

WITNESS ON EARTH - SO SAID PAUL IN ACTS 14:17. WHEN A MAN, ANY MAN, LOOKS INTO THE SKY IT TELLS HIM THAT **GOD EXISTS**. IT ALSO TELLS HIM THAT GOD HAS **POWER TO DO THINGS**. THIS WAS PAUL'S ARGUMENT TO DECLARE ALL MEN GUILTY BEFORE GOD IN **ROMANS 1:20-21**. **NATURE CRIES OUT "THERE IS A GOD"**. IT IS NOT GOD'S FAULT THAT MANKIND TURNS ITS BACK ON THE CREATOR AND DENIES HIS EXISTENCE! (Ps. 14:1)

MAN HAS **NEGLECTED THE REVELATION OF GOD IN CREATION**. THE HEAVENS DECLARE OR ARE TELLING THERE IS A GOD WHO IS A GOD OF POWER AND ABILITY. (SEVERAL YEARS AGO, OUR **DAILY BREAD** SPOKE OF THE **MARVELS** OF GOD'S CREATION AND WHAT MAN HAS LEARNED FROM IT. FOR EXAMPLE, THE

- ① MAKING OF **PAPER** FROM WOOD PULP WAS DISCOVERED BY WATCHING A HORNETS BUILD THEIR NEST. THE
- ② DEVELOPMENT OF **RADAR** IS BUT THE AMPLIFICATION OF A PRINCIPLE USED BY BATS AND SIMILAR CREATURES REFLECTING SOUND FROM OTHER SURFACES. BY WATCHING THE OPERATION OF A **SILK WORM** MEN
- ③ LEARNED ABOUT **RAYON**. IT IS SAID THAT THE PROCESS EMPLOYED IN MAKING **NYLON** IS ALMOST AN
- ④ EXACT COPY OF THE **SPIDER'S METHOD** OF SPINNING ITS GOSSAMER THREAD. THE PRINCIPLE OF **JET**
- ⑤ **PROPULSION** HAS BEEN USED FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BY THE **SQUID** AS IT SUCKS IN AND EXPELS WATER TO MOVE ITSELF ALONG. THE **HUMMING BIRD**
- ⑥ HAS THE CAPACITY TO FLY BACKWARD - NATURE'S **TINY HELICOPTER**. THE **SCORPION'S TAIL** IS A
- ⑦ PERFECT PROTOTYPE OF THE MODERN **HYPODERMIC NEEDLE**. THE **CAMELEON** IS THE MASTER OF
- ⑧ **CAMOUFLAGE**, THE STING OF CERTAIN **WASPS** ARE
- ⑨ ABLE TO PARALYZE ITS VICTIMS WITHOUT KILLING HENCE A PROTOTYPE OF LOCAL ANESTHETICS. **ALL**
- ⑩ **NATURE SPEAKS OF GOD AND SHOULD DRAW MAN'S ATTENTION TO GOD**. **MY THEOLOGY PROFESSOR WAS A FIRM BELIEVER THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A GENUINE ATHEIST**. HE SUGGESTED THAT EVERY FAIR MINDED MAN MUST ACCEPT THE POSSIBILITY OF GOD OR HE IS NOT FAIR MINDED!

⑩ **Designs** Planes look like Birds
Subs look " whale!

AN ATHEIST WHO IS ALSO A THINKER WOULD BE FORCED TO CONCLUSION THAT IF THERE IS NO GOD IT WOULD BE FOREVER IMPOSSIBLE TO PROVE IT. IN ORDER TO BE FAIR, THE ATHEIST WOULD HAVE TO EXPLORE THE WHOLE UNIVERSE. HE WOULD HAVE TO QUESTION GENERATIONS OF THE PAST AND ANTICIPATE THE UNKNOWN FUTURE TO DISPROVE THE CLAIM OF ALL THOSE WHO SAY: "I HAVE FOUND GOD." THE SCIENCE OF ASTRONOMY STAGGERS THE MIND. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ARE TOLD THERE ARE BILLIONS OF GALAXIES IN SPACE. ① THE MILKY WAY IS ONLY ONE OF THESE GREAT STAR SYSTEMS CALLED GALAXIES IN THE KNOWN UNIVERSE. AS YET, A RAY OF LIGHT MOVING AT 186,000 MILES PER SECOND WOULD REQUIRE ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND YEARS TO TRAVERSE THE MILKY WAY FROM EDGE TO EDGE. THE MILKY WAY CONTAINS TRILLIONS OF STARS. REMEMBER, THERE ARE BILLIONS OF SUCH GALAXIES IN THE UNIVERSE. MOST ASTRONOMERS INSIST THAT THERE ARE MORE STARS IN SPACE THAN GRAINS OF SAND ON ALL THE SHORES AND DESERTS ON EARTH. A. THEY ALSO TELL US THAT THE NUMBER OF STARS PRESENTLY OBSERVABLE THROUGH OUR MODERN TELESCOPE IS ABOUT A SEXTILLION - THAT IS 1 FOLLOWED BY 21 ZEROES! ONLY A FRACTION OF THESE STARS ARE DETECTABLE TO THE NAKED EYE, HOWEVER A 200-INCH TELESCOPE OPENS THE HEAVENS UP TO THESE VISTAS NOT TO MENTION WHAT OTHER ADVENTURES IN SPACE REVEAL. SOMEONE HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE NAKED EYE CAN DETECT TWO AUTOMOBILE LIGHTS AT A DISTANCE OF ABOUT FOUR MILES. A 200-INCH TELESCOPE CAN DETECT THE SAME TWO HEADLIGHTS AS SEPARATE LIGHTS AT 4000 MILES. AN OLD EDITION OF THE ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA STATES THAT THE NEAREST STAR TO THE SUN IS ALPHA CENTAURI. IT IS 25 TRILLION MILES AWAY. FOR COMPARISON WHEN WE LOOK AT THE SUN IT IS DIFFICULT TO REALIZE THAT OF THE FIFTY NEAREST STARS 10% ARE BRIGHTER AND LARGER THAN OUR SUN. IT IS CONSIDERED A MEDIUM SIZE

