

Volume 4

Revelations on Revelation Series

Revelation 2:8-11

FABLES

FABLES



FALSE GOSPEL

Fables rule the church.

FABLES

Apostle Eric vonAnderseck

Second 8th Week® Ministries



Revelations on Revelation Series

By Apostle Eric vonAnderseck



What should we understand from the book of Revelation? End times Apostle and Prophet, Eric vonAnderseck's series "Revelations on Revelation", brings clarity to the epoch events that will soon be cast upon the world's stage. Make no mistake, the human race is about to enter into a time of judgment.

The day of reckoning is here! The world, having refused God's grace, will openly accept their false messiah and bring upon themselves utter destruction and sorrow, the likes of which no human eye has ever seen.

The book of Revelation is the disclosing of God's judgments upon man for having rejected His Christ. The Antichrist, False Prophet, and Dragon will come into power and fallen angels will again rule the world as in the days of Noah.

Apostle Eric vonAnderseck

Demon locusts are released to plague mankind, angels pour out the judgment vials upon the earth, 1/3 of all waters are poisoned, earthquakes and tsunami remove all islands and many coastal cities, 2 billion people die in the first year of the Tribulation. In anguish the people cry out, "Hide us from the face of Him that sits upon His throne," (Revelation 6:16) for they know their judgment is just.

As things progress in the second half of the seven year tribulation, the Mahdi, having begun his religious reign will confirm the first Beast (Antichrist) as the messiah to join all religions into one. Upon this achievement the Antichrist will stand in the temple to join the Jews to this new world religion and make his proclamation, claiming the gospel scriptures to be prophetically written and not historically. To him, the Jesus of Nazareth stories was only a prototype of himself.

The Beast shouts out a scripture from Isaiah saying, "That you may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed" (Isaiah 43:10). Shrines of the image of the Beast will emerge in all places and the 'temple-banks' will issue credits to the faithful.

Not long after the resurrection of the two witnesses, Enoch and Elijah, and the second rapture (the rapture of the 144,000 elect and called ones), the Lord God Almighty will issue an order for the defeat of the three entities called the Antichrist, false Prophet, and the Dragon as they join forces to face off with Christ at Megiddo.

Revelations on Revelation Series

Transcription of Lecture by Apostle Eric vonAnderseck

Revelation 2:8-11

False Gospel, Fables rule the church

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Revelation Chapter 2

(continued)

Apostle Eric continues his expounding on the 2nd chapter of the book of Revelations, contrasting the 7 churches of Asia to the church today, defining the gospel that is after God and not after men, identifying fables as a major contributor to the apostasy of the church, and the reason why the false gospel is accepted today. What is a fable and how did Satan use them in the first century and how does Satan use them today?

While the church stands at the cross roads, wondering which way is the truth, God reminds believers that he does not put strong delusion upon the righteous; the strong delusion is upon the wicked. God will choose their delusions, and he will punish them for their choices. Because they choose to walk indifferent to him, God says, "I'm going to walk contrary to you. But, when you walk in cadence with me, I will reveal myself to you. I will breathe life into your understanding." Are you at the cross roads today?

Revelation 2, beginning with verse 8.

We'll pick up here, concerning the church in Smyrna. But (first) let's update ourselves a little here. To get to this point, you have to understand the condition of the church, that the spoilers introduced to the church the doctrine of the Nicolaitans and the doctrine of Balaam and the spoilage which was beginning within the first century church, and why the Spirit of the Lord initiated what he did through the Apostle John, in order to rectify and correct this problem.

Notice that the Spirit of the Lord did not correct the problem through the pastor. The Spirit of the Lord didn't correct the problem through the evangelist. The Spirit of the Lord didn't use the teacher to correct the problem. He used the chief apostle to correct the problem here.

And we can see the church today is [also] in the state of spoilage because the problem was never corrected concerning the time in which we're living. That's why God is again introducing apostles back into the church, in order to correct these problems.

So, the Apostle John received this revelation. Now, the angel of the Lord was preparing the hearts of the people to receive this. That's why it's addressed to the angel of the church.

The angel of the church was not the pastor, as some claim today. The angel of the church was the angel that was sanctifying the faith of the people. The angel did not sanctify an aspiration.

The angel of the Lord, a holy angel, only sanctifies and utilizes that which God has provided for the exercise of our faith—that is, the tokens of God's kingdom. Only the fulness of Christ is sanctified for the expression of our faith. And we see that everyone of the letters he wrote to the seven churches of Asia was for our learning today (these things were penned for our learning).

(At that time) Penning these things in the early church was preparing the church for the time of the 6th week, the time of darkness that would come upon the church. And it happened exactly the way it was prophesied.

The Apostle Paul also expounded on these things when he said of himself in the book of Acts, "I know that with my passing away, many false stewards (shepherds) will arise and would draw away disciples after themselves."¹

The Apostle Paul, also within that exhortation, mentioned, "I have taken nothing of you". In other words, "I did not take advantage of your ignorance, nor utilize your prosperity in order to create a gospel of wealth and health."

1 [Act 20:29,30](#) For I know this, that after my departing shall grievous wolves enter in among you, not sparing the flock.
(30) Also of your own selves shall men arise, speaking perverse things, to draw away disciples after them.

The gospel of wealth and health is that which sprang forth because of the needs of the people, not because of the kingdom of God. Doctrines, even in the early church, were emphasized in order to try to bring some kind of stability or closure to the individual. But Christ provided things of himself for our peace and our rest.

The world looks for the philosophy of the things of this world to try to find closure or meaning; they want to find meaning in something—(Why am I here? Why did this happen?) in order to try to justify their particular feelings, which has to do with the conscience. But again, closure of the conscience is not the same as the cleansing of the conscience.

Trying to find closure to the conscience, the conscience is still defiled; it's just put into a state of trance, like a comatose state. It's [the offense] is still there. But when the grace of God is present, it challenges, or awakens the conscience to the reality of life (4) [which is in Christ]. Even as the Apostle Paul brought out there in 1Cor 2:3, "*And I was with you in weakness, and in fear, and in much trembling.*"

The presence of this gospel that I gave to you, which is not of men, but of God, continually addressed the state of the conscience: in the state of the conscience, if the conscience is defiled [remembrance of sin], God is your enemy, but if the conscience is purged [reflection upon Christ], then God is your friend.

The state of the conscience is identified by the kingdom it's tethered to: whatever kingdom it's tethered to will be (seen in) the temperament, or in how an individual plays out his life. If the life is being played out according to the fear of man, probabilities, profits and loss (concerning their roots and their fruits with regards to eternal things)—if it's lacking, it's attached to the kingdom of death.

Death accompanies the God-Code² when an individual builds his confidence with the moral code³. Death only consumes. This is what Jesus identified Satan as—"for the thief cometh not, but for to steal, kill, and destroy."⁴ That's the presence of death.

God cursed Satan with death. Death came into this dimension with Satan. Death was Satan's plague. The plague and the virus of death, which God put upon Satan, also came upon Adam; when Adam came into the proximity of Satan, the knowledge Satan gave Adam infected Adam's perception. Adam came under Satan's acculturation until God gave Adam the Word of God...til the Word of God came.

When the Word of God came Adam then had a new hope. According to the flesh, Satan would rule. According to faith, God would rule.

The Apostle Paul also admonished the church, warning them [of this]; "*know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death*" (which is Satan's kingdom), "*or of obedience unto*

² Learn more about the "God-Code" at: <http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=111&lesson=the-god-code>

³ Learn more about the "moral code" of man: <http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=112&lesson=the-moral-code>

⁴ [Jn 10:10](#) The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] more abundantly.

righteousness" (unto life), which is **(6)** God's kingdom (Rom 6:16).

