



The
TWELVE TRIBES
FREEPAPER

And a great sign appeared in heaven: a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet,
and on her head a crown of twelve stars... Revelation 12:1

Yoceph #1

The
THREE
ETERNAL
DESTINIES
of MAN



What about the heathen?

**“THREE?
Did you say three
eternal destinies?
I thought it was
only Heaven
or Hell...”**

Many people ask this question, and it is not surprising. After all, Christians have been preaching about heaven and hell for almost two thousand years. But for those same two thousand years, thoughtful people have struggled with another perplexing question:

“What about the millions who never had the opportunity to hear about Jesus Christ? Are they all going to hell?”

There are many “pat” answers to this question from the great Christian thinkers, following their well-worn doctrinal paths. But these answers fail to bring peace to the conscience of many sensitive people. A person’s innate sense of a just and loving Creator cannot be easily reconciled with the view that He

arbitrarily condemns **all** who died without accepting Christ to eternal torment.

We who write this paper have discovered that the Bible presents many profound contradictions to the “pat” answers that most of us have heard all our lives. We hope you will take the time to read and seriously consider what is in this paper. It will change your life.

We believe with all our hearts in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob — the God whose love and justice are both

perfect. And we believe in His Son, Yahshua the Messiah, who has the power of life and death in His hands, and will grant eternal life to all who truly believe in Him. The common life that we share together, like the first disciples in the Book of Acts, gives us the opportunity to love one another in the way our Master commanded us — daily laying down our lives for our brothers. You are welcome to call, write, or visit us at any time. (Please see the address page on the back cover.) *



Revelation 22:11 shows
The Three Eternal Destinies of Man
(proving that God is fair to everyone)

All mankind is made up of Three Categories.
Each Category has its own Eternal Destiny.

The First Category contains Two Classifications of people who do evil:
the **Unjust** and the **Filthy**.

The **Unjust** take advantage of others for their own selfish gain.

The **Filthy** ruin the lives of others with their own moral corruption.

The Second Category is made up of those who do good:
called the **Righteous** (or Just).

The Righteous are the “good people” of every nation and culture¹ who live according to the dictates of their own conscience.² They fear God and respect other human beings.

The Third Category is the **Holy**.

Holy means set apart. The Holy live entirely for the One who redeemed them.³ They are members of the Holy Nation which the God of heaven is raising up on the earth.⁴

Revelation 22:11 pictures each Eternal Destiny
as the outcome of a way of life:

*“He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still;
he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still.”*

**This means that the way
a person chooses to live now
is how he will be forever and ever.**

*This is why it says “unjust still... filthy still... righteous still... holy still.”
Still means always.*

¹ Acts 10:35 ² Rom 2:14-16 ³ 2 Cor 5:15 ⁴ 1 Pet 2:9; Dan 2:44

For all the people in all the Nations of the world there will be a judgment.

This judgment will be based on what *they have done*, regardless of what they claim to believe.

*“Do not be surprised at this; the time is coming when all the dead in the graves will hear His voice, and they will come out of their graves: **those who have done good** will rise and live, and **those who have done evil** will rise and be condemned.”* (John 5:28-29)

*“The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged **according to what he had done.**”*
(Revelation 20:13)

*“God will give to each person **according to what he has done.** To those who by persistence in doing good seek glory, honor, and immortality, He will give eternal life. But for those who are self-seeking and who reject the truth and follow evil, there will be wrath and anger.”*
(Romans 2:6-8)

The people in each of the Three Categories of Mankind will exist eternally in a place that has been prepared:

The **Unjust** and the **Filthy** will go to the place prepared for Satan and his angels — experiencing forever and ever a Second Death in the Eternal Lake of Fire.⁵

The **Righteous** will go to the place that has been prepared for them since the world began — enjoying a Second Life in the Nations of God’s Eternal Kingdom.⁶

The **Holy** will experience Eternal Life in the place prepared for God’s very own special people⁷ — they will be His dwelling place forever, metaphorically called the Holy City, New Jerusalem — the Bride of Messiah.⁸

The judgment of those who do Evil will be fair.

No one is born unjust or filthy. People make themselves that way by the things they do. All are born with the knowledge of God in their conscience. They instinctively know right from wrong. The unjust and the filthy do not like to retain that knowledge.⁹ Both classes break the Everlasting Covenant of conscience¹⁰ and callous their hearts by ignoring the truth. As a result, they hurt others and lead others astray from doing what is right. Thus they earn for themselves the fate of Satan and his angels. At the judgment,¹¹ the Second Death will be their Eternal Destiny.¹²

⁵ Matt 25:41,46; Rev 20:14; 21:8 ⁶ Matt 25:34; Rev 21:24,26; 22:2 ⁷ 1 Pet 2:9 ⁸ Rev 21:9-12

⁹ Rom 1:28; Gen 3:22 ¹⁰ Isa 24:5,6; Gen 3:16-19; 9:1-7 ¹¹ Rev 20:11-15 ¹² Matt 25:46



The judgment of those who do Good will be fair.

The Righteous stay within the boundaries of conscience. They are born in a fallen state, and so they DO sin,¹³ but they do not reject the instinctive Knowledge of Good and Evil within them.¹⁴ Instead they obey their conscience; they do not sin so as to ruin others. So, after paying for their sins in death¹⁵ they will rise from the First Death to face judgment.¹⁶ They will not go to the Second Death because they do not deserve it. They do not practice the deeds which the Bible describes as worthy of the Second Death.¹⁷ Since they persevere in doing good¹⁸ their Eternal Destiny will be a Second Life in the Nations.¹⁹

The judgment of the Holy will also be fair.

The Holy have already been judged worthy of Eternal Life. They do not need to face the judgment that decides a person's Eternal Destiny.²⁰ They will not go to a Second Life in the Eternal Nations or to a Second Death in the Lake of Fire. They have already passed out of Eternal Death and into Eternal Life.²¹ This is evident from the daily life of self-denying love that they lead.²²

Seeing that they would be willing to do His will,²³ God redeemed them with the death of His Son,²⁴ Messiah Yahshua and set them apart for His very own plan and purpose. (He did this not because of any good thing that they had done, but only because of His mercy. Most of those He has redeemed were actually on their way to the Second Death.) Their response of wholehearted devotion shows that His suffering in Death for them was worthwhile. He said they will prove themselves worthy of Him by obeying the gospel and leaving behind their own life, property, possessions, family, etc. to become His disciples.²⁵ Those who do not respond this way judge themselves as unworthy of Eternal Life.²⁶ He makes those who do respond into a New Nation who live their lives entirely for Him. Those who obey Him fully will never see death at all, not even the First Death.²⁷ In Eternity they will be Citizens of the Holy City,²⁸ still part of the Holy Nation that they entered in this age.²⁹ They will rule with Messiah Yahshua over the Nations in the Eternal Kingdom of God. ✱

¹³ Rom 3:23 ¹⁴ Rom 1:28 ¹⁵ Rom 6:23 ¹⁶ Heb 9:27 ¹⁷ Rev 21:8; 22:15 ¹⁸ Rom 2:7

¹⁹ Rev 21:24; 22:2 ²⁰ John 5:28,29 ²¹ John 5:24 ²² 1John 3:14,16; Acts 2:44,45; 4:32-35

²³ John 7:17 ²⁴ Isa 53:10; Acts 2:24; 2 Cor 5:15 ²⁵ Matt 10:37-39; Mark 10:29-30; Luke 14:26-33

²⁶ Acts 13:46 ²⁷ John 8:51 ²⁸ Rev 21:10-12 ²⁹ Eph 2:12,13

Conscience **RIGHT**

The Instinctive Knowledge of:

“You coward...you liar...you thief,” a voice within you screams. Loud at first, but as the years go by its voice becomes fainter and fainter. But the conscience never forgets – never.

Remember the first time you stole or lied to cover up something you did? Why did you fear telling the truth about it when you were questioned? The shame you felt and that sense of guilt within you – where did it come from? What made you know that what you did or did not do was right or wrong?

Every single person born has this *innate knowledge* automatically within them; a clear standard by which you can judge yourself. You have not been taught these things you know, yet still somehow “you know.” It is called: **THE CONSCIENCE**. The conscience is the most *sensitive aspect* within human nature. It is *the instinctive knowledge of right and wrong*.¹

Like a candle, its light shines to expose the darkness.

It keeps a perfect record of every thought and every deed you ever committed. Like a witness in the courtroom, it testifies to that which is most hidden in the chambers of the soul. It urges us to obey what we know is true and turn away from what we know is evil.

The conscience is the *inner voice of God* within each person.² It is the *self-reflecting, judicial power* in mankind by which God can call every man or woman to account. If we are absolutely honest with ourselves, our conscience will let us know what we are really like, passing perfect judgement on our state before God.

The word *con-science* means: “To know with or have knowledge.” It is that hidden part of the human soul which most reflects (like a mirror) the *likeness of the Creator*.³ It is the “common denominator” in all human beings that bind us together as a unique creation and distinguishes us apart from all the rest of creation. It causes us to hold something in *common* with each other despite all the many varied differences.⁴ It also acts as the *moral judge* within people’s hearts.

The conscience is based on knowledge and functions off the highest standard it knows

¹ Rom 2:14-16 ² Rom 1:19 ³ Gen 1:26; 2:22; 3:22 ⁴ Rom 2:9-12



and **WRONG**

How much worse the world would be if it were not for the human conscience. To reject conscience is to reject God, for the conscience speaks on God's behalf to lead and to guide man in the way he should or should not go. It is a rewarder of those who listen to it. It also warns a person about the consequences they face when they commit offenses against it.⁵ Since it represents God and acts on His behalf in this way, it could be seen as a "Vice Regent."

Conscience: The Vice Regent of God

A Vice-Regent is one who rules in the absence of a sovereign (king.) Acting as a Vice Regent, the conscience exercises its authority by summons, calling a person to account, as in a court of law. It calls the court in God's name and acts for Him in passing judgement. As a witness is called upon to give evidence, so our conscience either speaks on our behalf (defends) or condemns (accuses) us for our guilt.⁶ If our conscience condemns us, then God condemns us, for God is greater than even our conscience - knowing all things. On the other hand, if our conscience acquits us, then God also acquits us.⁷ Knowing He accepts us, gives us the inner confidence to embrace suffering or pain when necessary in doing what we know is right.⁸ The conscience also communicates to our own heart that an eternal reward is awaiting us for persistence in doing what is good - our struggle is not in vain.⁹

Because a person's heart is revealed by their actions, people will be judged by their deeds: whether they obeyed or disregarded their conscience.¹⁰ Disobeying this inner voice of conscience is serious, because there are ***eternal consequences*** for doing so, just as there are repercussions in this life for our actions. It is a true saying that "as a man sows, so shall he reap." Why then do we not use our better judgement to judge the evil that we have done and turn and do the good we know to be true?



What do these peop

A person who lives by their conscience *instinctively* lives by an Everlasting Covenant with God their Creator (also referred to as the *Second Covenant*¹¹ in the article, “Caretakers of the Earth” - page 26.) All men are born with a good conscience. As we grow up, we are responsible to make the right choices with the good conscience we were



born with. A person makes choices based upon what *fills the heart*. Whatever fills the heart *overflows* into their *actions and deeds*.¹² The heart is connected to the “will” of a person. What *motivates* someone in making decisions is revealed in their will.

The heart is the *deciding factor* in their life, in much the same way as a judge decides his verdict once evidence is presented. The only problem is that we often betray our better judgement and end up acting as an unjust judge. Each time we compromise, our conscience records the guilt.

Many could not care less about tending the good they know in their conscience. As a result they commit deeds that express the *rejection* of it. They will not go unpunished for doing what they knew was wrong. Every man and woman is responsible for the judgements they make – good or bad. If it were not for conscience, man would have no accountability. That fact of accountability demands reckoning in judgement. The conscience calls for justice - that the records be cleared.



The conscience urges you to do right or make amends if you do wrong. It gives you a feeling of either innocence or guilt, depending on the choice you make. Certainly sin affects the conscience, but someone with a functioning conscience hates sin and does what he can to rectify the hurt he causes.