STAR AND LOOKS LARGE ONLY BECAUSE IT IS 93 MILLION MILES AWAY - ONLY 93 MILLION MILES AWAY. THE SUN IS CENTRAL TO THE PLANETARY SYSTEM WHICH INCLUDES THE EARTH AND IN ONE SENSE OF THE WORD PROVIDES DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY ALL THE ENERGY SUPPORTING LIFE ON EARTH BECAUSE ALL FOOD AND FUELS ARE DERIVED ULTIMATELY THROUGH PLANTS USING THE ENERGY OF THE SUN. SOMEONE HAS SAID THAT OUR EARTH IS AN ASTRONOMICAL ATOM AMONG THE WHIRLING CONSTELLATIONS, ONLY A TINY SPECK OF DUST AMONG THE OCEANS OF SUN AND THE UNIVERSE. IN THE GLOWING BALL OF THE GIANT SUN THERE IS ROOM FOR OVER ONE MILLION SUCH EARTHS AS OURS. IT WOULD TAKE AN EXPRESS TRAIN GOING NONSTOP AROUND THE CLOCK 169 YEARS TO REACH THE SUN FROM THE EARTH. THE SUN HOWEVER IS ONLY ONE STAR AMONG A MIGHTY GROUP OF SOME 400 STARS. FIGURES DEALING WITH ASTRONOMY OVERWHELM THE MIND. THE GOD WHO MADE ALL OF THESE HEAVENLY BODIES IS NOT THE KIND OF GOD ONE LEARNS ABOUT IN A SERIES OF SILLY LECTURES OR A BULL SESSION IN A COLLEGE DORMITORY. IN THE SIMPLEST OF LANGUAGE, THE PSALMIST SAYS THAT THE HEAVENS TELL OF THE GLORY OF GOD. THE STARS AND THE SUN ARE SILENT SENTINELS AND SPEAK OF GOD AS CREATOR. TWO IMAGES ARE USED TO SPEAK OF GOD'S SPLENDOR AND GRACE NAMELY, A BRIDEGROOM AND A RUNNER.

II. GOD SPEAKS THROUGH THE SCRIPTURES -

VERSES 7-11

① Law
② testimony
③ statutes

④ Commandments
⑤ judgments

SIX DIFFERENT WORDS HERE WHICH REFER TO THE WORD OF GOD. IT IS SIMILAR TO PSALM 119 IN THAT REGARD. THE VALUES OF THE BIBLE ARE SPELLED OUT IN THESE VERSES. GOD'S SPECIAL REVELATION THROUGH THE BIBLE ENCOURAGES AS WELL AS ADMONISHES MEN. GOD DID NOT GIVE US THE BIBLE FOR OUR APPROVAL BUT FOR OUR OBEDIENCE.

... Be sure your
sin will find
you out. (No. 32:23)

WHEN YOU ARE SHOPPING, WHETHER IT INVOLVES HOUSES, CARS OR CLOTHING ONE MAY TAKE A TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT ATTITUDE - BUT SUCH AN ATTITUDE TOWARDS THE BIBLE IS FATAL. IT IS POSSIBLE FOR A PERSON TO BREAK THE CLEAR COMMANDS OF THE WORD OF GOD BUT SOONER OR LATER THOSE COMMANDS WILL BREAK HIM. G. K. CHESTERTON SAID THAT ONCE THERE WAS A MAN WHO DISBELIEVED IN THE LAW OF GRAVITY. TO PROVE HIS DISBELIEF HE WALKED OFF THE EDGE OF A HIGH BUILDING. HE DID NOT PROVE HIS DISBELIEF - HE PROVED THE LAW OF GRAVITY!

ABOUT
SINS-

III. GOD SPEAKS TO THE SOUL - VERSES 12-14

GOD SPEAKS TO MEN THROUGH THE SKIES, THE SCRIPTURES AND NOW THE SOUL. ANY PERSON WHO GETS A GLIMPSE OF THE HOLY GOD WILL BECOME AWARE OF HIS OWN PERSONAL SIN. IN VERSE 12, DAVID ASKS FOR GOD'S CLEANSING FOR HIS SECRET FAULTS. IN THE LIGHT OF GOD'S PRESENCE AND PERSON THE PSALMIST DID NOT WANT HIS SINS TO RULE OR MASTER HIS LIFE. THERE ARE SINS OF WHICH WE ARE NOT CONSCIOUS BUT GOD IS. DAVID WANTED TO DEAL WITH THAT KIND OF SIN. THE OLD TESTAMENT DISTINGUISHED BETWEEN THE SINS OF IGNORANCE AND SINS OF PRESUMPTION. UNDER THE LAW, THERE WAS NO SACRIFICE FOR PRESUMPTUOUS SIN. THE JEWISH LAW DID PROVIDE FOR SINS OF IGNORANCE. PRESUMPTUOUS SIN HAD TO DO WITH SINS OF A HIGH HAND. (NUMBERS 15:27-31) SIN IS NO LESS SIN EVEN WHEN DONE IN IGNORANCE. IN THE TEXT THE WORD PRESUMPTUOUS IS AN ADJECTIVE WHICH APPEARS THIRTEEN TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, TWELVE OF WHICH ARE TRANSLATED PROUD. PRESUMPTUOUS COMES FROM A WORD WHICH MEANS TO BOIL UP OR TO LIFT ONE'S SELF UP IN PRIDE. THE HIGH HANDED SIN MENTIONED IN NUMBERS REFERS TO ONE WHO KNOWINGLY, WILLINGLY AND FLAGRANTLY SINS AGAINST GOD. (DEUT. 17:12, 18:22)

LK. 5:8

Isa. 6:5

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②

DAVID'S CONCERN IN THIS PSALM WAS TO CULTIVATE AN OBEDIENT AND WILLING SPIRIT TOWARD GOD. THEREFORE, IN THE OLD TESTAMENT THERE WAS A CLEAR DISTINCTION BETWEEN THE SINS OF IGNORANCE AND SINS OF PRESUMPTION. THE BELIEVER SHOULD BE GRATEFUL TO GOD THAT ALL OUR SINS BOTH THE UNWITTING AND THE WILLFUL WERE DEALT WITH ON THE CROSS.

CONCLUSION: ACCORDING TO REVELATION 3:20, GOD HAS SOMETHING TO SAY TO US. IT IS RECORDED IN HIS BOOK. IN THIS VERSE HE WANTS, WAITS AND WARNS ABOUT OUR RELATIONSHIP TO HIM. HE WANTS TO COME INTO THE SINNERS LIFE. WE TEND TO THINK HE DOES NOT AND THAT COULD BE A FATAL, ETERNAL ERROR.

