"The Preparation Of Moses" Exodus 1 & 2---Read 2:1-15

Intro: A.-Background:
1-Joseph in Egypt
2-Jacob & Family migrate & settle in Goshen
3-New King---"Knew not Joseph"--nor his service to Egypt
4-Affliction of Israel--
--"deal wisely"
--afflict & make hard the way of Israel
--service--with rigor
--ban on male children--& God overruling

B.-Inspired Commentaries:
1-Words of man--maybe true; maybe false
2-God's comments & views---TRUSTWORTHY
3-Acts 7 & Heb. 11

I.-BIRTH OF MOSES 2:1-8

A.-Family into Which Born:
1-Levitical, or priestly family
2-Amram & Jockabed
3-Older sister & brother---Miriam & Aaron

B.-Birth Itself:
1-Moses was exceeding fair--Acts 7:20
2-Hidden by parents--an act of FAITH--Heb. 11:23
3-Couldn't be hidden permanently beyond 3 mos.
4-Abandonment:
--prepared parental hearts
--prepared crib
--prepared sister
--prepared daughter of Pharoah (prepared by God)
--prepared story for Miriam to tell
--prepared mother to nurse Moses

NB

II.-TRAINING OF MOSES 2:9-3:4---Very thorough for future needs--80 yr

A.-Home of Moses' Parents:
1-How long there is not known---Joseph it was 17 years
---Moses it wasn't likely more than 5 to 7 at the most
2-Taught to Know & Value God
3-Taught moral & spiritual truths
4-Taught to OBEY God
5-Got all he ever knew in 1st 40 years about the True God in this time

B.-Palace Of Pharoah: (until 40 years old)
1-Acts 7:22--College education--literature, history, law, religion, Manners, Eloquence
--Man of action & War--Military commander, Statesman
2-Taught & expected to ascend to the throne of Egypt--Called the SON of Pharoah's daughter
3-Grew to have full age--40 years
full head--well trained
full growth--"became great"
full decisiveness--ready to make vital decision

NB

C.-Desert of Midian--"back side of a desert": until 80 yrs. old
1-Learned to depend upon God, not flesh
2-Gained wife, son, & good father-in-law (help later)
3-Learned the Desert, & how to live there
4-Learned to be a shepherd of sheep before herding men & wor
5-Became God's "Meek" man

6-Learned true evaluation of himself & to have Patience
7-Learned communion & meditation with God
8-Took 40 years to learn that Moses was SOMETHING
Took 40 years to learn that Moses was NOTHING
Took 40 years to learn that God was EVERYTHING
9-God always FULLY prepares a man for His jobs---ILLUS--Frazier

WB

III.-DECISION OF MOSES Ex. 2:11-15

musical ability an aid in reducing Lisp to writing

A.-Exodus Record:
1-Lined up with Slaves--His people--Willingly
2-Saw unjust treatment--Slew Egyptian--Hid him--Forgot to look to God & so was afraid of ment
3-Dispute between 2 brethren--attempts to discern & judge
--unfair rebuke by brethren
--Probing ? about slaying--
--where did they get their info?
--Fear--matter is known
--not by murder, but by miracle
4-Flees-From Egypt
-From People
-From Pharoah
To Midian
-Forgot Isa. 40:31

B.-Acts Record (7:24-28)
1-Moses expected people to understand that he was God's man
2-People understood not--intentions---God's plan

C.-Hebrews Record
1-Rejected Royal position--BY FAITH
2-Chose place with God's people
3-Had the "long view" of not being enamoured by pleasures of sin & treasures of Egypt
4-Saw CHRIST as the issue--weighed the issue & saw in the true light

CONCLUSION: A.-Birth:
1-Physical may not be spectacular
2-Spritual--always a miracle of grace
B.-Training:
1-Of supreme importance that it be GOOD
2-All parts are important--secular & religious
3-Foundation is in spiritual truths
4-Secular subjects do have a big place
5-Some of our schooling may be unusual
6-Begin the religious training early---remember a child is only a TRUST; not a possession
illus a trade
C.-Need to be a man of DECISION:
1-Stand for God
2-Stand with God's people
3-Stand against sin & world

illus - Martin Luther at Diet of Worms
"Here I Stand"

INTRO:

A.-A Worship Experience:

1-Ex. 3:1-10--Moses Meets God at Burning Bush
- --Moses serving faithfully w/ Jethro's sheep
- --Attending DESERT Theological Seminary
- --Angel of the LORD appeared to him in the burning bush---**NOT CONSUMED**
- --Moses turns to see
- --Moses called to by God
- --Moses responds in submission: "HERE AM I"
- --Command--3:5-6

2-Opposites seen today--Irreverence in God's presence
- --Neglect of God's day
- --Ignoring of God's claims upon lives of believers

3-Attitudes which **ought to** "**SHOW**" in worship
- --Promptness; an appointment with God
- --Silence; in the presence of deity
- --Adoration & praise before omnipotence
- --Concentration of attention on God
- --"In the Spirit" for a walk of power

4-Produces REVERENCE
- ** In attitude of heart
- ** In appearance of body
- ** In action of life

B.-A Worship Interaction:

1-Worship is **essentially RECIPROCAL**
- --Not a spectator sport
- --Not a window dressing to observe
- --Not a show to watch from afar

2-Rather--A combination
- ** Of ADORATION
- ** And ENCOUNTER
- ** Expected to get out of the bleachers/into the action

3-Question to ask at the end of each WORSHIP experience is:

"DID I MEET JESUS CHRIST TODAY?"

4-If not--Why not?
- --Whose fault is it?
- --Was Jesus inaccessible?
- --Were you **really interacting** WITH HIM?

5-PROP: God is seeking those believers who will really meet with Him in a worship experience, because worshipping God is our highest occupation.

I.-INVOLVEMENT IN WORSHIP:

A.-WHAT IS WORSHIP:

1-Heb. &GK. words--"to bow down, to prostrate ones self before"
- --Not so much a **physical** action as a heart response.

2-W. Elwyn Davies: "Real worship is a personal response of the spirit o f man to the true knowledge of God."