Suppressing The Conscience

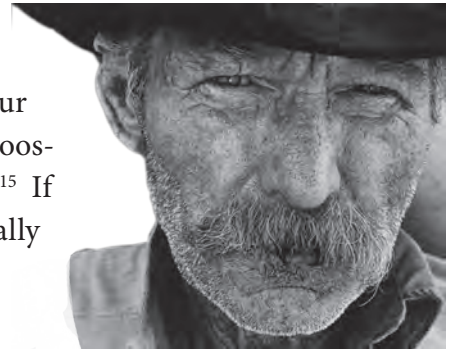
Our conscience is *naturally* sensitive. Though it has authority to direct a person’s life it can also be *easily silenced* by them.¹³ The conscience has no power to *force* anyone to obey it. It only declares what is true and what is false, what is good and what is evil. The choice is left up to us. Where do we stand? On this basis of free choice, the Creator is able to make a *righteous judgement* upon all of mankind. If we desire to fulfil the evil within



¹¹ Gen 3:16-19, 9:1-7; Matt 25:31-40, Isa 24:5,6 ¹² Matt 15:18,19 ¹³ Rom 1:21

le have in common?

us, rather than choose the good we know to be true, we *condemn ourselves* in judgement. We end up *violating* (silencing) our conscience and *suppressing the truth* within us.¹⁴ If this happens, it is our own fault, not God's. We "defile" (make dirty) our conscience by choosing the evil we know is wrong over doing the good we know is right.¹⁵ If we continue to suppress the truth within us, we become hard internally and are eventually "given over" to doing what is evil.¹⁶ Persisting in doing what is evil "sears" (brands, makes callous) our consciences.¹⁷



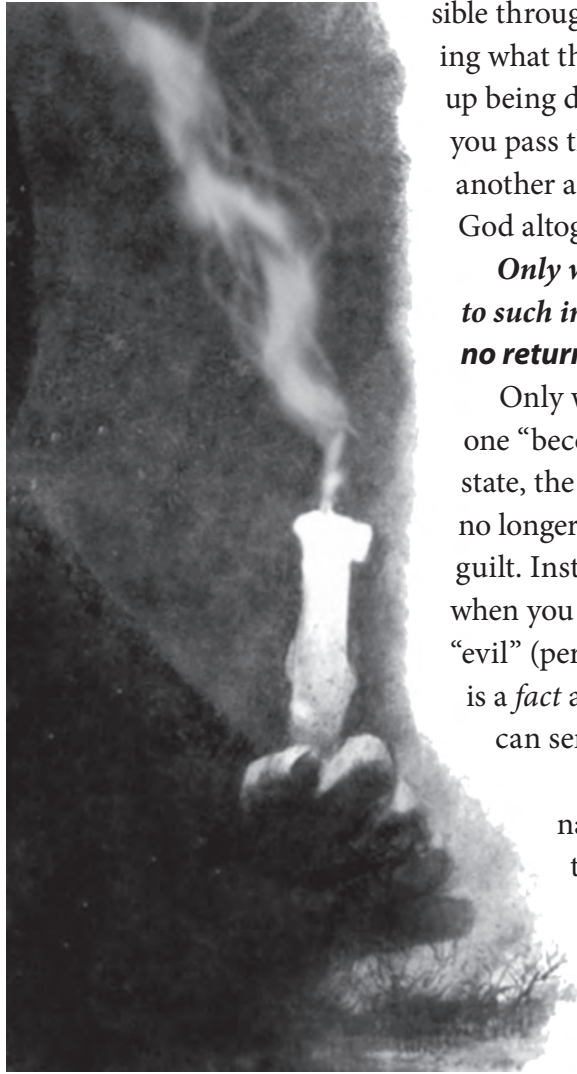
Of course the world has tried to make the human conscience "old-fashioned." As we live on in the world, actively taking on the spirit of the world, our conscience gets more and more persuaded to give in to the trends of society. As we go time and time against our better judgement, it results in greater and greater guilt. We descend to a lower standard of human life. We go from being A-grade to "D-graded." We end up exchanging the higher truth we had in our conscience for *a lie*.



Some have descended to their lower nature to do what is evil and unfit for humans to do. These people are "given over" to a depraved mind. They were not born this way, but chose to "give up" the struggle of obeying their conscience. They did not see it worthwhile *any longer* to maintain any agreement with their conscience.¹⁸ They have "become" something other than what they were originally created to be. They chose to give themselves over, regardless of all the warnings of their conscience, to degrading passions and lusts. They receive in their own *personalities* the due recompense of their evil.¹⁹ God is just, He restrained them as much as pos-



The Conscience



sible through the help of their conscience, but they persisted in doing what they “knew” was evil. The inner voice of conscience ends up being destroyed (for evil knows no limits or boundaries.) Once you pass through one boundary it is always easier to pass through another and then another and another until....you lose your fear of God altogether – thus, your fear of punishment.²⁰

Only when the “candle” goes out²¹ do people plunge themselves to such irreparable depths of sin and degradation - the point of no return.

Only when the candle goes out is there complete darkness and one “becomes” base - worthless and devoid of any good. In this state, the conscience becomes *dysfunctional* (non-working). One no longer acknowledges or senses the fact or even the feeling of guilt. Instead, its silence is implied as support of evil. It defends you when you do wrong and accuses you when you do right.²² This is an “evil” (perverse, twisted, dysfunctional) conscience. Though guilt is a *fact* and not a *feeling*, only those still connected to conscience can sense the grief and anguish of their sin.

Despite the fact that most have descended to their lower nature, many can still feel and acknowledge the guilt of their conscience. They have not yet *rejected* conscience totally, but are *living on the edge*, testing the boundaries. They can still be rescued before they are sealed in their eternal destiny. It all depends on whether they can still hear enough to respond to that inner voice of conscience and obey its commands.

Living By A Good Conscience

A “good” conscience is a *functional*, not *dysfunctional* one. “Good” does not mean “perfect,” but it maintains a healthy ability to function properly. It is not “out of order,” but remains “in order,” with the accuracy of setting *clear standards*. There is a *life-long struggle* ahead for anyone who desires to live by a good conscience. Those who persevere in doing what is “good” will suffer in this life. They are willing to pay the price for it. They regard the rewards of a good conscience of greater worth than any of the indulgences their lower nature would compel them to explore. They have been trained to discern good from evil - right from wrong - and take hope in the reward of a better life after death.²³ They fear God and believe He is a rewarder of those who give thanks and acknowledge Him. These are the righteous people of the earth. They consistently choose to do what is right and fair. The fruit of their life is obvious. They do not easily succumb to cheap and worthless deeds of self-debasement. They have integrity and are discerning, never fearing to stand up for what they know is right and good. That is why people who truly live by the covenant of conscience are not easily deceived by “The Lie” and the hypocrisy of man-made religion. *

²¹ Prov 24:20; Rom 1:24-32 ²² Isa 5:20; Tit 1:15 ²³ Job 14:14; Rom 2:7; Jer 17:10

YOUR DESTINY

WHO MAKES THE CHOICE?

Destiny is like **destination**. It is the place where a person arrives at the end of a journey. When you walk towards a specific destination, each step you take brings you closer to where you are going. The further you go, the more set you are in that direction. In the same way, each human being walks towards his own **eternal destination**. How a person lives his life now, determines where he is headed.¹

Every person will go to one of The Three Eternal Destinies² (outlined on the following pages.) God the Creator does not decide for you, as though it were a matter of fate. No! You choose your own eternal destiny by the moral standards you live by - either good or evil.³ Your actions reflect the choices you make in life. Those outward deeds tell you which path you are on. If you continue to walk in that same direction long enough you will eventually reach your destination.

Every person has a **conscience** which tells them instinctively what is right and what is wrong.⁴ The deeds that we do, the things that we think - we must give account for.⁵ Destiny has accountability attached to it. That is why every man is without excuse for what he does.⁶

A person's eternal destiny is set in direct relation to how they obey or disobey their conscience. It is so wonderful that God, our Creator, has left us the freedom to choose for ourselves what our ultimate eternal destiny will be.

There is a difference between **fate** and **destiny**. It is mankind's fate to die once. Fate, like death, is unavoidable. It is an appointment which every person must keep.⁷

**You can't change fate,
but you *can* change your destiny.**

It is all according to your ability to hear and respond to the "inner voice" of your conscience. ✱

¹ Rom 2:6-8 ² Rev 22:11 ³ Eccles 3:17; 12:13,14 ⁴ Rom 2:14-16 ⁵ Rev 20:12-15 ⁶ Rom 1:19,20 ⁷ Heb 9:27



The Three Eternal Destinies of Man



Two Trees — Three Eternal Destinies

“The Three Eternal Destinies of Man” can be clearly seen from the beginning of mankind. There in the center of the Garden of Eden, the Creator placed:
The Tree of the Knowledge of **Good** and **Evil** and The Tree of **Life**.
These two trees *foretold* the three eternal destinies of mankind:¹

The Unjust and Filthy The Righteous The Holy

In the beginning, God made a Covenant (which we refer to as the *First Covenant*) with Adam and Eve, and placed them within the Garden of Eden from which they were to *rule for Him* over all creation.² From any of the trees of the garden God said they were to freely eat, but for their own good, God instructed Adam and Eve

to *not* eat from the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil - “for in that day you will surely die.”

Adam and Eve were given the freedom to choose to obey His instruction or to disregard it. This was a test to them to see what they would do with their freedom. For it was our Creator’s desire from the very start to know what was in the

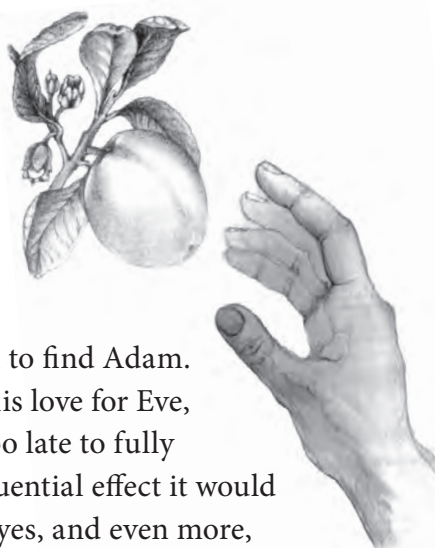
¹ Rev 22:11 ² Gen 1:26-28

heart of His highest creation - MAN. Would they trust Him and obey? He wanted to know what was **in the will** of Adam and Eve once they were tested. Ultimately, what a person **does** comes from the *inner judgements* of his mind and heart.³ *The will of the man, is the man himself.*

Alone, with no one to know what she would do, the serpent came to Eve to test what was in her heart towards her husband and Creator. Would she trust them and obey? The serpent appealed to Eve through *reasoning* and led her astray. ***“Indeed, has God said, ‘You shall not eat from any tree of the garden?’”*** Ignoring the voice of authority within her own heart, she made the choice to do what she *already* “knew” was not right^{4a} and followed the serpent to the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*. ***“You surely shall not die! For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be “opened”, and you will be like God - knowing “good and evil.”*** Drawn away by the seduction of his cunning and craft, she then ate from the “forbidden fruit.”

Weakened by doubt and accusation against her Creator, Eve was enticed with the desire to be *like God - knowing good and evil*. There was nothing inherently wrong with this desire (for Adam and Eve were created in God’s very own likeness and image) but Eve was made to think that God was withholding *hidden knowledge and wisdom* from her. God *wanted* Adam and Eve to have this knowledge, yet without having to experience evil themselves. To have this knowledge of “good and evil” with *unfallen nature* was always God’s intent for mankind. However, Eve did not trust God and so she did not obey her husband who had passed on to her God’s instruction about the tree. As a result, she transgressed the boundaries where love could protect her - the love of her husband and Creator.

Stretching forth to taste of that knowledge first hand, she quickly ate and then felt fearful and even worse - guilty and alone.



She quickly ran to find Adam. Motivated out of his love for Eve, Adam also ate. Too late to fully realize the consequential effect it would bring upon them, yes, and even more, upon all of mankind, their consciences were awakened and they “knew” the shame of their nakedness before each other.

**Here lies the eternal question,
“What have you done?”⁷**

Staring first at each other, then at the ground, they began to perceive deep within themselves something that they were never meant to experience - for their knowledge had been achieved through *rebellion*, rather than by *obedience* to their loving Creator. How He too wanted to give them this knowledge so they could be “like Him,”^{4b} but through a trusting relationship with Himself. The “poison” of the serpent was even then taking effect as guilt began to rise quickly within them. Running to hide for fear they would be seen for what they had done, both Adam and Eve feebly grabbed some fig leaves and sewed them together to cover themselves. What a pitiful sight they were - fallen from such glory - once the *supreme rulers* over all creation, now fearful and craven victims of the serpent’s foul schemes.

“Will we die?” Eve asked Adam, as he looked back searchingly into her eyes. The answer was obvious, Adam and Eve “would surely die” - for it was in the very moment they ate the fruit that they died spiritually.

³ Mk 7:21-23 ^{4a} Gen 3:1-3 ^{4b} Gen 1:26,27; 3:5,22; Heb 2:6,7; 1 Jn 3:2,3 ⁵ Gen 3:16-19; Is 24:5 ⁶ Jn 5:28,29; Mt 25:24-40,46; Rev 20:11-15

⁷ Gen 3:13; Rom 2:5-11; Ps 62:12

Spiritual death always precedes physical death. Their spirit was *severed* from their Creator - the very Source of their life and being.

But all was not lost. True, Adam and Eve had fallen, but they were not given a *hopeless start* to life. Instead, God made a **Second Covenant** with *fallen man*⁵, giving them the *responsibility* to obey their “conscience” with the promise that if it was faithfully attended to, they would reap a *great reward*.⁶

It wasn’t long after, that Adam and Eve heard the voice of their Creator calling out to them in the cool of the evening.

