Maranatha: The Lord is Coming! Part 5

Prepare The Way for THE KING OF GLORY

MARANATHA

And after I go and prepare a place for yo I will come back and take you to myself, so that you will be where I am.

John 14:3

Past > Present > Future



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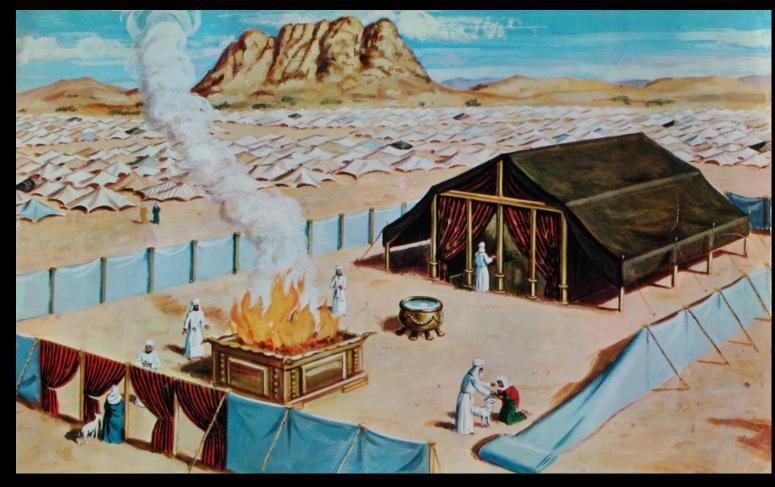
Enter The Ark of Hope

The Great Controversy between God and Satan is primarily over "WORSHIP" Who will you Choose?









And let them make me a sanctuary; that I may dwell among them. – Exodus 25:8

Psalms 77:13



Health Snippet – Edamame

Health Benefits of Edamame (Seek Medical Advice) Edamame beans are whole, immature soybeans, sometimes referred to as vegetable-type soybeans. They are green and differ in colour from regular soybeans, which are typically light brown, tan, or beige. It's prepared with a pinch of salt and added to soups, stews, salads, and noodles, or simply eaten as a snack. One cup (160 grams) of cooked edamame has nutrients:

Calories 224, Protein 37%, Total lipid 12.1g, Carbohydrates 13.8g, Fibre 8g, Sugars 3.38g, Calcium 10%, Iron 20%, Magnesium 25%, Phosphorus 26%, Potassium 19%, Folate 115%, Vitamin K1 56%, Thiamine 20%, Riboflavin 14%, Copper 27%, etc...

1. <u>May lower cholesterol</u>: 25 grams of soy protein per day had a reduction in low-density lipoprotein cholesterol by around 3-4%.

2. <u>Promotes healthy blood sugar regulation</u>: very < glycemic index

3. <u>High in protein</u>: protein is crucial for optimal health for Vegans.

4. <u>May reduce the risk of breast cancer</u>: Isoflavones resemble the sex hormone estrogen reducing the risk of breast cancer.

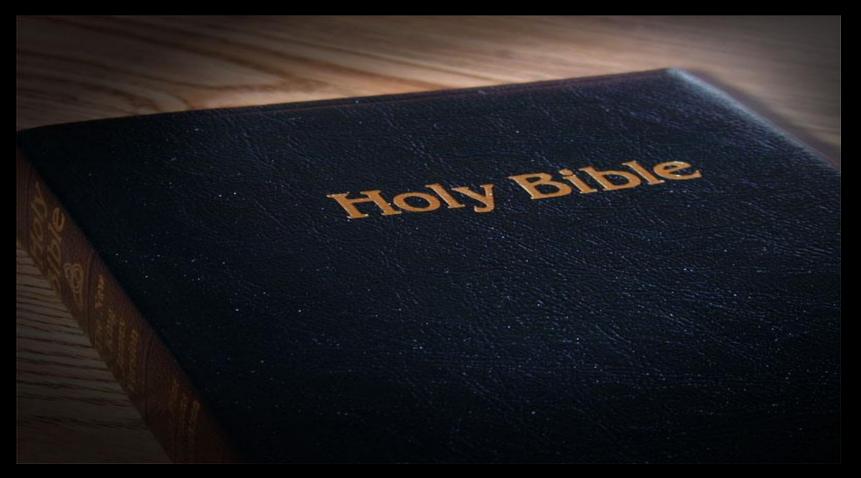
5. <u>May reduce menopausal symptoms</u>: isoflavones may reduce these symptoms during menopause.

6. <u>May reduce the risk of prostate cancer</u>: protect against cancer in men.

7. <u>Might reduce bone loss</u>: lowers the risk of osteoporosis in both menopausal and postmenopausal women.



Can We Trust Bible Prophecy?



Yes, we Can!

"And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

John 14:3 (KJV)



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Past > Present > Future



Introduction - A Crisis Ahead

Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come. Joel 1:15.

The prophecies which the great I AM has given in His word, uniting link after link in the chain of events, from eternity in the past to eternity in the future, tell us where we are today in the procession of the ages, and what may be expected in the time to come.

All that prophecy has foretold as coming to pass, until the present time, has been traced on the pages of history, and we may be assured that all which is yet to come will be fulfilled in its order. Maranatha 68.1



Introduction - A Crisis Ahead (cont'd)

Today the signs of the times declare that we are standing on the threshold of great and solemn events. Everything in our world is in agitation. Before our eyes is fulfilling the Saviour's prophecy of the events to precede His coming: "Ye shall hear of wars and rumours of wars.... Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom: and there shall be famines, and pestilences, and earthquakes, in divers places." Maranatha 68.2

The present is a time of overwhelming interest to all living. Rulers and statesmen, men who occupy positions of trust and authority, thinking men and women of all classes, have their attention fixed upon the events taking place about us. They are watching the relations that exist among the nations. They observe the intensity that is taking possession of every earthly element, and they recognize that something great and decisive is about to take place--that the world is on the verge of a stupendous crisis. Maranathan <u>68.3</u> Signs of the Times Matthew 24:14



Introduction - A Crisis Ahead (cont'd)

The Bible, and the Bible only, gives a correct view of these things. Here are revealed the great final scenes in the history of our world, . . . the sound of their approach causing the earth to tremble and men's hearts to fail them for fear. Maranatha 68.4

Today men and nations are being tested by the plummet in the hand of Him who makes no mistake. All are by their own choice deciding their destiny, and God is overruling all for the accomplishment of His purposes. Maranatha 68.5

Christians should be preparing for what is soon to break upon the world as an overwhelming surprise, and this preparation they should make by diligently studying the word of God and striving to conform their lives to its precepts. Maranatha 68.6



Healing for Sin-Sick Souls

The whole head is sick, and the whole heart faint. From the sole of the foot even unto the head here is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrefying sores: they have not been closed, neither bound up, neither mollified with ointment. Isaiah 1:5, 6.