3-ILLUS--Matt. 2:1-2, 11
--Matt. 4:8-10

4-Def.--"Worship is a face-to=face **relationship** with the Living God in which I am primarily **occupied** with Him and **fitted** to serve Him." (A.P.Gibbs, Worship, The Christian's Highest Occupation)

B.-WHAT IS INVOLVED IN WORSHIP?:

1-Worship involves SINGING

--**Pattern** of both the O.T & the N.T.

** Ps. 150:6--"Let everything that hath breath praise the LORD. Praise ye the LORD."

** Col.3:16--"Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts."

--Israel **sang** to the LORD ** Song of Moses
** Song of Deborah
** Song of Barak
** Song of Hannah
** Songs of planting
** Songs of harvest
** Songs of battle
** Ps. 40:3--"And He hath put a new song in my mouth, even praise unto our God; many shall see it, and fear, and shall trust in the LORD"

--Q. & A. from **Don Hustad** of M.B.I., and an organist:

** Q.-Have men been won to Christ thru music?
A.-Many have been **converted** to Jesus Christ just through a phrase of a song--perhaps something learned in early years.

Q.-Why don't we hear stronger singing in some of our churches today?
A.-Singing is **a spiritual matter**. If we are the kind of Christians God wants us to be, our singing will show it.!

Q.-And is congregational singing so important?
A.-I think it is the **most important** musical part of the worship service. Something happens to the wo worshipper when he sings. He becomes his own priest, going directly to God as he does also in prayer. This is more important than goigg through a choir or soloist. Furthermore, the hymns teach the people about the Savior's love for them.

--1 Cor. 14:15--"What is it then? I will pray with the Spirit, & I will pray with the understanding also; I will sing with the Spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also."

- THOT by M. R. DeHaan--"Christians, **like tea kettles**, should be able to sing even when up to their necks in hot water"
- ILLUS--Remember it is only a **SICK BIRD** that has **NO SONG !!**
  - --Are **you sick**, and without a song today?
- Macartney--"When a congregation sing todether, speaking to themselves, to one another, & to God in psalms & hymns & spiritual songs & making melody in their hearts to the Lord---then come to the surface all the great traditions of the past, all the great convictions of the present, & all the glorious hopes for the future." (P. 418 of his ILLUS. book)

2-Worship involves CONFESSION & PRAYER

- "Prayed **for**" ** By pastor in church services
  ** By church leaders from time to time
  ** By **yourself** also
- Some things must be done **personally**
  ** Repentance of sin
  ** Confession of change of mind
  ** Expression of a determination to do differently
  ** No one can do these **for you**
- **Ps. 51**:1-4--PERSONAL
- **Neh. 9**:1-2--CORPORATE
- Do you **participate** in confession & prayer, or do you just observe while others pray??

3-Worship Involves SCRIPTURE READING:

- **Places** of **reading** ** Personal study time
  ** Family devotions
  ** Public services
- Follows after **confession** of Neh. 9:1-2 that we find **Neh. 9:3**
- **CENTRALITY** OF THE **WORD**
  ** In hearing it **read**
  ** In hearing it **preached**
  ** J. J. Van Oosterzee remarked that "Christianity is par excellance the religion of **the Word**."
  ** Do you participate **by following** what is taught & read it from your own Bible?

4-Worship Involves TESTIMONY:

- What does the **Bible say** about public sharing?
  ** Ps. 107:1-2 "O give thanks unto the LORD, for He is good; for His mercy endureth forever. Let the redeemed of the LORD say so, whom He hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy."
  ** Ps. 49:3 "My mouth shall speak of wisdom; and the meditation of my heart shall be of understanding."
  ** 1 Pet. 3:15 "But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness & fear."
  ** Mark 5:19

- Testimony of faith is a STRENGTHENING EXERCISE
  - ** Others who hear & then see confirmation of God's dealing in their lives
  - ** Others who learn from God's work in your life
  - ** Others who are prepared in advance for experiences which God will bring to them later
  - YOU yourself are strengthened by sharing
  - UNSAVED hear your witness and are caused to stop & consider
  - ** Have you ever given public testimony of your faith & of God's faithfulness ??
- Testimonies in church services
  - ** Spontaneous response to God's goodness
  - ** Evidence of the Spirit's leading
  - ** Not disorderly nor creating confusion
- DO YOU participate in sharing your "word for God"???

5-Worship Involves GIVING:

- 1st mention of "worship in the Bible is Gen. 22:5 where it is closely connected with the GIVING of sacrifice (Isaac / Ram)
- A COSTLY experience-** Not lightly entered into
  - 2 Sam. 24::8-25
  - Mk. 12:41-44
- Giving is an opportunity to "prove the sincerity of our love" (2 Cor. 8;8-9)
- Sacrifices acceptable to God--Heb. 13:15-16 "By Him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to His name. But to do good, and to communicate forget not: for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."
- HOW DO WE MEASURE UP as being INVOLVED in worship??
  - ** Singing ??
  - ** Confession & Prayer ??
  - ** Scripture reading ??
  - ** Testimony sharing ??
  - ** Giving ??

6-~~Allan A.~~-MacRae--"The acts that we perform in church are not necessarily worship, though they may be helps to worship. Worship is an attitude of an individual to God. The public service should represent, encourage & strengthen this relationship." (Biblical Bulletin, IX, #36, Fall 1980, "What Does It Mean To Worship God?")

II.-INSTRUCTION FOR WORSHIP:

A.-INSTRUCTION BY LISTENING:

1-Worship is not-
- forms & exercises
- involvements and contributions
- just speaking to God
- Though it may involve these...AND MORE

2-Worship is GOD SPEAKING TO US !!

3-Questions;
- ** Did you hear God today in this service?
- ** What did He say TO YOU ??

** Have you really worshipped today ?? ?

4-Worship is a
RECIPROCAL EXPERIENCE --YOU meeting God
--GOD speaking to your heart

5-L I S T E N, as well as participating
** We need a regular INTAKE as well as OUTPUT in service
** B O T H are important

6-No wonder RICHARD BAXTER (the man who is said to have "preached as a dying man to dying men")wrote:

"It is no small matter to stand up in the face of a congregation, and deliver a message of salvation or of damnation as from the living God, in the name of our Redeemer.