Each kingdom is identified by its temperament, as the Apostle Paul also brings to the understanding of the saints, concerning the history of the Hebrew people (we find this in the book of Hebrews). When the Apostle Paul wrote Hebrews he was giving a parallel with regards to God's initiatives—how the plan of God would be fulfilled, and how God was engaging his creation by the tethering and tutoring of angels, in order for them to remove themselves from Satan's influence; *"thus blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us"*,⁵ as Paul said to the Colossians; "which worked against you."

The presence of death works against you. The presence of death is in this dimension, and it's always going to be in this dimension until God creates the new heavens and new earth, and at that time death and hell will be cast into the lake of fire.

Death is an entity, and hell is an entity. Hell is an entity to inflict...of suffrage. And death is an entity also to inflict loss.

So, we can see that the capping of death was put upon Satan so that Satan was greatly restricted to this dimension. And death (that entity) is attached to everything that's living, so that everything that's living has an expiration date stamped upon its soul.

And this is what I saw before I came into this dimension; I saw the angels giving expiration dates to all the spirits before they were assigned vessels to dwell in. Adam provided vessels of flesh, as that which is born of the clay, and God provided the ingredients that would make the vessel valuable, when He poured himself in this vessel [of clay. Speaking here of the Baptism of the Holy Spirit].

The contents of the vessel identify the vessel—if the contents of the vessel are less than God, then the vessel is labeled as corrupt and brutish. But if the ingredients of the vessel **(8)** are labeled concerning Christ, then the vessel itself is identified as a temple of God.

The Apostle Paul says the same thing: "Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost?"⁶, depending upon what is engrafted within you by these tokens. That's why he says, *"I know thy works"* (Rev 2:2).

When he talks about works, he's identifying the God-Code and its resources (what is being resourced). Now, when we talk about the God-Code, we're talking about the divine mystery. The word, Code, means mystery. So, don't let the word, Code, throw you. We're utilizing this in trying to explain this. The word, God, has to do with the divine nature, and the word, Code, has to do with the mystery.

This is what the Apostle Paul wrote about when the chief apostles, Peter, James, and John, shared with him; in the assembly of the apostles, they shared with the Apostle Paul concerning this mystery—that is, of what the seven thunders uttered. And when we get

5 [Col 2:14](#) Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross;

6 [1Cor 6:19](#) What? know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Ghost [which is] in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own?

to that point, I'll explain more about that, but what the seven thunders uttered had to do with the Oath of the Lord, concerning his plan, how it was unfolding, and how it would be completed. When the seven thunders uttered, at that point, the mystery of God should be finished.

Now, when he's talking about the word, God-Code, we're talking about the divine mystery, as also [there is] the mystery of iniquity. The mystery of iniquity is how Satan conceals himself within the moral code and perceptions of man.

Satan's influence is manifested by the temperament of his slave/his servant. And the temperament of his servant (or the fruit that Satan is nurturing, or the imprint of the scarring that Satan put within the soul) is manifested in envy, and strife, debate, deceit, bitterness, maliciousness, malignity (not only the things of intellectual contamination, but the things of emotional contamination) [as well], whereas all those born into this dimension (called Adamites) carry the smell of that contamination with them. That's why we must be born again(10).

This symbolism was conveyed to the attention of the apostles when Jesus breathed on them and said to them, "Receive ye the Holy Ghost."

When Jesus gave this sign (symbolism) to the apostles, he was letting them know, "I AM the one that breathed life into the first Adam, and I AM now breathing life into the second Adam—I'm breathing life into you. As I breathed life into the first Adam to begin my plan in this dimension, so also I'm breathing within you for the continuation of my righteousness in the midst of the kingdom of darkness.

This is what the Apostle John wrote about, that the world was in darkness. As Isaiah, the prophet, spoke of "*in the land of Naphtali, and the land of Zebulun, and beyond the Jordan, in Galilee (of the Gentiles); the people which sat in darkness saw a great light:*" "*And they that sat in the shadow in the region of death, light has sprung forth.*"⁷

This is how Jesus began his messages of teaching, bringing to the attention of the church (that is, of the first century, children of Israel, the Jews) that a conflict exists, not only in this dimension, but also exists within your soul. "And I'm here to resolve that by my presence, giving you this knowledge, so that you can remove your foot from Satan's snare. And I will also heal your soul of his scarring."

Everyone born in this dimension is abused in some level or another, whether it be intellectual abuse through the education system, or emotional abuse concerning relationships; no matter what it is, all of us have been victims of the kingdom of darkness. Therefore, Christ our Redeemer and our Saviour is healing us through the covenant he's providing for us.

7 [Isa 9:1,2](#) Nevertheless the dimness [shall] not [be] such as [was] in her vexation, when at the first he lightly afflicted the land of Zebulun and the land of Naphtali, and afterward did more grievously afflict [her by] the way of the sea, beyond Jordan, in Galilee of the nations. (2) The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.

The message the apostles preached in that first century (12), upon the martyrdom of Stephen and those which were scattered abroad, carried with it this particular mindset. But within a short period of time, those priests, which were converted as the book of Acts also declares, also began to proselytize people into Christianity with the doctrine of Nicolaitans; they began to introduce Jewish tradition into the second covenant—which became known as the Nicolaitans.

And this titrated the faith of the people.

False knowledge robs the heart of faith. [repeating] False knowledge robs the heart of faith. That's why atheists don't believe in the existence of God; they built their confidence system through Satan's acculturation upon their own extrapolations of the moral code. Their experiences of life is what they built reality with, rather than the plan of God.

The plan of God is the true reality. Reality that's based upon one's perception is what the Bible calls a lie, and what the Bible calls a lie (has to do with) that people begin to live out their lives according to the record of their own soul, rather than the record of God, which is Jesus Christ.

So, when he [Jesus] begins his admonitions to all the seven churches [in Asia], notice the particular language he uses. And I'm going to bring this to your attention concerning the doctrine in the church of Smyrna.

So unto Ephesus he says,

"I know thy works"

In other words, "I'm identifying the God-Code, and that its prospering within you; *"That in blessing I will bless you, and in multiplying, I will multiply you."*⁸

How will this blessing increase? And how will this multiplication be identified? Well, it's identified with the knowledge of Christ in your priesthood. If your priesthood is contaminated, you are not saved.

The priesthood of Christ must be manifested through this knowledge (14). "I'm giving you these tokens to offer on the altar of Christ." And what are these tokens that are to be offered on the altar of Christ? We have to engage with God by those things He provided for us for our contact with him.

As we lay our hands upon the altar, we make our petitions and supplications unto God. Is your heart full of faith? Are all the tokens present: government, truth, Spirit, prayer, preaching, prophecy, the gifts, callings, and graces of God?

The Christianity that emerged when the church entered into darkness is [not] far removed from what we're seeing today. That which was sown in the time of darkness, its fruit is [being] manifested at this time, called the spirit of antichrist. This is what the Apostle John warned about; *"They went out from us, but they were not of us; for if they*

8 [Gen 22:17](#) That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which [is] upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies;

had been of us, they would no doubt have continued with us: but they went out, that they might be made manifest that they were not all of us” (1Jn 2:19).

The spirit of antichrist, as the Apostle John brings out, and the Apostle Paul also expounds upon, is [described] in this documentation here, called the book of Revelation; the revelation he [John] received in the seventh heaven, which is provided richly now for our understanding. This is what God is engaging us with.