There is a remedy for the sin-sick soul. That remedy is in Jesus. Precious Saviour! His grace is sufficient for the weakest; and the strongest must also have His grace or perish. Maranatha 69.1

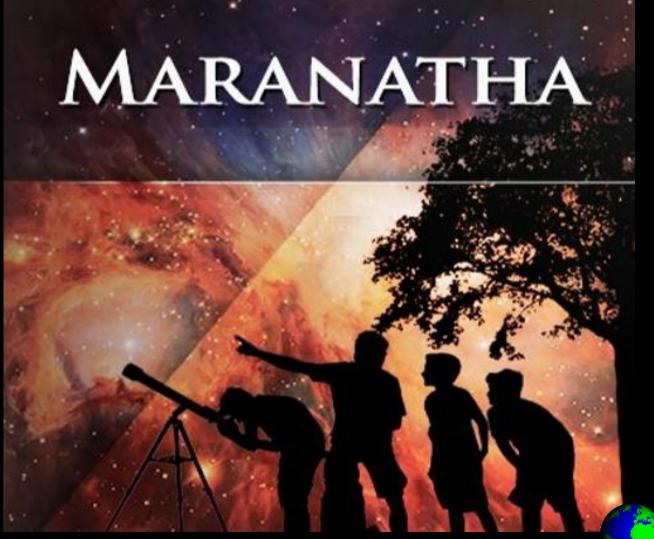
I saw how this grace could be obtained. Go to your closet, and there alone plead with God: "*Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me*." Be in earnest, be sincere. . . . Jacob like, wrestle in prayer. Agonize. . . . You must make an effort. . . . Maranatha 69.2 IT'S TIME TO HEAL... THE SIN SICK SOUL

Psalm 38:3-8 Isaiah 1:4-6

Healing for Sin-Sick Souls (cont'd)

Seek the Lord with all your heart. Come with zeal, and when you sincerely feel that without the help of God you perish, when you pant after Him as the hart panteth after the water brooks, then will the Lord strengthen you speedily. Then will your peace pass all understanding. If you expect salvation, you must pray. Take time. Be not hurried and careless in your prayers.

Beg of God to work in you a thorough reformation, that the fruits of His Spirit may dwell in you, and you shine as lights in the world. Be not a hindrance or curse to the cause of God; you can be a help, a blessing. Does Satan tell you that you cannot enjoy salvation full and free? Believe him not. Maranatha 69.3



Healing for Sin-Sick Souls (cont'd)

I saw that it is the privilege of every Christian to enjoy the deep movings of the Spirit of God. A sweet, heavenly peace will pervade the mind, and you will love to meditate upon God and heaven. You will feast upon the glorious promises of His word.... Maranatha 69.4

If professed Christians love Jesus better than the world, they will love to speak of Him, their best Friend, in whom their highest affections are centred. He came to their aid when they felt their lost and perishing condition. When weary and heavy-laden with sin, they turned unto Him. He removed their burden of guilt and sin, ... and turned the whole current of their affections. The things they once loved, they now hate; and the things they hated, they now love. Maranatha 69.5

Has this great change taken place in you? Maranatha 69.6 "the soul that sinneth, it shall die." Ezekiel 18:4



A New Life

Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. . . . You must be born anew. John 3:5-7.

He who is trying to reach heaven by his own works in keeping the law is attempting an impossibility. There is no safety for one who has merely a legal religion, a form of godliness.

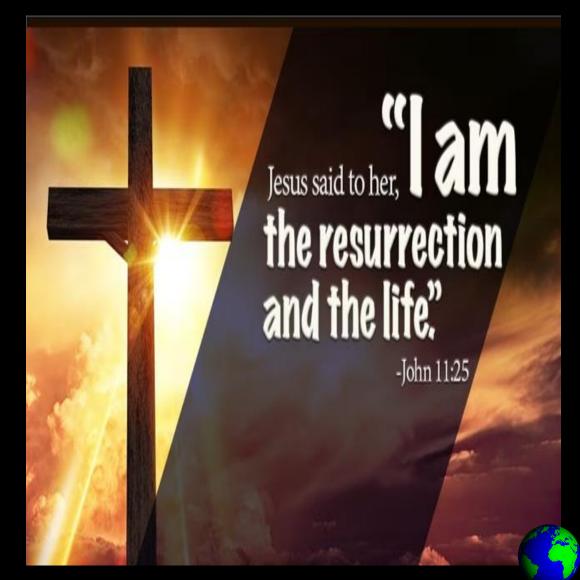
The Christian's life is not a modification or improvement of the old, but a transformation of nature. There is a death to self and sin, and a new life altogether. This change can be brought about only by the effectual working of the Holy Spirit. Maranatha 70.1



A New Life (cont'd)

A person may not be able to tell the exact time or place, or to trace all the circumstances in the process of conversion; but this does not prove him to be unconverted. By an agency as unseen as the wind, Christ is constantly working upon the heart. Little by little, perhaps unconsciously to the receiver, impressions are made that tend to draw the soul to Christ.... Suddenly, as the Spirit comes with more direct appeal, the soul gladly surrenders itself to Jesus. By many this is called sudden conversion; but it is the result of long wooing by the Spirit of God,--a patient, protracted process. Maranatha 70.2

While the wind is itself invisible, it produces effects that are seen and felt. So the work of the Spirit upon the soul will reveal itself in every act of him who has felt its saving power.