B.-Instruction By BEING: (i.e., by DECORUM)

1-EXAMPLE is important--of others to you
--of you to others
--Does YOURS square with the truth of Sc

** 2 Pet. 3:11b--"...what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy manner of life& godliness."
** 1 Tim. 3:15--"...that thou mayest know how thou ought est to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

2-Example--Can be a HELP to worship
--Can be a HINDRANCE to worship

3-QUESTION-What would the worship service be like if everyones decorum was just like yours??
** Godliness personified ??
** or Pandemonium ??

1 Cor. 4:9--"For I think that God hath set forth us the apostles last, as it were appointed to death: for we are made a spectacle unto the world, & to angels, & to men."

4-Some are saved JUST BY WATCHING the lives of Christians
-Saul was brought to the Savior through watching the stoning of Stephen
--You are a SPECTACLE
-Are the "spectacles"clean & clear, or SMUDGED ??

C.-Instruction By PREACHING:

1-Frederick S. Leahy'' Preaching is the climax of worship, for this is God speaking to His people...It is His Word demanding a verdict in my life; this is the vision which calls for obedience." (Christianity Today, Sept. 12, 1960)

2-Contrary to demands in some quarters for more worship & less preaching

3-J.J. Van Oosterzee reminds us that the Pastor is "impelled & called to lead his flock, so far as possible as one whole, in the pasture of the Word

-Means of SALVATION
** 1 Cor. 1:21-24-"For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them

that believe. For the Jews require a sign & the Greeks seek after wisdom. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumbling block and unto the Greeks foolishness. But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God & the wisdom of God."

--Means of INSTRUCTION for believers

** Neh. 8:8, 12, 13--"So they read in the book of the law of God distinctly, & gave the sense, & caused them to understand the reading...And all the people went their way to eat, & to drink, & to send portions, & to make great mirth, because they had understood the words that were declared unto them. And on the second day were gathered together the chief of the fathers of all the people, the priests, & the Levites, unto Ezra the Scribe, even to understand the words of the Law.

** PROTESTANT REFORMATION was a RETURN to the preaching of the Word ++No more divided chancel
++ No more exalted Mass
++"True preaching...issues in that crucial encounter between Christ and the soul." (Frederick S. Leahy)

** ILLUS--U. of Calif. student who visited Westbrae just once. Talked with me at the door about his heart need, but did not decide. He promised to return the next Sunday.

The following Sunday he was not present. Later he was found in his bed. He had died at age 21 of a heart attack with his alarm set so as to get up & attend Church at Westbrae

--AUTHORITY in preaching

** Dual --Grows out of God's Word
--Arises out of the HOLY LIFE of the proclaimer

**As Leahy says: "Why should I pay heed? The answer lies in the fact that all Scripture is 'God-breathed' and therefore is of supreme authority. It is precisely this point that sets Christians poles apart from pagan religions."

** Wm. G. T. Shedd was right when he wrote: "Unless Christendom possesses a superior knowledge, it has no right to instruct heathendom; and unless the Christian clergy are endowed with the authority of a special revelation, & can bring credentials therefore, they have no right to speak to their fellow-men upon the subjects of human duty & destiny."

**Shed continued: "No sacred orator can be bold & commanding in his tone, if he believes or if he fears that there are fatal & irreconcilable inconsistencies in the written revelation."

**God's man is always PREACHING FOR DECISIONS...from all !!

BOORUM & PEASE "NOTEAR" ®

CONCLUSION

A.-Elements Of Worship:

1-ATTITUDES toward worship
- --Promptness
- --Silence
- --Adoration & Praise
- --Concentration of attention
- --"In the Spirit"
- --Reverence

2-INVOLVEMENT
- --Singing
- --Prayer & confession
- --Reading of the Scriptures
- --Testimony shared
- --Giving

3-INSTRUCTION FOR WORSHIP
- --Listening to God
- --Being for God
- --Preaching God's Word & receiving it as God's Word

B.-Engagement In Worship:

1-Read --1 Chron. 16:29-31, 34, 36

2-DEF. by William Temple, a former Archbishop of Canterbury:

> "To worship is to **quicken** the conscience by the holiness of God, to **feed** the mind with the truth of God; to **purge** the imagination by the beauty of God, to **open** up the heart to the love of God, to **devote** the will to the purpose of God."

3-Clarence Macartney told of visiting a rather mediocre service with **a poor sermon** in Cornwall, England---but also of remembering for many years that the preacher had well said:

> "We do not really love or worship God **until we love and admire** the things which God requires and which God loves."

In other words, WORSHIP is that to which we give our interest, our enthusiasm, & our devotion. !!

4-INDEED::: "True worship is **not LIP** service, **but** it is **LIFE** service."

5-How is **YOUR WORSHIP** EXPERIENCE ??

PROP → God is seeking believers who will really meet with Him in a worship experience, because worshipping God is our highest occupation.

O.K.B.C. - 9/29/85

"Moses' Excuses" Of Moses" Exodus chapters 3 &4

Intro: A.-Three Requisites To A Call:
1-Receive a vision ——— FACTS
2-Hear a voice ——— HIS SPIRIT WITNESSING TO OUR SPIRIT
3-Make a Decision. ——— RESPONSE OF FAITH

B.-Background:
1-Birth
2-Training--Home
Court
Desert
3-Exile
4-Burning Bush:--turned aside
great thing
holy ground
Picture of Israel, burned in persecution but not consumed by the fire of the anger of her enemies
God had seen, heard & been moved
5-Going to move one of His children

I.-EXCUSE NUMBER ONE
A.-Not worthy--3:11
B.-Divine Presence--3:12----Mt. 28:20 b.

II.-EXCUSE NUMBER TWO
A.-Not Commissioned--3:13
B.-Divine Name--3:14----John 14:6 "I am"

EXCUSE NUMBER THREE
A.-Not Accredited--4:1
B.-Divine Power--4:2-9----Acts 1:8

IV.-EXCUSE NUMBER FOUR
A.-Not Eloquent--4:10
B.-Divine Enablement----Phs. 4:13

V.-EXCUSE NUMBER FIVE-----The real crux of these excuses
A.-Not willing--4:13
B.-Divinely Given Helper----4:14-17
----John 14:16
----Contrast with Isa. 6:8

CONCLUSION---Excuses are excuses & don't hold up with God
-God gives HIS HELP for every need

-4:18--God gets immediate action----WE ARE TO "GET MOVING" for God in response to His commission.

