



THE VOICE of ELIJAH

Restoring the hearts of the fathers to the children

He Says the Prophets Knew and Put It Parabolically

The golden head of the image and the lioness denoted the Babylonians; the shoulders and arms of silver, and the bear, represented the Persians and Medes; the belly and thighs of brass, and the leopard, meant the Greeks, who held the sovereignty from Alexander's time; the legs of iron, and the beast dreadful and terrible, expressed the Romans, who hold the sovereignty at present; the toes of the feet which were part clay and part iron, and the ten horns, were emblems of the kingdoms that are yet to rise; the other little horn that grows up among them meant the Antichrist in their midst; the stone that smites the earth and brings judgment upon the world was Christ.

These things, beloved, we impart to you with fear, and yet readily, on account of the love of Christ, which surpasseth all. For if the blessed prophets who preceded us did not choose to proclaim these things, though they knew them, openly and boldly, lest they should disquiet the souls of men, but recounted them mystically in parables and dark sayings, speaking thus, "Here is the mind which hath wisdom," how much greater risk shall we run in venturing to declare openly things spoken by them in obscure terms! Let us look, therefore, at the things which are to befall this unclean harlot in the last days; and (let us consider) what and what manner of tribulation is destined to visit her in the wrath of God before the judgment as an earnest of her doom.

Come, then, O blessed Isaiah; arise, tell us clearly what thou didst prophesy with respect to the mighty Babylon. For thou didst speak also of Jerusalem, and thy word is accomplished. For thou didst speak boldly and openly: "Your country is desolate, your cities are burned with fire; your land, strangers devour it in your presence, and it is desolate as overthrown by many strangers. The daughter of Sion shall be left as a cottage in a vineyard, and as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city."

(Is. 1:7-8)

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What then? Are not these things come to pass? Are not the things announced by thee fulfilled? Is not their country, Judea, desolate? Is not the holy place burned with fire? Are not their walls cast down? Are not their cities destroyed? Their land, do not strangers devour it? Do not the Romans rule the country? And indeed these impious people hated thee, and did saw thee asunder, and they crucified Christ. Thou art dead in the world, but thou livest in Christ.

Which of you, then, shall I esteem more than thee? Yet Jeremiah, too, is stoned. But if I should esteem Jeremiah most, yet Daniel too has his testimony. Daniel, I commend thee above all; yet John too gives no false witness. With how many mouths and tongues would I praise you; or rather the Word who spake in you! He died with Christ; and ye will live with Christ. Hear ye, and rejoice; behold the things announced by you have been fulfilled in their time. For ye saw these things yourselves first, and then ye proclaimed them to all generations.

Ye ministered the oracles of God to all generations. Ye prophets were called, that ye might be able to save all. For then is one a prophet indeed, when, having announced beforetime things about to be, he can afterwards show that they have actually happened. Ye were the disciples of a good Master. These words I address to you as if alive, and with propriety. For ye hold already the crown of life and immortality which is laid up for you in heaven.

Hippolytus, "Treatise on Christ and Antichrist," in Roberts and Donaldson (Eds.), *The Ante-Nicene Fathers* (1886), Vol. 5, p. 210.

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www.voiceofelijah.org



Published quarterly by
Voice of Elijah, Inc.

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Volume 15
Number 2
April 2004

All correspondence
should be addressed to:

Voice of Elijah, Inc.
P.O. Box 2257
Rockwall, TX 75087-2257

Subscription rates:
(1 year, U.S. Funds)

U.S. \$24.00
Canada \$30.00
Abroad \$50.00

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Larry Dee Harper
(dba The Elijah Project).

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A Note From the Editor

In the January 2004 issue of *The Voice of Elijah*[®], I suggested that the reason we humans are inclined to believe lies over the Truth is because lies allow us to believe whatever we want, which in turn allows us to do whatever we want without having to feel bad about doing it. The Truth limits what we can believe because Truth, by definition, is a narrowly defined body of knowledge that is restricted to only that which is factual and true. That means the Truth is not something we can pick and choose or randomly decide for ourselves. The Truth is the Truth, and no amount of rationalization, debate, or spin can alter that fact. That's why most people don't have an honest love of the Truth. They see it as a straightjacket that is too restrictive and doesn't give them enough wiggle room.

Obviously, the Truth we are most concerned with here at *The Voice of Elijah*[®] is the Truth of God's Word because that Living Word—Who is parabolically Jesus Christ (John 1:1 ff.)—has the power to transform the "hearts" (minds) of those who believe it. Unfortunately, most in the Church today do not believe the Truth of God's Word because they have accepted whatever tradition—oral Teaching—has been handed down by the leaders and teachers in their part of the Church. What few of them have stopped to consider is that Satan has been working diligently over the past 2000 years to distort the original tradition—the oral Teaching—that Christ delivered to the Apostles and the Apostles delivered to the Early Church. We refer to this oral tradition as The Apostolic Teaching. It is "the teaching" referred to in these verses and passages:

*And they were continually devoting themselves to **the apostles' teaching** and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer.*
(Acts 2:42)

*Now I urge you, brethren, keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to **the teaching** which you learned, and turn away from them.*
(Romans 16:17)

*For the overseer must be above reproach as God's steward, not self-willed, not quick-tempered, not addicted to wine, not pugnacious, not fond of sordid gain, but hospitable, loving what is good, sensible, just, devout, self-controlled, **holding fast the faithful word** which is in accordance with **the teaching**, that he may be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to refute those who contradict.*
(Titus 1:7–9)

*Watch yourselves, that you might not lose what we have accomplished, but that you may receive a full reward. Anyone who goes too far and does not abide in **the teaching** of Christ, does not have God; the one who abides in **the***

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*teaching, he has both the Father and the Son. If anyone comes to you and does not bring **this teaching**, do not receive him into {your} house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.*
(2 John 8–11)

These verses (among others) tell us a lot about the importance the Early Church attached to The Apostolic Teaching. Let's examine each a bit closer and see what we can learn. The first verse (Acts 2:42), specifically tells us early Christians "devoted themselves to the Apostles' teaching." The fact that they did so while gathered to "fellowship" and "break bread" indicates The Apostolic Teaching was central to corporate worship in the Early Church, just as the Word of God is (supposedly) central to corporate worship in the Church today.

The difference between the Early Church and the Church today, however, is that early Christians understood the Word of God to be The Apostolic Teaching, whereas the Church today sees the Scriptures as the Word of God. The fine distinction that exists between those two sets of beliefs can be understood this way: The Apostolic Teaching was, and is, the oral explanation of the Truth—the Word of God—that is cryptically stated in the Old Testament, but only partially explained (in a somewhat less cryptic form) in the New.

To the Early Church, the Word of God was the original Teaching handed down to the Church. Any "word" (teaching) that differed from The Apostolic Teaching was considered to be the word of Satan. That's why Paul exhorted Early Church "overseers" to safeguard the Truth by "holding fast the faithful word which is in accordance with the teaching" (Titus 1:9). He knew that if they did not protect The Apostolic Teaching, it would only be a matter of time before Satan's lies found their way into the Church, which is exactly what happened.

The primary reason the Early Church failed to preserve The Apostolic Teaching was because Church leaders did not "cut off from" the Body of Believers (excommunicate) all who advocated anything

contrary to The Apostolic Teaching. In other words, they failed to heed Paul's warning to "keep your eye on those who cause dissensions and hindrances contrary to the teaching which you learned" and to "turn away" from those who did (Rom. 16:17). They failed to heed John's advice as well:

*If anyone comes to you and does not bring **this teaching**, do not receive him into {your} house, and do not give him a greeting; for the one who gives him a greeting participates in his evil deeds.*
(2 John 10–11)

The "house" John has in mind is the family of God—that is, the local gathering of the Corporate Body of Christ—not the house (home) where someone lives. He is merely saying that if a person wants to join the local church but holds beliefs that contradict The Apostolic Teaching, the person should not be accepted into the "house" of God. If the church knowingly allows such a person in, it participates in his "evil deeds" because it will only be a matter of time before he causes dissension among Believers by advocating false doctrines and beliefs. Therefore, John's admonition is to exclude obvious unbelievers from the Body of Christ because they will only have to be excommunicated eventually anyway.

If you are a True Believer, I trust you can see the proper attitude that you should have toward The Apostolic Teaching as well as toward those who claim to be Believers yet do not accept The Apostolic Teaching. Most who reject The Teaching will do so because of skepticism. Some will even claim it is impossible to know for certain that it is true. Unfortunately for them, that's not what Jesus said:

*Jesus therefore answered them, and said, "My teaching is not Mine, but His who sent Me. If any man is willing to do His will, he shall know of **the teaching**, whether it is of God, or {whether} I speak from Myself."*
(John 7:16–17)

By the way, the will of God is that men seek to know and believe the Truth.

Allen Friend

Oh! How the Mighty Has Fallen!

I am not particularly a fan of the fine art of homiletics—three-point sermons, and all that—just because, in my opinion, such things are more about style than substance. But one can always learn a few things just from spending some time with the sermons of the Apostles recorded in the Book of Acts. Actually, their words shouldn't really be called "sermons," since the latter most often have to end by noon on Sunday. The Apostles don't seem to have been constrained by such niceties. But maybe I'm wrong about that. Eutychus may have been the victim of completely aberrant behavior on Paul's part.

That brings up an issue I've always wondered about: Can someone please tell me why folks assign God a deadline for saying all He has to say? I've considered the possibility that maybe they don't really believe the preacher speaks for God. But that can't be. If Church leaders don't know what God has to say, how in the world is anyone else supposed to know? Do you really think they read the Bible?

Anyway, I've had one of Paul's sermons in the back of my head for nearly thirty years now; and just the other day, I finally got the point:

Now Paul and his companions put out to sea from Paphos and came to Perga in Pamphylia; and John left them and returned to Jerusalem. But going on from Perga, they arrived at Pisidian Antioch, and on the Sabbath day they went into the synagogue and sat down. And after the reading of the Law and the Prophets the synagogue officials sent to them, saying, "Brethren, if you have any word of exhortation for the people, say it." And Paul stood up, and motioning with his hand, he said, "Men of Israel, and you who fear God, listen: The God of this people Israel

*chose our fathers, and made the people great during their stay in the land of Egypt, and with an uplifted arm He led them out from it. And for a period of about forty years He put up with them in the wilderness. And when He had destroyed seven nations in the land of Canaan, He distributed their land as an inheritance—{all of which took} about four hundred and fifty years. And after these things He gave {them} judges until Samuel the prophet. And then they asked for a king, and God gave them Saul the son of Kish, a man of the tribe of Benjamin, for forty years. And after He had removed him, He raised up David to be their king, concerning whom He also testified and said, 'I HAVE FOUND DAVID the son of Jesse, A MAN AFTER MY HEART, who will do all My will.' From the offspring of this man, according to promise, God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, after John had proclaimed before His coming a baptism of repentance to all the people of Israel. And while John was completing his course, he kept saying, 'What do you suppose that I am? I am not {He.} But behold, one is coming after me the sandals of whose feet I am not worthy to untie.' Brethren, sons of Abraham's family, and those among you who fear God, to us the word of this salvation is sent out. For those who live in Jerusalem, and their rulers, recognizing neither Him nor the utterances of the prophets which are read every Sabbath, fulfilled {these} by condemning {Him}. And though they found no ground for {putting Him to} death, they asked Pilate that He be executed. And when they had carried out all that was written concerning Him, they took Him down from the cross and laid Him in a tomb. But God raised Him from the dead; and for many days He appeared to those who came up with Him from Galilee to Jerusalem, the very ones who are now His witnesses to the people. And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers, that **God has fulfilled this {promise} to our***

children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'THOU ART MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN THEE.' {And as for the fact} that He raised Him up from the dead, no more to return to decay, He has spoken in this way: 'I WILL GIVE YOU THE HOLY {and} SURE {blessings} OF DAVID.' Therefore He also says in another {Psalm,} 'THOU WILT NOT ALLOW THY HOLY ONE TO UNDERGO DECAY.' For David, after he had served the purpose of God in his own generation, fell asleep, and was laid among his fathers, and underwent decay; but He whom God raised did not undergo decay. Therefore let it be known to you, brethren, that through Him forgiveness of sins is proclaimed to you, and through Him everyone who believes is freed from all things, from which you could not be freed through the Law of Moses. Take heed therefore, so that the thing spoken of in the Prophets may not come upon {you:}

'BEHOLD, YOU SCOFFERS, AND MARVEL, AND PERISH;
FOR I AM ACCOMPLISHING A WORK IN YOUR DAYS,
A WORK WHICH YOU WILL NEVER BELIEVE,
THOUGH SOMEONE SHOULD DESCRIBE IT TO YOU.'

