of writing's - books and letters - has been put together and called The Bible! It is the only book that will teach you about Yahweh, AND tell you how you can live forever!! Isn't that exciting?!? 😊

And I hope you know that you can talk to Yahweh anytime of the Day or Night! He never needs to sleep, and wherever you are, He can hear you and see you, even though He lives in a place called Heaven! But because His spirit - His power - is everywhere - He is in touch with everything! So if there is ever anything you are worried about, something that you really need, or there's something that's scaring you, or you can't decide what to do about something, or you just want to thank Him for something - remember to talk to Him about it. He is so powerful that He can do anything! He loves it when trust Him enough to talk to Him like this! Psalm 145:18,19 . That is the reason He made us in the first place - He wants to have a loving relationship with us, and be a Father to us! And the closer you get to Him, the more you will feel His love for you! I know - because I've felt it myself! And do you know, His love is even stronger and better than the love that anyone else can ever give you! That is because we are only human, and we fail. But our God, Yahweh is not human - and He is the source of ALL love and when you are filled with HIS love, you will be able to go and share His love with others! 1 John 4:7,8.

That is why we have been reading about Abraham, Isaac, and now Jacob - because they all knew Yahweh, and He loved them - just like a Father - and He made them some very special promises. Some of these promises have already come true - and some of them are still waiting to happen! But these men were the fathers of the Israelites (The children of 'Israel' - Jacob!) - who have now become a mighty nation - as Yahweh promised that they would, even before the first one of them had even been born! Genesis 12:2. See how Yahweh knows everything, even before it happens!

So let us continue with looking at the life of Jacob - or 'Israel' as Yahweh had renamed him (Genesis 32:28). If you may remember from last time - Jacob was fearfully awaiting the arrival of his brother Esau, and all the men with him! The last time Jacob had seen Esau, Esau was threatening to kill him because Jacob had taken his birthright blessing!

Beginning at Genesis 33:-

"Now Jacob lifted his eyes and looked, and there, Esau was coming, and with him were 400 men."! In one last desperate act to try and protect his family, he formed all into several little groups, with the favourite ones (Rachel and her children) right at the back! Then Jacob went in front and crossed over the ford (Jabbok) first. As he approached Esau in fear, he bowed low to the ground seven times, until they were near. I bet his heart was thumping!

"BUT - Esau ran to meet him, and hugged him"! Phew! What a relief! 😊⇒!! ☐

Esau wasn't still angry! In fact he was so pleased to see Jacob his brother again, that he wept! And Jacob was so relieved and pleased, that he wept as well! And they kissed each other! Then Esau saw all the people and children just behind Jacob and asked in astonishment, "Who are all these?"

Jacob said, "these are the children that Yahweh has graciously given me!" and then he introduced all the children with their mothers, to Esau. Jacob could look back at his arrival in Haran alone, all

those years ago, and realise that all that he now had - wives, servants, children, flocks and herds - had been given to him by Yahweh!

Then Esau asked, "What on earth did you mean by sending me all these different groups of people and animals?" Remember that Jacob had earlier sent them on ahead, as gifts to Esau, because he thought that Esau was angry, and he believed that the gifts would calm him down. So Jacob explained. But Esau said, "No! You keep them Jacob! I've already got plenty of my own!" But Jacob was just SO relieved and grateful to both Yahweh for His blessings, and Esau that there were no hard feelings, that he insisted that Esau keep the gifts - so Esau couldn't say No.