"Pharoah's Theological Education" Exodus 5:2--Read 5:1-9

Intro: A.-Background:
1-New king in Egypt
2-Persecution, Bondage
3-Moses---Birth; Training; Exile; Call

B.-Conflict:
1-Moses' Demands 5:1
2-God's Message 5:1b
3-Pharoah's Flippant reply 5:2
4-Explanation 5:3

C.-Education
1-Much learning "coming up"
2-Cannot substitute LEARNING for TRUSTING
3-2 Tim. 3:7-8
4-LEARNING MUST LEAD TO A DECISION
5-What Pharoah learned

I.--7:16--"MY PEOPLE"

A.-God is interested in "His own"
1-Moves Him to action
2-His action moves Moses, Pharoah, & Israel

II.-8:8-10--NO OTHER GOD LIKE JEHOVAH

A.-Power
1-Bring on frogs at will
2-Take away frogs at an appointed time

B.-Deity:
1-Control of frogs-----an Egyptian deity
2-God of Israel is greater than any or all Egyptian gods

III.--8:20-23--DIVISION BETWEEN

A.-Flies:
1-Corrupting & annoying
2-Eccles. 10:1
3-Invasion of all homes

"Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savor; so doth a little folly [him that is in reputation for] wisdom & honor"

B.-Protection:
1-Egypt to be infested
2-Israel in Goshen to be protected

C.-Reason:
1-Protection of Israel from plague
2-Proof of Jehovah's power in the affairs of men
3-If a believer is not different.....it isn't God's fault.... but it must be because the believer is indifferent or he is IN EGYPT.

IV.--8:28-30--MEDIATOR NECESSARY

A.-Pharoah's Plea:
1-"Intreat for me"
2-Recognized inability to stand before God
3-Recognized need for aid
4-Recognized "God's man"
5-Moses---Type of Christ---De. 18:15-19

B.-Christ Our Mediator
1-Only Access to the Father--Jn. 14:6 b
2-1 Tim. 2:5--Himself eable to represent BOTH man & God
3-No other Human--ILLUS--Mary in R. C. Theol--Mt. 12:46-50.

V.--9:18-21--GRACIOUS JEHOVAH

A.-Availability:
1-Not restricted
2-Rich & Poor; Jew & Gentile; King & Pauper

B.-Issue:
1-Protect cattle & men from promised hail
2-Believe the promise
3-Action shows belief
4-MUST BELIEVE & ACT TO BE PROTECTED--"Faith without works is dead"

VI.--9:27--RIGHTEOUS JEHOVAH

A.-Warning:
1-Given to all
2-Judgment to fall
3-Judgment is Righteous-----Rom. 1:32
4-Judgment fell--9:25

B.-Confession
1-No accusation against God
2-Acquits God----Totally
3-Personal confession of sin
4-National implication

VII.--10:1-2--SUPREMACY OF JEHOVAH 10:2

A.-Signs:
1-Given to Discredit Egypt's gods
2-Given to ACCREDIT Israel's God
3-Design---show Jehovah---not a god
---but, THE LORD---3:14

VIII.--10:24-26--NO COMPROMISE-----More later
-----God requires FULL agreement with His ways& demands

IX.--12:33--WAGES

A.-Opportunities:
1-Many chances under many circumstances
2-Attitude---he hardened his own heart
3-Same sun melts ice & hardens clay

B.-SIN:
1-Rom 6:23--"the wages of sin is death"
2-Death did occur---12:29-30; 33
3-There is no "half-way" place---neutral you cannot be

X.--12:3-13---SAFETY IN THE BLOOD

A.-Place
1-Not in houses or fields
2-Not in riches or station in life
3-BLOOD-SPRINKLED homes

B.-Efficacy:
1-Safety---Due to Promise-----Shed Blood----APPLIED BLOOD 12:13

CONCLUSION:
A.-Theological Education--complete in many ways
--quick course
--effectively proven
--unbelief is irrational

B.-YET--He rejected, hardened & refused---10:3

"Hardening Of The Heart" Read Ex. 9:22--10:4

Intro: A.-ILLUS--Coin---2 sides---both are necessary for 1 coin.
--File away 1 side until that 1 side is gone & you have NOTHING left. Both sides are vitally inter-related.

B.-ILLUS--Father & son---Father makes a rule; Son rebels & rejects & breaks rule. Father punishes son. Who wassguilty????Father or son?

I.-CONTROVERSY OVER RESPONSIBILITY

A.-Complaint:
1-"Pharoah didn't have a chance"
2-Created for this--Rom. 9:17-19
3-ILLUS---Judas too---WILLINGLY DISOBEDIENT

B.-Answer: ----Divine Commentary--Rom. 9:20-24
1-Not in the vessel's rights to question or reply
2-Power is in the hands of the Potter
3-"Fitted"----for wrath thru sin
---for glory thru grace

II.-EXPLANATIONS:

A.-No Contradictions:
1-Human side--true
2-Divine side--true
3-Both are part of 1 whole
4-ILLUS---2 meshed gears produce one machine. Without 1 you do not have the machine. Both are true. Both are essential.

III.-PHAROAH'S SIDE******REBELLION

A.-Attitude:
1-Unwilling to please God
2-Unwilling to follow God---Prov. 28:14
3-Stubborn & defiant---Ex. 7:13-14
4-"Every act of disobedience makes it more difficult to obey" Erdman
5-Forced over & over again to make decisions---but the decisions were Pharoah's own.

B.-Actions:
1-Ex. 7:13-14; 22-23
2-Ex. 8:15, 19, 32
3-Ex. 9:7, 34-35
4-Prov. 29:1
5-Full burden of responsibility fallys on Pharoah for his own actions of rebellion
6-Parallel------1 Pet. 2:7-8.