(Acts 13:13–41)

The part of Paul's "sermon" that always stymied me was his use of Habakkuk 1:5. Over the years, I have gradually come to see why he quoted Isaiah 55:3, Psalm 2:7, and Psalm 16:10. But the *parabolic imagery* that informs those texts is fairly easy to understand in comparison to what Habakkuk used, so every time I read what Paul wrote I found myself hooked on the horns of a dilemma.

Isaiah 55:3 is referring to *the promise* the Prophet Nathan *delivered* to David in 2 Samuel 7. Speaking *parabolically* in terms of the three idioms "build a house," "raise up a seed," and "make a name," Nathan *promises* David his "house" (Jesus Christ) will endure forever after He "builds *The House*" of God (the Body of Christ) in the Resurrection. Psalm 2:7 *parabolically* describes the Resurrection of Christ in terms of a coronation ceremony in which God formally declares His adoption of "*The Man*" Jesus Christ as His divine Son—the Man He chose to make in His Own image and likeness. Psalm 16 is nothing more than the Spirit of Christ ruminating concerning the hope of all True Believers, that is, everyone in whom the Holy Spirit dwells.

I've understood the *parabolic imagery* that informs those three passages for over a decade now. I've known for an even longer period of time that Paul was

quoting Habakkuk to warn the Jews concerning events that will occur just prior to the Second Coming. But I could never grasp why he would use that text as a warning to his own generation. It didn't make sense. Paul knew the Antichrist would not appear in his lifetime. He says so himself:

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. **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, 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. **Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed.** For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains {will do so} until he is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; {that is,} the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

(2 Thessalonians 2:1–12)

Did you see it? Paul said, "Let no one in any way deceive you, for {it will not come} unless the apostasy comes first." He also said, "so that in his time he may be revealed." By "the apostasy," Paul is referring to what he warned Church leaders against in this passage:

And from Miletus he sent to Ephesus and called to him the elders of the church. And when they had come to him, he said to them, "You yourselves know, from the first day that I set foot in Asia, how I was with you the whole time, serving the Lord with all humility and with tears and with trials which came upon me through the plots of the Jews; how I

did not shrink from declaring to you anything that was profitable, and teaching you publicly and from house to house, solemnly testifying to both Jews and Greeks of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. And now, behold, bound in spirit, I am on my way to Jerusalem, not knowing what will happen to me there, except that the Holy Spirit solemnly testifies to me in every city, saying that bonds and afflictions await me. But I do not consider my life of any account as dear to myself, in order that I may finish my course, and the ministry which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify solemnly of the gospel of the grace of God. And now, behold, I know that all of you, among whom I went about preaching the kingdom, will see my face no more. Therefore I testify to you this day, that I am innocent of the blood of all men. For I did not shrink from declaring to you the whole purpose of God. **Be on guard for yourselves and for all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood. I know that after my departure savage wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; and from among your own selves men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them.** Therefore be on the alert, remembering that night and day for a period of three years I did not cease to admonish each one with tears. And now I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build {you} up and to give {you} the inheritance among all those who are sanctified. I have coveted no one's silver or gold or clothes. You yourselves know that these hands ministered to my {own} needs and to the men who were with me. In everything I showed you that by working hard in this manner you must help the weak and remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He Himself said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'" (Acts 20:17-35)

The statement "men will arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away the disciples after them" describes the beginning of "the apostasy" of the Church. Jesus also warned His disciples that would happen:

And Jesus answered and said to them, "See to it that no one misleads you. For many will come in My name, saying, 'I am the Christ,' and will mislead many. And you will be hearing of wars and rumors of wars; see that you are not frightened, for {those things} must take place, but {that} is not yet the end. For nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom, and in various places there will be famines and earthquakes. But all these

*things are {merely} the beginning of birth pangs. Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations on account of My name. And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. **And many false prophets will arise, and will mislead many.**"* (Matthew 24:4-11)

When folks read that, they get so caught up in the details that they miss the point: "See to it that no one misleads you." That has already happened. False prophets abound today, which explains the thousands of different Protestant groups, sects, denominations, and organizations, not to mention various Christian "cults." You name it, we got it. But none agrees with the others as to what is true. So we are currently in a holding pattern, just waiting for circumstances in which all those who have been misled accept the Antichrist as Jesus Christ and make it official. The events leading up to that fiasco is what Paul had in mind when he quotes the first verse of this passage:

**"Look among the nations!
Observe! Be astonished! Wonder!
Because {I} am doing something in your days—
You would not believe if you were told.
For behold, I am raising up the Chaldeans,
That fierce and impetuous people
Who march throughout the earth
To seize dwelling places which are not theirs.
They are dreaded and feared.
Their justice and authority originate with themselves.
Their horses are swifter than leopards
And keener than wolves in the evening.
Their horsemen come galloping,
Their horsemen come from afar;
They fly like an eagle swooping {down} to devour.
All of them come for violence.
Their horde of faces {moves} forward.
They collect captives like sand.
They mock at kings,
And rulers are a laughing matter to them.
They laugh at every fortress,
And heap up rubble to capture it.
Then they will sweep through {like} the wind and pass on.
But they will be held guilty,
They whose strength is their god."** (Habakkuk 1:5-11)

Now I don't know about you, but I find it hard to believe that Paul was warning first-century Jews (who were sitting in a synagogue in Pisidian Antioch at the time) that the Babylonians were coming. Talk about Chicken Little! The Babylonians had ceased to be a viable threat some six hundred years earlier. If Paul were to make that claim today, folks would find some way to lock him up. Back then, they would have just run him out of town. Come to think of it, that is exactly what they did, but that was only because some of the Jews actually fell victim to what he *meant* when he quoted Habakkuk.

I've told you before, but I'll say it again just for the detriment of dullards who can't understand anything that doesn't slither up out of the depths of their own depravity: The Prophets of Israel are speaking *parabolically*. God states that extremely succinctly through the Prophet Hosea:

*I have also spoken to the prophets,
And I gave numerous visions;
And through the prophets I gave parables.
(Hosea 12:10)*

Believe it if you care to; disbelieve it if you dare to. It makes no difference to me, I'm just doing what God called me to do. In this case, I mention parables only because Habakkuk is speaking *parabolically* when he describes the invasion of the Babylonians. The question is, What do the Babylonians *parabolically* represent? By that I *mean*, who or what will exhibit behavior that is somehow *LIKE* the behavior the Babylonians exhibited when they marched up to Jerusalem, destroyed the Temple, and burned the city in 586 B.C. The answer lies in what John says in the Book of Revelation about the seventh seal, third trumpet, and the seventh seal, fifth trumpet:

And when He broke the seventh seal, there was silence in heaven for about half an hour. And I saw the seven angels who stand before God; and seven trumpets were given to them. And another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a golden censer; and much incense was given to him, that he might add it to the prayers of all the saints upon the golden altar which was before the throne. And the smoke of the incense, with the prayers of the saints, went up before God out of the angel's hand. And the angel took the censer; and he filled it with the fire of the altar and

threw it to the earth; and there followed peals of thunder and sounds and flashes of lightning and an earthquake. And the seven angels who had the seven trumpets prepared themselves to sound them. And the first sounded, and there came hail and fire, mixed with blood, and they were thrown to the earth; and a third of the earth was burned up, and a third of the trees were burned up, and all the green grass was burned up. And the second angel sounded, and {something} like a great mountain burning with fire was thrown into the sea; and a third of the sea became blood; and a third of the creatures, which were in the sea and had life, died; and a third of the ships were destroyed. And the third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter. And the fourth angel sounded, and a third of the sun and a third of the moon and a third of the stars were smitten, so that a third of them might be darkened and the day might not shine for a third of it, and the night in the same way. And I looked, and I heard an eagle flying in midheaven, saying with a loud voice, "Woe, woe, woe, to those who dwell on the earth, because of the remaining blasts of the trumpet of the three angels who are about to sound!" And the fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star from heaven which had fallen to the earth; and the key of the bottomless pit was given to him. And he opened the bottomless pit; and smoke went up out of the pit, like the smoke of a great furnace; and the sun and the air were darkened by the smoke of the pit. And out of the smoke came forth locusts upon the earth; and power was given them, as the scorpions of the earth have power. And they were told that they should not hurt the grass of the earth, nor any green thing, nor any tree, but only the men who do not have the seal of God on their foreheads. And they were not permitted to kill anyone, but to torment for five months; and their torment was like the torment of a scorpion when it stings a man. And in those days men will seek death and will not find it; and they will long to die and death flees from them. And the appearance of the locusts was like horses prepared for battle; and on their heads, as it were, crowns like gold, and their faces were like the faces of men. And they had hair like the hair of women, and their teeth were like {the teeth} of lions. And they had breastplates like breastplates of iron; and the sound of their wings was like the sound of chariots, of many horses rushing to battle.

And they have tails like scorpions, and stings; and in their tails is their power to hurt men for five months. They have as king over them, the angel of the abyss; his name in Hebrew is Abaddon, and in the Greek he has the name Apollyon. **The first woe is past; behold, two woes are still coming after these things.**

(Revelation 8:1–9:12)

It should be obvious to everyone but the most simple-minded that the Apostle John is, at the very least, speaking *metaphorically*. The Truth is, He is speaking *parabolically* in terms of the same *parabolic imagery* the Prophets used. After all, the Book of Revelation is little more than a compendium of quotes from the Old Testament, which tells us the Prophets must have already *parabolically* explained everything John describes. That is why, more than anything else, the Book of Revelation contains a mocking ridicule of any theologically minded lamebrain who, although he has no idea the Prophets even spoke *parabolically*, is, nevertheless, absolutely certain he has somehow figured out what John *means* by what he says.

The opening of the seventh *parabolic* seal sets in motion a chain of *parabolic* events that revolve around the sounding of seven *parabolic* trumpets, the last three of which correspond with three “woes.” A “star” called “Wormwood,” which falls to Earth after the third *parabolic* trumpet sounds, plays a key role in that series of *parabolic* events. One of his actions is to release an invasion of *parabolic* “locusts” on the Earth after the fifth *parabolic* trumpet sounds. As you should know by now, that “star” is nothing more than a *parabolic image* that represents something else entirely. The same is true for the “locusts.” With that in mind, take a look at what Isaiah has to say about that “star”:

In that day, when His Majesty gives you rest from your grief, from your stress, and from the hard work that's been done by you, you will take up this parable against the King of Babylon and say:

“My! How an oppressor keeps Sabbath!

A storm keeps Sabbath!

His Majesty has broken the staff of those who are wicked!

The scepter of those who are ruling!

Striking peoples in a fury!

(an unrelenting plague!)

Dominating nations in anger!

(an unrestrained persecution!)

All the Earth is resting—is quiet.

They have broken out in joyous shouting!

Even cypress trees rejoice against you!

(the cedars of Lebanon):

‘Since You have laid down {to sleep},

the one who cuts off has not come up against us!’

The Sea of El below is turbulent against you,

so as to meet you when you enter,

*Arousing against you **Rephaim!***

—all the he-goat leaders of Earth!

All the kings of the nations have arisen from their thrones.

All of them will respond and say to you:

‘Even you have become weak like us!

You are just like us!

The Sea of El has brought down your exaltation!

The music of your harps!

Beneath you, a maggot becomes your bed!

Your cover is a worm!’

Oh! How you have fallen from the Sea of Waters!

O Morning Star! Son of Dawn!

You have been hewn down to the Earth!

{You are} lying prostrate because of nations!

But you, you said in your heart:

‘I will ascend to the Sea of Waters!

I will establish my throne above the stars of El,

So that I can sit on the mountain of meeting!

On the side of Zaphon.

I will ascend to the high places of a cloud!

I will be {just} like Elyon!’

On the contrary!

You will descend to the Sea of El!

To the side of the pit!

Those who see you will gaze upon you!

They will pay close attention to you:

‘Is this the man who threw the Earth into turmoil?

Who caused kingdoms to quake?

Who made productive Earth like a wilderness,

And tore down its cities?

He did not allow his captives to go home!’

All the kings of the nations—all of them—

have laid down in glory!

Each one in his {own} house!

But you! You have been cast out of your grave

Like a rejected branch,

Clothed with the slain!

(Those pierced by a sword!

Those going down to the stones of the pit

Like a trampled corpse.)