GEHAZI

II KINGS 5:20-27

① NOT A CITY IN IRAQ
 ② Sickness or disease

GEHAZI IS NOT THE NAME OF A JAPANESE OR KOREAN VEHICLE. GEHAZI IS NOT A WORD WE SAY WHEN WE SNEEZE. GEHAZI IS NOT AN ATMOSPHERIC CONDITION. GEHAZI WAS THE NAME OF ELISHA'S SERVANT - ONE OF TWO SERVANTS MENTIONED IN THIS CHAPTER. (5:2) SOMEONE DESCRIBED GEHAZI AS THE MAN WHO LIED TO GET A CREDIT CARD AND IN THE PROCESS LOST HIS MEDICAL INSURANCE! IF HE LIVED TODAY, HE MIGHT HAVE BEEN A TV PREACHER, A PR MAN FOR A CHARITABLE ORGANIZATION OR JUST A PLAIN GARDEN VARIETY CON-MAN TRYING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE GENEROUS NATURE OF SOMEONE RECENTLY CURED OF A TERRIBLE DISEASE! OUR LORD AND HIS TRUSTED SERVANTS NEVER ASKED FOR ANYTHING IN RETURN FOR HELP AND HEALING DONE IN THE NAME OF GOD. IT WAS ALWAYS DONE ON THE BASIS OF GRACE - IT STILL IS! (COMPARE ACTS 8:18-24) ^{Curse} IN THE TEXT WE LEARN SOME LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF GEHAZI:

I. GEHAZI WAS COVETOUS OF SOME ONE ELSE'S POSSESSIONS - V. 20-21

FROM THE STORY OF NAAMAN, WE LEARN THAT ELISHA REFUSED TO ACCEPT MONEY OR GIFTS FOR THE CURE PROVIDED BY THE LORD. (5:15) WHEN GEHAZI SAW THAT NAAMAN - A MAN LOADED WITH GIFTS WHO CAME PREPARED TO PAY FOR ANY CURE HE RECEIVED, GEHAZI THOUGHT ELISHA WAS LETTING NAAMAN OFF TOO EASILY AND IT WAS TOO MUCH FOR HIM TO ACCEPT! HE SAW THE OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A FAST BUCK THROUGH FAST TALK AND FAST TRACKS! THE IDEA OF HELPING A MAN OF MEANS FOR NO MEANS WAS MEANINGLESS TO GEHAZI. IT WAS SOMETHING IN

MODERN PARALLEL OF A RICH MAN CHECKING INTO A HOSPITAL, BEING CURED AND CHECKING OUT WITH NO BILLS OR CHARGES TO PAY - UNBELIEVABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE TO SOME. GEHAZI BEGAN TO PLOT ON HOW TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF NAAMAN'S CONDITION AND GENEROSITY. COVETOUSNESS AS IT APPEARS NUMBER 10 IN THE TEN COMMANDMENTS IS NOT WIDELY CONSIDERED SIN TODAY. QUESTION: WHAT IS IT? SIMPLY STATED, COVETOUSNESS IS A DESIRE TO HAVE SOMETHING ONE HAS NO RIGHT TO HAVE. NAAMAN'S GIFTS WERE "OUT OF BOUNDS, OFF LIMITS" FOR GEHAZI. THE COVETOUS PERSON INCORRECTLY BELIEVES THAT A POSSESSION OR PERSON WILL BRING INTO HIS LIFE SOME FORM OF SATISFACTION. IF THIS WERE TRUE, THE WEALTHIEST PEOPLE IN THE WORLD WOULD BE THE HAPPIEST BY FAR BUT THE FACT IS THEY AREN'T NECESSARILY. ALSO, THIS WOULD BE BY THAT STANDARD THE HAPPIEST AGE IN HUMAN HISTORY BUT INSTEAD UNREST AND UNHAPPINESS PLAGUE OUR AFFLUENT SOCIETY. (ILLUSTRATIONS OF COVETOUSNESS - JOSHUA 7:21 - ACHAN AND I KINGS 21 - AHAB AND NABOTH'S VINEYARD)

(A) GEHAZI'S EXPOSURE TO A GODLY PROPHET DID NOT CURB HIS GREED - V. 20

HE WAS THE SERVANT OF "A MAN OF GOD". LIKE JUDAS, GEHAZI ENJOYED A PLACE OF PRIVILEGE ALONGSIDE A GOOD AND GODLY MAN. HE SAW MORAL ETHICS AND INTEGRITY IN ACTION. HOWEVER, SUCH ASSOCIATION AND ENVIRONMENT DID NOT, DOES NOT CHANGE NATURE. (MARK 7:21-23) GEHAZI WAS AN OPPORTUNIST. THAT IS, HE DEALT WITH CIRCUMSTANCES WITH LITTLE OR NO REGARD FOR PRINCIPLES OR CONSEQUENCES. HIS MASTERS' CODE OF ETHICS WERE NOT HIS. GRACE WAS NOT AS IMPORTANT AS GIFTS TO GEHAZI.

(B) GEHAZI EXPENDED ENERGY IN THE PURSUIT OF WRONGDOING - V.20-21

X THE TERM "RAN" SUGGESTS ENTHUSIASM FOR SIN. SOMEONE HAS SAID THAT SIN IS USUALLY IN A HURRY. THE WORD "SOMEWHAT" SUGGESTS THE SIZABLE NATURE OF HIS PLAN. RECENTLY AN ACQUAINTANCE REMINDED ME OF THE ENTHUSIASM MOST OF US HAD BEFORE CHRIST IN THE PURSUIT OF SIN. SPENDING ALL NIGHT IN THE PURSUIT OF INTERESTS WAS DONE SO WITH GREAT GLEE. WORKING ALL DAY AFTER BEING UP ALL NIGHT PROPOSED NO PROBLEM. IT ONLY BECAME A PROBLEM WHEN WE GOT SAVED. (EXPLAIN) (ANOTHER HARD MATTER TO EXPLAIN IS HOW A YOUNGSTER ARISING ON SUNDAY MORNING AT 6 O'CLOCK TO DELIVER PAPERS IS COMMENDABLE BUT TO ATTEND SUNDAY SCHOOL SEVERAL HOURS LATER IS CRUEL - WHY IS THAT?) GEHAZI SAW AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONAL GAIN WITHOUT WORKING FOR IT AND HE WENT AT IT FULL SPEED AHEAD. QUESTION: WHAT'S WRONG WITH A LITTLE COVETOUSNESS? IT IS NEVER A MATTER OF LITTLE - IT IS ALWAYS BIG. EVIL DESIRES LEAD TO EVIL ACTION AND COVETOUSNESS IS A SIN AGAINST MAN AND GOD FOR PAUL CALLS IT A FORM OF IDOLATRY. (COL. 3:5)

II. GEHAZI WAS CARELESS ABOUT THE TRUTH - V. 22-26

THERE ARE TWO LIES TOLD BY GEHAZI RECORDED IN THIS PASSAGE:

(A) HE LIED TO NAAMAN - V. 22

"MY MASTER HATH SENT ME...." IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. ELISHA HAD NOTHING TO DO WITH GEHAZI'S DECEPTION. GEHAZI WAS DRAGGING A MAN OF INTEGRITY INTO HIS DECEPTION. ELISAH'S GOOD

NAME, GOOD WORKS AND GOOD REPUTATION WERE OF NO CONCERN TO GEHAZI. THE LIE IS COMPOUNDED WITH THE PHRASE "TO SONS OF THE PROPHETS." THIS IS A FICTITIOUS STORY. IT NEVER HAPPENED, IT WAS A MADE UP LIE TO GET GIFTS FROM NAAMAN. SIMPLY STATED, HE WAS COLLECTING MONEY FOR A NON-EXISTENT PROGRAM MADE UP OF NON-EXISTENT BIBLE SCHOOL STUDENTS! TODAY WE WOULD CALL SUCH AN ATTEMPT - FRAUD.