IV.-GOD'S SIDE**********TRIAL

A.-Purpose: was.
1-Show the rebellion of the human heart---Proved what Pharoah/
2-Show the power of God in Egypt & the world--Josh. 2:10
3-Show the love of God in redemption of "His own"

B.-Actions:

1-Ex. 4:21
2-Ex. 7:3
3-Ex. 9:12
4-Ex. 10:1, 20, 27
5-Ex. 11:10
6-Ex. 14:4, 8
7-See Scofield Note--Page 75---Instrumentally God hardened Pharoah's heart by forcing him to decide on the issue. Refusal of obedience INEVITABLY hardens conscience & heart.

CONCLUSION:

A.-Perspective of Hardening:

1-Earth's eye view---Ex. 9:34-35
2-Heaven's eye view--Ex. 10:1
3-Sent from God---A TEST
4-Rebellion is man's heart reaction---HARDNESS due to rejection

B.-Warning against Hardening

1-Addressed to Believers
2-Heb. 3:13-14

C.-Expectation of God from the Christian:

1-2 Cor. 2:14-17
2-Savor of Christ in every place---BY US
3-Savor of Christ to both Saved & Unsaved
4-Show contrast of death & life
5-Insufficient????---yes!!!!!----but the Spirit enables
6-Issue---Corruption of the Word.

"COMPROMISE" Exodus 10:1-11; 24-26

Intro: A.-Def.--Attempt to stand between 2 positions & yet embrace NEITHER

B.-Pharoah--Attempt to placate God by offering half-way measures

C.-Moses & God--No position short of a fully separated attitude & position would be accepted

I.-IN THE LAND----8:25

A.-Offer:
1-Pharoah will allow sacrifice to God
2-Not to get far enough away to flee for freedom
3-Attempt at compromise

B.-Reasons For Rejection Of Compromise:
1-Human--Sacrifice would be in Egyptian's "back yard"
--Sacrifice would be of Egyptian's "holy animals"
--Sacrifice itself a repugnance to Egyptians
--Fear of reprisals
2-Divine--God sets requirements
--Ours is to obey His commands

C.-Modern Parallels:
1-Position--Stand in the "Egypt" all about us & use all that this world has to offer & use the Gospel as a FIRE ESCAPE
2-Life & Affections--Interests & goals here in Egypt & no time, interest, or concern for the things of The BETTER LAND
3-Politics--Dictated by own ideals & ideas
--any bed-fellow just so he's loyal to your party

II.-SHALL NOT GO VERY FAR AWAY 8:28

A.-Problem:
1-What is meant by "separation"---set apart from & unto
2-Contrast with "conformity"---fashioned after
3-Compare with "concession"---agreeing on major points & agreeing to disagree on minor points for a more effective witness and stand for major issues and the Gospel of Jesus Christ

B.-Pharoah's Attitude:
1-"Don't demand too much of a REAL stand"
2-"Don't be too NARROW"--- Don't carry all this religion too far
3-God's answer is Mt. 7:13-14

C.-Standards:
1-Need to be Heaven-made
2-Not to be dictated by the world to the Believer
3-Col. 3:1-4

III.-YE THAT ARE MEN 10:11

A.-Attitude:
1-O.K. if you want to be a fool
2-Don't involve your wife & kids
3-Only you "strong ones" go on with the Lord
4-Really---Religion is a FAMILY AFFAIR

B.-Result:
1-Family Exemption from responsibility
2-But---Worldly position sought after--Mt. 20:20-21
3-ILLUS---When Dr. Carey was laboring in India, & his son Felix had accepted the office of ambassador to the king of Burma, Carey said, "Felix has driveled into an ambassador"---as though he looked upon the highest of earthly offices as an utter degradation if for it the child of God forsook his opportunity of ministering the Gospel of Christ. Paul blesses God that this great grace was given to him, that he might preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; he looked upon it not as toil, but as a grace.

IV.-ONLY LET YOUR FLOCKS AND YOUR HERDS BE STAYED 10:24-26

A.-Compromise Is Not Consistent:
1-Continually shifting position---like---house upon the sands
2-No final position

B.-Pharoah's Suggestion---LEAVE YOUR BUSINESS IN THE WORLD:
1-O.K. for you to go on with God
2-O.K. for your family to go on with God
3-O.K. to even take a stand for God
4-BUT...Don't involve your business life
-Cost too much to surrender this too
-Doesn't really matter anyway how you earn your living--Beer, Tobacco, Dance Hall, Theater, Gambling, etc---
5-But God says it DOES MATTER----2 Cor. 6:14

C.-Business IS Involved Worship:
1-Their business was their herds---involved in worship because of animal sacrifice
2-Therefore their business relations really affected their worship of God & fellowship with Him
3-Just so us too for our OFFERINGS come from our businesses & these can't be tainted money---ILLUS---Judas & 30 pieces of silver--Mt. 27:3-7
4-FELLOWSHIP WITH THE LORD IS AT STAKE OVER COMPROMISE.
5-ILLUS***1 Sam. 15:1-23--Command given to Saul ---Order disobeyed---Disobedience discovered-----Passing of the buck----God's View---God's Judgment

CONCLUSION:----A.-Compromise:
1-World & World leaders would lead us into compromise
2-Compromise is no solution--unstable---doesn't satisfy God----Doesn't satisfy Redeemed man

B.-Alternative----Real Stand & Real Action
1-ILLUS--I never saw anybody try to walk on both sides of the street but a drunken man: he tried it, & it was very awkward work indeed; but I have seen many people in the moral & religious point of view try to walk on both sides of the street, & I thought there was some kind of intoxication in them, or else they would have given it up as a very foolish thing. Now if I thought this world & the pleasures thereof worth my seeking, I would seek them & go after them, & I would not pretend to be religious; but if Christ be Christ, & if God be God, let us give our whole hearts to Him, & not go shares with the world---in any part or in any vein.
2-Redemption is for the purpose of SERVICE---"that they may serve me."