A New Life (cont'd)

How to Live

a New Life

When the Spirit of God takes possession of the heart, it transforms the life. Sinful thoughts are put away, evil deeds are renounced; love, humility, and peace take the place of anger, envy, and strife. Joy takes the place of sadness, and the countenance reflects the light of heaven. No one sees the hand that lifts the burden, or beholds the light descend from the courts above. The blessing comes when by faith the soul surrenders itself to God. Then that power which no human eye can see creates a new being in the image of God. Maranatha 70.3

It is impossible for finite minds to comprehend the work of redemption. Its mystery exceeds human knowledge; yet he who passes from death to life realizes that it is a divine reality. The beginning of redemption we may know here through a personal experience. Its results reach through the eternal ages. Maranatha 70.4

Life's Top Priority

Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Matthew 6:33.

This is the first great object--the kingdom of heaven, the righteousness of Christ. Other objects to be attained should be secondary to these. Maranatha 71.1

Satan will present the path of holiness as difficult while the paths of worldly pleasure are strewed with flowers. In false and flattering colours will the tempter array the world with its pleasures before you. Vanity is one of the strongest traits of our depraved natures, and he knows that he can appeal to it successfully. He will flatter you through his agents. Maranatha 71.2



Life's Top Priority (cont'd)

You may receive praise which will gratify your vanity and foster in you pride and self-esteem, and you may think that with such advantages and attractions it really is a great pity for you to come out from the world and be separate, and become a Christian....

But consider that the pleasures of earth will have an end, and that which you sow you must also reap. Are personal attractions, ability, or talents too valuable to devote to God, the Author of your being, He who watches over you every moment? Are your qualifications too precious to devote to God? Maranatha 71.2

The young urge that they need something to enliven and divert the mind. I saw that there is pleasure in industry, a satisfaction in pursuing a life of usefulness. Some still urge that they must have something . . . to which the mind can turn for relief and refreshment amid cares and wearing labour. Maranatha 71.3



Life's Top Priority (cont'd)

The Christian's hope is just what is needed. Religion will prove to the believer a comforter, a sure guide to the Fountain of true happiness. The young should study the word of God and give themselves to meditation and prayer, and they will find that their spare moments cannot be better employed. Maranatha 71.3

Young friends, you should take time to prove your own selves, whether you are in the love of God. Be diligent to make your calling and election sure. Maranatha 71.4

Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness. Make this first and last. Seek most earnestly to know Him whom to know aright is life eternal. Christ and His righteousness is the salvation of the soul. Maranatha 71.5



SEEK FIRST GOD'S KINGDOM AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS



Heaven's Flawless Pearl

The kingdom of heaven is like unto a merchant man, seeking goodly pearls: who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. Matthew 13:45, 46.

Christ Himself is the pearl of great price. . . . The righteousness of Christ, as a pure, white pearl, has no defect, no stain. No work of man can improve the great and precious gift of God. It is without a flaw. In Christ are "hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge." Colossians 2:3. He is "made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption." 1 Corinthians 1:30.

All that can satisfy the needs and longings of the human soul, for this world and for the world to come, is found in Christ. Our Redeemer is the pearl so precious that in comparison all things else may be accounted loss.... Maranatha 72.1



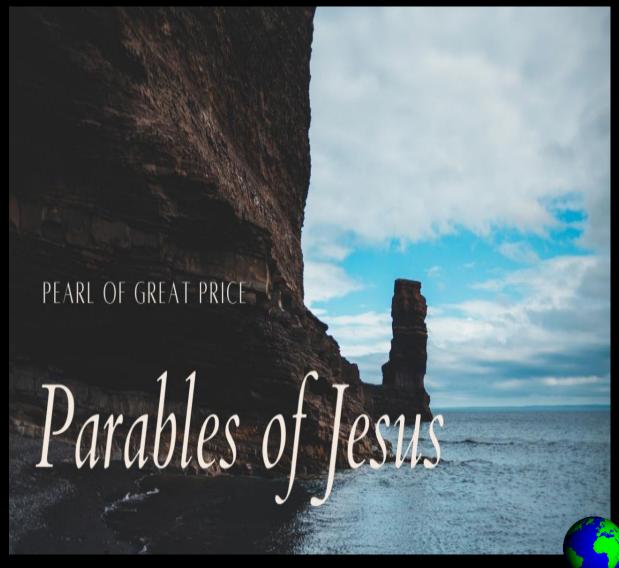
Heaven's Flawless Pearl (cont'd)

In the parable the pearl is not represented as a gift. The merchantman bought it at the price of all that he had.

Many question the meaning of this, since Christ is represented in the Scriptures as a gift. He is a gift, but only to those who give themselves, soul, body, and spirit, to Him without reserve.

We are to give ourselves to Christ, to live a life of willing obedience to all His requirements. All that we are, all the talents and capabilities we possess, are the Lord's, to be consecrated to His service.

When we thus give ourselves wholly to Him, Christ, with all the treasures of heaven, gives Himself to us. We obtain the pearl of great price.... Maranatha 72.2



Heaven's Flawless Pearl (cont'd)

In the market of which divine mercy has the management, the precious pearl is represented as being bought without money and without price. In this market all may obtain the goods of heaven. The treasury of the jewels of truth is open to all....

The Saviour's voice earnestly and lovingly invites us: "I counsel thee to buy of Me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich."...

The poorest are as well able as the richest to purchase salvation; for no amount of worldly wealth can secure it. It is obtained by willing obedience, by giving ourselves to Christ as His own purchased possession.... Maranatha 72.3

We cannot earn salvation, but we are to seek for it with as much interest and perseverance as though we would abandon everything in the world for it. Maranatha 72.4



The Parable Of The Hidden Treasure The Parable Of The Pearl Of Great Price





Christ the Only Saviour

Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: in whom we have redemption through his blood. Colossians 1:13, 14.

No matter who you are or what your life has been, you can be saved only in God's appointed way. You must repent; you must fall helpless on the Rock, Christ Jesus. You must feel your need of a physician and of the only remedy for sin, the blood of Christ.

This remedy can be secured only by repentance toward God and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. . . . The blood of Christ will avail for none but those who feel their need of its cleansing power. Maranatha 73.1



Revelation 4:11 KJV Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created.