So, the condition of the churches (here) had to be corrected, and it was corrected through the stewardship God sanctified and ordained. It was not corrected by a board of elders. A board of elders will only agree upon that which sympathizes with the moral code.

The moral code is sustained by Moses' law, and it's condemned by that. We're to live by faith, not by sight.⁹ Moses' law identifies physical things.

The law of Christ, which is called the law of grace, *works with the things that he sanctified. That's why it says, "we walk by faith, not by sight:"* We walk by that which God's provided for us (16), and not by that which Moses provided for us—that's what it means, by sight.

By sight means that we can extrapolate, and we can project outcome (or a feeling of security) with money. We can project outcome with water. We can project outcome (concerning) physical communion. We can project outcome (concerning) the Sabbath Day, or circumcision.

All these are points of contact that work with the carnal understanding. That's why people call it, carnal minded. The Apostle Paul also warned about the natural man in 1Corinthians: *"But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God"*. He's giving comparison again—natural, spiritual.

"But the natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God". Why? Because *"they are foolishness unto him"*.¹⁰ He can't use the gifts and the tokens of God for his aspiration, so he devalues them, saying they're not an essential for my kingdom.

That's right; in the house of Baal, you can worship God any way you want, but when you're in the house of God, you've got to obey the rules. And the first token God gives as a key to enter into his kingdom, is the baptism in the Holy Spirit. This is the key to enter into his house. But now, if you want to be a citizen of heaven, you have to follow the rules. And that's what Jesus said, "If you love me, keep my commandments" (Jn 14:15).

"Upon keeping these commandments, I will be your advocate. I will only be your advocate, teaching you the proper protocol of my courts, *if you possess these tokens, if you love one another. If you possess these tokens, then in the presence of my court, you have a reward, and I will be your redeemer."*

⁹ [2Cor 5:7](#) (For we walk by faith, not by sight:)

¹⁰ [1Cor 2:14](#) But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned.

But in the absence of these tokens, your presence is offensive to me because you're trying to engage me on the level of your own aspirations and imagination. You're bringing me down to the level of your carnality, rather than (you) walking by faith in my covenant. So here, we can see the spoilers were already infecting the church (18); even of the first century; even when the original apostles were around. If this was the state of the church in the beginning, how much more, twenty centuries later?

What took place in the first century (that which was prophesied about), and is also taking place now (at this present time, in the 21st century), is going to be the completion of that.

God created a breach (concerning the 6th week), and now he's making a bridge (concerning the 2nd 8th week), which is going to enter into the next breach, after the apostasy of the church. There's going to be a falling away, as the Apostle Paul spoke of, and even as Apostle John warned about it.

When the Apostle John wrote about that, he talks about; "*Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God: because many false prophets are gone out into the world*" (1Jn 4:1). The Apostle John was already warning the church that many people will say that they are Christians, or that Jesus is Lord (Jesus said the same thing).

But they're going to take the knowledge of God in the direction of their aspirations; they want to take [faith] by precept and line and project an outcome that will be favorable to their aspirations. And when they feel that things are falling in order, concerning their aspiration, they call that, revelation of God. But they're living an intuitive faith, not revelatory faith.

Intuitive faith works with false knowledge. We call it intuitive, being also the voice of Wilson¹¹, simply because it's conversant with the things they're looking for; such as Jewish fables.

A Jewish fable manifests itself when people connect tithing with prosperity. A Jewish fable also arises when people connect anointing with oil with healing. They take ownership of the manifestation and compassion of God.

This the apostles also recognized (20). That's why they came to Jesus and said this: "*We saw one casting out devils in your name, but he was not with us.*"¹² But Jesus told them, "*My Father allows these things to take place for purpose of discernment—not that it was sanctified, but for purpose of discernment.*"

There's many things that God has authorized, that he has not sanctified. There's a big difference there. God authorizes demons to manifest themselves, but he doesn't sanctify

¹¹ Reference made here is to the film "Cast Away" starring Tom Hanks. Stranded on a deserted island with no one to talk to, Hanks, in desperation, makes a face on a volleyball and names him "Wilson". The voice of Wilson is the voice of the imagination, the voice of the aspiration. Many mistake the voice of Wilson for the voice of God.

¹² [Mk 9:38](#) And John answered him, saying, Master, we saw one casting out devils in thy name, and he followeth not us: and we forbid him, because he followeth not us.

the point of contact or the revelation they give.

Fables are one of the things the Apostle Paul identified that would be very prevalent in the last days—we're in the last times right now. Fables are very prevalent because they provide false justification. They say, Well, it doesn't really matter what you believe about Jesus because God healed me; God answered my prayer; God increased my business; God healed my body.

What they have done is severed the blessing from the covenant, and severing the blessing from the covenant produces a fable.

Not only that, but notice the temperament that emerges from that, which is envy, strife, and bitterness. Everybody wants to enter into your blessing, so they feel they need to follow the protocol of how God gave you the blessing: How were you healed?

That's the same thing the Pharisees asked the man that was born blind. Can you see the paradox in this? The paradox is, as the Pharisees continually inquired into the healing of the blind man, so also those in the house of Baal are always looking for knowledge to resource, as the prayer of Jabez, or the new books that are coming out, concerning finding your place in life...["Purpose Driver Life"]

They're trying to find the secret keys, and they're finding these books on the shelf in all these different Christian bookstores: (22) the keys of prosperity, keys of an abundant life, the nine keys, ten keys, twelve keys.

Everyone is looking for keys. And the reason they're looking for it is because they're not in covenant. They're trying to explain a particular phenomena as being independent of God. They're looking for a secret, but there's no secret about it. It's in covenant. It's very simple.

The children's bread (which has to do with the covenant) benefits those at the table of God. But that which falls on the floor, which is the overflow, is the compassion of the Lord. The bread on the table is God's mercy, but that which falls on the floor is his compassion.

That which God has initiated for his church, we can take with strong consolation because his mercy is in these tools. So, when he talks here, about, I know thy works, as we also see in verse 8, he's talking about how the Spirit is unfolding Christ in you through this priesthood. If your works and your labour are not within the covenant, or if they're titrated because of false knowledge... and false knowledge works with Themistic law.

Themistic law has to do with that we try to weigh things on the scale of our moral code, and we try to discern everything from that scale...we want to discern truth from our moral code...that is, our perception and experience of life, mingled with scripture. But that's what the Bible calls evilfavoredness.

Evilfavoredness is that we want to take something that we place value in and present it to God as his gift. But God says, I don't accept that gift simply because you're using it for a boast; you're using it for your aspiration.

You want me to involve myself in you [your life] when I already provided a covenant for your involvement. If you don't keep my commandments, it's because you don't love me. In the last days, as was also written in the book of Enoch; the prophet Enoch wrote, according to the revelation, which he received in the seventh heaven concerning the last days, that many will pursue these things; that many would desire office **(24)**, many would desire the knowledge of God, but apart from God.

This is what happened in the first millennium; those that did not come in covenant with God were consumed in the flood (Noah's flood) because they were tethered to a perception, whereby they wanted to engage God on different levels with different philosophies.

They wanted God to engage them as concerning the path to the stars, the sun, and the moon. They were driven to worship these things because they formed a philosophy or competence within it; something like the Farmer's Almanac. We begin to form a confidence with the knowledge of these people. Yet there's going to be hit and misses on all these things.

God is not just hit and miss, or yea and nay. But as Apostle Paul says, *"all the promises of God are in Jesus Christ, which are in him yea, and in him Amen."*¹³ God will not deceive you. *"God is not a man that he would lie."*¹⁴ Why would he want to trick you?