You will not be joined with them in burial,
 Because you destroyed your land!
 You killed your people!
 The seed of those who do evil will not be named forever!
 They prepared for his sons a slaughtering place
 (according to the iniquity of their fathers!)
 They will not arise to inherit the Earth, or
 To fill the surface of the Earth with cities.
 But I will rise up against them!"
 states His Supreme Majesty.
 "I will cut off from Babylon
 name, remnant, posterity, and progeny!
 I will make it an inheritance for a porcupine,
 and watery marsh-land.
 I will mop it with a mop of annihilation!"
 His Supreme Majesty states.
 His Supreme Majesty has sworn by saying:
 "It will be exactly as I have intended!
 It will arise just as I have planned!"
 (Isaiah 14:3–24) —my interim translation

First of all, let me remind you that I am not advocating any novel interpretation of that passage. Isaiah plainly tells us at the outset that he is speaking *parabolically*. He says, "you will take up this *parable* against the King of Babylon." And the historic Christian understanding of the chapter—even by most who advocate a strictly *literal* theory of interpretation—has always been that Isaiah is somehow *talking about Satan*. I have already explained *how* easily those things can be reconciled. If you have read the very first issue of *The Voice of Elijah*® newsletter (October 1990), you should already know the Truth. The Early Church Father Hippolytus (who was a third-generation disciple of the Apostle John) confirms that Isaiah is describing what will happen *after* Satan appears on Earth as the Antichrist. (See *The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist*, pp. 155, 179.)

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. And the dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.
 (Revelation 12:7–9)

Now let me add a little more fuel to the fire I have ignited in the muddled minds of morons. In that passage, the Apostle John is putting the following *parabolic* description a bit more explicitly for the benefit of those who Daniel tells us will have insight at the End:

And the third angel sounded, and a great star fell from heaven, burning like a torch, and it fell on a third of the rivers and on the springs of waters; and the name of the star is called Wormwood; and a third of the waters became wormwood; and many men died from the waters, because they were made bitter.
 (Revelation 8:10–11)

Even an idiot should be able to see that the "wormwood" mentioned in that passage is not *literal* wormwood. The hallucinogen wormwood does not kill people. It just puts them to sleep—*sound* asleep. Consequently, the *parabolic* "wormwood" John had in mind must *parabolically* make people "go to sleep," which is something Jesus *parabolically* warned us we should not do in the following *parabolic statement*:

"Take heed, keep on the alert; for you do not know when the {appointed} time is. {It is} like a man, away on a journey, {who} upon leaving his house and putting his slaves in charge, {assigning} to each one his task, also commanded the doorkeeper to stay on the alert. Therefore, be on the alert—for you do not know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at cockcrow, or in the morning—lest he come suddenly and find you asleep. And what I say to you I say to all, 'Be on the alert!'"
 (Mark 13:33–37)

I dare say that it is impossible for any "Christian" to "be on the alert" for Christ's Return if he is not the least little bit concerned as to whether or not what he believes about the Scriptures is the Truth. But the *significance* of the *parabolic* "wormwood" that *parabolically* puts people to sleep is not my concern here. I have already explained the basics in the "Questions & Answers" column of this issue. My point is, the *parabolic* "star" that John describes in Revelation 8:10–11 as having fallen from Heaven (*literally* the "Sea of Waters" in Hebrew) is the same "King of Babylon" that Isaiah *parabolically* calls the "Morning Star":

*"Oh! How you have fallen from the Sea of Waters!
O Morning Star! Son of Dawn!
You have been hewn down to the Earth!
{You are} lying prostrate because of nations!"
(Isaiah 14:12) —my interim translation*

Now that I've gotten that *parabolic equivalency* out of the way, you should be able to see why Satan's henchmen could *parabolically* be called "Babylonians." They serve the *parabolic* "King of Babylon" that Isaiah describes as having "been hewn down to the Earth." That is why the *parabolic* "locusts" depicted in Revelation 9 as invading the Earth after the fifth trumpet sounds are the same *parabolic* "Babylonians" that Habakkuk portrays in the passage he begins this way:

*"Look among the nations!
Observe! Be astonished! Wonder!
Because {I} am doing something in your days—
You would not believe if you were told."
(Habakkuk 1:5)*

To understand the *parabolic image* of "Babylon" that Habakkuk uses, one first needs to know that he was a contemporary of the Prophets Jeremiah and Ezekiel. To be specific, he and Jeremiah prophesied just prior to a series of Babylonian invasions into Judah which occurred from 605 B.C.–586 B.C. and resulted in the Babylonian Captivity, whereas Jeremiah and Ezekiel prophesied during and after those invasions. Therefore, one could reasonably posit the argument that Habakkuk was speaking in terms of a strictly *literal* invasion. But that would be arguing against the understanding the Apostle Paul had of what Habakkuk wrote, wouldn't it? So maybe one should continue looking for a *parabolic meaning* in which something else is *parabolically* LIKE Babylon.

If one looks a bit more closely at the Book of Revelation, one will find that the Apostle John clearly indicates Habakkuk was not the only Prophet using Babylon as a *parabolic image*. To illustrate, I'll show you just one chapter from the Book of Revelation. As we go through that chapter, I'll also show you the prophetic passages which are the source of the things found there. John says this:

After these things, I saw another Messenger descending from Heaven (having great authority), and the earth was

*illuminated because of his glory. He called out with a strong voice, saying, "Fallen! Babylon the great has fallen! She has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hated bird. Because all the nations have drunk the wine of the wrath of her prostitution; the kings of Earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of Earth have become rich from the power of her sensuality." I heard another voice from Heaven saying, "Come out of her, My People, so that you don't participate in her sins; so that you don't receive her plagues! Because her sins have been joined together up to Heaven, and God has remembered her misdeeds."
(Revelation 18:1–5) —my interim translation*

In those verses, John partially quotes, or in some way alludes to, the following passages from Isaiah and Jeremiah:

*And Babylon, the beauty of kingdoms,
the glory of the Chaldeans' pride,
Will be as when God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah.
It will never be inhabited or lived in
from generation to generation;
Nor will the Arab pitch {his} tent there,
Nor will shepherds make {their flocks} lie down there.
**But desert creatures will lie down there,
And their houses will be full of owls,
Ostriches also will live there,**
and shaggy goats will frolic there.
And hyenas will howl in their fortified towers
And jackals in their luxurious palaces.
Her {fateful} time also will soon come
And her days will not be prolonged.
(Isaiah 13:19–22)*

*"Therefore the desert creatures will live {there}
along with the jackals;
The ostriches also will live in it,
And it will never again be inhabited
Or dwelt in from generation to generation."
(Jeremiah 50:39)*

*"And Babylon will become a heap {of ruins,}
a haunt of jackals,
An object of horror and hissing, without inhabitants."
(Jeremiah 51:37)*

*Flee from the midst of Babylon,
And each of you save his life!
Do not be destroyed in her punishment,
For this is the LORD's time of vengeance;
He is going to render recompense to her.
Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD,
Intoxicating all the earth.
The nations have drunk of her wine;
Therefore the nations are going mad.
Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken;
Wail over her!
Bring balm for her pain;
Perhaps she may be healed.
We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed;
Forsake her and let us each go to his own country,
For her judgment has reached to heaven
And towers up to the very skies.
(Jeremiah 51:6–9)*

*You who have escaped the sword,
Depart! Do not stay!
Remember the LORD from afar,
And let Jerusalem come to your mind.
(Jeremiah 51:50)*

The Apostle John continues his description of the fall of the “harlot” “Babylon” with this:

*“Render to her just as she rendered! Make {it} double in accordance with her works! Mix her a double in the cup that she mixed! Exactly as she glorified herself and lived sensually, just so, give her torment and weeping! Because she said in her heart, ‘I SIT A QUEEN! I’M NOT A WIDOW! I’LL NEVER SEE WEeping!’ Because of this, her plagues will come in one day—death, weeping, and famine. She’ll be burned up in a fire, because His Majesty (the God who judges her) is strong.”
(Revelation 18:6–8) —my interim translation*

Again, John is referring his reader back to what Isaiah and Jeremiah said about the destruction of “Babylon.” But one should pay particular attention to what Isaiah says in Isaiah 47, since John takes a quote verbatim from that chapter:

*“Draw up your battle lines against Babylon on every side,
All you who bend the bow;
Shoot at her, do not be sparing with {your} arrows,*

*For she has sinned against the LORD.
Raise your battle cry against her on every side!
She has given herself up, her pillars have fallen,
Her walls have been torn down.
For this is the vengeance of the LORD:
Take vengeance on her;
As she has done {to others, so} do to her.”
(Jeremiah 50:14–15)*

*“Summon many against Babylon,
All those who bend the bow:
Encamp against her on every side,
Let there be no escape.
Repay her according to her work;
According to all that she has done, {so} do to her;
For she has become arrogant against the LORD,
Against the Holy One of Israel.”
(Jeremiah 50:29)*

*“Their Redeemer is strong, the LORD of hosts is His name;
He will vigorously plead their case,
So that He may bring rest to the earth,
But turmoil to the inhabitants of Babylon.”
(Jeremiah 50:34)*

*“Go down! Sit down on the dust,
Virgin daughter of Babylon!
Sit down on the dirt without a throne,
Daughter of Chaldeans,
Because they won’t call you ‘Delicate’ or ‘Dainty’ anymore!
Take two millstones and grind meal!
Expose your veil! Strip off a robe!
Expose a thigh! Cross over rivers!
Your nakedness will be exposed!
Your reproach will also be seen!
I’ll take vengeance!!
And I won’t confront mankind in kindness!”
(Our Redeemer is His Supreme Majesty.
His Name is the Holy One of Israel!)
“Sit down in silence! Go into darkness,
Daughter of Chaldeans,
Because they won’t call you
‘Queen of Kingdoms’ anymore!
I was filled with wrath against My People!
I polluted My inheritance!
I gave them into your hand!
You didn’t afford them compassion!
You heavily weighted your yoke upon the elderly!*

You said, 'I'll be Queen forever!'
 You didn't take these things to heart!
 You didn't remember its conclusion!
 So now, listen to this, Sensuous—
 Who lives in security!
 Who says in her heart:
 'I am! There's nothing else!
I'll not live a widow!
I'll not know bereavement!
 Yet these two things have come to you suddenly,
 In one day, bereavement and widowhood!
 They've come upon you to their fullest extent!
 In the greatness of your sorceries!
 In the power of your spells!
 You were secure in your wickedness!
 You said, 'Nobody sees me!
 Your wisdom and your knowledge turn you away!
 You say in your heart:
 'I am! There's nothing else!
 But an evil will come upon you.
 You won't recognize its dawning!
 A destruction will fall on you.
 You won't be able to appease it!
 A devastation you can't recognize
 Will suddenly come upon you!
 Stand by your spells!
 By the greatness of your sorceries,
 By which you've toiled since your youth!
 Perhaps you will be able to benefit!
 Perhaps you will instill fear!
 You've been wearied by the abundance of your counsels!
 Those who divide the Sea of Waters!
 Those who gaze at the stars!
 Those who make known by the new moons!
 Let them stand up and save you
 from what is coming upon you!
Look! They're like stubble a fire has burned!
They can't deliver their soul from the control of the flame!
 There isn't a coal to warm them!
 A light to sit by!
 This is what those you have worked have become to you,
 Those who have traded with you from your youth!
 Each one has wandered to his crossing!
 There isn't anyone to deliver you!"
 (Isaiah 47:1–15) —my interim translation

Believe it or not, Isaiah 47 holds one of the keys to an accurate understanding of the *parabolic image* in

which "Babylon" is a "harlot." Isaiah calls her a "virgin"; but the Truth is, she is nothing but a common prostitute, piously promising everyone they can live forever if they just participate in her drunken ritual.

After he has pointed to the things Isaiah and Jeremiah said about "Babylon," John then puts a twist on the *parabolic imagery* by blatantly paraphrasing what Ezekiel has said about "Tyre." As you read, notice that he specifically mentions three completely different groups of individuals:

"The kings of the Earth who committed fornication and lived sensually with her will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning—standing far away because of the fear of her torment—saying, 'Woe! Woe! The great city! Babylon! The strong city! Because in one hour your judgment came!' The merchants of Earth weep and wail over her, because nobody buys their freight any longer—freight of gold, silver, precious stone, pearls, fine linen, purple dye, silk, bright red {dye}, all citron wood, all ivory goods, bronze, iron, marble, cinnamon, spice, incense, perfume, frankincense, wine, olive oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle, sheep, horses, carriages, bodies and souls of men. The fruit—the desire of your soul—has gone away from you! Everything luxurious and bright has passed away from you! They will no longer find these things! The merchants of these things—those who grew rich from her—will stand far away because of the fear of her torment, weeping and wailing, saying, 'Woe! Woe! The great city! She was clothed in purple, fine linen, and bright red! She was adorned with gold, precious stone and pearls! Because in one hour so great a wealth has been desolated!' Every pilot, everyone who sails anywhere, sailors and as many as work the sea stood far away. They were calling out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'Who is like the great city?' And they threw dust on their heads and called out—weeping and wailing—saying, 'Woe! Woe! The great city in which everyone who had ships in the sea became rich from the abundance of her costly things! Because in one hour she has been desolated!'"
 (Revelation 18:9–19) —my interim translation

John mentions three different groups who have a vested interest in the continued existence of "Babylon." They are kings, merchants, and seamen. Be careful now, mention of the third group makes no sense in relation to

Babylon because that city was not a port city. But the parabolic “Tyre” that Ezekiel prophesied against was, and that’s where John intends his reader to look for additional information. He even quotes from the Hebrew text of Ezekiel 27:32 rather than the Greek translation just to make sure the reader makes no mistake about the source to which he is alluding. The Greek translation is faulty and does not contain the query “Who is like Tyre”:

“The ships of Tarshish were the carriers for your merchandise.