Christ the Only Saviour (cont'd)

What surpassing love and condescension, that when we had no claim upon divine mercy, Christ was willing to undertake our redemption! But our great Physician requires of every soul unquestioning submission. We are never to prescribe for our own case. Christ must have the entire management of will and action.... Maranatha 73.2

We may flatter ourselves . . . that our moral character has been correct and we need not humble ourselves before God like the common sinner. But we must be content to enter into life in the very same way as the chief of sinners. We must renounce our own righteousness and plead for the righteousness of Christ to be imputed to us. We must depend wholly upon Christ for our strength. Self must die. We must acknowledge that all we have is from the exceeding riches of divine grace. Maranatha 73.3



The moment we take our last breath, there will be no re-do's. Give your life to Jesus while you still can!

Christ the Only Saviour (cont'd)

Let this be the language of our hearts: "Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto thy name give glory, for thy mercy, and for thy truth's sake." Maranatha 73.3

Genuine faith is followed by love, and love by obedience. All the powers and passions of the converted man are brought under the control of Christ. His Spirit is a renewing power, transforming to the divine image all who will receive it. . . . Maranatha 73.4

"Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin." He feels that he is the purchase of the blood of Christ and bound by the most solemn vows to glorify God in his body and in his spirit, which are God's. The love of sin and the love of self are subdued in him. He daily asks: "What shall I render unto the Lord for all his benefits toward me?" "Lord, what wilt thou have me to do?" Maranatha 73.5

"...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved..." Acts 16:31 (KJV)

JESUS

Taste for Yourself

O taste and see that the Lord is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him. Psalms 34:8.

How shall we know for ourselves God's goodness and His love? The psalmist tells us--not, hear and know, read and know, or believe and know; but--"Taste and see that the Lord is good." Instead of relying upon the word of another, taste for yourself. Maranatha 74.1

Experience is knowledge derived from experiment. Experimental religion is what is needed now. . . . Some--yes, a large number--have a theoretical knowledge of religious truth, but have never felt the renewing power of divine grace upon their own hearts. . . . Maranatha 74.2 As for God, his way is perfect; the word of the Lord is flawless. He is a shield for all who take refuge in him. —Psalm 18:30

"For I am the Lord, your God, who takes hold of your right hand and says to you, Do not fear; I will help you." —Isaiah 41:13

Taste for Yourself (cont'd)

They believe in the wrath of God, but put forth no earnest efforts to escape it. They believe in heaven, but make no sacrifice to obtain it. . . . They know a remedy for sin, but do not use it.

They know the right, but have no relish for it. All their knowledge will but increase their condemnation. They have never tasted and learned by experience that the Lord is good. Maranatha 74.2

To become a disciple of Christ is to deny self and follow Jesus through evil as well as good report. . . . Every darling indulgence that hinders our religious life must be cut off. . . .

Will we put forth efforts and make sacrifices proportionate to the worth of the object to be attained? Maranatha 74.3

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the one who takes refuge in him. Psalm 34:8

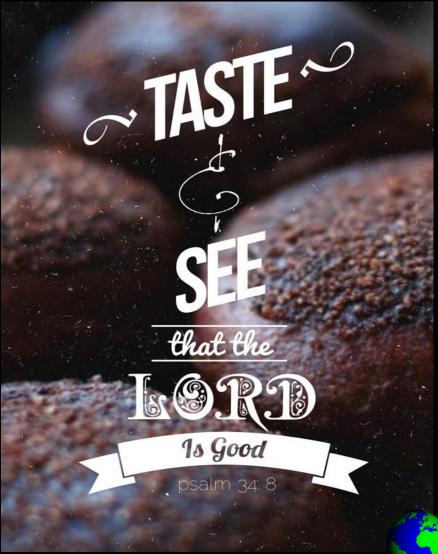
Lord, You are perfect in every way and everything about You is good. I want to seek You, I want to find You and I want to really know You. Lord, I trust in You with all of my heart and I want to experience Your love and goodness for myself. Amen

Taste for Yourself (cont'd)

Every association we form, however limited, exerts some influence upon us. The extent to which we yield to that influence will be determined by the degree of intimacy, the constancy of the intercourse, and our love and veneration for the one with whom we associate. Thus by acquaintance and association with Christ we may become like Him, the one faultless Example. Maranatha 74.4

Communion with Christ--how unspeakably precious! Such communion it is our privilege to enjoy if we will seek it, if we will make any sacrifice to secure it. Maranatha 74.5

So everyone may be able, through his own experience, to "*set his seal to this, that God is true.*" John 3:33, He can testify: "I needed help, and I found it in Jesus. Every want was supplied, the hunger of my soul was satisfied.... I believe in Jesus because He is to me a divine Saviour. I believe the Bible because I have found it to be the voice of God to my soul." Maranatha 74.6

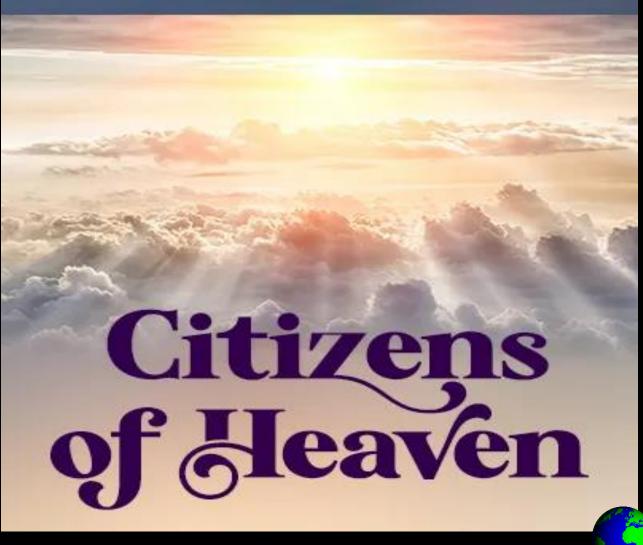


Citizens of Heaven

Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God. Ephesians 2:19.