God does not put strong delusion upon the righteous; the strong delusion is upon the wicked. God will choose their delusions, and he will punish them for their choices. Because they choose to walk indifferent to him, God says, "I'm going to walk contrary to you."

"When you walk in cadence with me, I will reveal myself to you. I will breathe life into your understanding. But when you walk contrary to me, the life that you embrace is going to be lifeless knowledge."

It's like having a dead pet—all you have there on the couch is a stuffed animal. Why are you buying all that food for a stuffed animal when it's dead?" People are trying to resuscitate a stuffed animal—like a marionette. A marionette is not a living entity; it's a creation of one's imagination, and its movement is by the impulse of your own fingers and twisting of the hand. There's no real life in it at all **(26)**.

You're trying to put life in your religion just with a little manipulation and a little self-adjustment, a little addressing of the moral code, a little smiting of the conscience, and the people feel very religious. And when they feel that way, they feel that there's some kind of closure there. But all it does is draw them into conflict with God.

13 [2Cor 1:18-20](#) But [as] God [is] true, our word toward you was not yea and nay. **(19)** For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us, even by me and Silvanus and Timotheus, was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. **(20)** For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us.

14 [Num 23:19](#) God [is] not a man, that he should lie; neither the son of man, that he should repent: hath he said, and shall he not do [it]? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?

And Satan knew this, because it was by physical things that Adam fell, and it's by physical things that Adamites are still ensnared today, according to that great transgression. They're trying to find closure and a shortcut to divinity through carnal things. And it won't happen because God only ordained Christ for our salvation [Christ alone].

That's why Jesus is called the anointed one; it's only as we come in contact with him that we take on his perspective. He's the anointed one. You have to be plugged into him in order to see his perspective. You have to have the perspective of the throne to be saved.

The perspective of man is very narrow-minded and is on the broad way. It's narrow-minded because it's restricted only to his experiences of life. So, when he says, "*I know thy works*", [here in Rev 2:2], he's talking about that which I have ordained and anointed for the increase of your soul through the priesthood of our Lord, Jesus Christ....

Now we get up to verse 8, and here the doctrine of that which is concerning Smyrna...let's read that now:

8: *"And unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;"*

Now, by the time the letter arrived there, which the Apostle John received by the hand of the angel, which he was penning (we can see the same thing—that they have ink and pen in heaven, just like we have ink and pen down here.), the Apostle John writing these things down by the tethering and tutoring of this angel, was identifying these conditions.

The things John wrote were not out of suspicion. Suspicion is not revelation (**28**). A lot of people feel they have the gift of discernment. Ever hear people talk about that? They say, Oh I have the gift of discernment. But when they talk about the gift of discernment, they're talking about intruding into people's lives, weighing things according to the way people do things. That's nothing more than suspicion.

The Pharisees also had a suspicion about Jesus, and that suspicion led to them rejecting Christ. Suspicion is not discernment. Neither is casting out devils a deliverance ministry.

There's no such thing as a deliverance ministry. There's no such thing as a healing ministry. You won't find that anywhere in the Bible. Yet we (when I say we, I'm talking about the church of the 21st century)...the church adopted certain words with which to identify their aspiration. And when it seems to fit well with the aspiration, people then view it in that light and call it doctrine.

They say, Oh, it must be of God. But they're doing the same thing the Pharisees did—they strain at a gnat and swallow a camel.¹⁵

Swallowing a camel means—the reason the Lord uses the symbolism of a camel is because a camel was used to labour with one's aspiration. But a flea did nothing more than irritate you. And they were looking at Jesus as a flea: Jesus, your presence down here just irritates me. And [Jesus says] you're straining at me. [And they're saying to

¹⁵ [Mat 23:24](#) [Ye] blind guides, which strain at a gnat, and swallow a camel.

Jesus], Your knowledge only irritates me.

Therefore, as they looked very narrowly on Jesus, they're going to look very narrowly on you, thinking, Well, you're duped. You have been hypnotized.

No, those in darkness are hypnotized, not those **(32)** in the light. Those in the light are able to compare spiritual things with spiritual¹⁶, but those in darkness can't even comprehend spiritual things. Everything to them, any phenomena to them is spiritual. But that doesn't mean that just because you see an apparition or have a dream that you're in covenant with God **(30)**.

We can see this played out throughout history in the book of Genesis; how Pharaoh, in the book of Genesis, dreamed a dream. But that didn't save him. That dream didn't bring him into covenant. That dream that Pharaoh received had only to do with the conditions that would take place within a short time, and the individual that was in covenant.

Joseph was the new assigned stewardship, and Joseph interpreted for Pharaoh, the direction in which God was taking that nation. If Pharaoh didn't listen to Joseph, he would have put his whole country into great jeopardy. And we can see that this is what happened a couple of generations later, when another Pharaoh arose that knew not Joseph, and he began to persecute the children of Israel.

At first they wanted to cast him out, but then they didn't want to let him go. The reason they didn't let him go is (again), they saw the camel there; they saw the aspiration. But people will swallow a camel simply because it works for them. And people join the churches that they feel works for them. Well, it works for me. So, you go to that church. But there's no justification in that in the sight of God.

So, here, in verse 8—

"unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write;"

By the time this letter arose, the elders that were there received confirmation in dreams and in visions.

"unto the angel of the church in Smyrna write; These things saith the first and the last, which was dead, and is alive;"

In other words, the Spirit speaking these things is saying, "The revelation I'm giving to you is not in rhythm with nature". That's why he says, "which was dead, and is alive".

Which was dead, and is alive, doesn't make sense in the natural world. But that which was dead, and is alive makes sense to the righteous because it's also identifying the plan of God; the breach he creates and the eternal bridge **(32)**, which he's provided for us, is in Jesus Christ.

God created a breach in these waters. Then he created a bridge in order to bring us back to the bosom of our Father.

¹⁶ [1Cor 2:13](#) Which things also we speak, not in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, but which the Holy Ghost teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

"These things saith the first and the last,"

Everything that is unfolding right here in the book of Revelation is reruns in the mind of God because God knows the end from the beginning. That's why God knows the exact number that's going to be saved—because these are reruns.

Everything that God initiated was initiated in his bosom before anything came into existence. God created this dimension for it to exist in. The existence of it was in the thoughts of the Lord. Then he took those thoughts and put bodies (or forms) to it, and gave purpose and sovereignty to it and set them within the dimension whereas it could express itself. These are deep things, which we'll be talking more about later on in Revelation chapter 22.

9: *"I know thy works,"*

Again he's opening this statement [with regards to] the God-Code and the priesthood.

But notice another interesting thing when he says,

"I know your works (and tribulation)"

and he says,

"and poverty"

The poverty wasn't because of ignorance; the poverty was the gift God gave to them.

That sounds very contrary to the gospel message, which is preached today by ministers of unrighteousness. Ministers of unrighteousness demonize lack. But you don't see any of the apostles doing that. The apostles of the first century did not demonize lack. But we see that the message of the (36) gospel that's being preached today demonizes lack and worships covetousness.

They give you knowledge, but that knowledge which the false religious system gives (or the house of Baal is giving) is issuing people a license for them to covet. And those that covet are honored as being zealous for the Lord. But, again, that consuming (34) zeal is the works of death, not the works of life.

So, when he says the word, poverty, here, he's not demonizing that. And notice, this would be a perfect place to put some of the doctrines today, which those of the false religious system have greatly appreciated.