And you were filled and were very glorious

In the heart of the seas.

Your rowers have brought you

Into great waters;

The east wind has broken you

In the heart of the seas.

Your wealth, your wares, your merchandise,

Your sailors, and your pilots,

Your repairers of seams, your dealers in merchandise,

And all your men of war who are in you,

With all your company that is in your midst,

Will fall into the heart of the seas

On the day of your overthrow.

At the sound of the cry of your pilots

The pasture lands will shake.

And all who handle the oar,

The sailors, {and} all the pilots of the sea

Will come down from their ships;

They will stand on the land,

And they will make their voice heard over you

And will cry bitterly.

They will cast dust on their heads,

They will wallow in ashes.

Also they will make themselves bald for you

And gird themselves with sackcloth;

And they will weep for you in bitterness of soul

With bitter mourning.

Moreover, in their wailing

they will take up a lamentation for you

And lament over you:

‘Who is like Tyre,

Like her who is silent in the midst of the sea?

When your wares went out from the seas,

You satisfied many peoples;

With the abundance of your wealth

and your merchandise

You enriched the kings of Earth.

Now that you are broken by the seas

In the depths of the waters,

Your merchandise and all your company

Have fallen in the midst of you.

All the inhabitants of the coastlands

Are appalled at you,

And their kings are horribly afraid;

They are troubled in countenance.

The merchants among the peoples hiss at you;

You have become terrified,

And you will be no more.’”

(Ezekiel 27:25–36)

Why do you think John points to Ezekiel’s prophecy against “Tyre”? Doesn’t make much sense, does it? Sure it does. Keep reading Ezekiel’s prophecy. The parabolic imagery he uses is depicting exactly the same thing that Isaiah describes in Isaiah 14:

The word of the LORD came again to me saying,

“Son of man, say to the leader of Tyre,

‘Thus says the Lord GOD,

“Because your heart is lifted up

And you have said, ‘I am a god,

I sit in the seat of gods,

In the heart of the seas’;

Yet you are a man and not God,

Although you make your heart like the heart of God—

Behold, you are wiser than Daniel;

There is no secret that is a match for you.

By your wisdom and understanding

You have acquired riches for yourself,

And have acquired gold and silver for your treasures.

By your great wisdom, by your trade

You have increased your riches,

And your heart is lifted up because of your riches—

Therefore, thus says the Lord GOD,

‘Because you have made your heart

Like the heart of God,

Therefore, behold,

I will bring strangers upon you,

The most ruthless of the nations.

And they will draw their swords

Against the beauty of your wisdom

And defile your splendor.

They will bring you down to the pit,

And you will die the death of those who are slain

In the heart of the seas.

*Will you still say, "I am a god,"
In the presence of your slayer,
Although you are a man and not God,
In the hands of those who wound you?
You will die the death of the uncircumcised
By the hand of strangers,
For I have spoken!" declares the Lord GOD!""*
(Ezekiel 28:1–10)

Again, historic Christian doctrine steps in and tells us Ezekiel is *talking about* Satan. So I go right back to agreeing with the Early Church Father Hippolytus. (See *The Advent of Christ and AntiChrist*, pp. 156, 178.) He says Ezekiel is describing Satan's appearance here on Earth as the Antichrist *after* he has been cast out of Heaven. Believe it if you care to, disbelieve it if you dare to. The Antichrist must appear first, and along with him comes the delusion with which God plans to deceive those who have no love of the Truth. I didn't say that, the Apostle Paul did. So if the Second Coming is right around the corner as so many good "Christian" folk claim, you really should be concerned that you aren't believing Satan's lie.

John concludes his description of the destruction of "Babylon" with continuing allusions to various other things the Prophets said about her:

"Rejoice over her, Heavens, as well as the Holy Ones, the Apostles and the Prophets, because God has executed your judgment against her!" One strong Messenger picked up a stone like a large millstone and threw {it} into the sea, saying, "Thus, Babylon, the great city will be thrown down with violence and not be found again. The sound of harpists, musicians, fluteplayers and trumpeters will not be heard in you again. No craftsman of any trade will be found in you again. The sound of a millstone will not be heard in you again. The light of a lamp will not shine in you again: The voice of bridegroom and bride will not be heard in you again. Because your merchants were the great ones of the Earth! Because all the nations were lead astray by your sorceries! And the blood of Prophets and Holy Ones was found in her, as well as all those slaughtered on the Earth!"
(Revelation 18:20–24) —my interim translation

If you want to pursue another twist the Prophets put on the *parabolic imagery* in which "Babylon" IS LIKE "Tyre" and both of those city-states *parabolically* depict

some other kingdom, take a look at the kingdom Jeremiah is *talking about* in Jeremiah 7:34, 25:10, and 33:11. It should be obvious that John is applying the *parabolic statements* made in those verses to "Babylon" as well. I haven't time to delve into that *parabolic equivalency* here. But here are some of the other verses in Jeremiah to which John adverts in the passage above:

*"Then heaven and earth and all that is in them
Will shout for joy over Babylon,*

*For the destroyers will come to her from the north,"
Declares the LORD.*

*Indeed Babylon is to fall {for} the slain of Israel,
{As} also for Babylon the slain of all the earth have fallen.
(Jeremiah 51:48–49)*

*"And it will come about as soon as you finish reading this scroll, you will tie a stone to it and throw it into the middle of the Euphrates, and say, 'Just so shall Babylon sink down and not rise again, because of the calamity that I am going to bring upon her; and they will become exhausted.'" Thus far are the words of Jeremiah.
(Jeremiah 51:63–64)*

There you have it. The Prophets Isaiah and Jeremiah use the kingdom of Babylon as a *parabolic image* to depict the *earthly* kingdom of the Antichrist. Ezekiel uses the city-state Tyre in exactly the same way. But what about the *parabolic* "locusts" that suddenly appear on the Earth after the seventh seal is opened and the fifth trumpet sounds in the Book of Revelation? Well, if you bothered to check the larger context of the quotes John has been pulling from Jeremiah, you should already know why they are called "locusts":

*O you who dwell by many waters,
Abundant in treasures,
Your end has come,
The measure of your end.
The LORD of hosts has sworn by Himself:
"Surely I will fill you with a population like locusts,
And they will cry out with shouts of victory over you."
(Jeremiah 51:13–14)*

The little word *like* carries an inordinate amount of *significance* in the Scriptures, doesn't it? One never knows what *parabolic comparison* the Prophets might be

hiding behind that word. So it always pays to pay close attention when you see it. But every once in a while the Prophets come right out and state things plainly, with little or no *parabolic imagery*. Trouble is, when they do, folks just flat-out don't believe them—Satan's lie being what it is. Nothing I could ever say would remove the scales from their eyes. So I'll just leave you with Isaiah's plain and simple description of the things the Apostle John stated *parabolically* in the Book of Revelation:

Look! His Majesty is about to empty the Earth and make Her a wasteland! He will disfigure her face, and scatter her inhabitants. Then it will be: As the people, so the priest. As the servant, so his master. As the maid, so her mistress. As the buyer, so the seller. As the debtor, so the creditor. As the borrower, so the lender. The Earth will be completely emptied and totally plundered, because His Majesty has spoken this word: "She has mourned! The Earth has withered! She has grown feeble! The world has withered! They have made the highest people of the Earth feeble. The Earth is polluted beneath her inhabitants, because they went beyond teachings; they overstepped a statute; they broke an eternal covenant. Therefore, a curse has devoured {the} Earth, and her inhabitants have been held guilty. Therefore, the inhabitants of Earth have been burned, and very few men will be left."

Fermenting wine has mourned;

A vine has grown feeble.

All the merry of heart have groaned.

Exultation with tamborines has stopped.

An uproar of jubilant ones has ceased.

Exultation with the harp has stopped. [Rev. 18:22]

They don't drink wine with a song;

Liquor is bitter to the drinker.

The city of the void has been broken!

Every house has been locked against entry!

An outcry concerning the wine is in the areas outside.

Every joyous thing has become gloomy.

The exultation of the Earth has been exiled.

A horror has been left in the city;

Yet a devastation will strike the gate!

Because this will be in the midst of the Earth; amidst the peoples.

Like shaking clean an olive tree;

Like gleaning when the grape harvest is done.

They will lift up their voice, they will shout.

Against the exaltation of His Majesty,

They have cried shrilly from the sea.

Therefore, glorify His Majesty in the areas of light!

The Name of His Majesty, the God of Israel,

In the coastal lands of the sea!

From the extreme part of the earth we have heard melodies:

"Honor belongs to the Righteous One!"

But I said, "Wasting is mine! Wasting is mine! Woe is me!

The treacherous have been treacherous.

The treacherous have been extremely treacherous!"

Dread, pit, and bird-trap are upon you,

Earth's inhabitant!

The one who flees from the sound of the dread

will fall into the pit!

And the one who ascends from inside the pit

will be caught in the bird-trap!

Because the windows from on high have been opened,

And the foundations of Earth have been shaken!

The Earth has broken apart!

Earth has shattered completely!

Earth has reeled violently!

Earth will stagger like a drunkard!

She will wobble like a hut!

Her transgression will be heavy on her,

And she will fall! But she won't rise again!

In that day, His Majesty will investigate

Concerning the host of the heights, in the heights!

And concerning the kings of the ground, on the ground!

They will be gathered like a collection of captives,

into a pit.

They will be shut up into a prison,

And after many days they will be investigated.

The white one will be disgraced;

The hot one will be ashamed,

When His Supreme Majesty is King

in Mt. Zion and in Jerusalem;

And Glory before His elders! [Rev. 4:4]

(Isaiah 24:1–23) —my interim translation

To be fair, the Apostle John also states a few things plainly in the Book of Revelation. As an example, he confirms Isaiah's explanation as to why the *parabolic* "locusts" that Satan releases on the Earth are here (remember the Dove?):

He called out with a strong voice, saying: "Fallen! Babylon the great has fallen! She has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hated bird."

(Revelation 18:2) —my interim translation ■



The Voice of Elijah® includes this column to show you how some of the underlying parabolic images of the Gospel message of the Old Testament speak to the times in which we find ourselves. There are a variety of weather images to be found in the parables of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Most are associated in some way with the Second Coming of Jesus Christ.

The Church has finally lost its way completely. That should be old news to anyone who has studied Church history. The Early Church Father Hippolytus was the first to make that claim—less than two centuries after the death of Christ. Then, at the time of the Protestant Reformation, men like Martin Luther, John Calvin, and Huldreich Zwingli at long last made the allegation stick. But by that time, the evidence was overwhelming and incontrovertible. The leaders of the Roman Catholic Church were offering salvation to anyone who paid the price they set. So only a moron would deny the Church must have taken a wrong turn somewhere. The same assessment applies to the Church today. Yet the overwhelming majority in the Church will vehemently deny that anything is amiss.

The Protestant Reformers started the Church on a four-century search for the Truth they insisted Church leaders had lost. They even established the boundaries within which the search should be conducted—the Scriptures. Consequently, in nearly every generation since that time, there has been a clearly defined segment of the Church whose stated objective has been to recover—by searching the Scriptures—the Truth the Church had quite obviously lost. But inevitably, as each new group became convinced they had found what had been lost, they were forced out on their own. Eventually, that group would spawn another group who realized the Truth had not yet been recovered.

A few generations ago, the search for lost Truth finally ended. When the Pentecostals “found” the

“baptism of the Holy Spirit,” they were all convinced they had finally recovered the Truth. Since then, “Full Gospel” churches have abounded and nobody has felt any need to look for more lost Truth.

So here we are today. The evangelical wing of the Church has finally embraced the lying liberal doctrines that their evangelical predecessors vehemently rejected just a century ago. Most of the Evangelists called to preach the Gospel to this generation have exchanged their calling for a television “ministry” or a church pastorate to which they were never called. The “apostasy” of the Church is finally complete, and nobody is even vaguely aware that Satan has the Church exactly where he wants it. Under those circumstances, every True Believer should be asking himself what God is doing. The answer? He is preparing for Judgment Day.