Jesus says: "Behold, I come quickly." We should keep these words ever in mind, and act as though we do indeed believe that the coming of the Lord is nigh, and that we are pilgrims and strangers upon the earth. Maranatha 75.1

Every means of grace should be diligently improved that the love of God may abound in the soul more and more, "that ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offense till the day of Christ; being filled with the fruits of righteousness." Maranatha 75.2



Citizens of Heaven (cont'd)

Your Christian life must take on vigorous and stalwart forms. You can attain to the high standard set before you in the Scriptures, and you must if you would be children of God. You cannot stand still; you must either advance or retrograde.... Maranatha 75.2

Will you have a stinted Christian growth, or will you make healthy progress in the divine life?

Where there is spiritual health there is growth. The child of God grows up to the full stature of a man or woman in Christ. There is no limit to his improvement. . . . Maranatha 75.3

Some who ought to be strong and established in Christ are as babes in understanding and experimental knowledge of the workings of the Spirit of God. Maranatha 75.4



Citizens of Heaven (cont'd)

After years of experience they are able to comprehend only the first principles of that grand system of faith and doctrine that constitutes the Christian religion. They do not comprehend that perfection of character which will receive the commendation: "Well done."... Maranatha 75.4

We have great victories to gain, and a heaven to lose if we do not gain them. The carnal heart must be crucified; for its tendency is to moral corruption, and the end thereof is death. . . . Pray that the mighty energies of the Holy Spirit . . . may fall like an electric shock on the palsystricken soul, causing every nerve to thrill with new life, restoring the whole man from his dead, earthly, sensual state to spiritual soundness. You will thus become partakers of the divine nature, . . . and in your souls will be reflected the image of Him by whose stripes you are healed. Maranatha 75.5



A Fuller Knowledge of God

This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3.

Only by knowing God here can we prepare to meet Him at His coming. . . . But many of those who profess to believe in Christ do not know God. They have only a surface religion. They do not love God; they do not study His character; therefore they do not know how to trust, how to look and live. They do not know what restful love is, or what it means to walk by faith. . . . They fail of understanding that it is their duty to receive, in order that they may enrich others. Maranatha 76.1

The world by wisdom knows not God. Many have talked eloquently about Him, but their reasoning brings men no nearer to Him, because they themselves are not in vital connection with Him. Professing themselves to be wise, they become fools. Their knowledge of God is imperfect. Maranatha 76.2

That you may walk (live and conduct yourselves) in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to Him and desiring to please Him in all things, bearing fruit in every good work and steadily growing and increasing in and by the knowledge of God lwith fuller, deeper, and clearer insight, acquaintance, and recognition]. Colossians 1:10 (Amplified Classic)

A Fuller Knowledge of God (cont'd)

We cannot by searching find out God, but He has revealed Himself in His Son, who is the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of His person. If we desire a knowledge of God we must be Christlike.... Living a pure life through faith in Christ as a personal Saviour will bring to the believer a clearer, higher conception of God. Maranatha 76.3

Christ is a perfect revelation of God. "No man hath seen God at any time," He says; "the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him." Only by knowing Christ can we know God. And as we behold Him, we shall be changed into His image, prepared to meet Him at His coming. ... Maranatha 76.4 For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people.

Hebrews 8:10 KJV

A Fuller Knowledge of God (cont'd)

Now is the time to prepare for the coming of our Lord. Readiness to meet Him cannot be attained in a moment's time.

Preparatory to that solemn scene there must be vigilant waiting and watching, combined with earnest work. So God's children glorify Him.

Amid the busy scenes of life their voices will be heard speaking words of encouragement, hope, and faith. All they have and are is consecrated to the Master's service.

Thus they prepare to meet their Lord; and when He comes, they will say, with joy, "This is our God; we have waited for him, and he will save us. . . . We will be glad and rejoice in his salvation." Maranatha 76.5 Rejoice in the Lord always; again I will say, rejoice. Let your reasonableness be known to everyone. The Lord is at hand; do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.~Philippians 4:4-7

The Highest Kind of Meditation

Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. 1 John 3:1.

What love, what matchless love, that, sinners and aliens as we are, we may be brought back to God and adopted into His family! We may address Him by the endearing name, "Our Father." Maranatha 77.1

All the paternal love which has come down from generation to generation through the channel of human hearts, all the springs of tenderness which have opened in the souls of men, are but as a tiny rill to the boundless ocean when compared with the infinite, exhaustless love of God. Maranatha 77.2

THE POWER of MEDITATION

Encountering God through Scripture

The Highest Kind of Meditation (cont'd)

Tongue cannot utter it; pen cannot portray it. You may meditate upon it every day of your life; you may search the Scriptures diligently in order to understand it; you may summon every power and capability that God has given you, in the endeavour to comprehend the love and compassion of the heavenly Father; and yet there is an infinity beyond.

You may study that love for ages; yet you can never fully comprehend the length and the breadth, the depth and the height, of the love of God in giving His Son to die for the world. Eternity itself can never fully reveal it. Yet as we study the Bible and meditate upon the life of Christ and the plan of redemption, these great themes will open to our understanding more and more. Maranatha 77.2

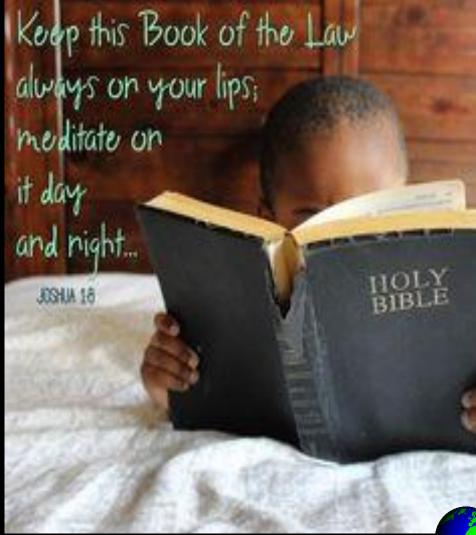
MEDITATION IS THAT HABIT OF PONDERING, PICTURING, PERSONALIZING, AND **PRACTICING SCRIPTURE**

The Highest Kind of Meditation (cont'd)

Christ came to reveal God to the world as a God of love, full of mercy, tenderness, and compassion. Maranatha 77.3

It would be well to spend a thoughtful hour each day reviewing the life of Christ from the manger to Calvary. We should take it point by point and let the imagination vividly grasp each scene, especially the closing ones of His earthly life. By thus contemplating His teachings and sufferings, and the infinite sacrifice made by Him for the redemption of the race, we may strengthen our faith, quicken our love, and become more deeply imbued with the spirit which sustained our Saviour.