Esau immediately assumed that Jacob would be wanting to join him where he lived - in Seir, so he said to Jacob, "Let's begin our journey back to Seir, and you follow me!" But Jacob had other plans. Instead of telling Esau though, he pretended to go along with Esau's idea, and suggested that his group go ahead at their own pace, while he (Jacob) and his group follow on a bit slower, and eventually catch up with them. So Esau suggested that he leave some of his men to travel with Jacob, to help them - but this would have spoiled Jacobs plan - so Jacob said "No - don't do that - there's no need!" and so the idea was dropped. Secretly, Jacob had already decided that HE and his group, were going to Shechem in Canaan! So as soon as Esau and his men were out of sight, Jacob and his company changed course, and stopped first at Succoth, east of the river Jordan. They all stopped there for a little while, then continued until "Jacob came safely to the city of Shechem (Gen 33:18) which is in the land of Canaan."

Don't forget that traveling in those times was so much slower than travel these days! They had no cars - only carts that could be pulled along by animals - and they all had to walk over rough ground because there were no nice smooth roads like we have! And people and animals had to take a lot breaks because they would get tired, hungry, and thirsty very often! And if they stayed overnight on the journey, they would have to put up tents to sleep in, and then take them all down and pack them away again, with all their cooking gear etc, before they could carry on!

Anyway, Jacob heaved a big sigh of both relief and gratitude, when finally he was back in his homeland, Canaan - where he had started out from, all those years ago! Remember how Jacob had made a promise to Yahweh, while on his way to Padan Aram from Canaan, all those years ago, that if Yahweh would bring him safely back to Canaan, then he would worship Yahweh as his personal God! (Gen 28:20). The family put all their tents up by the city of Shechem, and Jacob bought this piece of land that they were camping on, from "the children of Hamor". Then Jacob erected an altar there and called it 'El Elohe Israel' - which means 'Yahweh' the God of Israel'. So Jacob included his own new name of 'Israel' in this name.

Although Yahweh had originally promised Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and their descendants, this whole land of Canaan - 'the promised land' - as "an everlasting possession" (Gen 17:8) none of them had yet received the promise! Abraham had had to buy a piece of the land from the sons of Heth, as a burial ground for his family - and now Jacob was having to buy another piece of the land from the sons of Hamor, to live on, and to erect the altar. So what happened? Had Yahweh forgotten? Abraham had now died, and Isaac was very old and would soon die, and now here was Jacob, Isaac's son, still not owning the land of Canaan! We are given a clue - do you remember that Yahweh tested Abraham to see whether he would be prepared to kill his only son (his only child !) Isaac, if He asked him to - and still trust Him to keep His promise that he would give Abraham and his children (descendants) the promised land of Canaan? How could Yahweh keep his promise, if Isaac was killed? There wouldn't BE any descendants!! Abraham and Sarah wouldn't have been able to have any other children to replace Isaac, at their age! BUT - here is the clue - Abraham believed in the resurrection of the dead - that Yahweh could raise Isaac up again from the dead, back to life, so that he COULD keep His promise!! We are told this in Hebrews 11:17-19. And if Abraham HAD killed

Isaac, that is what Yahweh would have done! But as we know, Yahweh was only testing Abraham to see if he would be obedient, and stopped Abraham killing him, right at the last moment!

It was Abraham's belief in the resurrection from the dead, that caused him to believe in God's promise of giving him and his descendants the land of Canaan as an everlasting possession! This was also Isaac's belief, and now Jacob's! They all believed what Yahweh had promised, even though they did not know when it would happen!

In fact, they are STILL awaiting their resurrection to be given the promised land of Canaan! But when Jesus returns to raise the dead - the resurrection, (1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:20-23; John 5:28,29; Philippians 3:10,11; 2 Timothy 2:18; Revelation 20:6; and many others...!) we know that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will be raised also, because Jesus told us that they will be there with him at His return - in the kingdom - the promised land! Read Luke 13:28,29. Jesus said this to those who refused to believe, because everyone who refuses to believe what God has promised, will not be allowed to inherit His promise! That's only fair - isn't it?