In His wrath, God did not call me to evangelize the lost. Neither did He call me to organize the saved. He merely called me to recover and publish the Truth the Church lost. When I have accomplished my calling, the evidence He has against this generation of the Church will be both obvious and compelling to anyone seeking to know the Truth. But those who fit that description must accept the fact that Jesus *meant* exactly what He said when He made this statement:

“These things I have spoken to you, that you may be kept from stumbling. They will make you outcasts from the synagogue, but an hour is coming for everyone who kills you to think that he is offering service to God. And these things they will do, because they have not known the Father, or Me. But these things I have spoken to you, that when their hour comes, you may remember that I told you of them. And these things I did not say to you at the beginning, because I was with you.”
(John 16:1–4)

Everybody *thinks* what they believe is the Truth. They wouldn’t believe what they believe if they didn’t. The problem is, most people don’t really *care* whether what they believe is true. They just want something to make them feel comfortable and secure. That’s why they have no “love of the truth.” So if you believe what you hear from *The Voice of Elijah*®, you need to realize your beliefs will make such folks feel very *uncomfortable* and *insecure*. That’s when some of the more demented will choose to believe the God Who said “Thou shalt not murder” suddenly had a change of heart. ■



The Voice of Elijah® publishes articles based on the findings of The Elijah Project, a private research group headed by Larry D. Harper. In this column we seek answers to general-interest questions concerning the findings, purpose, and philosophy of this project.

Editor: In the "Questions & Answers" column of the January 2004 issue you said there is some extremely interesting parabolic imagery in The Teaching associated with wormwood and that I should remind you to explain it sometime. I'm reminding you now. Would you please explain what wormwood is and why it is important for True Believers to understand the significance of this parabolic image?

Elijah: Certainly. But first, let me commend you on the questions you submitted. Every one of them pertains to something I have only recently thought I would like to explain in an article. Now I don't have to.

The first thing your readers need to keep in mind as they read my answer to your question is the fact that I explained the meaning and significance of the parabolic imagery associated with wormwood in The Next Step program over a decade ago. In that context, I went into a whole lot more detail concerning the parabolic imagery than I intend to get into here. Since that information has long been available to anyone who is sufficiently interested, I see no reason to explain those things again.

The second thing your readers need to understand is the fact that God spoke to Moses and the Prophets of Israel in terms of parabolic images which explain how one thing IS LIKE something completely other. Therefore, in talking about the parabolic image of

wormwood, we are going to be looking at how the Prophets mocked the people's use of the physical substance known as "wormwood" by using it to describe a spiritual reality in which God's use of something else is somehow LIKE their use of wormwood. Did you follow that? Let me explain it another way.

The people of Israel participated in a cultic ritual in which they used wormwood for an extremely specific purpose, so the Prophets spoke parabolically in terms of that symbolic ritual and explained how the things the people did in ignorance were LIKE certain things God planned to do in the future. Therefore, the parabolic imagery involves much more than just a parabolic image of wormwood alone. It touches on the procreative activities of a "harlot" and her lover(s), the subsequent birth, death, and resurrection of a divine/human "son of god" and Judgment Day, as well as just about every other facet of The Teaching.

With that in mind, I will tell you forthrightly that Moses and the other Prophets of Israel use the parabolic image of wormwood to describe the characteristics and effects of false teaching—that is, anything which directly contradicts The Teaching of Moses the Prophets were called to restore. (See *The Way, The Truth, The Life.*) That is what Moses has in mind when he mentions wormwood in this context:

"Now not with you alone am I making this covenant and this oath, but both with those who stand here with us today in the presence of the LORD our God and with those who are not with us here today (for you know how we lived in the land of Egypt, and how we came through the midst of the nations through which you passed. Moreover, you have seen their abominations and their idols {of} wood, stone, silver, and gold, which {they had} with them); lest there shall be among you a man or woman, or family or tribe, whose heart turns away today from the LORD our God, to go and serve the gods of those nations; lest there shall be among you a root bearing poisonous fruit and wormwood. And it shall be when he hears the words of this curse, that he will boast, saying, 'I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart in order to destroy the watered {land} with the dry.' The LORD shall never be willing to forgive him, but rather the anger of the LORD and His jealousy will burn against that man, and every curse which is written in this book will rest on him, and the LORD will blot out his name from under heaven. Then the LORD will single him out for adversity from all

the tribes of Israel, according to all the curses of the covenant which are written in this book of the law.”
(Deuteronomy 29:14–21)

The translation “watered {land}” in verse 19 is somewhat misleading. Moses does not include the term *land* because he is not actually referring to *literal* ground. He is instead speaking *parabolically* in terms of a specific *parabolic image* in which *The Teaching* is depicted as both a seed and (rain) water, and the Believer is both the soil on which the seed falls and the plant which springs from the seed. As I have explained elsewhere, that same *parabolic imagery* stands behind not only the Parable of the Sower but also the Parable of the Tares. (See “Plant ‘em Six Feet Under,” *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 1993 and “If You Plan to Reap What You Sow, You Had Better Watch What You Plant,” *The Voice of Elijah*®, April 1998.) It informs the *parabolic statements* made in the following two passages as well:

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave {opportunity} to each one. I planted, Apollos watered, but God was causing the growth. So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth. Now he who plants and he who waters are one; but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor. For we are God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.
(1 Corinthians 3:5–9)

Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings, and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment. And this we shall do, if God permits. For in the case of those who have once been enlightened and have tasted of the heavenly gift and have been made partakers of the Holy Spirit, and have tasted the good word of God and the powers of the age to come, and {then} have fallen away, it is impossible to renew them again to repentance, since they again crucify to themselves the Son of God, and put Him to open shame. For ground that drinks the rain which often falls upon it and brings forth vegetation useful to those for whose sake it is also tilled, receives a blessing from God; but if it yields thorns and thistles, it is worthless and close to being cursed, and it

ends up being burned.
(Hebrews 6:1–8)

In the passage from Deuteronomy 29 quoted above, Moses’ point is, the voracious fires of Hell await anyone who adamantly refuses to “walk in *The Way*” of the Lord simply because he prefers to “walk in the stubbornness of my heart.” (See *The Way, The Truth, The Life* for an explanation of the *parabolic image* of “*The Way*.”) Inevitably, that individual destroys the eternal hopes of everyone with whom he speaks, “the watered with the dry,” through the lies he disseminates. Unfortunately, that is an apt description of most of the “Christians” who warm the pews in the Church today. They have no idea that the unstated summation of their entire belief system is just as Moses described it: “I have peace though I walk in the stubbornness of my heart.”

Now that we have seen what Moses said using wormwood as a *parabolic* depiction of false teaching, let’s take a look at what the Prophet Jeremiah has to say about that toxic substance. On two occasions, he speaks in terms of exactly the same *parabolic imagery* that Moses used when he described the fiery fate of those dim lights who ignorantly spread false teaching. On both occasions, Jeremiah relates what God has in store for the final generation of His People Israel—those who prefer to believe Satan’s lies rather than the Truth of *The Teaching*:

Who is the wise man that may understand this? And {who is} he to whom the mouth of the LORD has spoken, that he may declare it? Why is the land ruined, laid waste like a desert, so that no one passes through? And the LORD said, “Because they have forsaken My law which I set before them, and have not obeyed My voice nor walked according to it, but have walked after the stubbornness of their heart and after the Baals, as their fathers taught them,” therefore thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, “behold, I will feed them, this people, with wormwood and give them poisoned water to drink. And I will scatter them among the nations, whom neither they nor their fathers have known; and I will send the sword after them until I have annihilated them.”
(Jeremiah 9:12–16)

As I have repeatedly stated over the years, the Hebrew term *torah*—which is routinely translated

“law”—actually means “teaching.” (See *The Mystery of Scripture, Volume 1.*) That holds true for this passage as well. You can see, therefore, that Jeremiah is indicting the people of Israel because they abandoned *The Teaching of Moses* (“My law”) and “walked after the stubbornness of their heart.” As a result of the people’s refusal to believe the Truth that Moses taught (and the other Prophets of Israel repeatedly *restored*), Jeremiah promises them God will intentionally allow Satan to craft a false teaching—which is *parabolically* depicted as both “wormwood” and “poisoned water”—and God will make sure His People “eat” and “drink” that lie. The specific purpose of the false teaching God has planned is to ensure the renegades in Israel never *inherit the promise*. Jeremiah reaffirms that in this passage:

As for the prophets:
 My heart is broken within me,
 All my bones tremble;
 I have become like a drunken man,
 Even like a man overcome with wine,
 Because of the LORD
 And because of His holy words.
 For the land is full of adulterers;
 For the land mourns because of the curse.
 The pastures of the wilderness have dried up.
 Their course also is evil,
 And their might is not right.
 “For both prophet and priest are polluted;
 Even in My house I have found their wickedness,”
 declares the LORD.
 “Therefore their way will be like slippery paths to them,
 They will be driven away into the gloom
 and fall down in it;
 For I shall bring calamity upon them,
 The year of their punishment,” declares the LORD.
 “Moreover, among the prophets of Samaria
 I saw an offensive thing:
 They prophesied by Baal and led My people Israel astray.
 Also among the prophets of Jerusalem
 I have seen a horrible thing:
 The committing of adultery and walking in falsehood;
 And they strengthen the hands of evildoers,
 So that no one has turned back from his wickedness.
 All of them have become to Me like Sodom,
 And her inhabitants like Gomorrah.
 Therefore thus says the LORD of hosts concerning the

prophets,
 ‘Behold, I am going to feed them wormwood
 And make them drink poisonous water,
 For from the prophets of Jerusalem
 Pollution has gone forth into all the land.’”
 Thus says the LORD of hosts,
 “Do not listen to the words of the prophets
 who are prophesying to you.
 They are leading you into futility;
 They speak a vision of their own imagination,
 Not from the mouth of the LORD.
 They keep saying to those who despise Me,
 ‘The LORD has said, “You will have peace”’;
 And as for everyone who walks
 in the stubbornness of his own heart,
 They say, ‘Calamity will not come upon you.’
 But who has stood in the council of the LORD,
 That he should see and hear His word?
 Who has given heed to His word and listened?
 Behold, the storm of the LORD has gone forth in wrath,
 Even a whirling tempest;
 It will swirl down on the head of the wicked.
 The anger of the LORD will not turn back
 Until He has performed and carried out
 the purposes of His heart;
 In the last days you will clearly understand it.
 I did not send {these} prophets,
 But they ran.
 I did not speak to them,
 But they prophesied.
 But if they had stood in My council,
 Then they would have announced My words
 to My people,
 And would have turned them back from their evil way
 And from the evil of their deeds.”
 (Jeremiah 23:9–22)

By now, it should be obvious to all but the most dimwitted that the Hebrew idiom “to walk in/after the stubbornness of one’s heart” actually means “to believe whatever one wants to believe.” Numskulls like that are easy prey for Satan, the Liar. I trust that those in our generation who still have ears to hear are also able to see that God does not consider that to be an admirable trait. It is, in fact, one of the things about the Wicked (guilty) that He considers the most abominable. That is precisely why He established the office of the Teacher in the Church. The contentious knee-jerk reaction that

such nitwits exhibited toward anyone who dogmatically taught the Truth in the Early Church should have made it easy for Church leaders to identify them so that they could be “cut off from” Israel. Unfortunately, some Church leaders failed to do their job; so here we are today, mopping up the mess their lax attitude created. Since excommunication is no longer in vogue, folks today are not even aware that the divinely ordained process of pruning the “vine” of Israel is still underway. But enough pontificating. Such assertions have little, if any, positive effect on anyone who “walks in the stubbornness of his own heart” anyway.

In at least two places, the Apostle Paul clearly indicates he knows Jeremiah used the *parabolic image* of wormwood to refer to the false teaching with which God plans to delude the final generation of Israel. In saying “the final generation of Israel,” I mean both the Jewish contemporaries of Jesus Christ and the renegade members of the Body of Jesus Christ—the One Who is the final generation of Israel—at the End of the Age. (See *Not All Israel Is Israel*. By the way, once you realize Jesus Christ still is the final generation of Israel because He was the only Member of the final generation to become *Corporate Israel*, some of the *parabolic statements* made in the Gospels make a bit more sense.)