If we would be saved at last we must all learn the lesson of penitence and faith at the foot of the cross.... Everything noble and generous in man will respond to the contemplation of Christ upon the cross. Maranatha 77.4



White Raiment Required

When the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man which had not on a wedding garment: and he saith unto him, Friend, how camest thou in hither not having a wedding garment? Matthew 22:11, 12.

By the wedding garment in the parable is represented the pure, spotless character which Christ's true followers will possess.

To the church it is given "that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white," "not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing." Revelation 19:8. The fine linen, says the Scripture, "is the righteousness of saints." Ephesians 5:27.

It is the righteousness of Christ, His own unblemished character, that through faith is imparted to all who receive Him as their personal Saviour. Maranatha 78.1



White Raiment Required (cont'd)

The white robe of innocence was worn by our first parents when they were placed by God in holy Eden. . . . But when sin entered, they severed their connection with God, and the light that had encircled them departed. . . . Nothing can man devise to supply the place of his lost robe of innocence. . . . Only the covering which Christ Himself has provided can make us meet to appear in God's presence.

This covering, the robe of His own righteousness, Christ will put upon every repenting, believing soul. . . . This robe, woven in the loom of heaven, has in it not one thread of human devising. Christ in His humanity wrought out a perfect character, and this character He offers to impart to us. "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." Isaiah 64:6. Maranatha 78.2



White Raiment Required (cont'd)

Everything that we of ourselves can do is defiled by sin. But the Son of God "*was manifested to take away our sins; and in him is no sin.*" 1 John 3:5.... Maranatha 78.2

By His perfect obedience He has made it possible for every human being to obey God's commandments. When we submit ourselves to Christ, the heart is united with His heart, the will is merged in His will, the mind becomes one with His mind, the thoughts are brought into captivity to Him; we live His life.

This is what it means to be clothed with the garment of His righteousness. Then as the Lord looks upon us He sees, not the fig-leaf garment, not the nakedness and deformity of sin, but His own robe of righteousness, which is perfect obedience to the law of Jehovah. Maranatha 78.3

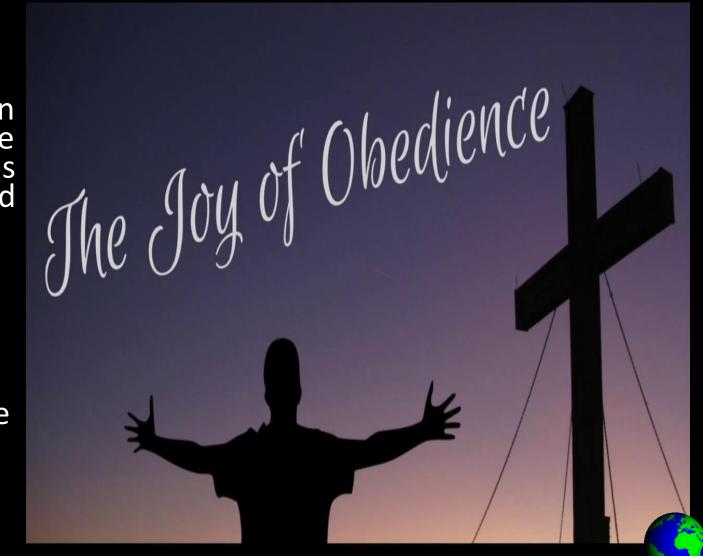


Joy in Obedience

I have longed for thy salvation, O Lord; and thy law is my delight. Psalms 119:174.

The true Christian will never complain that the yoke of Christ is galling to the neck. He accounts the service of Jesus as the truest freedom. The law of God is his delight. Instead of seeking to bring down the divine commands, to accord with his deficiencies, he is constantly striving to rise to the level of their perfection. Maranatha 79.1

Such an experience must be ours if we would be prepared to stand in the day of God. Now, while probation lingers, while mercy's voice is still heard, is the time for us to put away our sins.... Maranatha 79.2



Joy in Obedience (cont'd)

God has made ample provision that we may stand perfect in His grace, wanting in nothing, waiting for the appearing of our Lord. Are you ready? Have you the wedding garment on? That garment will never cover deceit, impurity, corruption, or hypocrisy. The eye of God is upon you.... We may conceal our sins from the eyes of men, but we can hide nothing from our Maker. Maranatha 79.3

God spared not His own Son, but delivered Him to death for our offences and raised Him again for our justification. Through Christ we may present our petitions at the throne of Grace. Through Him, unworthy as we are, we may obtain all spiritual blessings. Do we come to Him, that we may have life? Maranatha 79.4 What Comes First: My Obedience to Jesus or My Joy in Jesus?



Joy in Obedience (cont'd)

The will of God is expressed in the precepts of His holy law, and the principles of this law are the principles of heaven. The angels of heaven attain unto no higher knowledge than to know the will of God, and to do His will is the highest service that can engage their powers. Maranatha 79.5

But in heaven, service is not rendered in the spirit of legality. When Satan rebelled against the law of Jehovah, the thought that there was a law came to the angels almost as an awakening to something unthought of. In their ministry the angels are not as servants, but as sons.... Obedience is to them no drudgery. Love for God makes their service a joy. So in every soul wherein Christ, the hope of glory, dwells, His words are re-echoed, "I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart." Maranatha 79.6

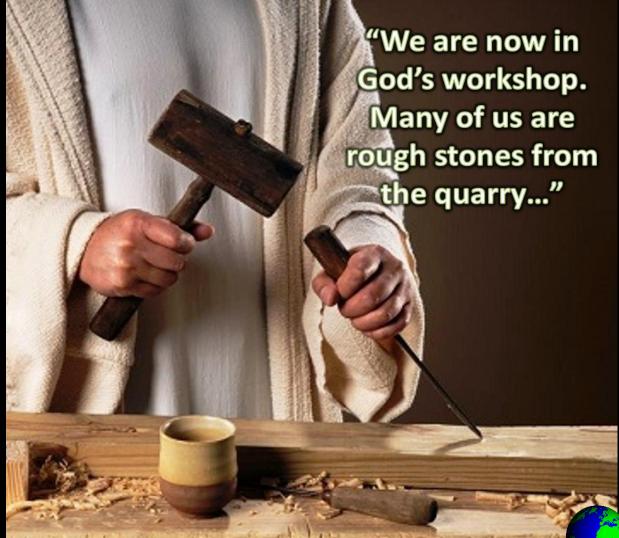
JESUS DEFINED LOVE AS OBEDIENCE

If You Love Me Keep My COMMANDMENTS

Shaping Up in God's Workshop

Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God? You are not your own; you were bought with a price. So glorify God in your body. 1 Corinthians 6:19, 20.