Why didn't the angel just tell John (when he says, I know our works, and your tribulation and poverty), "Oh, and by the way, you should believe the words of the prophets of Deuteronomy and the words of Moses, and the blessings of Abraham...Just claim the blessings of Abraham here, and you'll no longer be in poverty, and the world will love you. The world will come to Jesus when they see your prosperity"?

That's the gospel that is being preached today, but why didn't the Spirit do that here? Because it doesn't exist. That's the false gospel.

When he says, poverty.... When God gives the gift of poverty, the weight of your poverty will find equity in faith, just like the weight or the gift of wealth also finds equity in faith.

Wealth is not a symbol or sign of one's righteousness. Neither is poverty a sign of one's failure of faith. But the false religious system has demonized these things, and their

ministers of unrighteousness have gained, great financial gain through this deception.

They're not bringing people into covenant; they're bringing people only to a point of promise. And it was by promise that Adam fell. Adam did not fall by covenant; he fell by promise. And the people today are following that same rhythm (the rhythm of Satan that's in the promise); not [the rhythm of] the covenant.

When a man wants to restore the covenant to the people (36), that is very dimly looked upon by the ministers of unrighteousness as an intrusion into their kingdom of prosperity. And yes, it is an intrusion into that kingdom.

Jesus did the same thing. When Jesus came, he was breaking down Satan's stronghold in the minds of the people. And breaking down that stronghold the Pharisees began to lose membership: people began to look at that temple with disgust because they saw the hypocrisy that existed there in the minds of the Pharisees.

The Pharisees used their position (which was a key given them by God) to dominate and control the people. Instead of bringing people into covenant, they kept the people tethered to a tradition as they emphasized race, tradition, and heritage, instead of emphasizing the revelation of the Spirit in covenant.

And for that they brought the people into great stumbling and war. And because of their indifference to God, even when the temple of Solomon was still present, there was war in the land, divisions among the people, rivalry of religion, and philosophic war (just like there is today).

We have libraries full of books of all different forms of philosophy that's built upon the acculturation and moral code of that individual, which makes it seem so right because they fellowship with those of like minds; they of a feather flock together.

So, the sheep feel that they're right because they're in the herd of sheep, and the cows feel that they're right because they're in the herd of cows. And the flocks of flamingos feel that they're right because they're in the flock of flamingos. And the lions think that they're right because they're existence is within the group of their own pride.

So, also the children of men (38) feel they're so right because of their associations, education, their choices of employment, choices of location, or color, or tradition, or custom, makes them feel so right. But the paradox...when God puts a mischief upon the imagination of man, it always produces a paradox. And from paradoxes, perplexity. As Jesus also prophesied that there would be perplexity among nations,¹⁷ (that means) perplexity among people.

There's going to be problems that will arise because of this constant conflict: "You're not in covenant with me, so I'm going to send evil angels among you; I'm going to send demons. And these evil angels and demons that I send are going to continue to bring paradox upon paradox, and create perplexity following perplexity because of the presence of death. And I will not allow you to find closure, but I will rob you of your false

¹⁷ [Lk 21:25](#) And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring;

justifications, and I also will confront your fears, that you may know that there is a true and living God in the earth."

"I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty,"

the struggles and the yoke they were under. Yet he wasn't condemning them for that.

"I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich)"

you are rich means, this holy knowledge is what's sustaining you: grace and truth is what's sustaining you, not the law of Moses.

The law of Moses has grown weak and fading away, as the Apostle Paul said. So, it shows here that they were in covenant.

Those that are in covenant are the true Jews. When he says the word, Jew, here, he's not identifying a race of flesh; he's identifying a race of faith (40). When you see the word, Jew here, he's not talking about the genealogies of the flesh.

"I know your works, and tribulation, and poverty, (but you are rich) and I know the blasphemy"

What does he mean, blasphemy? The word, blasphemy, here means that these people are extrapolating scripture from the ancient text and are imposing these things upon you and waging war against those that are contrary. In other words, they're still trying to live through Moses, just like the nations of the world do today.

The nations of the world feel completely justified in initiating conflict. Jesus said the same thing: *"these things have I spoken unto you"* (in the book of John) *"that you should not be ashamed, while they shall put you out of synagogues."* And Jesus said, *"Yea, even a time will come when they that kill you will think that they're doing God service."*¹⁸

Jesus, speaking these things to his apostles before his crucifixion, was helping them to identify that zealous people will want to take ownership of this knowledge, and they will call you heretics, and they will actually kill you.

Why would they do such a thing as that? Did Jesus do that? Did Jesus hire assassins to follow after Annas and Caiaphas, saying, "When you get a chance, Peter, go stick them in the 5th rib, and let's pretend we're fulfilling the book of Chronicles and the book of Kings. Remember what Joab did, and do the same thing as Joab."

That's Event Theology¹⁹. People try to live the Bible by Event Theology, but these things that are written in here weren't for the purpose of imitation, but for the purpose of identifying a flow and a pattern for those that are in covenant.

The whole Bible is written with great conflict. God did create light and darkness, and God set the conflict within the light, so that those who would be born of him (42) would gain strength of will through this form of comparison and choices of faith. That's why God

¹⁸ [Jn 16:1](#) ¶ These things have I spoken unto you, that ye should not be offended (2) They shall put you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, that whosoever killeth you will think that he doeth God service.

¹⁹ Learn more about Event Theology and how it is practiced here:

<http://www.s8wministries.org/lesson.php?id=127&lesson=keep-faith-consistent>

created evil and good. And the Lord testified to that: "I am the Lord, I kill and I make alive. I wound, and I heal. I create evil, and I create good."²⁰

So, when God sent Satan into this dimension, it was for the purpose of initiating the plan. So, everything that's unfolding right here is not by accident, but by choice of will; that is, according to God's pleasure—not that God enjoys seeing people suffer. But God enjoys rewarding and revealing himself for their faith.

That's [also] why at the end of the thousand years Satan will again be released into this dimension; when Satan ascends from the abyss (the bottomless pit) and again inflicts his false knowledge upon the world. And by doing this, he's creating envy and jealousy towards Israel again.

So, let's go back here to chapter [Revelation] chapter 2. . .

So, the word, blasphemy, has to do with that they're initiating and taking things into a different direction, and they're providing different contact points for the expression of faith. That's blasphemy.

Blasphemy—every day God (and his kingdom) is blasphemed through the false religious system because they're trying to engage God on the level of their own intellect. They don't look at it as intellect; they look at it as an honored journey. But what they call an honored journey, God calls blasphemy. They're trying to discover God, or bring God down to this level.

Moses warned about that same thing: "*Don't say in your heart (concerning) these things, as to bring God down from above or to bring him up from the depths again. But the word is nigh you*²¹ *in your mouth and in your heart, that you may do it (44).*"

Moses was saying, I, the chief steward, have given you this knowledge and commandments and statutes and judgments of the Lord, that by doing these things God will engage you. But don't seek for him in any other thing or try to bring him down to a level of your own confidence. God is taking you out from the environment of your confidence, and he's putting you into the rhythm of his Spirit.

This is what he did with the children of Israel. And this is what Jesus did. That's why Jesus waited for three days. When Jesus went into the wilderness, it wasn't by chance—it wasn't because Jesus was just wandering around, taking a walk. Jesus brought the multitude of people into that environment of testing. And then he said to his disciples: "*These people have been with me now three days, and if we should send them away fasting, many of them will grow weak and faint in the way.*"²²

20 [Deut 32:39](#) See now that I, [even] I, [am] he, and [there is] no god with me: I kill, and I make alive; I wound, and I heal: neither [is there any] that can deliver out of my hand.