In the following passage, Paul alludes to what Jeremiah said about false prophets comforting God’s People at the End of the Age, immediately before the Day of the Lord (the Sabbath) begins:

Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night. While they are saying, “Peace and safety!” then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief; for you are all sons of light and sons of day. We are not of night nor of darkness; so then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober. For those who sleep do their sleeping at night, and those who get drunk get drunk at night. But since we are of {the} day, let us be sober, having put on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet, the hope of salvation. For God has not destined us for wrath, but for obtaining salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we are awake or asleep, we may live together with Him. Therefore

encourage one another, and build up one another, just as you also are doing.
(1 Thessalonians 5:1–11)

Clearly, Paul is well aware that false prophets are going to make sure the “easy believers” who have become so commonplace in the Church today are taken completely by surprise at the sudden turn of events which usher in the Day of the Lord (the Sabbath). But he just as clearly understands that those who honestly want to know the Truth at the End of the Age will have adequate opportunity to hear so that they are not caught as equally unawares. That agrees with what the Prophet Daniel says about the End:

As for me, I heard but could not understand; so I said, “My lord, what {will be} the outcome of these {events?}” And he said, “Go {your way,} Daniel, for {these} words are concealed and sealed up until the end time. Many will be purged, purified and refined; but the wicked will act wickedly, and none of the wicked will understand, but those who have insight will understand.”
(Daniel 12:8–10)

In the passage quoted above from Thessalonians, Paul mentions four other *parabolic images* which are closely associated with the *parabolic image* of wormwood: (1) “The Woman” who gives birth to the Children of God at the End of the Age, (2) darkness, (3) drunkenness, and (4) sleep. From what he says about those things, it is obvious that he understands the mocking *parabolic statements* the Prophets make concerning the ancient ritual from which those *parabolic images* derive their meaning and significance. He definitely knows the Prophets *parabolically* describe not only the birth, death, and Resurrection of “The Man” Jesus Christ but also the death and resurrection of the man Adam at the End of the Age.

Paul mentions these four other *parabolic images* because they are an integral part of an ancient religious ritual in which wine laced with wormwood was used to produce an intense state of inebriation. Part of the ridiculous belief system standing behind that ritual can be seen in the Prophet Jeremiah’s *parabolic* description of what happened to the Man Jesus Christ after He fell under the curse of the Law:

*I am the man who has seen affliction
Because of the rod of His wrath.*

*He has driven me and made me walk
In darkness and not in light.
Surely against me He has turned His hand
Repeatedly all the day.
He has caused my flesh and my skin to waste away,
He has broken my bones.
He has besieged and encompassed me
with bitterness and hardship.
In dark places He has made me dwell,
Like those who have long been dead.
He has walled {me} in so that I cannot go out;
He has made my chain heavy.
Even when I cry out and call for help,
He shuts out my prayer.
He has blocked my ways with hewn stone;
He has made my paths crooked.
He is to me like a bear lying in wait,
{Like} a lion in secret places.
He has turned aside my ways and torn me to pieces;
He has made me desolate.
He bent His bow
And set me as a target for the arrow.
He made the arrows of His quiver
To enter into my inward parts.
I have become a laughingstock to all my people,
Their {mocking} song all the day.
**He has filled me with bitterness,
He has made me drunk with wormwood.**
And He has broken my teeth with gravel;
He has made me cover in the dust.
And my soul has been rejected from peace;
I have forgotten happiness.
So I say, "My strength has perished,
And {so has} my hope from the LORD."
(Lamentations 3:1–18)*

Continue on and read the rest of that chapter just to make sure you get the entire picture. Jeremiah is speaking *parabolically* concerning the "scattering" and "gathering" of the Man Corporate Israel (Jesus Christ) after God demanded His death according to the terms of the Old Covenant. Therefore, as you read what the Prophet wrote, you need to keep in mind the fact that the *parabolic pantomime* in which Jesus Christ endured the wrath of God for the benefit of "The Many" "in Him" is nothing more than a *parabolic* depiction of the death of the man Adam at the End of the Age. [See "They Got God at a Fire Sale Price (and a Whole Lot More Than They Bargained

For)—Part II," *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 1999; "He's Coming in Clouds of Glory (Whatever That Means)," *The Voice of Elijah*®, January 2001; and "Moses and 'the Man,'" *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 2003.] God will also *parabolically* make (the members of) that man—that is, the man Adam—"drunk with wormwood" just as He did the Man Jesus Christ immediately before He made this intentionally obscure query:

*Now from the sixth hour darkness fell upon all the land until the ninth hour. And about the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice, saying, "ELI, ELI, LAMA SABACHTHANI?" that is, "MY GOD, MY GOD, WHY HAST THOU FORSAKEN ME?"
(Matthew 27:45–46)*

I'm sure there are some minuscule-minded "Christian" dolts reading along who will not hesitate to venture an explanation as to how God could *literally* abandon Jesus Christ, the Man Who, according to historic Christian doctrine, was Himself God. (God abandoning Himself? Come on! How stupid can you be?) The Truth is, Jesus Christ was speaking *parabolically* concerning the gradually deepening "darkness" of the *spiritual* reality He was being forced to endure at the time. But unless one is able to "see" the *parabolic image* of the *cultic ritual* in which Christ drank a *parabolic* wine which had been well mixed with wormwood, the Truth that He was voicing will forever remain just out of reach.

As you are undoubtedly already aware, Jesus was alluding to the *parabolic imagery* associated with the "cup" of mandragora (wormwood) "wine" that God required Him to "drink." He mentions that "cup" on at least three occasions:

*Then the mother of the sons of Zebedee came to Him with her sons, bowing down, and making a request of Him. And He said to her, "What do you wish?" She said to Him, "Command that in Your kingdom these two sons of mine may sit, one on Your right and one on Your left." But Jesus answered and said, "You do not know what you are asking for. Are you able to drink the cup that I am about to drink?" They said to Him, "We are able." He said to them, "My cup you shall drink; but to sit on My right and on {My} left, this is not Mine to give, but it is for those for whom it has been prepared by My Father."
(Matthew 20:20–23)*

Then Jesus came with them to a place called Gethsemane, and said to His disciples, "Sit here while I go over there and pray." And He took with Him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be grieved and distressed. Then He said to them, "My soul is deeply grieved, to the point of death; remain here and keep watch with Me." And He went a little beyond {them,} and fell on His face and prayed, saying, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; yet not as I will, but as Thou wilt." (Matthew 26:36–39)

Now Judas also, who was betraying Him, knew the place; for Jesus had often met there with His disciples. Judas then, having received the {Roman} cohort, and officers from the chief priests and the Pharisees, came there with lanterns and torches and weapons. Jesus therefore, knowing all the things that were coming upon Him, went forth, and said to them, "Whom do you seek?" They answered Him, "Jesus the Nazarene." He said to them, "I am {He.}" And Judas also who was betraying Him, was standing with them. When therefore He said to them, "I am {He,}" they drew back, and fell to the ground. Again therefore He asked them, "Whom do you seek?" And they said, "Jesus the Nazarene." Jesus answered, "I told you that I am {He;} if therefore you seek Me, let these go their way," that the word might be fulfilled which He spoke, "Of those whom Thou hast given Me I lost not one." Simon Peter therefore having a sword, drew it, and struck the high priest's slave, and cut off his right ear; and the slave's name was Malchus. Jesus therefore said to Peter, "Put the sword into the sheath; **the cup which the Father has given Me, shall I not drink it?**" (John 18:2–11)

Most theological lamebrains baselessly assume that when Jesus mentions the *parabolic* "cup" God made Him "drink," He is *metaphorically* referring to the *physical* suffering He was about to endure. He is not. He is speaking *parabolically*. From what He says, it is clear that Jesus knew the Prophets of Israel had described a *parabolic* "cup" the Messiah would be required to "drink"; and He was certainly not looking forward to the "drunkenness," "darkness," and "sleep" that would follow hard on the heels of that event. From reading what the Prophets wrote about the "cup" God prepared, Jesus knew a much more horrific *spiritual* experience lay in store for Him. But the only way we have to understand what He experienced is via the *parabolic imagery* the

Prophets used to describe His death and Resurrection. We can talk about that some other time. Peter is alluding to the *parabolic imagery* they used when he says this:

For Christ also died for sins once for all, {the} just for {the} unjust, in order that He might bring us to God, **having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit; in which also He went and made proclamation to the spirits {now} in prison,** who once were disobedient, when the patience of God kept waiting in the days of Noah, during the construction of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were brought safely through {the} water. (1 Peter 3:18–20)

In yet another passage, Paul provides quite a bit more detail concerning Jeremiah's *parabolic* explanation of the role that wormwood—that is, false teaching—will play in what God has planned:

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, and our gathering together to Him, that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. 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, 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. Do you not remember that while I was still with you, I was telling you these things? And you know what restrains him now, so that in his time he may be revealed. For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only he who now restrains {will do so} until he is taken out of the way. And then that lawless one will be revealed whom the Lord will slay with the breath of His mouth and bring to an end by the appearance of His coming; {that is,} the one whose coming is in accord with the activity of Satan, with all power and signs and false wonders, and with all the deception of wickedness for those who perish, because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. **And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.** (2 Thessalonians 2:1–12)

That passage pretty much speaks for itself. Paul agrees with Jeremiah. He says God is going to intentionally delude the final generation of Israel (the Body of Christ) and make sure the Pretenders among us who are piously parroting dimwitted dogma firmly believe the lying seed they sow. I'm not here to convince anyone. Either one is willing to accept that Paul *means* exactly what he states so succinctly in completely unambiguous terms, or one isn't willing to believe. Life is all about decisions, so take your pick. Make the wrong decision, suffer the consequences. It's no skin off my teeth. God won't hold me accountable for your stubbornness or lack of intelligence.

The most amazing thing about the passage above is the fact that Paul is describing the results of the false teaching with which the final generation of Israel (the Jews) was deluded two thousand years ago. That false teaching has finally come full circle and is already prepared to bite the renegades in the final generation of Israel (the Body of Jesus Christ) in our own day. And just as the Pharisees could not comprehend the words of John the Baptist at that time, so it is with Church leaders today:

But when he saw many of the Pharisees and Sadducees coming for baptism, he said to them, "You brood of vipers, who warned you to flee from the wrath to come? Therefore bring forth fruit in keeping with repentance; and do not suppose that you can say to yourselves, 'We have Abraham for our father'; for I say to you, that God is able from these stones to raise up children to Abraham. And the axe is already laid at the root of the trees; every tree therefore that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. As for me, I baptize you with water for repentance, but He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not fit to remove His sandals; He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. And His winnowing fork is in His hand, and He will thoroughly clear His threshing floor; and He will gather His wheat into the barn, but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire."

(Matthew 3:7-12)

A word to the wise should be sufficient: God has always pruned the "vine" of Israel. So if you are absolutely certain you already have a key to the Pearly Gates because of your close personal relationship to the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, you should probably

consider the possibility that Satan might have you firmly believing a lie. If that lie prevents you from understanding Who the *Living* God actually is, you aren't really worshiping the God Who is, are you? Admit it: You have been slavishly worshiping nothing more than a figment of your own imagination. And absolute faith in a fantasy will gain you nothing at all with the God Who is. That's why the Apostle Paul recommends you get to it and do what needs to be done:

Test yourselves {to see} if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test?

(2 Corinthians 13:5)

Enough of that. I'm not here to awaken the dead. So far, I have shown you what Moses, Jeremiah, the Apostle Paul, and Jesus said about the *parabolic* "cup" of mandragora (wormwood) "wine" that God intends to make the man Adam "drink" at the End of the Age. Now let's look at a few other passages where the Prophets are *talking about* the same thing. The psalmist puts it this way:

*For not from the east, nor from the west,
Nor from the desert {comes} exaltation;
But God is the Judge;
He puts down one, and exalts another.
For a cup is in the hand of the LORD,
and the wine foams;
It is well mixed, and He pours out of this;
Surely all the wicked of the earth must drain
{and} drink down its dregs.*

(Psalm 75:6-8)

The statement "God is the Judge" tells us the "cup" of mandragora "wine" somehow pertains to Judgment Day. That, in turn, brings up a *parabolic image* in which "The Woman"—that is, "The Many" in Israel—is viewed as an adulteress/harlot/whore:

*"These things will be done to you because you have played the harlot with the nations, because you have defiled yourself with their idols. **You have walked in the way of your sister; therefore I will give her cup into your hand.**"*

Thus says the Lord GOD,

*'You will drink your sister's cup,
Which is deep and wide.
You will be laughed at and held in derision;
It contains much.
You will be filled with drunkenness and sorrow,
The cup of horror and desolation,
The cup of your sister Samaria.
And you will drink it and drain it.
Then you will gnaw its fragments
And tear your breasts;
for I have spoken,' declares the Lord GOD. Therefore, thus
says the Lord GOD, 'Because you have forgotten Me and
cast Me behind your back, bear now the {punishment} of
your lewdness and your harlotries.'"*
(Ezekiel 23:30–35)

We haven't time to delve into the *parabolic image* in which Israel is a "harlot" (Hebrew: *zonah*) right now, so I'll just point out the fact that something has obviously been added to the "wine" in the "cup" the psalmist tells us God is going to make the Wicked (guilty) "drink." (See "The Righteous and the Wicked: One Simple Distinction Lies Between Them," *The Voice of Elijah*®, April 2002.) He plainly describes the contents of that "cup" this way: "It is *well mixed*." But he doesn't tell us anything more about what ingredient(s) is/are *mixed* with the "wine." I will.