(B) HE LIED TO ELISHA - V. 25

WHEN QUESTIONED ABOUT HIS CONDUCT, HE CLAIMED TO HAVE STAYED AT HOME AND TO HAVE GONE NOWHERE ELSE. LYING IN THIS SITUATION HAD BECOME A WAY OF LIFE. HOWEVER, ELISHA HAD THAT "SIXTH SENSE" ABOUT HIS SERVANT AND KNEW HE WAS NOT TELLING HIM THE TRUTH. HOW HE KNEW THE OTHER DETAILS IS NOT MENTIONED. (SUGGESTION: ELISHA ATTENDED THE SAME LIE DETECTION SCHOOL MY MOTHER DID! COMMENT REGARDING "LITTLE BIRD.") (COMPARE PSALM 58:3, JOHN 8:44-46 - SATAN TOLD THE FIRST LIE. HE INTRODUCED THE SAME IN EDEN AND IT HAS BEEN A WAY OF LIFE FOR ADAM'S SONS EVER SINCE. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS OF LYING IS IT BRINGS OTHER SINS IN ITS WAKE SUCH AS STEALING, ADULTERY AND ULTIMATELY MURDER - THEY ARE ALL PART OF THE PACKAGE. AS A MATTER OF FACT, ALL GOOD AND LASTING RELATIONSHIPS ARE BUILT UPON TRUTH. WHEN LYING IS INTRODUCED THE RELATIONSHIP ERODES, DETERIORATES AND ULTIMATELY IS DESTROYED. COMMENT REGARDING FAMILY BUSINESS, MARRIAGE.) BY THE WAY, TRUTH MUST BE TAUGHT - LYING WILL COME NATURALLY! QUESTION: WHY DID GEHAZI LIE? SIMPLY STATED FOR PERSONAL GAIN. THE AMOUNT IN QUESTION WAS "A TALENT OF SILVER." IN ANCIENT TIMES, MONEY WAS WEIGHED, NOT COUNTED. A BASIC UNIT IN JEWISH

MONEY WAS THE SHEKEL VALUED AT APPROXIMATELY 65¢ IN AMERICAN MONEY. A TALENT WAS 3000 SHEKELS OR \$1,950.00. A TALENT WEIGHED SOMEWHERE BETWEEN 75 AND 95 POUNDS.

(WILLIAM BARCLAY SUGGESTS THERE ARE DIFFERENT KINDS OF LIES. THERE IS THE LIE BASED ON FEAR. THIS TO ESCAPE CONSEQUENCES OF ACTS. IT BEGINS EARLY IN CHILDHOOD AND CONTINUES AS WE BLAME OTHERS FOR OUR MISCONDUCT. THE LIE OF CARELESSNESS - THOSE LIES THAT ARE NOT CAREFUL OR ATTENTIVE TO FACTS - MIS-STATEMENTS. THE LIES OF BOASTING - THE TENDENCY TO PUT ONESELF IN A BETTER LIGHT THAN HE REALLY IS. IT OFTEN MANIFESTS ITSELF NOT IN WHAT WE SAID IN A GIVEN SITUATION BUT WHAT WE WISH WE HAD SAID. THE LIE FOR PROFIT - FALSE ADVERTISING, TELLING SOMEONE SOMETHING FOR SALES PURPOSES ALONE IRRESPECTIVE OF THE TRUTHFULNESS OF THE STATEMENT. THE LIE OF PROPAGANDA - EXAGGERATED CLAIMS TO WIN SUPPORT. THIS IS ESPECIALLY TRUE OF POLITICS. SOMEONE SAID "IN WAR TRUTH IS THE FIRST CASUALTY." THE LIE OF SILENCE - SAY OR DO NOTHING INDICATING SUPPORT FOR WRONG. THE HALF-TRUTH - THAT IS ASPECTS OF TRUTH SLANTED TO SUIT OUR PARTICULAR VIEWPOINT. THERE IS ALSO LYING TO ONESELF AND LYING TO GOD - ALL A PART OF THE LYING PROCESS.

III. GEHAZI WAS CURSED WITH AN INCURABLE DISEASE - V. 27

GEHAZI WANTED SOMETHING FROM NAAMAN - AND GOD SAW TO IT THAT HE GOT WHAT HE DESERVED. THESE ARE THE PENALTIES FOR SIN. (WE UNDERSTAND THAT TO BREAK THE LAWS OF ~~HEAL~~ INVOLVE CERTAIN KINDS OF SICKNESS. WHAT MEN DO NOT UNDERSTAND IS THAT WHEN GOD'S MORAL LAWS ARE BROKEN,