We are not our own. We have been purchased with a dear price, even the sufferings and death of the Son of God. If we could understand this, and fully realize it, we would feel a great responsibility resting upon us to keep ourselves in the very best condition of health, that we might render to God perfect service.... Maranatha 80.1

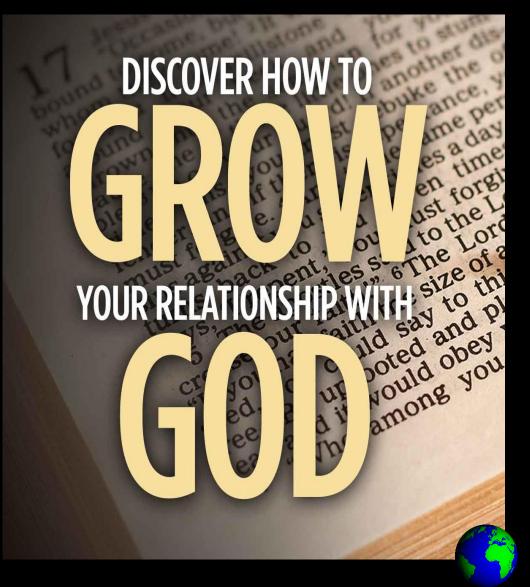


Shaping Up in God's Workshop (cont'd)

We believe without a doubt that Christ is soon coming.... We have no doubt, neither have we had a doubt for years, that the doctrines we hold today are present truth, and that we are nearing the judgment. We are preparing to meet Him who, escorted by a retinue of holy angels, is to appear in the clouds of heaven to give the faithful and the just the finishing touch of immortality.

When He comes He is not to cleanse us of our sins, to remove from us the defects in our characters, or to cure us of the infirmities of our tempers and dispositions. If wrought for us at all, this work will all be accomplished before that time. Maranatha 80.2

When the Lord comes, those who are holy will be holy still. Those who have preserved their bodies and spirits in holiness, in sanctification and honour, will then receive the finishing touch of immortality. Maranatha 80.3

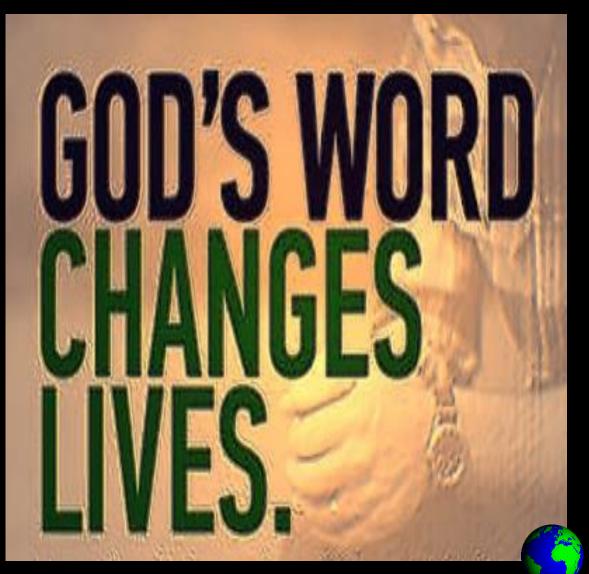


Shaping Up in God's Workshop (cont'd)

But those who are unjust, unsanctified, and filthy will remain so forever. No work will then be done for them to remove their defects and give them holy characters.... This is all to be done in these hours of probation. It is now that this work is to be accomplished for us.... Maranatha 80.3

We are now in God's workshop. Many of us are rough stones from the quarry. But as we lay hold upon the truth of God, its influence affects us. It elevates us and removes from us every imperfection and sin, of whatever nature.

Thus we are prepared to see the King in His beauty and finally to unite with the pure and heavenly angels in the kingdom of glory. It is here that this work is to be accomplished for us, here that our bodies and spirits are to be fitted for immortality. Maranatha 80.4



Physical Health and Noble Thinking

Understanding SPIRITUAI

and

PHYSICAL

HFALTH

BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVE

Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. 1 Peter 2:11.

Many regard this text as a warning against licentiousness only; but it has a broader meaning. It forbids every injurious gratification of appetite or passion. Every perverted appetite becomes a warring lust.

Appetite was given us for a good purpose, not to become the minister of death by being perverted, and thus degenerating into "lusts, which war against the soul." Peter's admonition is a most direct and forcible warning against the use of all stimulants and narcotics.

These indulgences may well be classed among the lusts that exert a pernicious influence upon moral character. Maranatha 81.1

Physical Health and Noble Thinking (cont'd)

Let none who profess godliness regard with indifference the health of the body, and flatter themselves that intemperance is no sin and will not affect their spirituality. A close sympathy exists between the physical and the moral nature.

The standard of virtue is elevated or degraded by the physical habits. Excessive eating of the best of food will produce a morbid condition of the moral feelings. And if the food is not the most healthful, the effects will be still more injurious.

Any habit which does not promote healthful action in the human system degrades the higher and nobler faculties....Indulgence of appetite strengthens the animal propensities, giving them the ascendancy over the mental and spiritual powers. Maranatha 81.2



Physical Health and Noble Thinking (cont'd)

The strength of the temptation to indulge appetite can be measured only by the inexpressible anguish of our Redeemer in that long fast in the wilderness. He knew that the indulgence of perverted appetite would so deaden man's perceptions that sacred things could not be discerned....