Every man and woman will have to give *account* before their Creator for what they have done - whether *good or evil*.⁸ They will be judged on the basis of the *deeds* which they have committed during their lifetime.⁹ A person’s deeds will be examined in relation to the highest standard of knowledge within their conscience. **Conscience** is the *built-in power* of our minds¹⁰ to pass moral judgement on ourselves, *approving* or *disapproving* our actions, thoughts and plans.¹¹ It tells us whether what we are going to do or have done already, is right or wrong - good or evil.¹² Obedience to the conscience is a *remedial act* on

fallen man’s behalf in hope of ultimate restoration to the original First Covenant command of their Creator.¹³ Within the boundaries of conscience mankind can choose their own eternal destiny (*blessing or calamity - a Second Eternal Life or a Second Eternal Death*).¹⁴

Adam and Eve chose to eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil - forfeiting their right to the Tree of Life. Since that time it has been *appointed* for all men to die *once*¹⁵ where they will pay the just wages for their sins¹⁶. It is the

Conscience is the built-in power of our minds to pass moral judgement on ourselves, approving or disapproving our actions, thoughts and plans.

just sentencing for all, who like Adam, go against their better judgement. **Death** (which we refer to as the **First Death**) is the *temporary abode of the dead*, where disembodied spirits await in hope or in torment for their final judgement. All mankind must keep this *appointment with Death* as payment for the sins they committed while bound to live under the Covenant of Conscience. After the First Death is completed, comes *final judgement* where every person’s *eternal destiny* will be determined.¹⁷ If a person’s deeds in judgement align themselves consistently with the “good” they knew to pursue in their conscience, then a *second eternal life* will be rewarded to them. Their part will be in the “eternal kingdom of the Nations.”¹⁸ They have earned it and

⁸ Eccles 12:13,14; Ps 62:12 ⁹ Rom 2:5-11; Rev 20:11-15 ¹⁰ Rom 1:18,19 ¹¹ Rom 2:14,15 Heb 9:27 ¹² Jms 4:17 ¹³ Gen 1:26-28 ¹⁴ Gen 3:22 ¹⁵ Heb 9:27 ¹⁶ Rom 6:23 ¹⁷ Rev 20:11-15; Hos 6:7 ¹⁸ Matt 25:31-34,46; Rev 21:24,26, 22:2



they deserve it. However, if a person's deeds in judgement align consistently with the "evil" they knew in their conscience to turn away from, then a *second eternal death* will be rewarded to them. Their part will be in the 'lake that burns with fire'.¹⁹

This is the **Second Death**. They likewise, deserve it. You can be certain that every one will be awarded in eternity that which they truly deserve.

Adam and Eve ate from the wrong tree - the one that did not *freely* bestow eternal life to them. Genesis 3:16-19 outlines the **Second Covenant** God gave to Adam and Eve *after they fell*.^{*} They would now have to work hard to live by the *instinctive knowledge* of right and wrong within them in order to gain eternal life. This was in hope of their complete restoration to the **First Covenant** for mankind, which they had broken.²⁰ The ability for fallen man to obey the **Second Covenant of Conscience** is obvious, since our Creator would have never told Adam and Eve to obey such



directives if it was not within their fallen ability to do so.²¹

Most importantly, man (after the fall) was commissioned to overcome and *master* those kinds of sins that would cause even this Second Covenant to be broken.²² If the Second Covenant was broken, the Second Death would be inevitable - unless the mercy of our Creator could reach man's heart through the sacrifice of His Son Yahshua. It was Yahshua the Messiah who would make the third eternal destiny

possible for all of mankind. Both the Righteous sinner (who remained loyal to the Covenant of Conscience) and the Wicked (who forsook this Covenant) were in need of forgiveness and a means of escape from Death altogether.

It was this Yahshua who made the way possible for both the Righteous and the Filthy and Unjust to be a part of the third eternal destiny - *the Holy City*.²³

The following pages briefly outline from Scripture the characteristics of four kinds of people who await one of the Three Eternal Destinies of Man.

¹⁹ Rev 21:8 ²⁰ Gen 1:27,28; Hos 6:7 ²¹ Gen 3:16-19; Rom 2:14,15; Acts 10:34,35 ²² Gen 4:7,8 ²³ Rev 21:2,3,9-12,23-24

For as long as the sun has risen and the rivers have flowed to the sea, so creation continues on. Her character has remained the same, constant, set, unchanging, still. For thousands of years the apple has fallen, the spider spins, the salmon fights and the butterfly has expressed new life..... so the highest creation of all, mankind, will continue to express their present state throughout eternity

T - their eternal destiny is the Lake of Fire²⁴

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The **Filthy and Unjust** share in the same eternal destiny, since they both *gave up* the “good” conscience they originally possessed and chose rather to be *given over* to doing what is evil. They “became” dysfunctional as human beings - no longer living within the parameters of their conscience. They are *masters of disguise*, preying upon others without fear.

The word *filthy* truly describes the worthless character of those who give themselves over to degrading and abominable acts of immorality. They suppress the “good” they know, in order to follow after the base appetites they have for pleasure and indulgence. They may appear at first not so obviously “filthy” but by their

deeds they betray themselves. The filthy have lost their sense of morality and good judgement. They use and abuse others to fulfil their own fleshly appetites, acting upon their own selfish impulses without any restraint or regard for the people they destroy and discard.

They were not born filthy, but they “became” filthy by the continual rejection of their conscience.²⁵ To become something implies “transition.” So it is with those who are judged worthy of this category. Their filth is an “acquired condition.” In rejecting conscience, they reject God’s purpose for themselves, since they did not acknowledge Him or give thanks.²⁶ They despise the voice of God within their conscience and do not “deem” it worthwhile to acknowledge Him “any longer.”²⁷



²⁴Rev 21:8,27; 22:11 ²⁵Rom 1:24,26,28 ²⁶Rom 1:21,22 ²⁷Rom 1:28

*Still,
the apple rots as it falls from its branch...*

Those who are filthy forfeit their *original worth* and become *utterly worthless*.²⁸ They persist again and again in craving what is vile and detestable. Their conscience is eventually seared,²⁹ as with a branding iron, making them calloused and hard. In that state, they *applaud* what is evil and condemn what is good. Thus, they *become* depraved, totally given over to evil, and having no fear of the *eternal consequences* of their actions. Likewise, they have no fear of leading others astray and damaging them irreparably. They entice others to participate in their deeds, leading them to further degradation.

Even those who *passively consent* to what is evil are **just as guilty** as those who actively flaunt their lack of restraint. They too, by cowardice, suppress the voice of their conscience, and become a destructive element in society, having no resistance to evil and no true care for others. Although they may not be so obvious in the ways they manifest their filth, nevertheless, they *contaminate* others by association.

There are many subtle ways a person can express their filth. There are also many ways a person can pick up on the filth of others as well. Even if someone secretly conceals their filthy ways, it will eventually come out. You can't be around someone who is filthy without getting just as dirty yourself. Bad company corrupts good morals.³⁰

Those who practice and cultivate what is evil are accountable, even though they have *no fear* of their accountability. According to their **deeds** and the ways in which they have ensnared others and destroyed human lives, they have made themselves unworthy of eternal life in the nations. They will follow Satan to his destiny - *the Lake of Fire*, which was originally "only" prepared for Satan and his angels.³¹



²⁸Rom 1:28-32 ²⁹Prov 6:12-15; Tit 1:15,16; 1Tim 4:2 ³⁰1Cor 15:23 ³¹Matt 25:41,46

decaying every moment as it lies at the foot of the tree. It lies disconnected from its source. So is the man who is filthy, who rejects the truth in exchange for a lie, giving himself over to his own lusts and desires, living a life of self indulgence. On the outside only the hint of a bruise but inwardly eaten away with rot and decay.

T - *their eternal destiny is also the Lake of Fire*³²

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There are many ways a person can fit into the category of the Unjust. The word itself means, “to injure or hurt morally, socially, physically, to be unfaithful (treacherous); acting contrary to the standard of what is right; not motivated or controlled by justice; false; dishonest; wrongful; driven by unlawful or false gain.” Those who *practice* lying, deceit, greed, laziness, dishonesty and slander are among those who would be considered “unjust”. These people didn’t just do these things *once or twice*, but their lives are characterized by one or more of these aspects. Most who fit these descriptions may even have a nice veneer and appear to be quite respectable in society.

One of the characteristics of the unjust is the *practice of lying*.³³ For example, certain professionals like lawyers and journalists, can actually make a career out of lying and being

deceitful. Lawyers in their greed for money can make a living out of *defending the guilty* and *defaming the innocent*. Judges have been known to take bribes to render unrighteous judgements in favour of those who are guilty³⁴.



Likewise, reporters and journalists will also be held accountable for slandering authority and defaming men of good character. They can often exaggerate and *sensationalize* the facts just to sell a paper. They have power through the media to greatly influence the tide of public opinion. It is not only those who write articles that expose and even murder a person’s reputation, but those who *eagerly read them* reveal the corruption in their own heart. An ancient proverb says, “A wicked man *listens* to evil lips, a liar pays attention to a *malicious* tongue.”³⁵

³² Rev 22:11 ³³ Rev 21:8; 22:15 ³⁴ Prov 17:23

Still,
the spider weaves her web...

The “respectable” businessmen in their suits and ties can also fit into this category as they exploit the lives and labor of others for their own selfish gain. They seek to live in comfort and luxury, serving their own interests and effectually promoting a society of careless ease.³⁶ Their motives are carefully concealed in their *unjust business practices*, but they come out with the lion’s portion, unscathed by their *dishonest gain*.³⁷ They have lost any fear of repercussions for their unjust deeds. They think no one knows. Then, on the other end of the scale, there are those who seek an easy life, not willing to exert themselves for an honest day’s work. They become ‘layabouts’ and are leeches of society, often even condemning the system that feeds them.

Cowards too are worthy of a Second Death.³⁸ Being *silent* about something you know is wrong makes you *just as guilty* as the person who does the wrong. Cowards in their silence, become an accomplice to

the crime. In any situation, cowards will think only of how it will affect *their own* reputation or security. They are the ones who would forfeit their conscience to be accepted; they are not willing to face the ridicule and mockery to do what is right.

The unjust become calloused and will not do what is right and just. They act *unrighteously* and are *underhanded* in their social and business practices - showing partiality. They do what is not morally appropriate or beneficial, but look for an advantage to manipulate circumstances for their own self-interest. They *practice* what is “wrong.” By quenching the voice of their conscience they compromise their own hearts and *strengthen the tolerance of evil* in society as a whole.



³⁵ Prov 17:4 ³⁶ Ezek 16:49 ³⁷ Prov 11:18 ³⁸ Rev 21:8

Dew drops glisten off her intricate threads in the morning light. A beautiful demonstration of her work, but an invisible deathtrap for the unsuspecting insect that lays struggling within. Just like the “normal” unjust person who builds up his own small empire, making a pleasing appearance to the unsuspecting victim..... his motives unnoticed for the purpose of his own gain at the expense of others.

T - *their eternal destiny is the Nations*³⁹

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Every human being is born into the category of the Righteous, because each one is created in the *image of the Creator* with an inborn, instinctive knowledge of Him. Although all men come forth from the fallen seed of Adam,⁴⁰ inheriting the iniquities of their fathers, they are born with a conscience and the ability to obey it. Since Adam fell, every man has been born with an inclination to sin – a selfish bent – but *not* an inclination to silence his conscience. The conscience is a precious gift from a loving Creator who desires to steer man away from those kinds of sins that would separate him from his Creator forever.

To be *righteous* means to be “innocent,” *free from guilt*, and just in character and trait. They are **not** guilty for *corrupting* and taking away the *innocence* of another person. The righteous care for their neighbor as they would themselves. They do

not tear down the reputation of others, but always seek to strengthen and support “good” wherever it is shown.

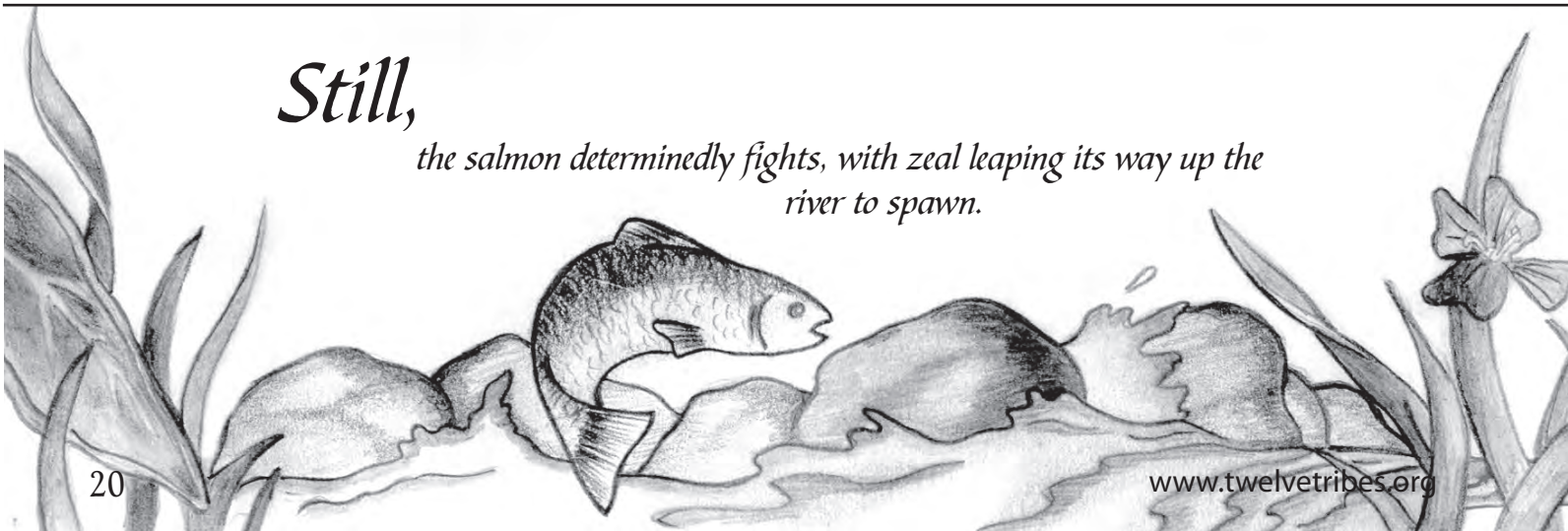
They do not show partiality, but have a sense of equity and fairness in all their dealings with others. The people who characterize the righteous, *do not give up the struggle* to live by their conscience; they consistently choose good over evil.⁴¹ Even though they are not sinless, they pay attention to the voice of their conscience and seek to make amends for any hurt or wrongdoing. The lives of these people are consistent. The man will work hard and honestly to provide for his family, and he will care for them in every way. His wife bears the pain of bringing forth life so that her heart would be bonded to her offspring; she will not choose the easier option of a pain-free labor.