When Yahweh makes a promise - He always keeps it!! That is why He has given us so many examples of this, to read about in the Bible - so we can learn to trust Him and believe what He says, just like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob did! This is the thing that pleases our God - Yahweh - more than anything else (!) - that we believe what He says!! That is why He has promised many wonderful things to those who BELIEVE Him! You can choose - believe, or not believe. But if you choose not to believe, you will miss out! In the Bible, belief in Yahweh and His Words, is called "faith"!

Anyway, back to Jacob!

After a while of living in Shechem, Yahweh said to Jacob, "Arise, go up to Bethel and dwell there; and make an altar there to God, who appeared to you when you fled from the face of your brother Esau" (Gen 35). What a good thing that Jacob and his family lived in tents! Now it was time to pack up and move again! Notice how every time Yahweh gave instructions to Jacob as to where he should go, he obeyed. Obedience is another thing that Yahweh loves - because obedience proves to Him that you believe what He says! If you remember, Bethel, the name given by Jacob to that place - is where Jacob had had that dream of the ladder reaching up to heaven, and also where Yahweh made the same promises to Jacob about inheriting the land of Canaan, as He had made to his father Isaac, and his father Abraham.

Now you might understand how important the birthright was. Esau grew up to be a godless person (Hebrews 12:16). He did not care about Yahweh or the promises, and he did not believe Yahweh or want a relationship with Him. He wanted to do things his own way and live life how HE pleased. Yahweh knew what sort of person Esau would become, even before he was born, (Romans 9:10-13) even though his parents did not. So even though Esau was the first one to be born, and should have had the birthright, Yahweh wanted Jacob to have it instead, because Jacob was someone who would learn to listen to, and obey Yahweh. And that is how everything worked out, as we have learned. So neither Esau nor any of his family, would share in the inheritance of the promised land - only Jacob and his family. Remember that Esau sold the birthright that should have been his, to Jacob - for a bowl of soup! Jacob could see how valuable the birthright was - but Esau could not. He thought the soup was more valuable! How short-sighted he was! Later, when he was older, he began to realise just what he had done, and he tried to get the birthright himself, instead of Jacob. But he was stopped. Then he was very sorry for not taking it more seriously, all those years ago - but it was too late! Now you know what happens when we choose to ignore Yahweh, disbelieve His promises, and go our own way. We will miss out in the end, just like Esau did - and be very sorry, when it is too late!

So now Jacob wanted his whole family and the servants to prepare themselves before setting off for Bethel, because he wanted to offer something special to Yahweh there, on a special altar which he would make, and after 8 to 10 years of being away from their homeland (Padan Aram) and the



idolatrous\* society there, it was about time for all the people who had come to Canaan with Jacob, to clear away all traces of wrong worship, especially before an important occasion. So they cleared out all the idolatrous symbols such as figurines, amulets, earrings, and charms that they had brought with them, and buried them under a terebinth tree. Then they washed, and changed their clothes to show that they were repenting of their worship of foreign gods (who are not really god's at all!) and preparing to meet Yahweh instead. Remember 'Bethel' means 'House of God'!

Jacob was still so grateful to Yahweh for answering him in the day of his distress, and for being with him all these years, and he wanted to show Yahweh his gratitude. Jacob and his family group were considered 'holy' (set apart from other peoples) by Yahweh, and his special protection was over them as they travelled to Bethel through what would have otherwise been dangerous country. Yahweh kept them safe - and as long as He did so, no one else could touch them. As soon as they arrived at Bethel, Jacob built the altar and named the place 'El Bethel' which means 'God of the house of God', "because there God appeared to him when he fled from the face of his brother."

They decided to go to Ephrath (Bethlehem) after this, but something both very happy and very sad happened at the same time, while they were on the way. Rachel, Jacobs favourite wife, who was pregnant with her last child, gave birth suddenly, and it was a difficult birth - there were complications. Very sadly she died just after the boy was born. She chose his name to be 'Ben-Oni' which means 'son of my sorrow' - but Jacob renamed him 'Benjamin' which means 'son of the right hand'. Benjamin was the last son born to Jacob, making the total twelve sons in all - 'The sons of Israel' (Jacob). So Jacob buried Rachel on the way to Bethlehem and set a pillar on her grave. Think how sad Jacob must have been! No doubt the baby Benjamin was looked after by the other women. So he never knew his mother.