HEALTH

THERE ARE SOMETIMES PHYSICAL AND EMOTIONAL PENALTIES TO PAY!) MOST OF US HAVE NEVER SEEN A LEPER. WE KNOW IT WAS A LOATHSOME DISEASE BUT WE HAVE NEVER SEEN A LEPER FIRST-HAND. IN THE ANCIENT WORLD IT WAS AN INCURABLE DISEASE. TODAY IT IS KNOWN AS HANSEN'S DISEASE. LEPROSY WAS A FEARED DISEASE. ITS VICTIMS WERE KNOWN AS THE LIVING DEAD. ONCE THE DIAGNOSIS OF LEPROSY HAD BEEN MADE, THE PROCESS OF DETERIORATION CULMINATED IN THE DISLOCATION OF BONES FROM THEIR JOINTS, FINGERS, TOES AND LIMBS DROPPING OFF, THE ENTIRE BODY A MASS OF DECAY AND DEFORMITY. IN ISRAEL IT MEANT SEPARATION FROM THE REST OF SOCIETY - ISOLATION FOR THE PATIENT. THE VICTIM OF THIS DISEASE WAS SAD TO BEHOLD. HE WAS REQUIRED BY CEREMONIAL LAW TO RENT HIS CLOTHES, WALK BAREHEADED, A BANDAGE ON HIS CHIN OR LIP, AND WHENEVER ANOTHER PERSON APPROACHED HIM, HE WAS REQUIRED BY LAW TO CRY OUT THIS WARNING - "UNCLEAN, UNCLEAN!" APPARENTLY THE LAWS OF PURIFICATION PERTAINING TO A LEPER WERE NOT AS STRINGENT IN SYRIA AS IN ISRAEL BUT THERE WERE STILL ENORMOUS PROBLEMS FOR A LEPER. IT BROUGHT MISERY AND FRUSTRATION INTO LIFE THAT MADE IT NOT WORTH LIVING. GEIKE RELATES THE STORY OF A LEPER WHO WROTE A LETTER DESCRIBING HIS PLIGHT. SO GREAT WAS HIS MISERY THAT HE ASKED TO BE BURIED ALIVE WHICH SOME OF HIS FRIENDS DID, APPARENTLY TO PUT HIM OUT OF HIS MISERY.

CONCLUSION: THE NEW MORALITY HAS BEEN WITH US FOR THE BETTER PART OF A ~~100~~ GENERATION AND HAS CONTRIBUTED TO AN EROSION OF MORALS IN AMERICA. FOR THAT PERIOD OF TIME, WE HAVE BUSILY ENGAGED IN REDEFINING SIN AND ESPOUSING RELATIVISM AS A PHILOSOPHY OF LIFE. SIN IS OUT - SELF IS IN. PEOPLE DON'T SIN ANYMORE - THEY SIMPLY ARE SICK. WE MAY CHANGE THE LABEL ON THE BOTTLE OF OUR SINS BUT THE BIBLE LABEL REMAINS UNCHANGED. LYING, CHEATING, STEALING ARE STILL SINS AGAINST GOD AND MAN. THE

PENALTIES FOR SIN REMAIN. (NUMBERS 32:23)
THIS VERSE STATES THAT SIN IS LIKE A BOOMERANG,
IT COMES BACK TO HAUNT AND HURT THE PERSON
WHO SENDS IT OUT. JOSEPH'S BROTHERS, DAVID
AND MANY OTHERS LEARNED THAT TO THEIR SORROW.
THERE IS A KIND OF DIVINE ORDER IN SOCIETY
WITH REFERENCE TO THE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN.
THE BOOMERANG EFFECT MAY NOT ALWAYS BE
IMMEDIATE BUT IT IS IMMUTABLE. THE BIBLE
SAYS, 'WHATSOEVER A MAN SOWS, THAT SHALL
HE REAP.' (GAL. 6:7-8) WHEN SIN SNIFFS US
OUT, LIKE A BLOODHOUND ON THE TRAIL OF A
CRIMINAL, MAKE SURE IT FINDS YOU IN JESUS
CHRIST FOR NOTHING WILL AVAIL IN THAT HOUR
BUT THE BLOOD OF CHRIST.

Blood - Ex. 12
X

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- BCC P.M.

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JESUS IN THE MIDST

THE PHRASE "IN THE MIDST" APPEARS SEVERAL TIMES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT BUT IS A SINGLE WORD IN THE GREEK TEXT, MESOS. IT IS SOMETIMES TRANSLATED "AMONG". IS THERE A SENSE IN WHICH JESUS IS STILL AMONG HIS PEOPLE? SOME SPEAK OF JESUS IN THIS CAPACITY IN AN EXTREME MANNER:

(1) SOME FOLK TALK ABOUT JESUS WITH A STRANGE LOOK, STRANGE TALK THAT SOUNDS UNREAL AND ARTIFICIAL. ("PSYCHO-CERAMICS, CRACKED POTS!")
mentality -

(2) SOME CHURCH PEOPLE FUNCTION IN THE CHURCH AS IF JESUS CHRIST WERE FAR OUT, FAR OFF AND THAT THE CHURCH IS REALLY THEIR WORK. SUCH FOLK MAY BE HEARD IN BOARD OR BUSINESS MEETINGS EXPRESSING THEIR OPINIONS BUT CHRIST'S INTERESTS ARE SELDOM CONSIDERED.

BOTH EXTREMES MISS THE POINT AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PHRASE. IT IS TRUE THAT OUR LORD'S PRESENCE THEN AND NOW MAKES A DIFFERENCE IN OUR LIVES. LET US EXAMINE SEVERAL VERSES IN THE NEW TESTAMENT WHERE THIS PHRASE APPEARS.

EDUCATION

I. JESUS IN THE MIDST OF LEARNING - LUKE 2:46

Process -

THE BACKGROUND OF THIS VERSE REGARDING JESUS' ABSENCE FROM HIS PARENTS WAS NOT THROUGH EITHER PARENTAL NEGLECT OR HIS DISOBEDIENCE. THE TERM "DOCTORS" HAS NOTHING TO DO WITH MEDICINE, IT IS THE WORD DIDASKALOS OR TEACHERS. JESUS WAS IN THE TEMPLE AT PASSOVER WHEN MANY FAMOUS TEACHERS OF THE LAW

(See Adler Statement)

WERE THERE. IT WAS A PUBLIC FORUM. IN JESUS DAY, ALL FORMAL EDUCATION WAS RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. THERE WAS NO TEXTBOOK BUT SCRIPTURE. CHILDREN LEARNED TO READ IN ORDER TO READ THE SCRIPTURE. HOWEVER, IN JEWISH CULTURE, THE CENTER OF EDUCATION WAS THE HOME. THE EDUCATION PROCESS WAS IN LARGE MEASURE SIMPLY MEMORIZING MATERIAL. LEARNING MEANT REPEATING ALOUD. REPETITION WAS THE FIRST LAW OF LEARNING. HEARING MEANT LISTENING TO SCRIPTURE. ALSO, IN THIS TIME THE TEACHERS' MORAL CHARACTER WAS VITAL. BARKLEY SAYS THAT THE MORAL CHARACTER OF THE TEACHER WAS AS IMPORTANT AS HIS ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS. THE FIRST QUESTION WAS NOT WHAT KIND OF TECHNICAL SCHOLAR IS THE TEACHER BUT WHAT KIND OF PERSON IS HE. BECAUSE JEWISH PARENTS KNEW THAT CHARACTER BEGETS CHARACTER. THAT PRINCIPLE STILL PREVAILS AND IS A BIG PLUS FOR CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. (THE FACT THAT A SCHOOL IS CALLED CHRISTIAN DOES NOT MAKE IT A GOOD SCHOOL BUT WITH EVERYTHING ELSE EQUAL IT SHOULD GIVE A DISTINCT ADVANTAGE.) OUR LORD WAS A LEARNER, AN AVID STUDENT. THE CLASSROOM WAS SPECIAL TO HIM. THE THRILL AND LOVE OF LEARNING CAME INTO HIS LIFE EARLY. THIS SCENE IS A BOY AMONG TEACHERS. ALL OTHER THINGS BEING EQUAL, A LEARNING LABORATORY WHERE JESUS CHRIST IS BOTH WELCOME AND WANTED OUGHT TO BE THE BEST POSSIBLE ENVIRONMENT FOR A CHILD. AFTER ALL, IF WE LEARN AS MUCH FROM EXAMPLES AS FROM CURRICULUM, THE CHARACTER OF THE TEACHER SHOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT. OBSERVATION: ONE OF THE GREAT ALTERNATIVES OF OUR TIME IS THAT OF CHOICE IN EDUCATION. WHEN I WAS A STUDENT WE WERE LOCKED INTO A STATE SYSTEM, LIKE IT OR LUMP IT AND THERE WAS SIMPLY NO PRIVATE OR CHRISTIAN ALTERNATIVE