21 [Deut 30:11-14](#) ¶ For this commandment which I command thee this day, it [is] not hidden from thee, neither [is] it far off. (12) It [is] not in heaven, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go up for us to heaven, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? (13) Neither [is] it beyond the sea, that thou shouldest say, Who shall go over the sea for us, and bring it unto us, that we may hear it, and do it? (14) But the word [is] very nigh unto thee, in thy mouth, and in thy heart, that thou mayest do it.

22 [Mk 8:2.3](#) I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat: (3) And if I send them away fasting to their own houses, they will faint by the way: for divers of them came from

But here we can see the compassion of God communicating his interest in the welfare of the people (physically), as also in the interest of the welfare of the people (spiritually).

“So, what shall we do?” And we know the end of that story, that God did engage them and provided for their needs, even as Moses did. So [we see that] Jesus was showing a transition from Moses to himself. Taking the people in the wilderness was not just by happen-chance; it was by design and similarities.

As Moses brought the children of Israel out of Egypt into the wilderness (and of course, God did that, even though I say Moses), it was for the purpose of circumcising them from the philosophies of Pharaoh and installing in them a whole new perception—a perception that is not of this world.

God said this: “I created you for me. I AM the Lord; I AM the Lord of Hosts; I created all things; I created you for me. And if you want to know me, you have to come to me on the conditions that I have set for you. And you can't come to me unless I draw you (46).”

How does God draw us? Through these dreams and visions, through the preaching of the gospel. God draws. They [Christians] now have to have a foundation set within them. And that's where it takes stewardship.

Moses provided for them a foundation to build on, that by blessing, God would bless them, and by this knowledge they would begin to build an understanding, and a whole new perception would be born within them. That's what the Apostle Peter also wrote about—being born again—of the Word.

You're born again through the perception that you take: as one perception is being abandoned, concerning Satan's kingdom (darkness), a new perception begins to be born within you, which (this perception) will save your soul.

“I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews,”

and we've already identified that—that he's not talking about the genealogies of the flesh, but those born of the Spirit and in covenant with God.

Now those

“which say they are Jews, and are not, but are of the synagogue of Satan”

are those which are taking ownership—they want to take ownership of the gospel of God, not understanding what they're talking about.

This is what James also warned about, teaching things of the law, which they don't understand. (You see that in James)

“and are of the synagogue of Satan.”

another way of saying that (the synagogue of Satan) is, the house of Baal. Their whole perception is bent upon false knowledge.

There was an interesting program, a couple of years ago, where an individual had (something like) a camera (48), or movie projector, and they were showing a church service in a sanctuary of one of the local churches there, and it had to do with apparitions. They were showing certain supernatural events on this particular talk show.

But what was really interesting about this is that as the individual had the camera going during the church service, it picked up an apparition, which was suspended between the altar and the ceiling. And the apparition looked just like a person. It was clothed in a scarlet covered cloak; you couldn't see its face. And it was suspended between the altar and the ceiling. And right next to him was the minister.

Now, this minister was tethered to that influence (that spirit), and it was during the time of the church service, these people were under the influence of that spirit, and that minister was ministering to them that knowledge. The spirit was providing that knowledge for that minister, which kept everybody tethered to that deception. It was interesting to see that. That was an evil angel over the church.

When the Lord removes the holy angel from your assembly, then God assigns an evil angel over the assembly called a seducing spirit. And under that influence, the peoples' perception of God and Jesus is completely different than that of the first century apostles (52); what the first century apostles taught.

They bring Jesus down to the level of the humble Galilean. They honor the Jesus of the cradle and of the grave and the cross; but they don't honor the true God through covenant.

If you want to honor God and worship the true God, you must come into covenant. When you keep his commandments you show your love towards him, and his commandments are involved with the covenant.

A covenant²³ has to do with that which identifies the terms, the policy, and the articles that we worship him with. Worship has to do with a form of engagement (50). If your form of expression is not according to the terms of the covenant, being absent of faith, then a seducing spirit enters into that perspective.

A seducing spirit impacts the feelings area, as well as the doctrines of devils engage an individual intellectually. But both work together. That's why certain things have such strong persuasion in them. And the Apostle Paul said the same thing: "*Do I persuade men or God?*"²⁴ "*If my gospel be of men, then I'm persuading men*" (I'm under the influence of a seducing spirit.)

But my gospel is not for the persuasion of men, but stands in the perspective of God." We see that in Galatians, 1; that's why he says, "which is not another gospel, but there will be those that seduce you."²⁵ Now let's go back.

²³ Learn more about Covenant Faith at: <http://www.s8wministries.org/course.php?id=1>

²⁴ [Gal 1:10](#) For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

²⁵ [Gal 1:7](#) Which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would pervert the gospel of Christ.

"them which say they are Jews,

Our birth is not of the flesh, but of the Spirit. We are the true Jew, with regards to faith, because we're following covenant. They are not the true Jews because everything centers around their aspiration and Moses, entwining the two covenants together.

If you entwine the two covenants together, it's like putting sugar and salt together in the same shaker, and it's very difficult to make distinction. That's why it takes a discernor to make distinction between salt and sugar, and your discernor is the tongue. You trust that because God designed it for that purpose—as discerning taste.

But concerning [discerning] truth from error it takes the knowledge of God; it takes the Holy Ghost and the grace and truth to discern and weigh between good and evil.

"Those having their senses exercised are able to discern between good and evil."²⁶ We can identify the source by the temperament of the vessel.

10: *"Fear none of those things which you shall suffer:"*

It's interesting that the Spirit was revealing this to them (52). This was a prophecy that was given to them, that "You're going to go into a time of conflict. God is going to bring judgment upon the assembly. And the judgment, which he'll bring upon the assembly, is going to be very trying." So,

"Fear none of those things which you shall suffer: behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison,"

That doesn't mean Satan is going to come down and shackle you personally, but the adversary *is* going to use the religious leaders in order to shackle some of the elders of the assembly (there in Smyrna).

Why would they want to shackle them? They want the control; they want to dominate or destroy anything that stands in the way of their aspiration.

Truth is a barrier to the aspiration. That's why you have to replace your aspiration with faith, you have to replace your principle with truth, and you have to replace covetousness with moderation, in the temperance of the Spirit. And that only can be done through covenant.

God has to give you the Spirit to do that. This is not just an AA class, whereas, whatever religion you embrace, which would be beneficial for you to overcome the problems and issues you have in your life, that's not what we're talking about. We're talking about regeneration here.

We're not just talking about a life change by selection of employment, or places of living, or your diet. We're not talking about that; we're talking about the changing of the soul.

Here, we can see that the house of Baal began to oppress the house of the Lord, and ministers of unrighteousness began to compete against ministers of righteousness. The ministers of unrighteousness had the eyes and ears of the community. They couldn't do

²⁶[Heb 5:14](#) But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age, [even] those who by reason of use have their senses exercised to discern both good and evil.

this without the support of the population. So, we can see that the false religious system will use the support and the ignorance of the population in order to inflict judgments against the righteous.

We can see that the same thing happened with the Apostle Paul at Ephesus with Demetrius. Demetrius was a man that was very skillful in his trade of making shrines and trinkets to sell to tourists that would go in the house of Diana, the goddess of the Ephesians. And when he felt that his employment was being jeopardized because of this new gospel that was being preached there, immediately he created a riot.

Satan used him; (And God authorized it by the way). Satan used his mindset and fears in order to project the probabilities: "If this man (the Apostle Paul), who claims to be of God, stays here, we're going to suffer loss."

That's the way the world thinks—because of the presence of death, the world always thinks in terms of profit and loss. But these were all projections, and there's no reality in that. They were trying to project outcome without reality.