The special additive in the *parabolic "wine"* in the *parabolic "cup of the Lord"* is the *parabolic* root of the mandrake plant (otherwise known as wormwood). God plans to make sure (every member of) the man Adam "drinks" that hallucinogenic admixture because it provides more than enough potency to delude anyone who happens to take even a mere sip. I dare say that most "Christians" in our own day have already imbibed much more than just a sip. The more zealous are completely inebriated by the same false teaching that deluded the Jews in the time of Christ. And they have no idea how completely foolish their pompous proclamations appear to those who know the Truth.

Jeremiah describes Satan's contamination of the Truth this way:

For thus the LORD, the God of Israel, says to me, "Take this cup of the wine of wrath from My hand, and cause all the nations, to whom I send you, to drink it. And they shall drink and stagger and go mad because of the sword that I will send among them." Then I

took the cup from the LORD's hand, and made all the nations drink, to whom the LORD sent me.
(Jeremiah 25:15–17)

If you care to know how the *parabolic "wine"* of God's wrath could drive people insane, perhaps you should ponder why the artist Vincent van Gogh cut off part of his ear and gave it to a prostitute with the instructions "guard this object carefully." As the story goes, the good fellow had become quite addicted to absinthe (an alcoholic drink whose primary intoxicating agent is wormwood) and it finally got the better of him. Needless to say, the man spent quite a bit of time retrieving himself from that bitter root while locked up in an insane asylum at Saint-Rémy-de-Provence.

I probably should point out that the Lord is also speaking *parabolically* when He mentions "*the sword that I will send among them*." Without going into detail as to what the *parabolic "sword of the Lord"* represents, let me just say that there is nothing at all wrong with the *parabolic "wine"* in the *parabolic "cup"*. It is, in fact, an extremely fine "wine," as is indicated by the *parabolic pantomime* Jesus conducted in which He turned the water into wine (on the third day) at a wedding in Cana (John 2:1–11). (Remember Jonah?)

The addition of the hallucinogen wormwood is what creates the problem for the guilty who *parabolically* drink "wine" from the "cup of the Lord." Since that contaminant is so thoroughly mixed with the "wine," the majority who *parabolically "drink"* from that "cup" are not even aware it is there. But as Zechariah explains, the stultifying ingredient in the "cup" has something to do with the role "Jerusalem" will play at the End:

The burden of the word of the LORD concerning Israel. {Thus} declares the LORD who stretches out the heavens, lays the foundation of the earth, and forms the spirit of man within him, "Behold, I am going to make Jerusalem a cup that causes reeling to all the peoples around; and when the siege is against Jerusalem, it will also be against Judah."
(Zechariah 12:1–2)

I chuckle whenever I read what Zechariah wrote about "Jerusalem" because the double-edged "sword of the Lord" invariably cuts two ways: both *literally* and *parabolically*. And contrary to popular belief, it is not all that easy to "rightly divide" the two. Too bad the

Prophet doesn't bother to explain that, when he mentions Jerusalem, he is alluding to the same *parabolic image* Jeremiah had in mind when he said this concerning the "harlot" Babylon:

*For neither Israel nor Judah has been forsaken
By his God, the LORD of hosts,
Although their land is full of guilt
Before the Holy One of Israel.
Flee from the midst of Babylon,
And each of you save his life!
Do not be destroyed in her punishment,
For this is the LORD's time of vengeance;
He is going to render recompense to her.
Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the LORD,
Intoxicating all the earth.
The nations have drunk of her wine;
Therefore the nations are going mad.
Suddenly Babylon has fallen and been broken;
Wail over her!
Bring balm for her pain;
Perhaps she may be healed.
We applied healing to Babylon, but she was not healed;
Forsake her and let us each go to his own country,
For her judgment has reached to heaven
And towers up to the very skies.
The LORD has brought about our vindication;
Come and let us recount in Zion
The work of the LORD our God!
(Jeremiah 51:5-10)*

There are several other places where the Prophets mention the "cup" from which God plans to make the Wicked (guilty) drink at the End of the Age. There are even more instances where they *talk about* the delusion the well-blended contents of that "cup" represent. So I could go on endlessly playing footsies under the table with those who already know the Truth, but why should I bother? The Prophet Daniel has plainly told us the Wicked (guilty) will never understand even if they hear the Truth stated openly; so I will do just that.

When the Prophets *parabolically* refer to "the wine of God's wrath," or "the cup that causes reeling," or some other such thing, they are pointing to the imbecilic End-Time belief that the Antichrist is the *fulfillment of the promise* God made concerning Jesus Christ. The Jews who were the final generation of Israel rejected their Messiah two thousand years ago and, ever since

that fiasco have been demanding that God send them another messiah more to their liking. So God is going to give them and the dispensational dorks in the Church today exactly what they expect. That's why *literal* Jerusalem at the End of the Age will be *parabolically* LIKE ancient Babylon. Satan managed to gain widespread acceptance of that goofy lie when all of mankind ignorantly "made a name" for themselves and crowned a human/divine "son of god" king at the Tower of Babel. (See "Is Iraq Mystery Babylon?" *The Voice of Elijah*®, January 1991, and "So Why Would a Nomad 'Build a House' and Settle Down?" *The Voice of Elijah*®, October 1997.) Then came Sodom and Gomorrah, Edom, and—who can forget—Antiochus Epiphanes.

A majority of "Christians" today have already been thoroughly indoctrinated into the ridiculous eschatological beliefs that will result in them accepting the Antichrist as Jesus Christ. [See "Wanna Hear the Whopper the Liar Came Up With? (I Doubt You'll Believe It!)" *The Voice of Elijah*®, October 1996.] There is even a best-selling series of books in which Satan is assiduously comforting "Christians" with the notion that they will not be among those "Left Behind." Most "Christians" who read those books have no idea at all where the eschatology they are being surreptitiously spoon-fed originated, and they really don't care since the nonsense gives them a good strong case of the warm-fuzzies. They are more than content just to be running with the crowd headed down the broad way to destruction. But that is only

*because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved. And for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.
(2 Thessalonians 2:10b-12)*

I have already shown you where Jeremiah said the *parabolic harlot* "Babylon has been a golden cup in the hand of the Lord, intoxicating all the earth." Now, I should probably tell you why "The Woman" would offer herself and her mandragora "wine" to any and all who happen to pass her way. In the Old Testament, the so-called "harlot," or "prostitute," (Hebrew: *zonah*) was actually a cultic functionary whose purpose was to bear children for others so that they could merge their lineage with the race of the gods and thereby gain

hope of eternal life. (See "The Parabolic Pantomimes of Jesus Christ," *The Voice of Elijah*®, January 1991.) Specifically, her cultic role was to be the perennial "virgin" who (symbolically) bore the divine/human "son of god" who would rule as king according to *the promise* of God. (See "The Sad, Sordid History of the People of God," *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 1996.)

The role that mandragora wine played in at least one of the *harlot's cultic dramas* was to induce the "sleep of death" from which her paramour would awaken symbolically reborn in the resurrection. From that *cultic ritual*, you should be able to see how the basic outlines of the *parabolic image* of mandragora wine fit into what the Apostle John says about "Babylon" in the Book of Revelation. Just keep in mind the fact that the Scriptures indicate there are two distinctly different resurrections—one for the Righteous (innocent), the other for the Wicked (guilty). God has decreed that the participants in both of those resurrections must "drink" from the "cup" of mandragora "wine" "The Woman" has to offer. Fortunately, those "in Christ" at the End of the Age have already done that, since they died when He died; and He "drank" from that *parabolic "cup"* for the benefit of everyone who believes "in Him." Amazingly, God made sure the "harlot's" *cultic ritual* worked in His case. Will it for anyone else? Of course not. But their turn at the "cup" is coming:

And I saw another angel flying in midheaven, having an eternal gospel to preach to those who live on the earth, and to every nation and tribe and tongue and people; and he said with a loud voice, "Fear God, and give Him glory, because the hour of His judgment has come; and worship Him who made the heaven and the earth and sea and springs of waters." And another angel, a second one, followed, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great, she who has made all the nations drink of the wine of the passion of her immorality." And another angel, a third one, followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives a mark on his forehead or upon his hand, he also will drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is mixed in full strength in the cup of His anger; and he will be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment goes up forever and ever; and they have no rest day and night, those who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his

name." Here is the perseverance of the saints who keep the commandments of God and their faith in Jesus. (Revelation 14:6–12)

If you honestly believe the Second Coming of the Lord is imminent, you should probably heed the admonition the Lord issued through the Prophet Jeremiah. It obviously pertains to those alive at the End of the Age:

*Flee from the midst of Babylon,
And each of you save his life!
Do not be destroyed in her punishment,
For this is the LORD's time of vengeance;
He is going to render recompense to her.
(Jeremiah 51:6)*

Anyone who deems that injunction to be not all that important should probably stop to contemplate why the Apostle John would repeat it when he gives this cryptic explanation of the *meaning* and *significance* of the *parabolic imagery* related to "The Woman":

And one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, "Come here, I shall show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed {acts of} immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality." And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness; and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast, full of blasphemous names, having seven heads and ten horns. And the woman was clothed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a gold cup full of abominations and of the unclean things of her immorality, and upon her forehead a name {was} written, a mystery, "BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH." And I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus. And when I saw her, I wondered greatly. And the angel said to me, "Why do you wonder? I shall tell you the mystery of the woman and of the beast that carries her, which has the seven heads and the ten horns. The beast that you saw was and is not, and is about to come up out of the abyss and to go to destruction. And those who dwell on the earth will wonder, whose name has not been written in the book of life from the

foundation of the world, when they see the beast, that he was and is not and will come. Here is the mind which has wisdom. The seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman sits, and they are seven kings; five have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come; and when he comes, he must remain a little while. And the beast which was and is not, is himself also an eighth, and is {one} of the seven, and he goes to destruction. And the ten horns which you saw are ten kings, who have not yet received a kingdom, but they receive authority as kings with the beast for one hour. These have one purpose and they give their power and authority to the beast. These will wage war against the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, because He is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those who are with Him {are the} called and chosen and faithful." And he said to me, "The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw, and the beast, these will hate the harlot and will make her desolate and naked, and will eat her flesh and will burn her up with fire. For God has put it in their hearts to execute His purpose by having a common purpose, and by giving their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God should be fulfilled. And the woman whom you saw is the great city, which reigns over the kings of the earth." After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illumined with his glory. And he cried out with a mighty voice, saying, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! And she has become a dwelling place of demons and a prison of every unclean spirit, and a prison of every unclean and hateful bird. **For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the passion of her immorality**, and the kings of the earth have committed {acts of} immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich by the wealth of her sensuality." And I heard another voice from heaven, saying, "Come out of her, my people, that you may not participate in her sins and that you may not receive of her plagues; for her sins have piled up as high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Pay her back even as she has paid, and give back {to her} double according to her deeds; in the cup which she has mixed, mix twice as much for her." (Revelation 17:1-18:6)

Isn't the *parabolic imagery* of *The Teaching* remarkable? It is not unusual to find the same *parabolic image* stacked on top of, or neatly nested inside of, the same *parabolic image*. And both images refer back to Jesus

Christ, the One Who is *The Teaching*. "The Woman" has obviously gotten "drunk" by "drinking" from the "cup" of God's wrath. John tells us that in this verse:

And the great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell. And Babylon the great was remembered before God, to give her the cup of the wine of His fierce wrath.
(Revelation 16:19)

Yet now John tells us, "I saw the woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus." Now I don't know about you, but I seriously doubt it is possible for anyone to get drunk drinking blood. So, before some dullard insists John is speaking *metaphorically*, let me just point out that he is speaking *parabolically* in terms of some very specific *parabolic imagery*. And the *parabolic imagery* he has in mind is exactly the same *parabolic imagery* as has always been associated with the "cup of the Lord":

Therefore when you meet together, it is not to eat the Lord's Supper, for in your eating each one takes his own supper first; and one is hungry and another is drunk. What! Do you not have houses in which to eat and drink? Or do you despise the church of God, and shame those who have nothing? What shall I say to you? Shall I praise you? In this I will not praise you. For I received from the Lord that which I also delivered to you, that the Lord Jesus in the night in which He was betrayed took bread; and when He had given thanks, He broke it, and said, "This is My body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of Me." In the same way {He took} the cup also, after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant in My blood; do this, as often as you drink {it,} in remembrance of Me." For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the Lord's death until He comes. Therefore whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner, shall be guilty of the body and the blood of the Lord. But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of the bread and drink of the cup. For he who eats and drinks, eats and drinks judgment to himself, if he does not judge the body rightly.
(1 Corinthians 11:20-29)

The *parabolic imagery* related to the "cup of the Lord" is all about Judgment Day. As John indicates, the verdict which is announced on that Great Day will be

based on nothing more than a simple examination of one's addition and subtraction:

I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God shall add to him the plagues which are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.
(Revelation 22:18–19)