Altogether, these twelve sons had four different mothers:

- 1) Leah, Rachel's sister - Jacobs other wife, had Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulun
- 2) Rachel - Jacobs favourite wife, had Joseph and Benjamin

Both wives had maidservants, whom Jacob also had children with:-

- 3) Leah's maidservant Zilpah, gave birth to Gad and Asher.
- 4) Rachel's maidservant Bilhar, gave birth to Dan and Naphtali.

All these twelve were the sons of Jacob. The twelve sons of Israel. Each one to become the father of a tribe - and all these tribes to become known as 'The twelve tribes of Israel'! We hope to learn more about them in a while.

Not long after this, Jacob learned that his father Isaac was dying. He had reached the grand old age of 180 years! Esau and Jacob went to see him at Mamre (Hebron) where he had been living, and after he died, Jacob and Esau buried him. So Isaac's funeral brought his two sons back together - as Abraham's funeral had done before, for Isaac and Ishmael. Jacob, back in the land of Canaan (the promised land) before his father's death, fulfilled yet another part of his vow made at Bethel that he would worship Yahweh "if I come back to my father's house in peace"! And it was Yahweh's protection and blessing that had allowed him to do this!

\*Do you know what 'idolatrous' means? In those days, people who wanted to go their own way instead of following Yahweh, made their own gods! Doesn't that sound silly? How can a little figure of a man or an animal, made of wood or metal, be of any use? Yahweh is the only God! He made everything!

But an 'idol' can be anything that we think more highly of than Yahweh! It might be a person, a house, a car, a pop idol, a hobby, a career, money - anything can become an 'idol' if it takes up too much of our time and attention! What do you love most and put first in YOUR life?

We owe Yahweh our very lives! It's His spirit that keeps us alive! This is a gift from Him, to us! If He took it away, we would die immediately! So it's only right that we should be grateful to Him! He also has made all the animals, plants, and seeds, so that we have food! And all the rain and sunshine that we all need! All the materials in the ground - like sand, metal and stone to make houses with; all the oil that we can use to make fuel for engines, and gas that we can drill for - all these things and lots of other things He has put in the earth for us to use! And so many men are taking it - and never saying 'Thank You' to Yahweh! Let's decide that WE are going to be different! 😊 Let's be grateful, like Jacob!

And now - have you found out who I am? Has Russell 'let the cat out of the bag'? I was one of the lucky ones! My Mum and Dad taught me all about Yahweh when I was a little girl! Back then, our home only had a toilet outside in a little shed with a little window. There was no electric light in there, so when it was night time, it was scary! But I used to look up through the little window into the starry sky, and I knew Yahweh was looking down at me - and then I didn't feel scared anymore!

Until next time - may Yahweh keep you all safely in His care!!

With love from Dawn. X

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## **Dear Lord and Father of Mankind**

Dear Lord and Father of mankind;  
Forgive our foolish ways;  
Re-clothe us in our rightful mind;  
In purer lives Thy service find  
In deeper reverence praise.  
In deeper reverence praise.

In simple trust like theirs who heard,  
Beside the Syrian sea,  
The gracious calling of the Lord,  
Let us, like them, without a word,  
Rise up and follow Thee.  
Rise up and follow Thee.

O Sabbath Rest by Galilee !  
O calm of hills above,  
Where Jesus knelt to share with Thee,  
The silence of eternity,  
Interpreted by love,  
Interpreted by love.

Drop Thy still dews of quietness,  
'Till all our strivings cease;  
Take from our souls the strain and stress,  
And let our ordered lives confess  
The beauty of Thy peace,  
The beauty of Thy peace.