³⁹ Rev 21:24; 22:2 ⁴⁰ Rom 5:12 ⁴¹ Rom 2:6,7

Still,

the salmon determinedly fights, with zeal leaping its way up the river to spawn.



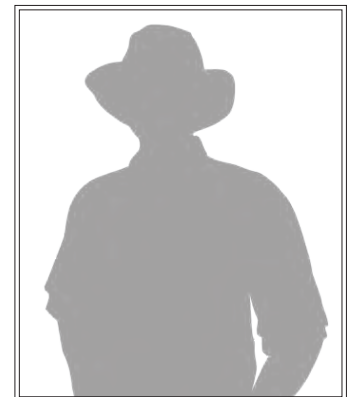
They genuinely care about people and treat them fairly and respectfully. The good deeds they do are not for the sake of being noticed. Rather, they are prompted in their conscience to act in sincerity and loyalty to the standards they “know” are right. Though they err, they are conscience-stricken and try to restore any damage done (wherever it is possible or within their power to do so.) They keep within the boundaries of their conscience and *do* what is right with good intent, unlike the unjust who *do* the wrong thing with evil intent.

The pull of evil is like the current of a river that man must exert himself to swim against. If fallen men were to give in to that easier way of *not* resisting evil, plunging themselves headlong into it, then they would set their course towards

The pull of evil is like the current of a river that man must exert himself to swim against.

a second eternal death. Going against the current of evil in society is truly a struggle, but the righteous will *use their will* to overcome the pull of their fallen nature.

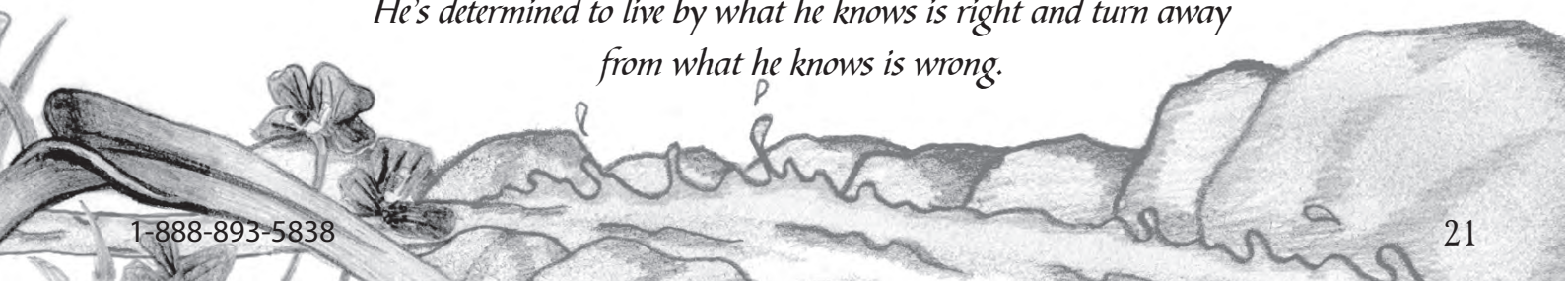
These people will not be condemned to the Lake of Fire simply because they did not believe in “Jesus,” but they will inherit a second life in eternity called the *Eternal Kingdom of the Nations*.⁴² Although the righteous sinner must pay for the penalty of their sin by experiencing the First Death, people who heed the voice of their conscience will find mercy on the day of judgement.



⁴² Matt 25:34,46; Rev 21:24,26; Rev 22:2

Like the man who desires to do what is right, struggling to overcome the obstacles that stand in his way, the obstacles of society which encourage the SELF-CENTEREDness of a person. This man goes out of his way to help his neighbour, humble enough to ask for forgiveness and make amends for the wrongs he has done. He works hard and honestly to meet the needs of his family.

He's determined to live by what he knows is right and turn away from what he knows is wrong.



T - their eternal destiny is the Holy City⁴³

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The term, “Holy,” literally means: *set apart for sacred purpose – to the service or worship of God; reserved from profane or common use.* Therefore, those who obey the gospel are “set apart” for *His sake and for the Gospel’s sake* (meaning: *cause or purpose of the gospel*).⁴⁴ The Holy are entirely separated from the world and their own personal sins to now live in service to the One who secured their forgiveness. They live a life that is “distinct, holy and separate” from the rest of the world. That does not mean in disassociation with the physical world, but “set apart” from the spiritual realm and influences that would attempt to make them *common or profaned*.⁴⁵ These holy ones withdraw from “fellowship” with the world – from what is filthy or common – since they have joined “fellowship” with God.⁴⁶ 1 Cor 6:9-11 in the New Testament Bible clearly expresses what the holy ones have no part in any longer. They live a life which keeps them “unstained” by fellowship with the spirits that rule the world.⁴⁷

No one who is included in the Holy live as the Righteous, Unjust or Filthy. Rather, the Holy fix their complete attention on carrying out the good will of the One who saved them – establishing tribes and clans all over the earth as a final witness of His Kingdom.⁴⁸ They voluntarily relinquish all that they possess (both materially and spiritually) to the Body of Messiah where they now live a common life with all those who believe.⁴⁹ This is the only way one can actually come under the authority of Messiah Yahshua.⁵⁰ This places a person in a permanent relationship of servitude to Him through serving their brothers and sisters – who are His House.⁵¹ This voluntary surrender of personal rights, in an attitude of total submission and gratitude, is the result of completely trusting and believing in the Gospel and being saved from death. It is the only way one can rightly obey what our Master expressed concerning discipleship.⁵² Upon this heartfelt response, one then becomes a disciple, living a life of *sacred purpose* to Messiah. The response of the Holy, is in response to Messiah’s sacrifice on their behalf.⁵³ All those who believe *are together* and contribute all they have



⁴³ Rev 21:2,10-12 ⁴⁴ Mk 10:29,30; Lk 18:29,30 ⁴⁵ Jn 17:14-17; 1 Pet 1:14-16 ⁴⁶ Jms 4:4 ⁴⁷ Jms 1:27 ⁴⁸ Mat 24:14 ⁴⁹ Act 2:42-47; 4:32-37 ⁵⁰ Lk 14:31-33 ⁵¹ Eph 2:19-22; Heb 3:5,6 ⁵² Lk 14:31-33; Mk 10:17-22

Still,

*the chrysalis breaks forth as a new creation. Old things
are gone, new things have come...
... even as the wings of the butterfly stretch to full glory...*

to each other as to Messiah. Obedience to the good news establishes a new society, a new social order – demonstrating the Kingdom of Messiah here on earth. Within this society, all aspects of human need are completely met. There is no rich or poor within this *new life* in Messiah, for all that are owners of land or houses have sold them and distributed their wealth among their needy brothers. This new society in Messiah is a common life of devotion to Him and to the brotherhood, expressed through daily contribution, distribution and participation of their material and spiritual wealth in the communities of God. Through this life of devotion a spiritual “commonwealth of Israel” is formed.⁵⁴ The disciples who live in communities worldwide, in obedience to the gospel, are seen as *Israel* - a united twelve-tribed Holy nation.⁵⁵ These tribes are made up of many households, within larger clans, that ultimately spread out geographically into twelve specific tribal territories throughout the world.

The tribes collectively are a Holy nation.⁵⁶ They are a “body politic” acting as one man. This united, twelve-tribed nation is the witness (ultimate sign) of Messiah’s Kingdom⁵⁷ here on earth *at the end of the age*. Through their united efforts, they will be a

“light to the world” bringing indisputable evidence that God did indeed send His Son.⁵⁸ These twelve tribes proclaim His salvation to the ends of the earth.⁵⁹ Those who make up “The Holy” will live exemplary lives before all the nations.⁶⁰ They will be blameless in all their ways.⁶¹ By Messiah’s sacrifice they now demonstrate to the world the power and salvation of God to restore and purify them from all their hurtful and wrong ways. They are representatives of “redeemed mankind” and offer hope and mercy to all the nations of the earth.

The third eternal destiny is comprised of those who used to be filthy, unjust or even righteous in the world. The Holy are those who were “saved and purified” *from* their sins through the sacrifice of Yahshua the Messiah.* Because of their willingness to listen and respond *from the heart* to the convicting truths of the gospel, they made themselves worthy to become God’s eternal “Dwelling Place,” His home forever.⁶² Thus, their eternal destiny was sealed as being part of “The Holy.”



⁵³ 2 Cor 5:14,15 ⁵⁴ Eph 2:11,12 ⁵⁵ Rev 7:4-8; Isa 49:5,6; Rev 12:1; Gal 6:16; Acts 26:6,7; Jms 1:1; Mt 21:43; Rev 21:9-12 ⁵⁶ 1 Pet 2:9,10 ⁵⁷ Mt 24:14 ⁵⁸ Jn 17:20-23 ⁵⁹ Isa 49:6 ⁶⁰ Mt 5:16,48; 1Pet 2:12 ⁶¹ Gen 17:1 ⁶² Rom 10:9,10,13,17; Rev 21:3; Mt 10:37,38 * Mt 1:21; Tit 2:14. Please refer to the article about Yahshua on pg 46 and 47.

lifting her to freedom. So the holy are no longer a caterpillar, but transformed with new life. They are totally removed from the old, having given up their old unjust, filthy or even righteous lives. They are now set apart to express their new found freedom. Living together in community to demonstrate the forming of a new social order, they now express their Creator’s true character to the world through the love and unity amongst them.

The true God is not
indiscriminate in
 His judgement, but
 instead He makes distinction

In Summary

between the Filthy and Unjust, the Righteous and the Holy.⁶³ We can clearly see that there are *three eternal destinies* for mankind, not two as Christianity has mistakenly taught us. The simple truth is that God recognizes another category of people: those who are *righteous* according to the instinctive knowledge of the truth which is inherent within their conscience.⁶⁴ It is normal to value a good conscience as something to be esteemed and carefully guarded. Those who obey their conscience are respected by man *and* God.

Perhaps you are not used to thinking in terms of *three eternal destinies*, yet the truth of these words must register in your conscience. How could a righteous and just God cast righteous and just people into the Lake of Fire? Will He condemn those men and women to eternal torment who suffer to keep a good conscience, along with the cowardly, self-seeking, greedy, deceitful, and sexually filthy people who defile this good earth?⁶⁵

The ability to make “good judgements” (overcoming what is evil and doing what is right) has been given to every person on the face of this earth. Fortunately, the conscience has the power to restrain

us from plummeting into the utter degradation of being given over to evil, **if we listen to it.** But what if we don’t?

That is the freedom of choice the Creator of all mankind has given to every person. It is ultimately up to you to decide what your eternal destiny will be. The Creator will not interfere with our decisions. Since we have the “knowledge” of right and wrong at work within ourselves, we are totally accountable and are without excuse.⁶⁶ He has also adequately equipped every fallen human being with the power of their will to choose good over evil. So who can we blame when we arrive at our eternal destination? Even now, through the day to day decisions we make, our destiny is being “set.” In all covenants there is a blessing for keeping its terms and a curse for breaking them. So it is with the Covenant of Conscience - there awaits for every man the **blessing of a Second Life** or the **calamity of a Second Death.**

While bound by that covenant of living by the knowledge of good and evil, fallen man cannot stretch out his hand to eat from the Tree of Life. It would only be possible for him to righteously escape *Death* altogether if One would substitute for him *in his place.* Yahshua, the Son of God, took our judgement upon Himself and provided the way back to the **Tree of Life.** *He is the Tree of Life.*

⁶³ Rev 22:11 ⁶⁴ Rom 1:18,19; 2:14,15 ⁶⁵ Gen 18:25 ⁶⁶ Rom 1:18-20

*All Four will remain eternally...
 The Unjust and Filthy,
 The Righteous
 The Holy.....
 on and on, unchanging...
 constantly the same, as always and forever...
 set.....throughout eternity.....*

This tree was set apart from the *Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil*, just as “The Holy” who eat from its fruit will also be “set apart.” They will no longer be bound by the Covenant of Conscience to resist evil and choose good, but rather they live in a totally **New Covenant**⁶⁷ with God Himself. They will know Him *intimately in a relationship throughout eternity*. They will be obedient to Him and love as He loved - in much the same way as a true husband loves his wife and she willingly submits to and respects her husband.⁶⁸

In the beginning there were two trees in the Garden. In the end, when time is no more, there will be only one - *The Tree of Life*.⁶⁹

God’s eternal purpose will finally be realized as the *Redeemed* (the Holy), who have become the *dwelling place of God*, rule over and bring healing to the *Eternal Nations*.