Editor: *On several occasions over the years (the most recent in the last issue) you have mentioned the “psychological curse” God placed on the “one-flesh” relationship between a man and a woman. In October 1997, I asked you to explain this “curse” in a bit more detail, but you refrained from doing so at that time. I’m not certain you are any more inclined to answer my question today, but I’m going to ask it again anyway: What can you tell us—or what are you willing to tell us—about the “psychological curse” God placed on Eve? Is this “curse” found in Genesis 3:16b?*

Elijah: Let’s take a look at how the New American Standard version translates the passage in which the verse you mentioned occurs:

*And the LORD God said to the serpent,
“Because you have done this,
Cursed are you more than all cattle,
And more than every beast of the field;
On your belly shall you go,
And dust shall you eat
All the days of your life;
And I will put enmity
Between you and the woman,
And between your seed and her seed;
He shall bruise you on the head,
And you shall bruise him on the heel.”*
*To the woman He said,
“I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth,
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Yet your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”*
Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it’;

*Cursed is the ground because of you;
In toil you shall eat of it
All the days of your life.
Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you;
And you shall eat the plants of the field;
By the sweat of your face
You shall eat bread,
Till you return to the ground,
Because from it you were taken;
For you are dust,
And to dust you shall return.”*
(Genesis 3:14–19)

God placed a curse directly on both the Serpent and the woman because the Serpent enticed the woman to sin and the woman enticed the man (Hebrew: *‘Adam*—masculine) to sin. But He placed no such curse on the man. Instead, the curse fell on the man indirectly through the ground (Hebrew: *‘Adamah*—feminine) from which he had been formed. The account seems to be fairly straightforward; but, unfortunately, appearances can be deceiving. What appears to be the case actually isn’t. Let’s take a closer look at the curse God placed on the woman and specifically single out the part of the verse you mentioned:

*To the woman He said,
“I will greatly multiply
Your pain in childbirth,
In pain you shall bring forth children;
Yet your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”*
(Genesis 3:16)

Anyone who knows the Hebrew Scriptures very well at all is already aware that God restates the second part of the verse in a completely different context:

Then the LORD said to Cain, “Why are you angry? And why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will not {your countenance} be lifted up? And if you do not do well, sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must master it.”
(Genesis 4:6–7)

Do you see how the translator injected his own bias into his translation of those two verses? The Hebrew text has exactly the same nominal and verbal

forms in both cases. The only thing God has changed is the subject and the object of the “desire” he mentions. Neither of those two changes should affect the translation of the verbal forms in the least little bit. Since it does, you can be sure Satan is trying to hide something from us. So let’s begin by placing the two translations next to each other:

“Yet your desire shall be for your husband,
And he shall rule over you.”
(Genesis 3:16b)

“Its desire is for you,
but you must master it.”
(Genesis 4:7b)

Would it surprise you to learn that the second translation is fairly accurate and the first is completely skewed? It shouldn’t. The Liar Satan has a vested interest in keeping the *meaning* and *significance* of the first passage hidden because he knows this to be true:

“You shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.”
(John 8:32)

Let’s just take the translation of the second passage and apply it to the first:

“Your desire is for your man,
But he must master you.”
(Genesis 3:16b) —my interim translation

There you have it: The curse of God makes the desire of the woman for the man as the desire of sin is for Cain. Both must be mastered. Now you know what the text actually says, but what does it *mean*? Clearly, Moses wants those with insight to understand that because of the curse, the “one-flesh” relationship between a woman and a man will in some way be exactly the same kind of adversarial relationship that Paul freely admits we all have with sin:

For we know that the Law is spiritual; but I am of flesh, sold into bondage to sin. For that which I am doing, I do not understand; for I am not practicing what I {would} like to {do,} but I am doing the very thing I hate. But if I do the very thing I do not wish {to do}, I agree with the

Law, {confessing} that it is good. So now, no longer am I the one doing it, but sin which indwells me. For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh; for the wishing is present in me, but the doing of the good {is} not. For the good that I wish, I do not do; but I practice the very evil that I do not wish. But if I am doing the very thing I do not wish, I am no longer the one doing it, but sin which dwells in me. I find then the principle that evil is present in me, the one who wishes to do good. For I joyfully concur with the law of God in the inner man, but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members.
(Romans 7:14–23)

The point of what Moses says about the curse God placed on the woman should be obvious. “Desire” is a *psychological* response to some external stimulus. Therefore, the curse must be a *psychological curse* which awakens some kind of “desire” within the woman. As God indicates, that “desire” makes her want to control the actions of any man with whom she becomes “one flesh” just as the “desire” of sin is to control us all. That does not necessarily *mean* a woman has any selfish or ulterior motives in her desire to control the man; nor does it *mean* every woman will be affected by the curse to the same degree. It merely *means* that when a woman becomes “one flesh” with a man, the curse of God immediately creates a deep-seated *psychological* need within her—a need which many women find impossible to control. (The mother-in-law stereotype did not arise in a vacuum.)

The Truth is, a “one-flesh” relationship will only be what God intended (and fulfilling for both) if the man is able to withstand the “desire” of the woman and deny her demands. That is why God says “he must master you.” Quite often, a man gives in and submits to the will of the woman in order to maintain harmony in the relationship. However, there is a much better way. If a born-again woman recognizes the curse for what it is, she can willingly submit to the will of the man and stop trying to control him:

Wives, {be subject} to your own husbands, as to the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself {being} the Savior of the body.
(Ephesians 5:22–23)

Editor: *I want to ask you about the movie, **The Passion of the Christ**. As you know, this film has stirred up quite a bit of controversy, not only in this country but around the world. The “Christian” community has, for the most part, been very supportive of the movie and has turned out in droves to see it. Many people, however, have been offended or turned off by the brutal and graphic depictions of torture that are the focal point of the movie. Do you have any thoughts about the movie (even if you haven’t seen it) or about the various reactions people have to it? Can you also explain why God required Jesus to die such a horrific death?*

Elijah: Satan is currently in the process of reducing Christianity to its lowest common denominator. By that I mean he is using a variety of techniques to make his lies concerning the Second Coming acceptable to the widest possible audience. One of the vehicles he is using to accomplish his goal is a best-selling series of books based on dispensational doctrine. The movie you mention is just another means to the same end. That can be seen from the fact that “Christians” of all stripe are enthralled by the goofy belief that the agonizing death of Jesus Christ somehow demonstrates the love of God. That belief is a monstrous lie. The horror of the Crucifixion does not exhibit the love of God; it reveals the white-hot hatred of His wrath. The Resurrection of Christ is what demonstrates the love of God, and that only manifests the love He has for His Firstborn Son, Corporate Israel—that is, the Righteous (innocent) who will be resurrected “in Christ” at the Second Coming. It certainly does not evince any presumed love God has for the Wicked. The psalmist plainly tells us He has none:

*For Thou art not a God who takes pleasure in wickedness;
No evil dwells with Thee.
The boastful shall not stand before Thine eyes;
Thou dost hate all who do iniquity.
Thou dost destroy those who speak falsehood;
The LORD abhors the man of bloodshed and deceit.
(Psalm 5:4–6)*

I am amazed at the dumbness that people exhibit when they blindly use the following well-known verse of Scripture to refute the plainly stated Truth that God hates “all who do iniquity”:

*“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.”
(John 3:16)*

Ignoring the fact that through His use of the Hebrew idiom “give a seed/son,” Jesus is alluding to parabolic imagery in *The Teaching* which is based on the ghastly cultic practice of sacrificing children to the Canaanite god El, He says nothing whatsoever about God’s love for the individual—as in the lie “God loves you and has a wonderful plan for your life.” Instead, He says “the world,” by which He could very well have meant nothing more than this Creation. At the very most He meant humanity as a whole. Therefore, to extrapolate from a general statement to a specific statement and thereby contradict the clear declaration of the psalmist would be less than wise, to say the least. But dimwits are not called “dimwits” for no good reason. Any dullard who uses the New Testament to argue that God loves the individual will eventually be forced to admit the obvious: He has been reading someone else’s mail.

The Person Who displayed His love for the Wicked (guilty) by dying on the cross was the Man Jesus Christ. Furthermore, that Man was a mortal Man Who remained completely obedient to *The Law of Moses* right up to the moment of His death. Then He arose in the Resurrection as “*The Man*” Who fulfilled the promise of God. Just keep this in mind: “*The Man*” Who arose from the dead is currently no longer subject to any Law that constrains Him to love His enemies and leave vengeance up to God. He is God. And the Prophets repeatedly tell us the *Living God* is a God of wrath Who takes vengeance on His enemies. Consequently, if one sincerely wants to know the Truth, one should stop to consider the implications of what is said in the following mocking account of End-Time events:

And I looked when He broke the sixth seal, and there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth {made} of hair, and the whole moon became like blood; and the stars of the sky fell to the earth, as a fig tree casts its unripe figs when shaken by a great wind. And the sky was split apart like a scroll when it is rolled up; and every mountain and island were moved out of their places. And the kings of the earth and the great men and

the commanders and the rich and the strong and every slave and free man, hid themselves in the caves and among the rocks of the mountains; and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, "Fall on us and hide us from the presence of Him who sits on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb; for the great day of their wrath has come; and who is able to stand?"

(Revelation 6:12–17)

What do the asinine lamebrains who preach the unconditional love of God think "The Man" they worship as the "Lamb of God" is going to do when He returns? Nibble them to death like a duck?

God required Jesus to both orchestrate and endure the brutality of a *parabolic pantomime* in which He—as the Man Corporate Israel—was crucified for the sins of "all Israel." So don't get caught up in the blame game into which ignorant people want to lure equally ignorant people today. Jesus brought about His Own death at precisely the time required for the *parabolic pantomime* because He knew what God required. Neither the Jews nor the Romans could have veered off the course on which He intentionally set them. The same can be said of world leaders today because the *parabolic pantomime* Jesus conducted is, at heart, a graphic depiction of the horrifying end of the man Adam at the End of the Age. And only those "in Israel" who remain inside "The House" at Passover will be saved.

Editor: I'm sure you are aware of a best-selling book titled The Da Vinci Code. According to the author of this book, the Catholic Church has suppressed the fact that Jesus Christ and Mary Magdalene were secretly married. Supposedly, this information can be found in a series of "alternative" gospels that have only recently been rediscovered. Since all of this is obviously complete nonsense, a subscriber would like to know what you think Satan is trying to accomplish through this idiotic book? But more importantly, he would like to know why it was important that Jesus Christ not marry. Would you please explain this?

Elijah: Sometimes Satan throws out one lie after another just to confuse people. Most often, the resulting confusion gives the more intellectually challenged among us a little more room to say, "That's your opinion," as though *objective Truth* is nothing more than a matter of opinion. In this case, I can't say with certainty

what he has in mind. Part of his reason is perhaps to discredit the notion that the Prophets hid "The Mystery" in the Hebrew Scriptures so the Righteous would have insight at the End of the Age. That seems to be his purpose in the Bible Code nonsense.

I can tell you this for certain: Whatever Satan intends to accomplish through his tactics will have no effect whatsoever on those who are honestly seeking to know the Truth. That is because the Spirit of the Lord is working among His People, and those who heed His call will eventually find "The Way":

Although the Lord has given you bread of privation and water of oppression, {He,} your Teacher will no longer hide Himself, but your eyes will behold your Teacher. And your ears will hear a word behind you, "This is the way, walk in it," whenever you turn to the right or to the left. And you will defile your graven images, overlaid with silver, and your molten images plated with gold. You will scatter them as an impure thing; {and} say to them, "Be gone!"

(Isaiah 30:20–22)

The reason why Jesus never entered a "one-flesh" relationship with a mortal woman has to do with *the inheritance of the promise*. After becoming Corporate Israel at His Baptism, Jesus held sole title to *the promise*. (See *Not All Israel Is Israel*.) Therefore, prior to His death, He conducted a *parabolic pantomime* in which He made an oral testament (Matt. 12:48–50). (See "Did Jesus Leave a Will?" *The Voice of Elijah*®, July 1991.) In that oral will, He first disinherited His immediate family (as required by Roman law when heirs outside the family were instituted) but then allowed them the possibility of *inheriting the promise* under the same terms as "whoever does the will of My Father who is in heaven" (Matt. 12:50). The oral testament that Christ made that day established the *irrevocable* legal basis for *the promise* to be transferred to anyone and everyone who believes the Gospel—which is what He *meant* by "the will of My Father." (See "Thy Kingdom Come. Thy Will Be Done, on Earth," *The Voice of Elijah*®, April 1997.)

If Jesus had ever gotten married, He would have had to make another oral testament in which He disinherited both His wife and any children for His will to be valid under Roman law. Since there is no record that He ever did that, one can rest assured He never married, despite the dubious claims the completely unenlightened make about their "gospels." ■