1 Cor. 15:58

"THE PASSOVER AND YOU" Ex. 12:1-14; 1 Cor. 5:7-8

INTRO:

A.-Historical Review:

1-Israel in Egypt--Went there in days of Joseph & Jacob
--Time of famine took them there
--To meet their temporal needs
--King arose "who knew not Joseph"
--Increased population of Jews became a problem to Pharoah--Perceived threat

2-Bondage--Ex. 1:8
--Fear of these FOREIGNERS in Egypt
--Service with rigour required
--Persecution of the Jews
--Cried out to God for deliverance (EX.3:7-9)

3-God calls Moses--God's method is A MAN !!
--Pharoahconfronted to "let my people go"
--Refused to yield
--Plagues sent upon the land (10 of them)
--Hardening of heart
** INTERNAL by himself
** EXTERNAL by the Lord
--Finally & reluctantly there is an acceding by Pharoah for Israel to go & worship Jehovah in the wilderness

B-Historical Parenthesis:

1-Contest with Pharoah has escalated (Ex. 1-11)

2-Insertion--Ch. 12--The Passover
--Ch. 13--Sanctification of Firstborn

3-Redemption--BY BLOOD of the lamb while still in Egypt
--BY POWER at Red Sea as the journey of faith has been begun (Ex. 14)

4-PROP: We see the historical and typical importance of the Passover as it relates to the child of God today.

I.-REASONS FOR THE PASSOVER:

A.-God Demanded Israel's Release From Egypt:

1-Egyptian period foretold to Abraham (Gen. 15:13-16)
--To be strangers in a foreign land
--Afflicted for 400 years
--Promise that Ab's descendants "shall come hither again" (to the land of Canaan)
--Inheritance of the LAND is assured

2-Why the delay of years?
--"The iniquity of the Amorites was not yet full"
--Patience & longsuffering ofGod
--Allows time for repentance for all
--Grace is granted before judgment
--AMPLE TIME.....and more !!
--BUT God will fulfill His promises to Abraham

3-"In the fullness of time"--God calls His servant Moses
--God prepares His people Isr.
--God confronts His enemyPHARO

B.-Pharoah Denied Israel's Release:
1-Polite request was made.....and DENIED !!
2-Escalated confrontation over chapters 5-11 of Exodus
--Requests made
--Compromise counteroffers by Pharoah
--Refusal to honor his word given by Pharoah
--Judgments by God
** Aaron's rod into a serpent which swallows those of the enchanters
** Waters turned to blood
** Frogs everywhere
** Lice everywhere
** Swarms of something--Flies/ Scarabs/ ??
** Murrain (Pestilence) on cattle
** Boils on the skin of man & beast
** Hail upon the crops
** Locust to devou what remained
** Darkness that could be felt

C.-God Pronounced Judgment On Firstborn:
1-Firstborn to DIE--Of man
--Of beast
--But NOT of Israel
2-"DIFFERENCE" put between the Egyptians & Israel (Ex. 11:7)
3-HOW ?? ------By the passover sacrifice of a lamb
4-What is
T H A T ??--Death angel will "PASS OVER" homes where blood of a sacrificial lamb has been offered & applied
--Deliverance thru DEATH of a lamb as a substitute for the firstborn
--Looking ahead to a later day
--John 1:29

II.-RITUAL OF THE PASSOVER:

A.-The Standards Of The Lamb:
1-Selected--On the 10th day of the month Abib (April)
--A lamb for a house (12:3-4)
--From the sheep or from the goats
2-SPOTLESS--No outward blemish that could be seen (12:5)
--Foreshadowing the perfection of Jesus
--1 Pet. 2:22--"Who did no sin, neither was guile found in His mouth"
3-Scrutinized--Time trial of 5 days (12:6)
--Proving that no internal blemish existed
--Reminds of Lk. 11:53-54--"...as He said these things unto them, the scribes and the Pharisees began to oppose Him vehemently, & to provoke Him to speak of many things, laying wait for Him, and seeking to catch something out of His mouth, that they might accuse Him.
--However, PILATE examined Jesus and said: "I find in Him no fault at all" (Jn.18:38)
4-Sex--Male only *(Ex. 12:5)
--Isa. 7:14
--Isa. 9:6
5- ALL of this foreshadowed MESSIAH!

B.-The Slaying Of The Lamb:

1-The TIME of death--Passover season of April

--In the time of Christ 2 days were required for passover slayings because of the crowds that came to Jerusalem

--Jesus observed the first & was slain on the second

--AFTERNOON (12:6)

** "Kill it in the evening"

** Lit. "BETWEEN the evenings" in Heb.

** Between sundown & dark

2-The MANNER of death

--"The whole assembly of Israel shall kill it.."(12:6)

--EVERY PERSON in Israel was considered to be involved

--United action of the whole people

--So with Jesus, as the Crowd called "CRUCIFY....CRUCIFY.....CRUCIFY"

3-The USE of death--LIFE is essential to ongoing living

--DEATH is essential to substitutionary sacrifice

--1 Pet. 2:24--"Who His own self bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness; by Whose stripes ye were healed."

--REDEMPTIVE SUBSTITUTION

** "a lamb" (12:3)

** "the lamb" (12:4)

** "your lamb" (12:5)

--Personalization had to be made

** The lamb slain

** The blood applied (12:7)

--Parallel to Romans 1:18--5:11

C.-The Supper Of The Lamb:

1-Time--"that night" (12:8)

--Communion with the elements must be in close connection with sacrifice

--Ex. 12:8-11

2-Parts that were eaten of the lamb (12:9)

--A L L of it

--Head // Legs // The purtenance (entrails) thereof

--Speaks of feeding on Christ

** His humiliation & suffering

** Crowning & glory

** FULL-ORBED partaking of HIM !!

3-Manner of the eating

--ROASTED ** Not boiled or raw (12:8-9)

**Put thru the fire

** Speaks of Calvary to our hearts

--WITH UNLEAVENED BREAD

** Believers to be clean of all leaven of sin when he feasts on Christ

** Reminder of haste of redemption

** Rescue & deliverance from impending judgment of death

Speaks of SANCTIFICATION (Rom. 6-8)

--WITH BITTER HERBS (12:8)
** Bondage pictured ++ Egypt's slavery to Pharoah
++ Our own slavery to sin
++A bitter experience which we ought never to forget & never long to go back to it
** Bitter cup Jesus took in our behalf
** Offence of the Cross
** John 16:33--"These things have I spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world."
** Gal. 6:14--"But God forbid that I should glory, excep in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world."