Just as God walked with Adam and Eve in the Garden in their innocence, so He will live and dwell among the Nations (through the Holy) throughout eternity.⁷⁰ Only those who choose to become *utterly worthless* will have no part in the

Creator’s eternal purpose for mankind.

So, every person must choose what their eternal destiny will be. Revelations 22:11 declares *The Three Eternal Destinies of Man*: There will be **the Filthy and Unjust still, the Righteous of the Nations still, and the**

Holy still. These are the *final destinations* for all mankind. The Creator of Heaven and Earth leaves this choice up to each individual. He has made every provision possible for mankind to

partake in His ultimate plan. His desire is to live in and dwell among mankind. He wants you to see His true heart and character, so you could be a part of His **ultimate purpose** – throughout eternity. ✱



In the beginning there were two trees in the Garden.
In the end, when time is no more, there will be only one -
The Tree of Life.

⁶⁷ Jer 31:31,33 ⁶⁸ Rev 21:2; Eph 5:22-23 ⁶⁹ Rev 22:2,14 ⁷⁰ Rev 2:26,27; 21:3,4; 22:2





Caretakers of the Earth

*It is difficult to imagine now,
but there was once a time
when death had not yet
come into existence...*

The First Covenant

The Earth teemed with fresh, new life, abundant and overflowing, like a spring bubbling forth from its source. God needed a caretaker for this wonderful planet, someone who would have the same care as Him, who would have His heart. He created man, male and female, in His own image to be the caretakers of this earth.

United, they would express the very essence and character of God. Even their names expressed God's eternal purpose for mankind. In Hebrew, Adam means, "husbandman" or "caretaker of the earth", while Eve means, "life-giver" or "mother of all living."

They were His highest creatures; they were not governed by instinct like animals, but instead, they had a free will and the ability to rule. He placed them in the Garden of Eden, inside the boundaries of His love. He made a covenant with them, ***the First Covenant***.¹ They were to be fruitful, fill the earth and subdue it.

Subdue the earth? The earth was teeming with life, so what needed to be subdued?

Adam and Eve were not the only creatures who had been made with a free will. Angels were also created with the freedom of choice, whether to serve God or to rebel. The chief angel had exalted himself higher than God and led a host of angels in a rebellion. He had fallen from heaven, filled with rage and destructive power, to make his domain on the earth, outside the garden. His desire was, and still is, to gain absolute control of these "god-creatures" and that ultimately they would go to the place of eternal torment prepared for him and his angels.²

There in the middle of the Garden of Eden, God placed two trees: ***The Tree of Life and the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil***.

In order to preserve the First Covenant God made with Adam and Eve he commanded them to not eat from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil, but to freely eat from any other tree in the Garden. For in the day they ate from the fruit of that tree they would surely *die*.

Using deception, the only power the evil one has to take people to death, he deceived Eve by his *subtle*

¹ Gen 1:26-28 ² Matt 25:41

manipulation: that if she would eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, then she would be *like God*. But Adam and Eve were already like God; they were made in His likeness - although they had not yet been tested in their obedience to God's command. The serpent craftily implied that God was keeping something good from her. At that moment Eve had a choice to make - either to believe the *deception* or to *trust* her Creator.

She took the bait. Ensnared by her reasoning, she made an *independent* decision to go against the authority of her husband and Creator. Eve did not defer to her husband until after she had eaten. Adam, driven by his love and emotion for Eve, also ate from the fruit having made a willful choice to listen to his wife and follow her in disobeying the command of their Creator. Thus the First Covenant was broken.³ They were now divided from each other and from their God. Too late, they realized that they had been deceived and that their Creator's authority had been established to *protect* them from experiencing *Death*.

The First Death

When an apple drops off the tree and falls to the ground, in that very moment when it is severed from the life-giving sap, it begins to decay. In the same way, mankind was disconnected from the source of life and the *inevitable* outcome of that separation was *death*. This "**First Death**" every person must pay as a result of sin: for the *payment* of sin is *death*.⁴ It is appointed for mankind to die *once*,⁵ but not necessarily *twice*. God had warned Adam and Eve that in the day they ate of the fruit, they would "surely die."

What pain and torment God must have felt when He saw that His beloved friends were no longer vitally connected to Him. They had not subdued the earth, but they themselves had been *overcome*.

The Second Covenant

Now they were at risk of being led further astray by the Evil One. He *hated* them. He was not satisfied with them going to the *First Death* alone; his desire

was to take them even further to *eternal death* - what the Bible terms **the Second Death**.⁶ God therefore, immediately set in place a *Second Covenant* to protect them from committing greater evil and thus incurring a greater condemnation in judgement.⁷ This command was given to Adam and Eve **after** they fell. The Second Covenant is the "*Covenant of Conscience*".⁸

The terms of the Second Covenant are outlined briefly:

To the woman He greatly multiplied her pain in childbirth. What once would have come naturally because she was connected to the Source of Life, would now be a suffering, and the struggle of cultivating and producing what was good in her offspring would be a reminder of how she herself had fallen. This would cause her to see her need for the headship of her husband and ultimately her God. Her willing submission and respect for her husband would therefore be a remedial act on her part in hope of restoration.

To the man who had once enjoyed fruit in abundance, it would now be a labor to reap a harvest from the cursed earth. The perseverance it would take to cultivate what was good and right would keep his heart soft and turned towards his Creator. God had cursed the earth (not man) for this very reason. It was not to 'appease His anger' as we have heard, but so that man in all his toil would grope for Him and find Him.⁹ Being completely dependent upon his Creator to send the rain and seasons would keep him in a humble place, where he would sense his ultimate need and give thanks for the One who created all things.

Adam and Eve forfeited their right to the Tree of Life when they chose to disobey their Creator and eat of the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. Having done so, they were now bound to live or die by that knowledge. They had once walked intimately with their Creator in the Garden, as He disclosed Himself freely to them. Now their *hope of restoration*¹⁰ back to their original, created purpose was in remaining within the *boundaries* of this Second Covenant - living by and maintaining the instinctive knowledge of right and wrong.

It is appointed for mankind to die once, but not necessarily twice.

³ Hos 6:7 ⁴ Rom 6:23 ⁵ Heb 9:27 ⁶ Rev 21:8

The Second Death

Separation from an *intimate relationship* with the Creator is the *condition* that all of humanity has been born into ever since. But every person is without excuse and remains accountable before God, since they are also born with the innate knowledge of good and evil.¹¹ Even though the “Serpent” now rules the earth, he cannot *force* anyone in the nations to go against their consciences. Fallen men and women have it within their power to turn away from the *kind of sins*¹² that would cause them to go outside the parameters of conscience. This power lies within *the will* of fallen man. All mankind, down through history have sinned, but they have not all given themselves over to the detestable sins of Romans 1:24,26,28 and Revelations 21:8.

One of the reasons the Second Covenant of conscience was given to Adam and Eve was to restrain them from *increasing in their knowledge of evil*, thus incurring a more severe judgement worthy of a **Second Death**. Even *fallen man* is expected to rule over and *master* those sins¹³ which are “crouching at the door” of all mankind - those which would take him outside the boundaries of living by his conscience. (This is made evident by the story of Cain who murdered his brother Abel.)

The Fruit of a Person’s Life

If a man strives to truly live according to his conscience it will be quite evident *by the fruit of his life*. He will not be sinless, because since Adam all men have been born into a condition of separation from their Creator. But he will be what the Bible terms, “righteous” – as a result of *consistently* doing what he knows is right and turning away from what he knows is wrong. He will be living according to the Second Covenant that God made with man (*after he fell*.) He will work by the sweat of his brow in hard, physical labor because he knows that it is by this kind of work that he will be *preserved from greater evil*. He

won’t try to earn his living by unjust means: exploiting others to make money, or avoiding hard work to care for his family. But he will provide for his family *by honest means* as the head of the family. Like the woman, his diligence to rule over and provide for his family is also a *remedial act* in hope of restoration.

A righteous woman will also live according to the covenant of conscience. She will not reject the suffering of bringing forth life, but will see it as necessary; her conscience bearing witness that life cannot come without *great cost*. She will desire the authority of her husband over her, not wishing to undermine his headship. She knows that she needs his direction and care for her.

If a man strives to truly live according to his conscience it will be quite evident by the fruit of his life.

What characterizes the righteous sinner is that they have not given up the struggle to *rule over sin*, but continue to cultivate what is good, even though the pull of sin in them and in society is towards evil. During their lifetime they stand on what they know is right no matter what circumstances

come their way. They remain within the boundaries of conscience and so are preserved from incurring a greater penalty than that of the First Death - which is only *temporary* until their final judgement.¹⁴

At that judgement every person will be judged according to their *deeds* to determine whether they are worthy of a second life or a second death.¹⁵ A “Second Life” or a “Second Death” are *eternal destinies* for *fallen mankind*.¹⁶ The records of every person’s conscience will be opened.¹⁷ The hidden motives¹⁸ behind each deed will be examined and sentencing will be carried out on *an eternal scale*.¹⁹

The Eternal Destination of each person will finally be reached. It will end in either *blessing or calamity* – a second life or a second death. Everyone in the world has eaten from the tree mentioned in Genesis 2:9. The eternal destiny of each person will be according to what they chose to cultivate *in their heart* – whether **good or evil**.²⁰ ✱

⁷ Rev 20:11-15 ⁸ Gen 3:16-19 ⁹ Acts 17:26,27 ¹⁰ Gen 1:28 ¹¹ Rom 1:20; 2:14,15 ¹² Rev 21:8, 22:15; Rom 1:26-32 ¹³ Gen 4:7; Rev 21:8 ¹⁴ Heb 9:27 ¹⁵ Rev 20:11-15; Rom 2:5-10 ¹⁶ Rev 20:10,14 ¹⁷ Rev 20:12 ¹⁸ Rom 2:16; 1 Cor 4:5; Prov 16:2 ¹⁹ Rev 20:11-15; Matt 25:46 ²⁰ Eccles 12:14

OFFSETTING THE EVIL

Did you know that your conscience is a *perfect record* of your life? It remembers *everything* you have ever thought or done. Even more than that, it weighs and records your motives, the reasons behind what you say or do. It's the honest part of you, the source of all integrity, the part that is most like the One who made you. Whenever you think, speak, or act in conflict with what you know is good and true and pure, something takes place in your conscience. An accounting happens, a weighing up. The same accounting happens as well, whenever you choose the good over the evil, going the right way, (especially when it costs you to do so). An entry then too, is made upon the record of your conscience.

Have you ever winced as you suddenly remembered something that you have said or done, even many years ago? For a moment, the regret is so intense, jumping out onto you like a ghost from the past. I am not talking about some religious guilt trip here; I am talking about real things that you knew in your guts were wrong and for a brief, vulnerable moment your conscience replays that fragment of your life with painful accuracy. Most often the anguish soon fades to a dull ache, leaving you wondering where that came from anyway.

There are things that no one knows about, not your father, not your mother, not your closest friend. Often you yourself will hardly even acknowledge that you did those things. These are the skeletons in your closet.

I knew a woman, who for many years carried on an adulterous relationship with another man, all the while married and living with her husband. He never knew. Can you imagine the skilful lies, the practiced



A person with guilt upon their conscience will often do many “good things” in an attempt to balance their account.

insincerity? I'm sure it became easier as time went on. Of course, one day it came to light, complete with the devastation, bitterness and the tangle of justifications one would expect. The damage was irreparable.

That was years ago and this same woman is now a highly respected schoolteacher who works enthusiastically to develop programs to help her students. She has completed several postgraduate degrees in her field and her friends and colleagues know her as a warm, intelligent and caring person.

Being often disturbed about the state of the world, she gives generously to aid wherever she can, but be assured that deep inside, the accumulated guilt lies upon her conscience, smothered by countless reasonings, hidden even from herself.

In fact, most charities and entire religions are funded and manned according to this principle. They depend upon this innate urge in man to find some way to make up for the wrongs they know they've committed. Their instinctive sense of justice foretells of a day of reckoning, a day when all the books are opened and the justifications do not work any more.

This awareness is not an invention of the religious, although most of man's responses to it form the fabric of religion. "What a man sows, so shall he reap." What goes around, comes around. The truth is undeniable and you do not need a bible to understand it. You *already know*

because your Creator put that knowledge in you before you were born.

So you try to be nice to the people at work. You give to the Salvation Army and maybe you even go to church, but whose scales are you using to judge the worth of your deeds? Does giving out of your surplus to World Vision really balance out the debt recorded in your conscience? You say you believe in The Golden Rule, but do you know your neighbor's needs? Do you even know his name?



Truly righteous people's lives are consistent; they give even when no one is looking. They struggle to live by the truth they know inside themselves. And when they do not, it grieves them and they go back to that situation and make it right. That is the distinguishing mark of righteous people: they humble themselves, facing embarrassment and

even public shame to go back to the person they wronged, to make it right with him. They do not try to offset the evil somewhere else. They don't bury their guilt in good works or in the convenience of saying "God sees my heart."