ten

no

"Pay to Pray"... in school!

WHATSOEVER, SIMPLY STATED, IF YOU ARE WILLING TO PAY FOR YOUR CHILD'S EDUCATION, HE MAY PRAY IN SCHOOL! LOOK AT THE ORDER IN THIS VERSE: (*Sings of Ed. process*)

(1) SITTING - THE STUDENTS WERE NOT ROAMING AROUND THE ROOM, RUNNING UP AND DOWN THE AISLES, BUT IN AN ORDERLY WAY SAT DOWN AND BEGAN TO LEARN.

(2) HEARING THEM - THIS SUGGESTS THAT LISTENING IS IMPORTANT IN THE LEARNING PROCESS. STOP TALKING AND START LISTENING. (COMMENT REGARDING FOOL AND PHILOSOPHER.)
(AS WELL AS)

(3) ASKING - THIS SUGGESTS PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS. IF JESUS ASKED QUESTIONS OF HIS TEACHERS, SURELY THEN WE TOO OUGHT TO BE QUESTIONING PEOPLE. IT IS A DELIGHT TO ASK QUESTIONS OF SOMEONE WHO KNOWS!

(4) UNDERSTANDING - THE IDEA HERE IS INSIGHT INTO THE MEANING AND APPLICATION OF FACTS.

(5) ANSWERING - WE CANNOT ANSWER CORRECTLY UNTIL WE KNOW. VERSES LIKE THIS SHOULD ENCOURAGE US IN THE PROCESS OF CHRISTIAN EDUCATION. THE SECRET IS NOT DUMPING DOLLARS INTO FACILITIES, CURRICULUM AND PROGRAM BUT RATHER GOOD TEACHERS WHOSE GOOD AND GODLY INFLUENCE WILL PRODUCE GOOD STUDENTS AND ULTIMATELY GOOD CITIZENS IN A SOCIETY WHERE THE MORAL FABRIC IS BEGINNING TO UNRAVEL.

(PURPOSE of Ed. (ADVICE) (SERVICE))

II. JESUS IN THE MIDST SERVING - LUKE 22:24-27

THE DISCIPLES REVEAL A SELF-CENTERED SIDE THAT LOOKS VERY MUCH LIKE DISCIPLES TODAY! JESUS WAS STANDING IN THE SHADOW OF THE CROSS AND HIS DISCIPLES WERE QUARRELING OVER

WHO WOULD BE NO. 1 IN THAT FUTURE KINGDOM. THEY WERE SIMPLY INSENSITIVE TO WHAT JESUS WAS GOING THROUGH BECAUSE THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT THEMSELVES. JESUS TAUGHT HIS DISCIPLES THAT IN HIS KINGDOM, GREATNESS IS MEASURED BY SERVICE. IN JESUS' RANKS, SERVANTS ARE NEEDED, NOT SUPERS! ^(STARS) THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST IS A "SERVICE STATION". OUR MANNERS SPEAK LOUDER THAN OUR MESSAGE AT TIMES.

TIP: IF YOU SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO ANOTHER CITY AND BEGAN CHURCH LIFE SOMEWHERE ELSE, PLEASE DON'T GO WITH THE ATTITUDE OF WHAT CAN THIS CHURCH DO FOR ME AND MY FAMILY. TO BE SURE, THE CHURCH MUST CONTRIBUTE TO THE SPIRITUAL WELL-BEING OF ONE'S FAMILY BUT GO TO A CHURCH WITH THE IDEA OF "HOW MAY I SERVE HERE?" IN MOST CHURCHES THERE WILL BE FEW WHO WILL VOLUNTEER FOR NURSERY DUTY. THEY WILL SERVE IF ASKED OR BEGGED OR EULOGIZED BUT SELDOM BECAUSE THE DESPERATE NEED IS THERE. UMBRELLA DETAIL: SELDOM VOLUNTEERS. OPEN THE DOORS - HARD FOR CHILDREN AND SENIORS. DO THAT AS UNTO THE LORD. INQUIRE ABOUT JOBS NOBODY ELSE IS DOING, OR WANTS TO DO, BECAUSE IT IS NOT VISIBLE FOR OTHERS TO SEE AND CONGRATULATE - SUCH AS WORKING IN FLOWER BEDS, PULLING WEEDS, WASHING WINDOWS, GENERAL MAINTENANCE TO MAKE THE HOUSE OF GOD LOOK AS IT SHOULD. JESUS SAID HE WAS AMONG HIS DISCIPLES AS A SERVER. THIS LED ALSO TO BEING OUR SAVIOUR. (MARK 10:45, JOHN 13)

PRAYER

III. JESUS IN THE MIDST OF PRAYING - MATTHEW 18:20

THE CONTEXT OF THIS VERSE DEALS WITH HOW TO SETTLE DISPUTES IN THE CHURCH.

(1) FACE TO FACE - NOT BY LETTER BUT BY PRIVATE CONFRONTATION AND CONSULTATION.

ROBERT K. SPRADLING

APRIL 14, 1985

(See Pm Nov. 1990)

these things

IT WILL NEVER HAPPEN

THERE ARE SEVERAL THINGS ABOUT CHURCH LIFE THAT WILL NEVER HAPPEN.