--EAT IN HASTE ** Staff in hand (12:11)
** Loins girded up
** Shoes on the feet
** Ready for a journey
** "Eat and run", for deliverance is imminent from DEATH in the land
** Remind that a child of God is a PILGRIM, not a TOURIST
** I Pet. 1:13--"Wherefore, gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ."

--PARTICIPANTS in the feast
** Israelites redeemed by blood (12:42
** Strangers, foreigner s & uncircumcised servants were excluded (12:43-45)
** ONLY the redeemed ones were to enter into a communion of "N E W L I F E" with their God
** Requires a personal examination to be sure:
++ One is in the faith (saved)
++ One is in fellowship at this time (clean)

III-RESULTS THAT ISSUE FROM THE PASSOVER:

A.-ONE Sacrifice; MANY Memorials:
1-Historically only one occasion when Passover occurred in Egypt
2-Many annual memorials --In the Wilderness
--In the Land
--In the captivity of Babylon
--In their return from Babylon
--Remembrances of how God had delivered Israel from bondage of Egypt

3-PARALLEL for us
--ONE Calvary; MANY memorial remembrances
--Heb. 10:10-14
--Repeated remembrance in communion services
--1 Cor. 11:24-26
--He died once; We celebrate deliverance from sin & death in the communion service...
...OFTEN !!

B.-New Beginning:
1-New calander is begun (12:2)
2-Nation is formed out of a M O B of related people descended from Abraham, Isaac & Jacob
3-Passover marks a NEW BEGINNING
4-Blood sacrifice inaugurates a new walk from that time onward
--New relationship to God by faith
--New life thereafter
--2 Cor. 5:17

C.-Promises Of God:
1-JUDGMENT upon Pharoah & his forces
--Rebellion has been their pattern
--God's judgment will be their end
--Red Sea becomes their watery grave (Ex. 14)
--Parallel for Satan & his fallen angels
--God's judgment is sure & will come
--John 12:31--"Now is the judgment of this world; now shall the prince of this wold be cast out."
2-ASSURANCE of safety for the redeemed
--Ex. 12:12-13)
--That assurance is based upon the promises of God
--Blood applied brings confidence
--God has promised & His people are assured
--Rom. 5:1-2
3-Deliverance does NOT mean a PROBLEM - FREE life
--Departed from Egypt in haste
--Faced problems along the way
** Red Sea as a barrier (Ex. 14)
** Pharoah's chariots in pursuit (Ex. 14)
** Waters of Marah that were bitter (Ex. 15)
** Lack of food to eat (Ex. 16) ETC
--They had entered a pilgrim way
** Not a pathway without troubles
** Rather, a pathway with a God who cared & provided.
** "Our Lord knows the way thru the Wilderness"
--God had ONE SON without sin
But God has NO CHILDREN without trials

CONCLUSION
A.-Recapitulation:
1-REASON for Passover--Release from bondage of Egypt
--Judgment upon Pharoah
--Difference between people of God & worldlings
2-RITUAL of the Pasover--Standards of the Lamb
--Slaying of the Lamb
--Supper of the Lamb
3-RESULTS that issue from the Passover:
--One sacrifice: Many memorials
--New beginning for the people of God
--Promises of God are to be counted upon.

B.-Illustration--Chinese Calendar:

Some may know that the Chinese calendar is set up on a 12 year cycle with each year symbolized by an animal:

- Rat
- Ox
- Tiger
- Hare
- Dragon
- Serpent
- Horse
- Monkey
- Cock
- Dog
- Boar
- Sheep (1979; 1991)

These animals are supposed to exercise influence over the period of time it represents. All born under a particular sign are thought to be influenced by that animal.

How appropriate that John the Baptist emerged from the wilderness dressed in animal skins & eating a diet of locust & wild honey should point to another Man, Jesus Christ, standing nearby and confidently proclaim:

"BEHOLD THE LAMB OF GOD THAT TAKETH AWAY THE SIN OF THE WORLD"

Not only in China was the lamb a symbol of sacrifice, but in the purposes of God also. God planned it that way from all eternity. His Son would come into the world to be slain for sinners to provide for their forgiveness & new life before God.

The Chinese language is very picturesque. Take their word for "RIGHTEOUSNESS". It is made of 2 words:

- For the lamb, and
- For me.

These two character words are superimposed one over the other. This is VERY SIGNIFICANT, and true to the teachings of the Bible. In order to be righteous in the sight of the Holy God, one must be placed under God's lamb, who is the Lord Jesus Christ.

How do I know???

1 Cor. 5:7-8 is God's inspired commentary on the predictive meaning of this Passover Lamb's sacrifice in Exodus 1w

C.-Poem:

Beneath the blood-stained lintel I with my children stand;
A messenger of evil is passing through the land.
There is no other refuge from the destroyer's face:
Beneath the blood-stained lintel shall be our hiding place.

The Lamb of God has suffered, our sins and griefs He bore;
By faith the blood is sprinkled above our dwelling's door.
The foe who seeks to enter doth fear that sacred sign;
Tonight the blood-stained lintel shall shelter me and mine.

My Saviour, for my dear ones I claim Thy promise true·
The Lamb is "for the household"—the children's Saviour too.
On earth the little children once felt Thy touch divine;
Beneath the blood-stained lintel Thy blessing give to mine.

O Thou who gave them, guard them—those wayward little feet,
The wilderness before them, the ills of life to meet.
My mother love is helpless, I trust them to Thy care!
Beneath the blood-stained lintel, oh, keep me ever there!

Oh, wonderful Redeemer, who suffered for our sake,
When o'er the guilty nations the judgment storm shall break,
With joy from that safe shelter may we then meet Thine eye,
Beneath the blood-stained lintel, my children, Lord, and I.