This is what Jesus told the first century Jews: "*Take no thought for your life; take no thought for the morrow*",²⁷ concerning that which is common with man, because the Gentiles are consumed with outcome.

Whenever they fear loss, they go to war; whenever they fear loss, they're in conflict with their neighbor. But there's nothing for them to be in conflict about. It's just their imagination, which (the imagination) is the door to Satan's manipulation. But the covenant is the door for faith to enter into your conscience for faith and life.

"Fear none of those things which you shall suffer,"

See, the Lord was already consoling them, showing them things to come. And that's exactly what Jesus said: "*Howbeit He, the Holy Ghost, when he comes, will show you things to come*" (Jn 16)²⁸ And this is what he's doing.

"behold the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried"

Tried—has to do with your choices of faith.

These are the elders that are being tried, and not everybody; he said, some of them.

"And you shall have tribulation"

but he gives a time period for that—

I'm going to show you that the time of your tribulation here has a time restriction to it—

"ten days;

For it even says here,

"Fear none of those things which you shall suffer; behold, the devil shall cast some of you into prison, that you may be tried, and you shall have tribulation ten days: be you

²⁷ [Mat 6:25, 34](#) Therefore I say unto you, Take no thought for your life, what ye shall eat, or what ye shall drink; nor yet for your body, what ye shall put on. Is not the life more than meat, and the body than raiment? **(34)** Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day [is] the evil thereof.

²⁸ [Jn 16:13](#) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, [that] shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

faithful unto death,”

But that doesn't mean they're going to die. It just has to do with—make up your mind, that no matter what the outcome, God is involved with it—“I'm here for you. I'll never leave you, nor forsake you. Remember, I told you this was going to happen.”

It's the same thing with the time in which we're living right now, that the presence of death doesn't mean that it's going to dominate you. Jesus has the keys of hell and death, so, we don't have to fear those things.

“be you faithful unto death, and I will give you a crown of life.”

that means, in this trial.

Whatever God has assigned you for the purpose of choices and rewarding of faith, we take it joyfully. If God sees that you're thankful for these things, God also initiates a blessing with it, no matter what condition you're in.... *“No matter what state I am, therewith to be content”*, as the Apostle Paul said²⁹ in Philippians.

11: *“He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches;”*

Those that have an ear will hear it.

There are going to be those that are not going to hear it. We can see that it's going to be evident, and that's why they're going to be cast into prison, because upon the receiving of this letter to bring correction, they're going to take offense at that.

They're going to say, Who does this man think that he is (the Apostle John)? The Apostle John here, he's just trying to control us with this letter; he's just trying to put us in fear. But we don't have to listen to the Apostle John; we don't have to accept his stewardship; we'll just take things into our own hands. And those people who are loyal to the Apostle [John], we will convince the people that they're involved in a cult—they're not really in the true Jesus religion, but they have their own religion. In closing here. . .

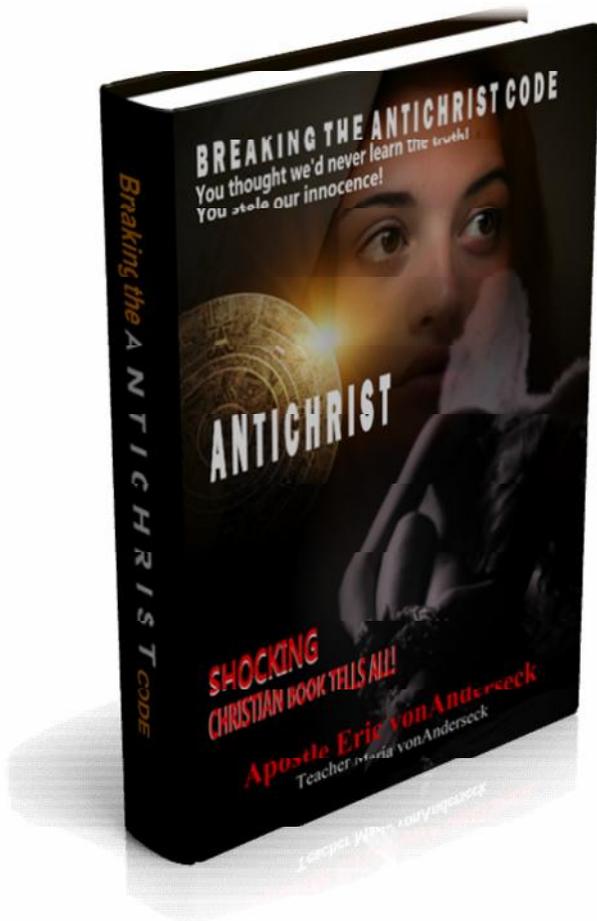
“He that has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says unto the churches; He that overcomes shall not be hurt of the second death.”

And we'll pick up right here next time.

²⁹ [Phil 4:11](#) Not that I speak in respect of want: for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, [therewith] to be content.

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Covenant Faith: Three Simple Steps to Making a Decision To Follow Christ

Everyone comes to a point in their life where they want to know more about God. Some people say they want to get closer to God. Some say they sense something missing in their faith. Others say they are desperately trying to fill a void in their life. However you say it, God has been ministering to you and calling you to Him for a long time.

You may have tried different religions or churches, looking for God. Or maybe you tried to find God in nature. But no matter what you tried, you always came back to the same place of emptiness, feeling there should be something more to life.



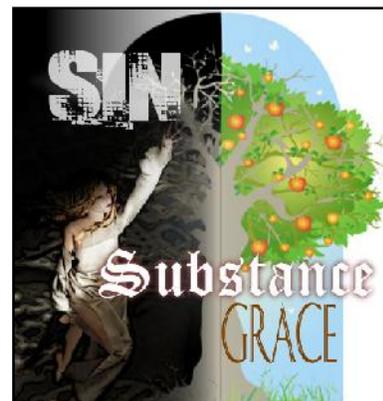
Regardless of how much life or religion has disappointed you, God was there time and again, encouraging you not to give up. He was there telling you that He would help you. There is a Psalm that says, “Hear my voice, O God, in my prayer: preserve my life from fear of the enemy,” Psalm 64:1. And another favorite is, “Preserve me, O God: for in thee do I put my trust,” Psalm 16:1.

So, here you are. All those moments of intervention on God’s part (His grace) has brought you to this point where your faith is about to embark on the final journey home.

Covenant Faith in Jesus Christ is that journey. It is vital that you understand what happened when Jesus shed His blood, and what His death and resurrection means to God. God wants to save, heal, and deliver you. God wants to remove you from Satan’s kingdom of darkness where you were spiritually

imprisoned by his lies. God invites you to have a personal relationship with Him in His kingdom, where He will accept you as His child and free you of the hold Satan has on you. God’s invitation is to free you to Him.

Covenant Faith is a simple faith to walk. You’ll learn what it means to become a Christian, and how it is possible to please God and live the kind of life He wants you to live every day. You’ll learn how easy it is to have a personal relationship with God as you walk in your spiritual priesthood. The truth of Jesus Christ will be broken down for you in ways you never thought possible. God will begin to answer many questions that you had about Him and the purpose of your existence.



Let’s now go through a few steps that will guide you to make a faith decision to follow Jesus Christ in the new way of His covenant.

Step One: Understand Where You Are Spiritually and How You Got There

For most, life's journey is not an easy one. It is much like being on a ship, drifting through thick fog; you feel lost and uncertain of your future. Every time the waves threatened to capsize your ship you cried out, "God, where are you?! I can't see through this fog, and the waves are too high for me! Help me!"