The great harm caused to another human being's soul can not be balanced out by giving tax-exempt donations to charity. It seems good and fair, but a theft has taken place: a human being was robbed. And true payment will have to be made. On the Day of Judgement when the secrets and motives of all men's hearts will be revealed, the evil can no longer be offset. *

Do Not Be Surprised At This!

It is amazing how the conscience¹ of human beings agrees with some of the most profound truths contained in the Bible. Although hidden from those steeped in religious dogma, one of the greatest truths that parallels most people's innate sense of justice and equity is contained in John 5:28-29. This is where Yahshua spoke concerning the *three eternal destinies of man*.²

“Do not be surprised at this: for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.”

What Yahshua taught was so incredible, so extraordinary to the religious thought of his day, that most were simply unwillingly to accept what He had to say. Indeed, that must be why Yahshua said, “Do not be surprised at what I am going to tell you!”

Nevertheless, he emphasized a profound truth that agrees with the instinctive³ knowledge in man's conscience: righteous people on earth, who persevere in the struggle of life to do good, will be rewarded with a *resurrection of life*.⁴ And the unrighteous who cast off the restraint of conscience, choosing rather to do evil, will likewise be recompensed according to their deeds with a *resurrection of condemnation*.⁵

This was so shocking, especially for the Jewish leaders! How could a Gentile, outside of Judaism, be granted eternal life? Impossible! They were incensed, considering his heretical teachings to be blasphemy. Yet, Yahshua made it clear that both the good and the

¹ *Conscience* – The internal sense of what is right and wrong that governs a person's thoughts and actions, urging him or her to do right rather than wrong.

² Revelation 22:11

³ *Instinctive* – Relating to, prompted by, or based on a strong natural impulse, innate, unlearned, intrinsic, known directly without being discovered or consciously perceived.

⁴ John 5:28-29; Romans 2:6,7,10; Revelation 20:11-15; Hebrews 9:27

⁵ Romans 1:18,19,21-25,28-32; 2:8,9,11

evil would give an account on the *Day of Judgment*.⁶ And on that day the secrets of men's hearts would be fully exposed – being made evident by their deeds.⁷

Just like those Jews, Christians who are biased by religious indoctrination think that rewarding good, upright people with eternal life would nullify the very gospel of Messiah and faith in His atoning work. However, it is evident that Yahshua did not think the same way, and even spoke openly about the *three (not just two) eternal destinies of man* — the holy, the righteous, and the wicked.

The Holy

Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. (John 5:24-25)

Yahshua spoke of three distinct categories of humanity, each group having distinct

eternal destinies. One category would be made of those who obediently responded to the gospel, as in John 5:24-25. They were spiritually dead in their sins, but found forgiveness in Yahshua when they heard and received the gospel. They live in communities, set apart from the rest of the world, just as the early church did.⁸ Their lives verify their faith by their daily devotion to what He commanded His first disciples.⁹ This category is referred to as the Holy¹⁰ or *Redeemed* of humanity, who live in subjection to God in Messiah's Body, the dwelling place of His Spirit on earth. They knew one day that they would have to give account of their lives in the Body.¹¹

But at the very same time in John 5:24-29, and in the same context, Yahshua spoke of two other categories of people on the earth.

⁶ Romans 2:6-7

⁷ Revelation 20:11-15

⁸ Acts 2:44-45; 4:32-35; 2 Corinthians 6:17-18

⁹ Luke 14:33; Matthew 28:20; etc

¹⁰ 1 Peter 1:15-16; 2:9-10,

¹¹ 2 Corinthians 5:10

On that day the secrets of men's hearts would be fully exposed – being made evident by their deeds.

The Righteous

The next category He spoke of were those people who promoted what was good and sought the welfare of their fellow man. They honored God by living according to the *second covenant*, which was made after the fall of Adam and Eve in the Garden. The prophet Isaiah would later refer to it as the *everlasting covenant*.¹² Its terms set forth universal standards for men and women. Even though the people who kept a good conscience as best they could were not included among the redeemed of humanity, they were worthy of a resurrection of life, as the Master said in John 5:28-29. They would serve an essential purpose for God throughout eternity.

They preserved the everlasting covenant of *conscience*, which was given to natural man *after* the Fall.¹³ They did not abandon their better judgment or forfeit what they knew was right, but lived by that knowledge all their days. The intense struggle they experienced in life doing good, turning away from evil, qualified them to be a part of *restored* mankind, referred to in scriptures as the “eternal nations.”¹⁴

The Unjust and Filthy

Messiah then recognized a third category of humanity who are fully deserving of eternal condemnation. According to Revelation 22:11, this category is divided into two classifications: *the Unjust and Filthy*.

“He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is

filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.”

The filthy and the unjust give themselves over to doing evil. They take pleasure in it, giving hearty approval to those who practice the same. They reject the natural law instinctively within their conscience in the pursuit of putting themselves first, seeking their own pleasures, indulging their lower appetites at the expense of other human beings. They are past feeling guilt for their deeds, so they become *filled* with all unrighteousness.¹⁵ These people are not born that way, but *become* that way, as it takes a while to be “filled up” with such things. Over a long period of time, guilt accumulates within them and their consciences are overpowered. The evil things they fail to judge, but crave inwardly, transform their very nature and character.

This third classification of people among the nations will spend eternity *apart* from the holy and the righteous. Their place will be in the Lake of Fire. This eternal destiny is referred to in Revelation 21:8 as the *Second Death*, which is eternal — never ending. Those who are a part of this category of irreparable humanity *became* reprobate. They were unable and unwilling to be used for a greater purpose — being given over to unjust and filthy practices.

So, not only the redeemed — those who believe and obey Messiah — will receive eternal life, but plainly, those who suffer their whole life to resist evil to the best of their ability, choosing rather

to do good, are also among those who will inherit eternal life. Both categories of mankind will work closely together in the ages to come.

The Earth – God’s Testing Ground

When God first created this world He knew that Earth was going to be the great testing ground for all humanity. Man passing that test was essential for what lay ahead in fulfilling His ultimate purpose in creation. That was why there had to be an examination to see who would qualify for the task ahead. The relationship or role between the earth and Man is an essential one and mysterious in a way. Every single thing that our Father created was made for the benefit of mankind: the air we breathe, the dew and rainfall upon the earth, the animal and plant life, etc. It is all there for us to care for and steward. No other planet has any evidence of life on it. Only Earth, the starting point of humanity.

Through the infinite foreknowledge of our Creator, His eternal purpose was to continually populate the entire universe with his highest creation – man. “*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the whole earth and subdue it; exercise dominion over it.*” In the beginning, this was God’s original mandate for all of humanity. But shortly after their creation, Adam and Eve fell, succumbing to the powers of evil, and so sin and death entered all of mankind. As a means of preserving what remained of man’s dignity, God established the *everlasting covenant of conscience*. Although now subject to the powers of evil, man was not left in a hopeless situation.

¹² Isaiah 24:5,6; Genesis 3:16-19; 9:1-7

¹³ Genesis 3:16-19, 9:1-7; Is 24:5,6; Romans 2:19-21, 2:12-15

¹⁴ Revelation 21:3,24,26; 22:2,11

¹⁵ Romans 2:28-29; Ephesians 4:18-19 (NKJ)

If there was not still great eternal significance to man's choices, God would not have wasted his time in establishing this covenant with Adam and Eve after the Fall. If man was now "utterly depraved," was God just trying to frustrate him by telling him to be fruitful and multiply? The respected doctors and theologians of Christian history, such as Calvin and Augustine, say that no good thing existed in mankind after the Fall. So, was God just trying to kick man around while he was down? No, obviously, there was still hope for man's restoration through his obedience to this Covenant, despite his fall. All those born through Adam are still appointed to die *once* for sin, but not necessarily twice.¹⁶

The penalty for sin is *death* (or *Sheol* in Hebrew). This is the *place* where the souls of human beings dwell after they die, to make payment for the sins they have committed while alive on earth. And it is here that they will remain until the Judgment. Then a determination will be made as to whether the debt for their sin has been recompensed while in *death*, or whether that person is still considered worthy of a *Second Death*.¹⁷ After Adam and Eve fell, God held them (and all humanity that came from them) accountable

¹⁶ Hebrews 9:27

¹⁷ There are two penalties for humanity as a result of sin: The first is called *death* (sometimes referred to as the *First Death*), which is temporary and will eventually come to an end at the time of the *Last Judgment* (Revelation 20:11-15). The other penalty for man's sin is the *Second Death*, which is eternal. The deciding factor between the two for fallen man has everything to do with obeying Genesis 3:16-19 and 9:1-7 and Romans 1 and 2. These are the covenants God gave to fallen man and expected him to live by to the very best of his ability.

for the knowledge they had now gained. What man did with that knowledge and how he used it or suppressed it would be evident by his deeds and would be the determining factor in his eternal destiny.



The Preservation of Mankind

Again, after the Flood, God commanded Noah to institute government among all the nations to keep order by punishing murder. All good laws stem from the fact that man is made in God's image, and help men retain what is inherently known in their heart. Noah delegated this authority over to all the nations in order to establish law and order on earth. In so doing, the restraint of evil would be held in check. All societies of the earth would be free to exercise their right to promote the good and welfare of their nations, abiding by the covenants God gave to humanity in the very beginning.

Obviously, fallen man was capable of upholding authority and righteous rule on earth,

although he was limited in his absolute powers to do so, due to sin having entered humanity. At the same time, God also once again commanded Noah, "*Be fruitful and multiply; fill the whole earth and subdue it; exercise dominion over it.*" It is clear that God's intention was constantly to restore man to his original purpose in creation regardless of his fall. God could still recognize His image in righteous men like Noah; it gave Him something to work with.

The Task Ahead

Living on earth as a human being is not a light matter, but it is also not an impossible task God set before mankind. Innate within all humanity, God has placed the guiding light of conscience. It leads the way for all those in the nations who freely choose to obey what they know is right and good. Their plight in this life is not hopeless. In the final judgment, they will receive their reward of a second life among the eternal nations of God. Both the Righteous and the Holy will share an intimate relationship throughout eternity in bringing God's rule and dominion throughout the expanse of the universe.

Their behavior on earth, God's testing ground, will have proven them worthy to further God's ultimate purpose throughout the endless expanse of the universe. There will be no limit to the original command to "be fruitful and multiply, replenish and take dominion." But this time there will be one major difference. The serpent of old will no longer have any access to deceive them ever again. He will be cast into the Lake of Fire. Finally, the taint of evil over mankind will forever be gone. *

How can I believe in a God who throws good people into hell just because they aren't Christians?



HAS ANYONE EVER ASKED YOU THIS QUESTION? Many sincere people wonder. Of course, you could pull a pat answer from your theological quiver and say, “No one is good.” And there is some truth to that, for truly all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God. But does that mean that, say, a Chinese peasant who worked hard all her life caring for her family, remaining faithfully married for 50 years, would be condemned by God to the same eternal destiny as Adolf Hitler who murdered six million Jews?

Of course He does no such thing, not if He is the God the Bible describes, the God whom Abraham knew. This was Abraham’s confidence:

Far be it from You to do such a thing, to slay the righteous with the wicked, so that the righteous and the wicked are treated alike. Far be it from You! Shall not the Judge of all the earth deal justly?
(Genesis 18:25)

Pay careful attention to the wording of Abraham’s plea: he appealed to God on behalf of the righteous in Sodom. Were there any people in Sodom who were justified by grace through faith so as to be counted righteous in the way that Abraham was? Even Abraham’s nephew Lot had parted company with him long before Abraham’s faith was reckoned to him as righteousness.¹ Lot had no part in the covenants with

Abraham. So how could there be any righteous men in Sodom? Was Abraham just naïve or deluded?

No! God’s response confirmed Abraham’s understanding — He sent His angels to rescue Lot, who turned out to be the only righteous man in Sodom, before He destroyed that wicked city. Lot was not a religious man, but according to Abraham and the apostle Peter, he was a righteous man:

...and if He rescued righteous Lot, oppressed by the sensual conduct of unprincipled men (for by what he saw and heard that righteous man, while living among them, felt his righteous soul tormented day after day with their lawless deeds), then the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from temptation, and to keep the unrighteous under punishment for the day of judgment...
(2 Peter 2:7-9)

The apostle Peter, who had once thought God only accepted Jews, had come to understand how God really was:

I most certainly understand now that God is not one to show partiality, but in every nation the man who fears Him and does what is right, is accepted by Him. (Acts 10:34-35)

The teaching that Christians are going to heaven and everyone else is going to eternal hell slanders God’s character. It denies His great love for men and

women who struggle to live by their conscience, not doing things that ruin people’s lives.²

What most Christians don’t understand is that *there are three eternal destinies, not two*. There are three categories of men,³ and three places prepared for them to spend eternity based on God’s just judgment.⁴ Certainly there is a place of eternal torment for those who cast off the restraint of conscience and gave themselves to doing things that God hates. This is the first category of man — the Unjust and Filthy of Revelation 22:11.

And certainly there is an eternal reward for those who repented of their sin and gave up everything to follow Yahshua the Messiah, the Son of God, in obedience to the gospel.⁵ This is the *third* category of man, the Holy of Revelation 22:11. The Bible says they will rule with Messiah forever over the nations.⁶ But who are the people of these nations? They are not the Unjust and Filthy of the first category, for they spend eternity in the Lake of Fire.⁷ Nor are they the Holy of the third category, for they comprise the holy city⁸ as those who rule with Messiah over the nations.