- (1) NEVER HAVE EVERYBODY ON TIME AT THE SAME TIME. *(3 week cycle)*
- (2) NEVER HAVE THE FRONT ROWS FILLED UP FIRST.
- (3) NEVER HAVE PEOPLE MOVE TO THE CENTER OF THE PEW FIRST LEAVING THE OUTSIDE VACANT. *- S.O.S.*
- (4) NEVER HAVE A ^{*Regular*} SERVICE WHERE THE ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OFFERING ARE FORGOTTEN. *OMITTED.*
- (5) NEVER HAVE THE TEMPERATURE AND SOUND RIGHT FOR EVERYONE.
- (6) NEVER HAVE THE PASTOR FINISH HIS MESSAGE AT 12 O'CLOCK SHARP.
- (7) NEVER HAVE A ^{*Before*} STANDING OVATION BY THE CONGREGATION AT THE END OF THE SERVICE. *(Tote at Barr Oak - unusual business)*
- (8)

THESE THINGS SIMPLY WILL NEVER HAPPEN! THE WORD NEVER APPEARS MANY TIMES IN THE BIBLE. IN THE NEW TESTAMENT, THE WORD NEVER IS OFTEN EXPRESSED BY THE USAGE OF THE DOUBLE NEGATIVE, THAT IS TWO GREEK PARTICLES COMBINED FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPHASIZING DENIALS OR PROHIBITIONS. TODAY, WE WILL EXAMINE THREE NEVERS IN THE BOOK OF REVELATION, THREE THINGS THE BIBLE SAYS WILL NEVER HAPPEN.

*Anybody Saved On Earth Will
Be Saved of Heaven
unless Saved on Earth - John cf.*
Nobody is

(1) GOD WILL NEVER LET A CHILD OF HIS
BE LOST - REVELATION 2:5
(3:5)

IN CHAPTER 3, VERSES 5 AND 12 SPEAK TO
THIS QUESTION. ALSO, THROUGHOUT THE
SCRIPTURE THERE ARE MANY VERSES REGARDING
THE SECURITY OF THE SAINTS. (1) JOHN 6:37

(2) 10:28, PHILIPPIANS 1:6, (3) ROMANS 8:39.
SOME PEOPLE REACT TO THE DOCTRINE OF
SECURITY BECAUSE EVERYONE KNOWS SOMEONE
WHO USED TO BE BUT DOES NOT NOW SERVE THE
LORD. WHAT ABOUT THIS PERSON? THERE ARE
SEVERAL FACTS TO BE CONSIDERED. *(Elkay -
writer)*

(1) EVERY FAMILY, EVEN GOD'S FAMILY, HAVE
PROBLEM CHILDREN "SONS" **HAS**

NOT EVERY FAMILY AND EVERY CHILD IS WELL-
ORDERED AND WELL-ADJUSTED. PAUL REMINDED
THE HEBREWS THAT GOD MUST TRAIN AND DISCIPLINE
ALL OF HIS CHILDREN. (ROMANS 12:6) THIS
VERSE TEACHES THAT EVERY SON IS CORRECTED
IN ORDER THAT HE BE NOT CONDEMNED WITH THE
WORLD. GOD CHASTENS HIS OWN CHILDREN - NOT
THE DEVIL'S CHILDREN. THE CHASTISEMENT OF
GOD IS A SIGN OF SONSHIP! (LOT) *2b. 12*

(2) WHO CAN KNOW WHO IS REALLY SAVED AND
WHO ISN'T? *what (Trees) (MATT. 13) (McClain)*

PROFESSION AND POSSESSION ARE TWO DIFFERENT
MATTERS. JESUS SPOKE OF PEOPLE WHO CLAIMED
TO BE DISCIPLES, LOOKED LIKE DISCIPLES,
WANTED TO BE IDENTIFIED AS DISCIPLES.
"NOT EVERYONE THAT SAITH UNTO ME, LORD,
LORD, SHALL ENTER INTO THE KINGDOM OF
HEAVEN; BUT HE THAT DOETH THE WILL OF MY
FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN. MANY WILL SAY TO
ME IN THAT DAY, LORD, LORD, HAVE WE NOT
PROPHESIED IN THY NAME? AND IN THY NAME
HAVE CAST OUT DEMONS? AND IN THY NAME

3

DONE MANY WONDERFUL WORKS? AND THEN WILL I PROFESS UNTO THEM, I NEVER KNEW YOU: DEPART FROM ME YE THAT WORK INIQUITY."

(MATTHEW 7:21-23) JUDAS LOOKED, TALKED, ACTED LIKE A DISCIPLE BUT WAS INDEED A WORKER OF INIQUITY! THERE IS A SIMPLE BIBLE FACT THAT CHILDREN BEAR THE NATURE OF THEIR PARENTS. PRODIGAL SONS MAY SPEND SOME TIME IN A HOG PEN BUT HE WILL NOT STAY THERE. SHEEP DON'T LIKE MUD. ~~OR SLIM!~~

P.p. do! "STUFF"

II. THOSE WHO WORSHIP THINGS WILL NEVER BE SATISFIED OR SAFE. REVELATION 18:7-23

Fully

② (MATT. 4:4) (See Proverbs)

REVELATION 17 AND 18 SPEAK OF THE FALL OF A FUTURE RELIGIOUS AND POLITICAL SYSTEM CALLED BABYLON. IT WILL MOVE TO THE FOREFRONT AFTER THE RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH. CHAPTER 17 SPEAKS OF THE RELIGIOUS COLLAPSE OF THE SYSTEM WHILE 18 SPEAKS OF THE COMMERCIAL AND POLITICAL COLLAPSE. IT WAS IN BABYLON THAT ISRAEL, AN AGRICULTURE AND PASTORAL PEOPLE, LEARNED TO TRADE AND GAINED BOTH DESIRE AND SKILL AS MERCHANTS. THIS FUTURE WORLD-WIDE SYSTEM WILL DRAW KINGS AND MERCHANTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD WHO WILL WORSHIP AT THE SHRINE OF MONEY. VERSES 2 THROUGH 7 LIKE ANCIENT BABYLON, THIS POLITICAL AND COMMERCIAL SYSTEM WILL BE DEALT WITH BY GOD. (VERSE 7) SUMS UP THE HIGH LIVING OF PRIDE AND ARROGANCE OVER MATERIAL THINGS. THE "QUEEN COMPLEX" THAT DECEIVED BABYLON INTO BELIEVING IT COULD SURVIVE SORROW AND DEATH WAS WRONG. BABYLON BELIEVED MONEY COULD SOLVE ALL ITS PROBLEMS. (VERSE 14) THE THINGS WHICH MEN LUSTED FOR, THOSE DEEP-SEATED CRAVINGS AND DRIVES FOR MORE ARE UNSATISFYING.