This cry the soul makes for God is desperately repeated thousands of times every day. The Psalmist said, "Hide not thy face far from me; put not thy servant away in anger: thou hast been my help; leave me not, neither forsake me, O God of my salvation," Psalm 27:9.

What the Bible Says About Man's Condition



Man's separation from God is a direct result of Adam having accepted Satan's promises. Satan gave Adam knowledge for his mind to work with that was a direct contradiction to the things God had told Adam. God told Adam not to eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, and Satan said, "Yes, but. . .if you eat of this tree you will get what you want."

Satan offered Adam knowledge (promise) that worked with what Adam wanted and by that knowledge, Satan taught Adam how to work around what God had said. In this way Satan took captive Adam's mind, and this is why all Adamites today are prisoners to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life.

This is what God said: "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," Genesis 2:17. God breaks sin down for us: Sin is the kingdom of Satan that Adam joined himself to by reaching for Satan's promise. There is no life in Satan's kingdom, only death.

Nothing about sin has changed since the garden. Satan continues to promise liberty, but his promise is a bondage to our self image, which brings uncertainty, works doubt in the heart, and causes man to live in fear.

Knowing these things makes the choice for life easy. Choose life by choosing to enter into God's kingdom by coming into covenant with Him.

Step Two: Recognize the Voice of God Calling You

Did you know: Everyone has heard the voice of God calling them out of Satan's kingdom many times. This call is the most wonderful and sweet thing imaginable. It is like a call home, a longing to be with God, a knowing that you were created for something other than what you are now experiencing.



God's call to you is special. But it's only when you stop and listen that you can hear Him more clearly. You may be wondering, If God has been calling me all my life, why has it been so difficult to find him? The reason for this difficulty is that Satan has been there too.

Every time you heard God calling you, Satan was there hanging around, listening, just like he did in the garden when God spoke to Adam. Satan designed many spiritual paths hoping you would choose one and get lost, looking for God's purpose in the wrong place.

This is why some think God's call is a call to spirituality and begin to search into everything spiritual, while others think it's a call to find themselves and begin a journey of self discovery.

It's hard to find God's true spiritual path of the covenant when Satan volunteers to be our path finder. It's like taking a trip to a faraway place. You're trying to find your way to the tourist center when this man walks up to you and tries to sell you an all-inclusive package to visit the wonderful and exotic places that only he knows about.



Everything sounds adventurous and exciting, and you trust this guy because he appears to know what he is talking about. But you haven't seen the posters around town warning tourists not to trust themselves to this murderer and thief.

In the same way, when people hear the call of God, Satan is there to send them on another journey far away from God. How do you know that is true? Because you come back to the same struggle, the same questions, the same emptiness, and the same disappointments. Does this describe your condition today?

God's Call Into Covenant With Him

A call into covenant is a call into Christ for the salvation of our souls. The Bible says that God created man in His image and likeness: “And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness,” Genesis 1:26. When Adam accepted Satan’s knowledge, he lost the likeness of God and gained Satan’s mindset.

Just as a father would be disappointed in a son who follows another path, because the father no longer sees in his son an image of himself, so God, in the same way, is disappointed with man.

When He looks at man’s soul he does not see a likeness of Himself. What does he see? He sees the likeness of Satan. This is the likeness man gained after Adam’s fall: “For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God,” Romans 3:23.

Jesus knows this to be true. This is why he referred to Satan as the “father” of the sinner (John 8:44). All sinners shall have their portion in the lake of fire because that is Satan’s destiny. Nothing of Satan can be allowed into God’s kingdom.

To change this, God provided man with a way back to Him. God gave man a chance to regain the likeness of God. God sent His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to die for the sins of the world, thereby offering forgiveness by a covenant of blood.

John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.”

Hebrews 13:20-21

“Now the God of *peace*, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting *covenant*, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.”

2 Corinthians 3:18

“But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same *image* from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.”

God is calling to you to believe the testimony of Jesus Christ, that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. Jesus is the Messiah, the Saviour. He is the one who was prophesied to make reconciliation for the sins of the world, to blot out your transgressions, and to join you back to God through Himself.

Jesus shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify your faith, that your faith may be pleasing to God.

Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish your communion with Him by this knowledge, that God might change you into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.

You must believe this report and be baptized with the Holy Spirit, evidenced by speaking in tongues. It is by this engrafting of the Holy Spirit in you that you gain His likeness.

Step Three: Make the Decision to Come Into Covenant With God

Jesus said, “him that cometh to Me I will in no wise cast out,” John 6:37. God makes it easy for you to come to Christ that God might establish His testimony in you. All you need to do is respond to His grace and accept His invitation. If you believe that Jesus Christ died for your sins, and if you desire God’s forgiveness of sins, I invite you to respond to His grace by praying this prayer right now.

PRAYER

Almighty God, I humbly come before your throne of grace. I believe the testimony of Jesus Christ; that He is the Messiah, the Savior, that He is the one who was prophesied to come to seal our faith and make us complete in Him, and that it is His sacrifice that blots out our transgressions. I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God, that He died to make reconciliation for the sins of the world to join me back to You through Himself.

I believe that Jesus Christ shed His blood to provide the terms or grounds of the Second Covenant to sanctify my faith, that my faith may be pleasing to You. I believe that Jesus rose again from the dead to establish a new priesthood in Himself, a living priesthood of knowledge to establish my communion with You by this knowledge that I might be changed into His image by the power of the Holy Ghost.



I ask that You forgive me for walking contrary to your covenant for I ignorantly worshiped what I did not understand. It is You that put a difference between truth and error, darkness and light, and I choose to leave the kingdom of sin and enter into your kingdom.

I am tired of living by Satan’s lies, and I desire to walk on the true path of faith in Jesus Christ whereby I can regain your likeness. I accept your knowledge of faith and ask that You baptize me in the Holy Spirit and assist me to pray in tongues.

If you have prayed this prayer with faith in your heart, then God has forgiven you of your sins and declared you righteous. He will now seal your faith with the baptism of the

Holy Spirit, and you will begin to speak in tongues that you may begin a relationship with Him.

God's 4-Step Program

To convert you to Christ God is bringing you through 4 steps of His own to claim you as His child.

1. The first step is *grace*: Grace is His voice that you are hearing right now, calling you. That is God's part, to provide you grace that you may believe in Jesus. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
2. The second step is *faith*: That is your part. God's invitation to come into covenant is made effective upon grace entering into your heart. You need to yield to the grace of God and accept it. Your confession of faith means that you believe the testimony of Jesus Christ. *Ephesians 2:8-9*
3. The third step is *righteousness*: Upon seeing your heart of faith yielding to His grace God declares you righteous; you have met the standard God placed in His Son for faith to reflect Him, and you are now ready for the final step to come into covenant with God. *Romans 4:6,9,12*
4. The fourth step is the *seal of the Spirit*: The seal of the Spirit is the baptism of the Spirit evidenced by tongues. God needs to bring your faith into the house of Jesus Christ where He can properly care for you and nurture you. *Romans 4:11; Ephesians 1:13*

Visit our site to learn more about these vital 4 Steps to Covenant Faith and see how easy it is to serve God as a Christian when you have the right knowledge and spiritual tools. Our site features Free Online Courses that are fun and interactive, free Bible study aids, free pdf downloads and videos that will help you as you begin this new journey of faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. Our digital magazine features informative and helpful articles from Apostles Today Network of the Second 8th Week. May the God of all grace give you the special blessing of His covenant and may you begin to experience Him in a new and living way.

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