The simple truth is that God recognizes another category of people that most Christians do not recognize: those who are Righteous according to the standard their Creator put into their conscience. This is the second category of Revelation 22:11, and they also

¹Gen 13:11; 15:6 ²Rev 21:8; 22:15 ³Rev 22:11 ⁴Heb 9:27; Rev 20:12-13 ⁵Mark 10:28-30; Luke 14:26-33 ⁶Rev 2:26-27 ⁷Matt 25:41; Rev 20:10-15 ⁸Rev 21:9-27 ⁹Rev 22:12 ¹⁰Matt 25:34

have an eternal reward⁹ awaiting them after the Judgment — the eternal kingdom of the nations¹⁰ over which Messiah and His holy ones will rule with perfect love and justice.¹¹

The Bible says that it is appointed for men to die once (not twice), and then face judgment.¹² The first death is the wages of sin,¹³ the just sentence due to Adam¹⁴ and all who sinned after him. But that first death is not eternal — it comes to an end and then there must be a judgment to determine, for each person, whether he or she is worthy of a second death or a second life. We are not talking about reincarnation here. We are talking about the words of our Master Yahshua, the Son of God, who said:

Do not be surprised at this; the time is coming when all the dead in the graves will hear His voice, and they will come out of their graves: those who have done good will rise and live, and those who have done evil will rise and be condemned.
(John 5:28-29)

The reason He said, “Do not be surprised...” is that He knew that the religious people of that day (like Christians today) would be surprised to hear that all men had the possibility of being granted a second, eternal life based on their deeds (not on their religion). In this passage Yahshua presents the first category (“those who have done evil”) and the second category (“those who have done good”) of Revelation 22:11, in contrast to the third category which He described a few verses before:

I tell you the truth, whoever hears My word and believes

Him who sent me has eternal life and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life. (John 5:24)

Those who respond to His word by totally entrusting their lives to Him¹⁵ need not even taste death,¹⁶ for He paid for their sins by His own death. They are not included in the judgment of John 5:29. The eternal life that they receive is a free gift of His grace, and is not based on their own works. But the



judgment of John 5:29 is based on how each person who never heard the voice of the Son of God this side of the grave¹⁷ lived his or her life. Concerning this judgment, Yahshua said:

Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done.
(Revelation 22:12)

To the Unjust and Filthy, a second death; to the Righteous, a second life; to the Holy, to rule with Him over the Righteous nations,¹⁸ who ultimately fill the whole universe with His image.¹⁹

Who are the Righteous?

Every human being is born into the category of the Righteous,

because each one is created in the image of the Creator²⁰ with an inborn, instinctive knowledge of Him. Although all men come forth from the fallen seed of Adam, inheriting the iniquities of their fathers, they are born with a conscience and the ability to obey it. This is clear from the way God spoke to Cain when he was angry toward his brother Abel:

Why are you angry, and why has your countenance fallen? If you do well, will you not be accepted? And if you do not do well, sin is lurking at the door; its desire is for you, but you must master it.
(Genesis 4:6-7)

God expected Cain to master, to overcome the temptation to commit such a sin. It was within Cain's power to resist the urge to murder his brother; otherwise God was unjust to demand it of him. If

Cain did well (overcame this kind of sin), God would accept him, as God will always accept those who do what is good.²¹

Of course, some will argue that all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.²² This is quite true. All have sinned, but not all have sinned to the degree that merits eternal punishment. The Bible is very specific about the kind of people who are worthy of the Lake of Fire. Examples are cowards,

¹¹Rev 5:10 ¹²Heb 9:27 ¹³Rom 6:23 ¹⁴Gen 2:17 ¹⁵See page 16 ¹⁶John 8:51 ¹⁷Those who do hear His voice but reject Him are also excluded from this judgment, for they are already condemned, John 3:18. ¹⁸Rev 22:1-5 ¹⁹Eph 3:21 ²⁰Gen 9:6; Ecc 7:29

²¹Acts 10:34-35 ²²Rom 3:23

²³1 Cor 6:9-10; Rev 21:8; 22:15

²⁴Heb 12:7-9

murderers, sorcerers, fornicators, adulterers, sodomites, idolaters, thieves, swindlers, drunkards, those obsessed with greed, and those who love and practice lying.²³ God does not account all sin the same. He does not equate the murderer with the man who worked hard all his life, was faithful to his wife, and ruled well over his family, disciplining his children.²⁴

Cain crossed over a line when he murdered his brother²⁵ — from the category of the Righteous to the category of the Unjust and Filthy. He chose to destroy his brother, and the resulting guilt was more than he could bear,²⁶ more than he could pay for by his own death. And that is what distinguishes the sins of the Unjust and Filthy from those of the Righteous — they are the sins that destroy people’s lives. Men and women who practice such sins fully deserve their eternal destiny in the Lake of Fire.²⁷

Since Adam fell, every man has been born with an inclination to sin — a selfish bent — but not an inclination to silence his conscience. It is normal to value your conscience, not to despise it. Your conscience is a precious

gift from a loving Creator who desires to keep you from destroying yourself and your fellow man. It is God’s vice-regent in the human heart, His voice that upholds the absolute standard of right and wrong,²⁸ and His book that records every violation of that standard until the day of judgment.²⁹ Those who suppress this voice store up wrath for themselves.³⁰ Eventually they succeed in silencing their conscience as God turns them over to their depraved minds³¹ and removes their names from the Book of Life.³² But men and women who heed the voice of their conscience will find mercy on the day of judgment. Their names remain in the Book of Life that records those who are worthy of a second life.³³

The Everlasting Covenant

What exactly is the voice of conscience saying? What is this instinctive knowledge that God has inscribed on every human heart? It is the terms of an Everlasting Covenant that God made with Adam and Eve after the Fall, the boundaries of the conscience that would keep them and their offspring from the sins that would take them

to the second death:

To the woman He said, “I will greatly multiply your pain in childbirth; in pain you shall bring forth children; yet your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you.”

Then to Adam He said, “Because you have listened to the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree about which I commanded you, saying, ‘You shall not eat from it,’ cursed is the ground for your sake. In toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall grow for you, and you shall eat the plants of the field. By the sweat of your brow you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, because from it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.” (Genesis 3:16-19)

These verses convey the essence of God’s absolute moral standard for men and women. The woman

²⁵1 John 3:12-15 ²⁶Gen 4:13

²⁷Rev 21:8 ²⁸Rom 2:14-16

²⁹Rev 20:12 ³⁰Rom 1:18 ³¹Rom 1:28 ³²

³³Rev 20:15



is to desire her husband and give herself to bearing his children, not trying to escape the suffering of childbirth or the responsibility of caring for them. This creates a strong bond between the woman and her children, who grow up respecting her. Her husband's love and respect for her also increases as he watches her go through the pain of childbirth.

The woman is to willingly submit to her husband's authority over her. The man is to lovingly rule over his wife, appreciating her desire for him and being faithful to her. He is to work hard to provide for his family, living off the sweat of his own brow, not trying to escape the suffering or the responsibility of being their provider. And they love and respect him for this.

There is no room within these boundaries for sexual relationships outside of the life-long covenant of marriage between a man and a woman. There is no room for the selfishness that usually motivates the choice to not bear children. There is no room for the wife to dominate or manipulate her husband. There is no room for the husband to be passive or lazy, or to be harsh or tyrannical. But there is much room for mutual love and care, faithfulness and diligence, loyalty and patience, kindness and warmth, endurance and fruitfulness. There is much room for happy, secure, righteous children who grow up to continue in the footsteps of their parents, within the boundaries of this Everlasting Covenant of conscience.

Tragically, beginning with Cain, there were many who forsook this covenant. By the time of Noah's generation, wickedness

was so great that God was grieved that He had made man.³⁴ But He took hope in Noah's family, who still held to the Everlasting Covenant. After the great flood He added to the covenant:



And God blessed Noah and his sons and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth... And surely I will require your lifeblood; from every beast I will require it. And from every man, from every man's brother I will require the life of man. Whoever sheds man's blood, by man his blood shall be shed, for in the image of God He made man. And as for you, be fruitful and multiply; populate the earth abundantly and multiply in it."
(Genesis 9:1-7)

This includes a provision for human government to punish those who destroy human lives, which Israel received as law (as all nations will in which righteous men prevail):

If anyone kills a person, the murderer shall be put to death on the evidence of witnesses, but no person shall be put to death on the testimony of one witness. Moreover, you shall not take ransom for the life of a murderer who is guilty of death, but he

shall surely be put to death... So you shall not pollute the land in which you are; for blood pollutes the land and no atonement can be made for the land for the blood that is shed on it, except by the blood of him who shed it.

(Numbers 35:30-33)

All good people will uphold this standard (even with their vote), for they value the image of God in their fellow man. Not only will they not murder,³⁵ but they will not knowingly do anything to ruin another person's life.³⁶ Still, as in the days of Noah, most people today do not uphold this Everlasting Covenant, and the tragic results are plain to see, as the prophet Isaiah foretold:

The earth is polluted by its inhabitants, for they transgressed laws, violated statutes, broke the Everlasting Covenant. Therefore, a curse devours the earth...
(Isaiah 24:5,6)

The Judgment of the Sheep and the Goats

Considering the sad state of humanity in general, what is the heart of a just and righteous God toward courageous men and women who suffer to keep a good conscience by upholding the Everlasting Covenant, respecting His image in their fellow man by showing care, hospitality, and compassion? Will He condemn them along with the cowardly, self-seeking, greedy, deceitful, and sexually filthy people who defile this good earth? Far be it from Him to do such a thing — to treat the righteous and the wicked alike!³⁷ On the contrary...

³⁴Gen 6:5-8 ³⁵Or withhold justice from murderers, which amounts to the same thing. ³⁶Rev 21:8

... When the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. And all the people of the nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left.

Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat. I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink. I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me. I was sick, and you visited Me. I was in prison, and you came to Me."

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?"

And the King will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me."

(Matthew 25:31-40)

Who are these righteous people whom Yahshua calls sheep? It is clear that they are not disciples for

at least three reasons:

1) They are justified by their works (while disciples are saved by the grace of God because of their faith (trust) in Him);³⁸

2) They were not aware that by loving Yahshua's brothers they were loving Him (while disciples know they are loving their Master by loving their brothers);³⁹

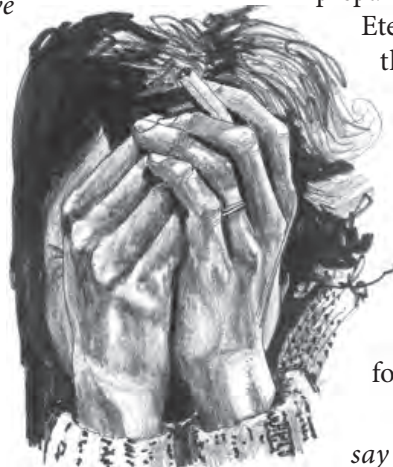
3) They are contrasted to "these brothers of mine" in verse 40.

These people whom Yahshua calls sheep were unaware that the people to whom they showed hospitality were especially important. Their motive was not selfish gain. Their conscience told them to honor the image of God in their fellow man,⁴⁰ and they were inclined to obey the voice of their conscience. They were consistent at it. That is why Yahshua called them sheep — they sensed their need of a shepherd, which was their conscience. And the Chief Shepherd will welcome them into the kingdom prepared for them — the

Eternal Kingdom of the Nations, over which Yahshua and His brothers⁴¹ will rule.⁴²

As for the goats, who had no use for a shepherd, there is a place prepared for them, too:

Then He will also say to those on His left, "Depart from Me, accursed ones, into the eternal fire which has been prepared for the devil and his angels; for I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me nothing to drink; I was a stranger, and you did not invite Me in; naked, and you did not clothe Me; sick, and in prison, and you did not visit Me."



Then they themselves also will answer, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, or thirsty, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not take care of You?"

Then He will answer them, saying, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.

(Matthew 25:41-46)

The three categories of man are clearly distinguished in this passage:

1) The Wicked who live only for themselves, in callous disregard of their fellow man, silencing their conscience to gratify their own desires (the Lake of Fire will be their eternal destiny⁴³);

2) The Righteous who recognize and honor the image of God in their fellow man, keeping a good conscience even at cost to themselves (an eternal kingdom has been prepared for them⁴⁴);

3) Yahshua's brothers, the Holy, who have utterly forsaken their own lives and live only for Him who died and rose again on their behalf (the Holy City has been prepared for them⁴⁵).

Perhaps you are not used to thinking in terms of three categories and three eternal destinies, yet the truth of these words registers in your conscience — that is, if you have the heart of Abraham, the friend of God. Otherwise, what confidence can you have that you know the God of Abraham? Do you believe in a God who throws good people into hell? *

³⁷Gen 18:25 ³⁸Rom 2:13; Eph 2:8

³⁹1 John 4:20; Heb 6:10 ⁴⁰Gen 9:6 ⁴¹Heb 2:10-12; Matt 25:40

⁴²Rev 5:10 ⁴³Matt 25:41 ⁴⁴Matt 25:34

⁴⁵John 14:3; Heb 11:16; Rev 21:2,10

The Holy A People Set Apart

The most important thing about the Holy is that they start all over again from scratch. They were born just normal human beings. They grew up and made choices that put themselves on a path to one of the first two eternal destinies. In fact, most of them were on the road to the first eternal destiny, the Lake of Fire. There was no way they could come off of those paths and onto the third path by themselves. Even if they were righteous, there was still no way that they could undo all of the wrong things that they had done in their lives and become holy.