1992

18:2-7

Paradox of Flesh -
Never Satisfied!

(1) v. 14
THE WORD DAINTY IS TRANSLATED "SUMPTUOUS THINGS" AND REFERS TO THE SWEET MORSELS OF THE MOUTH SO ENJOYED BY THE GOURMET. THE WORD GOODLY LITERALLY MEANS "BRIGHT THINGS" AND IS USED IN SCRIPTURE TO DESCRIBE GORGEOUS ROBES, GAY OR BRIGHT APPAREL AND IN ACTS 10:30 TO DESCRIBE ANGELS APPAREL. ALSO IT DESCRIBES THE BEAUTY OF A RIVER AND THE BRIGHTNESS OF A STAR. THIS VERSE SPEAKS OF A UNIVERSAL GOING OUT OF BUSINESS SALE WHEN GOODS ARE GONE FOR GOOD. THE WORD DEPARTED LITERALLY IS TRANSLATED PERISH. WHERE THESE PEOPLE ARE GOING, CLOTHING AND FINERY WILL NOT BE SOUGHT OR ENJOYED. (COMPARE THE DRABNESS OF PRISON APPAREL.) VERSES 21 THROUGH 23 THE WORD PIPERS REFERS TO FLUTISTS. THIS VERSE SPEAKS OF ENTERTAINMENT AND INDUSTRY STOPPED. THOSE PEOPLE WHO RESORT TO FINE ARTS AS A SUBSTITUTE FOR WORSHIPPING GOD WILL SEE THEM GONE FOREVER. AS IN ANCIENT BABYLON, WHERE MEN SOUGHT TO ESTABLISH SOMETHING TO TAKE THE PLACE OF GOD THESE HAVE ALWAYS FAILED. ACCORDING TO VERSE 23 SOCIAL AND COMMERCIAL FUNCTIONS WILL STOP. THAT SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT THAT WORSHIPS WEALTH, LUXURY, PLEASURE AND MATERIAL THINGS WILL SEE THEM DISSIPATE BEFORE THEIR EYES. PEOPLE WHO KNEW THE PRICE OF EVERYTHING AND THE VALUE OF NOTHING WILL FIND THEIR FOUNDATION FOR LIFE, THAT IS THOSE WHO WORSHIP AT THE SHRINE OF MATERIALISM, WILL SEE IT DISAPPEAR FOREVER. THIS IS THE FATE OF CIVILIZATION AND PEOPLE WHO SEEK TO FIND SATISFACTION AND SECURITY APART FROM GOD.

V. 14
Arrested

(5 Fingers
cells. outline)

ADMIT

III. GOD WILL NEVER LET ANYONE INTO HEAVEN WHOSE NAME IS NOT IN THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE - REVELATION 21:3 (27)

Rev. 20:15

THIS CHAPTER DEALS WITH THE ETERNAL STATE. IT IS THE ~~FIFTY~~ MAJOR DIVISION OF THE BOOK OF REVELATION. (EXPLAIN OUTLINE) THIS CHAPTER DESCRIBES A CITY 1500 MILES SQUARE, DESIGNED BY GOD, SPOKEN OF IN SCRIPTURE AS THE ABODE OF THE SAINTS. AFTER DESCRIBING IT AS THE PLACE WHERE GOD HIMSELF WILL DWELL WITH HIS PEOPLE, ALL OF THE EMOTIONS ASSOCIATED WITH SIN WILL BE GONE. THERE WILL BE NO MORE CEMETERIES, HOSPITALS, FUNERAL HOMES, OBITUARIES - THEY WILL NEVER RISE AGAIN. ALSO, IN VERSE 8, A CLASSIFICATION OF THOSE WHO WILL NOT BE IN THAT ETERNAL CITY. IN OTHER WORDS, THE WICKED WILL NOT CONTAMINATE HEAVEN AND THE SINS MENTIONED IN VERSE 8 REFER TO THOSE WHO PRACTICE THESE VICES. THE WORD FEARFUL (1) MEANS COWARDLY OR THOSE WHO WERE AFRAID TO CONFESS CHRIST. (2) (MATTHEW 10:32, ROMANS 10:9) THE UNBELIEVING REFER TO THE FAITHLESS - APISTOIS (3) ABOMINABLE REFERS TO THE FOUL-MOUTHED, FOUL-MINDED, POLLUTED IN CHARACTER AND DESIRES. (4) MURDERERS - THERE WILL BE MURDERERS IN HEAVEN, LIKE DAVID AND MOSES, BUT ONES WHO HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN AND WHO DID NOT PRACTICE THIS LOW VIEW OF HUMAN LIFE AND THE SANCTITY OF LIFE. (5) WHOREMONGERS IS ANOTHER WORD FOR FORNICATION OR PORNOIS. (6) SORCERERS - PHARKANOIS THE WORD LIARS SIMPLY MEANS FALSE ONES. (7) SECOND DEATH REFERS TO A STATE OF DEATH AS OPPOSED TO LIFE. DEATH IN ITS BASIC MEANS IS SEPARATION FROM GOD SO SECOND DEATH IS THAT ETERNAL SEPARATION FROM GOD! (REVELATION 20:6) ONE WORD APPEARS OVER AND

21:8

"Dog" Series

OVER IN THIS CHAPTER. IT'S THE WORD LAMB.
 THE LAMB OF GOD IS THE CENTRAL FIGURE
 IN THE CITY OF GOD. WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED
 ON CALVARY IS THE CENTRAL AND MOST
 SIGNIFICANT EVENT IN HUMAN HISTORY. THERE-
 FORE, ADMITTANCE TO THAT CITY DEPENDS UPON
 ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO THE LAMB! (JOHN 1:29)
 THE LAMB'S BOOK OF LIFE STRESSES THE FACT
 THAT ONLY THE QUALIFIED MAY ENTER HEAVEN.
 ELIGIBILITY AND ENTRANCE INTO HEAVEN
 DEPENDS UPON ONE'S RELATIONSHIP TO GOD'S
 SON, THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. MOST PEOPLE
 UNDERSTAND AND APPRECIATE THE FACT THAT
 WE ARE NOT READY FOR HEAVEN IN OUR PRESENT
 CONDITION. ONE MUST BE CHANGED TO BE FIT
 FOR HEAVEN. THAT CHANGE MUST TAKE PLACE
 ON EARTH BEFORE DEATH IN ORDER TO BE
 ELIGIBLE TO ENTER HEAVEN. (II COR. 5:17)
 RELATE STORY OF GRANDFATHER AND WAGON

RKS
 Baptism!