If the power of indulged appetite was so strong upon the race, that, in order to break its hold, the divine Son of God, in man's behalf, had to endure a fast of nearly six weeks, what a work is before the Christian! Yet, however great the struggle, he may overcome.

By the help of that divine power which withstood the fiercest temptations that Satan could invent, he, too, may be entirely successful in his warfare with evil, and at last may wear the victor's crown in the kingdom of God. Maranatha 81.3



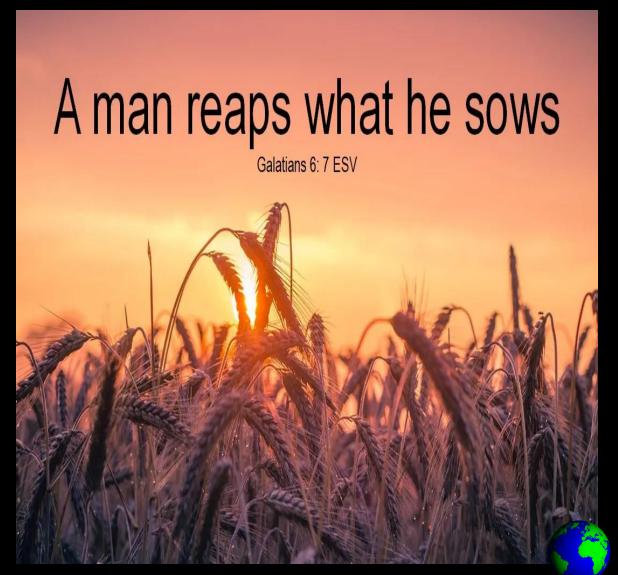
How you think determines how you live.

The Sowing and Reaping of Life

Flee also youthful lusts: but follow after righteousness, faith, charity, peace, with them that call on the Lord out of a pure heart. 2 Timothy 2:22.

A little time spent in sowing your wild oats, dear young friends, will produce a crop that will embitter your whole life; an hour of thoughtlessness, once yielding to temptation, may turn the whole current of your life in the wrong direction.

You can have but one youth; make that useful. When once you have passed over the ground you can never return to rectify your mistakes.... Maranatha 82.1



The Sowing and Reaping of Life (cont'd)

Satan...transforms himself into an angel of light and comes to the youth with his specious temptations and succeeds in winning them, step by step, from the path of duty.

He is described as an accuser, a deceiver, a liar, a tormentor, and a murderer. ...It is Satan's act to tempt you, but your own act to yield. It is not in the power of all the host of Satan to force the tempted to transgress. There is no excuse for sin. Maranatha 82.2

Temptation is not sin. Jesus was holy and pure; yet He was tempted in all points as we are, but with a strength and power that man will never be called upon to endure. In His successful resistance He has left us a bright example, that we should follow in His steps. Maranatha 82.3

Life not turning out the way you hoped?

Sow for What You Want to Reap

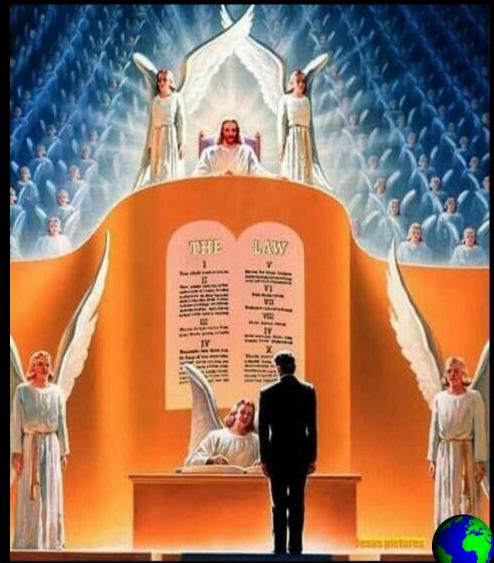


Conclusion

If we are self-confident or self-righteous we shall be left to fall under the power of temptation; but if we look to Jesus and trust in Him we call to our aid a power that has conquered the foe on the field of battle, and with every temptation He will make a way of escape. When Satan comes in like a flood, we must meet his temptations with the sword of the Spirit, and Jesus will be our helper and will lift up for us a standard against him. Maranatha 82.3

One wrong trait of character, one sinful desire cherished, will eventually neutralize all the power of the gospel.... The pains of duty and the pleasures of sin are the cords with which Satan binds men in his snares. Those who would rather die than perform a wrong act are the only ones who will be found faithful. Maranatha 82.4

The youth may have principles so firm that the most powerful temptations of Satan will not draw them away from their allegiance. Maranatha 82.5



God has given all:

The Power of Choice

Revelation 12:12

"..... for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time."

Enter The Ark of Hope

And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd.

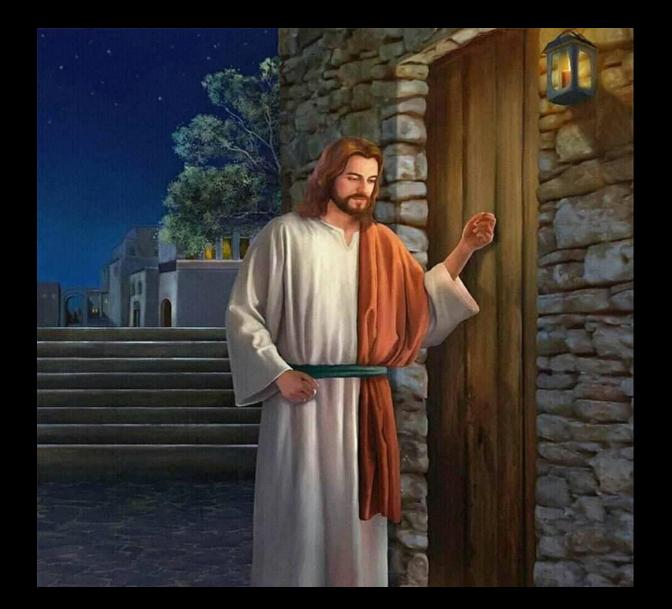
– John 10:16

The Ark of the Covenant





Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. – Revelation 3:20





ARE YOU READY TO MEET JESUS?