God's concept of holy is different from all the funny ideas that men come up with. When He thinks of holy, He thinks of human beings that are totally restored back to His image, the image that He created them in. He thinks of people who are full of love and who express it all the time.

Even if a person struggles all his life not to do evil, and tries really hard to do good, he still can't bring himself back to that place of purity. He can't restore himself to the way God created him to be. All he has the power to do is avoid the Second Death. So that's why our Master Yahshua said that people had to be born again. He meant that they had to start all over, forget everything that they ever learned and ever were, and become like little babies. They needed to grow up all over again and learn what it means to be really human.

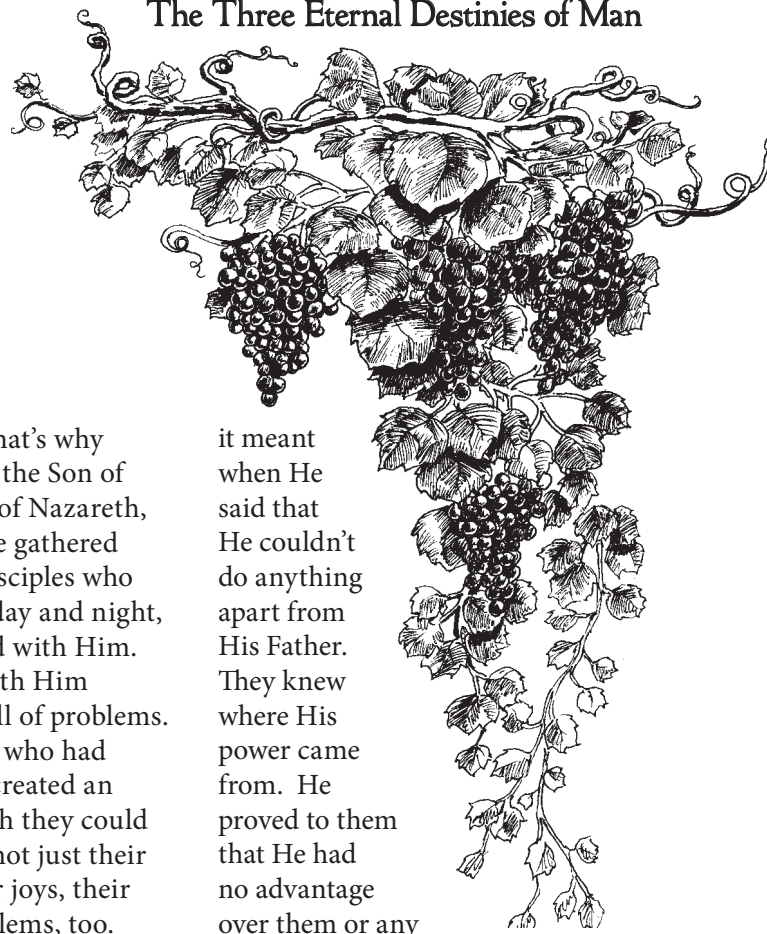
That's why when the Son of God, Yahshua of Nazareth, came to the earth, He gathered together a band of disciples who spent all their time, day and night, with one another and with Him. They needed to be with Him because they were full of problems. And He was the One who had the solution. So He created an environment in which they could share everything — not just their possessions, but their joys, their hurts, and their problems, too. This is what fellowship is.¹

It's just about as hard for us to understand today what *fellowship* means as it is to understand what *holy* means. We might think that being holy is walking around in some kind of a robe and fellowship is having coffee and donuts in a big room together. But to Yahshua and His disciples, fellowship meant sharing everything — all that you have and all that you are, having everything in common.

A Common Life

That's why Yahshua got His twelve hand-picked disciples together and kept them with Him all the time. They shared a common life with Him, the Son of God. They learned the way their Master thought. They learned how He related to His Father in heaven. They were right by His side as He lived the life of a disciple. They saw Him face impossible difficulties and overcome. They knew deeply what

The Three Eternal Destinies of Man



it meant when He said that He couldn't do anything apart from His Father. They knew where His power came from. He proved to them that He had no advantage over them or any other disciple. He didn't use any special divine privileges.² He did everything as a man who had fellowship with His Father in heaven.

He came to them as the Light of the world. He showed them the way to be real human beings. But it wasn't enough for Him just to show them the way to live. He also had to prepare them to live it. He had to deal with all of the false things they had learned. These weren't just false ideas of what God was like, or what it meant to be holy, or things like that. He had to deal with their false ways of living. So He kept them with Him and with one another until all the false ways in them came to the light. During the years that they lived with Him they got totally exposed. Their hidden motives came out. Their shallowness, their worldly ambitions, their selfish refusal to suffer — it all came to the light. All their false concepts about

¹ John 3:14-17;23; John 13:34,35; 1 John 1:6,7; 2:4 ²Phil 2:7

being the hand-picked messengers of the Messiah, the future rulers of Israel, got totally torn down. It was a time of intense training. They fought with one another, got their feelings hurt, pouted, sulked, argued, resented one another, gossiped about each other — until every false way came out of them and was exposed. Then they finally got down to being who they were meant to be.³ They lost their false faces. They arrived at a proper understanding of themselves.⁴ They left behind all their thoughts of being superior and special and learned to accept themselves and each other for who they really were. They saw that by themselves, apart from depending upon their Father in heaven, they were a hopeless mess. They understood in their experience that without Him they couldn't do anything.⁵

“The Way”

This was what our Master was talking about when He said we had to be born again and become like

little children. He spent much time preparing them to receive the Holy Spirit. Receiving His Spirit was their only hope of being holy — or even of being fully human. He completed His mission by dying as a payment for their sins. And after rising from the dead, He went up into the heavens and sent His Spirit to live inside of them. These chosen messengers who had been through the fire, and learned how to be humble and how to be real, got filled up to overflowing with the Spirit of the Creator of all things. They were full of joy, full of love, incredibly patient, gentle as doves, kind to everyone, even those who weren't kind to them. And they had a peace about them that ordinary people could not understand. This was the result of the excruciating training they had gone through while they were with Yahshua. They had learned the Way of the Lord.⁶ It was a new way of life, a new way of relating to other people. They now became the teachers. When the Holy

Spirit was poured out upon them they gathered other disciples and established the same full-time, practical life of fellowship that they had known with Yahshua.⁷ They taught the new disciples the same lessons that they had learned. They helped them to give up their false concepts and false identities. They taught them to depend on Yahshua. But now there was an amazing difference. Yahshua had now come to them in the person of His Spirit.⁸ Fellowship with Him meant fellowship with one another. They learned to recognize and respect Him in one another. They fell in love with Him. They fell in love with one another. They were ready to do anything for each other. They gladly gave up lands, houses, possessions, friendships and family ties, even their own lives and independence.⁹ All they cared about was being true to their Master Yahshua and their fellow disciples.

This was what fellowship meant. This was true “Church Life.” They



³John 3:27 ⁴Rom 12:3 ⁵John 15:5 ⁶Gen 18:19 ⁷Acts 2:42 ⁸John 14:23 ⁹Acts 4:32

didn't just go to meetings and eat chicken dinners together. They were totally devoted to their God. They were consumed with His name being made great on the earth, His rule coming to the earth, and His purpose being done on the earth, just like it was in heaven. They were dedicated to loving Him and loving each other, seeing to it that no one in their Community was in need.¹⁰

The Commonwealth of Israel

The zeal of these early believers startled the world. No demand was too great for them. They eagerly took the whole message of this Life¹¹ to any place and anyone that would receive it. They didn't become a new religion, they became a new nation. They were the Commonwealth of Israel.¹² Anyone and everyone who was willing to do God's will could be part of this holy nation. They called themselves the house of Jacob,¹³ the Israel of God,¹⁴ the Twelve Tribes.¹⁵ The life of self-sacrificing care that they had for each other spread across national boundaries. All of the Communities in all of the Tribes were united together. Communities in one region would give, even beyond their means, to help those in another region.¹⁶ The life of heaven was coming to earth.

So this is what it means to be holy. This is what it means to pass out of death and into life. It doesn't just mean that your sins are washed away and your destiny is changed. It means that the life of separation and alienation that makes people so miserable in the world is replaced by a different life.

This is how the Holy are different from the Righteous of the Nations. They don't just do the best they can to obey their conscience. The Holy are consumed with the purpose of God, filled with the Spirit of God. They are restored back to what it

The Cowardly and Unbelieving

He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. (John 3:18)

But for the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars, their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

It is plain that these verses, and others like them, condemn to the Lake of Fire all those who have heard the gospel but choose not to receive it. They have disbelieved it. But these verses do not condemn those who have never heard the good news. It is only those who hear and believe who pass out of death and into eternal life.¹ A coward is one who rejects the good news because it places too great a demand on his life. Such people do not do what He said they must do to become His disciple — give Him everything.² The cowardly and unbelieving then, are those who have heard the message of the Gospel, and, like the rich young ruler in Mark 10:17-31, go away sad because they will not give up all their own possessions. They mean more to many people than eternal life. The Son of God used the rich young ruler as an example to show what everyone must do to be saved — obey His word!³

¹ John 5:24 ² Luke 14:26-33 ³ John 8:51; Heb 5:9

means to be a human being. They live to prove to the world what it means to be created in the image of God. Salvation doesn't just mean escaping from the Lake of Fire. It means being set free from all of the false things inside of you that cut you off from others and hold you back from being real. Being holy means being set free from worry over your own food and clothing. Eternal Life means loving each other the way Yahshua loved us. It means having the assurance that we are doing what is pleasing to our Creator and not even being afraid of death.

The Restoration of All Things

The process of salvation, of being made whole, that Yahshua started on the earth sounds a little like a fantasy. If it hadn't been recorded in the Bible no one would believe it was even possible. Strange as it may seem, most people

who read the Bible still don't believe that it's possible. They look at all the confusion of the last 1900 years and they can hardly believe that there is anything more than just going to heaven after they die. But there is more. There's a lot more. Our Master promised in Mark 9:12 that the time would come when all things would be restored. We know that He is true, and that He always told the truth. And we believe that the life He lived on the earth — the life that He shared with His disciples, the life that rocked the foundations of society in the first century — is being restored now.

If life is worth living and the Bible is worth believing, then every person alive ought to get himself to a place where this Way of Life is being lived. He ought to search and not give up searching until he finds this life of love and fellowship. What could be worth more than Eternal Life? ✨

¹⁰Acts 4:34 ¹¹Acts 5:20 ¹²Eph 2:12,13 ¹³Luke 1:33 ¹⁴Gal 6:16 ¹⁵Acts 26:7; James 1:1; Rev 21:12 ¹⁶2 Cor 8:1-14

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A person facing certain death has no doubt about the reality of judgement. He knows at that instant where his life is taking him; he is no longer able to ignore the voice of his conscience.

He faced certain death. He not only sensed judgement — He stood before the judge and was condemned. The dreadful sentence of death had been rendered. He bore a heavy weight of guilt as He left the court.

His was not a private execution before the eyes of a few required witnesses. He walked before His countrymen, disfigured by the brutal treatment of His guards. Strong men paled at the sight of Him and women wept. Step by awful step He walked to where His life would finally be wrenched from His battered body.

Many men had walked that grim path before. The guilt they bore sealed their eternal destiny. Stumbling and collapsing from exhaustion, He finally reached the place of execution. In a few agonizing hours the public spectacle came to an end. Those who were there heard Him cry out about being forsaken by God. He surely was.

There, before the eyes of heaven and earth His life ended. The weight of guilt thrust His

righteous soul down into the pit of death. Yet He didn't bear His own guilt — He bore ours. He willingly took upon Himself the anguish that our sins deserved. In all His suffering He uttered no complaint and felt no bitterness.

His death was the greatest act of love ever demonstrated. His innocent blood covered every unjust and filthy act that we have ever done — all the things we continued to do against our conscience.

He spent three days and three nights in death, and that was enough to pay for the sin of us all. The pain He went through was enough. Even in death there was not one bit of mistrust or resistance to His Father's will for Him. That's why the full anguish of death was able to reach the very core of His being in such a short time. It more than equalled the suffering which the hardhearted will resist eternally as they continue to reason away their guilty consciences.

When He had done all He was

sent to do, His Father raised Him from the dead. Because of His innocence it was impossible for death to hold Him. In His death He purchased the earth and all its inhabitants. In His resurrection He became King to all who would follow Him. His name — Yahshua — means He is mighty and powerful to save. That same power that raised Him from the dead enables His disciples to love one another the same way He loved us. It actually breaks down the barriers that alienate human beings from one another. It produces a life of love and unity — the evidence that God loves mankind and sacrificed His Son to set us free.

He is our Liberator. Anyone who is willing to do His will can come to Him and be set free from death. God, in His great mercy and loving kindness towards man, provided a way that the righteous sinner and even the unjust and filthy could find forgiveness and change their eternal destiny. *

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