—Author Unknown

OKBC — 12/29/85 — AM Communion

#116 — What A Wonderful Savior

#115 — There Is A Fountain

#24 — I Will Praise Him

#341 — I Gave My Life For Thee

BREAD FROM HEAVEN Exodus 16:1-36; John 6:22-59

Intro: A.-The Heart Of Man Is Rebellious:
1-Jer. 17:9 "The heart is deceitful above all things, & desperately wicked: who can know it?"
2-Mark 7:20-23
3-Characteristic of unsaved
4-Believers are not free from this
5-Only overcoming while spiritual & obedient
6-Never exempt from the "pull" of the adamic nature

B.-Rebellion Is Seen In Murmuring:
1-Inward rebellion must have a manifestation
2-Festering poison must come out somehow
3-Ex. 16:1-3--Claim it is worse in wilderness than Egypt
--Find fault with Divinely appointed human leaders
--Lusting after what they had left behind
--ILLUS----Lot's wife--Gen. 19:26
4-Ex. 16:7-8--True perspective of murmuring
--Really directing murmuring against God
--When God visited & redeemed His people & brought them forth out of the Land of Egypt, it assuredly was not for the purpose of suffering them to die of hunger & thirst in the wilderness. Such a thought is IMPIOUS & ABSURD

C.-People With Many Blessings:
1-Redeemed with blood
2-Redeemed with power
3-Protected & Led from Egypt
4-Protected & Led in Wilderness
5-Land had been promised to them------a "better" land
6-Daily being sustained--YET MURMURING
--Blaming the Lord & saying that sudden death in Egypt would have been better than THIS
--Thinking it better to be in Egypt with Pharoah than to be in the wilderness with GOD
--Seem to actually have lost their sense of having been delivered
--Reminds me of Christians who talk of what they've "GIVEN UP" for the Lord. Haven't at all!!! Have been delivered.
7-But God daily loadeth them with benefits
--Manna sent---that's grace
--Quail sent---that's grace upon grace

D.-Needs Of The Nation Israel:
1-Recognize that murmuring & bickering & complaining are evidences of being out of fellowship
2-Remember that you can be among believers & yet be apart from God.....& so lead astray the "whole Cong."16:2
3-Cultivate the sense of DELIVERANCE from the strangle-hold of sin, the world, & the devil

4-Weaned from Egypt--its leeks, fish, garlic, etc.
--Acts 7:39 "In their hearts they turned back again into Egypt"

5-Come to be fully SATISFIED with God & His provision

I.-ORIGIN & NATURE OF MANNA:

A.-Its Appearance---16:14-15, 31:

1-Small & round--Isa. 53:2 (before Him as) "For he shall grow up as a tender plant, and as a root out of dry ground: he hath no form nor comliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him."

--Mark 6:3-4 — READ

--Typifies Christ---John 6:35 "Jesus said I am the BREAD of Life."

--Typifies Christ in humiliation

2-As the hoar frost; white--16:14, 31

3-Like coriander seed; as a grain in appearance--16:31

4-Tasted like honey wafers--16:31

5-Texture was smooth

6-There was ENOUGH for all

7-It must be gathered fresh

B.-Similar Natural Product:

1-Similar in description

2-Sweet juice which in warm weather exudes from the Tamarisk tree & forms white grains on the leaves of the tree which melt in the heat & which taste sweet.

3-Natural Question--"It is Manna"====="Is It Manna?" (16:15)
--"What is this which is appointed?"

4-Insuperable difficulties with a natural explanation

--Scr. says found on ground, not on trees

--Natural product only found 2 months a year, not throughout the full year for 40 years

--Insufficient quantity of the natural quantity to feed 6 million people

--Not found throughout the whole desert, but manna was

--Natural product not nourishing enough to permanently sustain life

--Natural product comes every day; not just 6 out of 7 day

--Natural product doesnt become wormy if held over

--THUS, this was not something "natural"

C.-Supernatural Provision:

1-A miracle that lasted 40 years

2-Supernatural in both its qualities & its quantity

3-16:4--Rained from heaven
--not natural in origin

4-Quantity sufficient to feed 6 million people

5- Could be baked, boiled, or ground up as meal (16:23)

6-Provided 6 days out of 7, year around--

7-Miraculous beginning of provision

8-Miraculous ending of provision

9-Spoil if kept any over on first 5 days of week(16:20)

10-Keep if gathered on the 6th day for use on the 7th day Sabbath (16:22-24)

11-Names--Ps. 78:23-25)
--"Corn of heaven"
--"Angels food"

II.-MINISTRY OF THE MANNA:

A.-To Show God's Gracious Provision--16:15:

1-Nothing is more dishonoring to God than the manifestation of a complaining spirit on the part of those who belong to Him.

"If we believe not, yet He abideth faithful, He cannot deny Himself"

2-God's answer to men's murmuring-------GRACIOUS GIFT OF MANNA

3-Not rejection due to man's unfaithfulness--2 Tim. 2:13

4-Provided for rebels--manna*"Mother Moses Many Ways of preparing Manna"
- --all they needed
- --perfectly balanced sufficiency
- --Rom. 5:6-8 — READ
- --Quail sent for variety 12

5-To make Israel KNOW who had brought them out of Egypt-16:2,

B.-Manna Proved Israel's Obedience--16:4:

1-God proves & tries those MOST whom He takes to Himself for His peculiar people, & trial is often by means of positive precepts, which are especially calculated to test the presence or absence of a spirit of humble and unquestioning obedience.

"As the living Father hath sent me, and I live by the Father; so he that eateth me, even he shall live by me."

2-Told to gather as commanded

3-Told to rest as commanded

4-Told to stop murmuring

5-Told to walk in all of God's law for them

6-Told to be nourished ONLY by God---Jn. 6:57

7- C.H.M.---What a striking picture is presented by Israel in the wilderness! Egypt was behind them, Canaan was before them, and the sands of the desert around them; while they themselves were called upon to look up to heaven for their daily supply. The wilderness afforded not one blade of grass nor one drop of water for Israel. In Jehovah alone was their portion. Most touching illustration of God's pilgrim people in this wilderness world! They have nothing here. Their life, being heavenly, can only be sustained by heavenly things. Though IN the world, they are not OF it, for Christ has chosen them out of it. As a heaven-born people, they are on their way to their birth-place, and sustained by food sent from there. Theirs is an upward and an onward course. The glory leads ONLY thus. It is utterly vain to cast they eye backward in the direction of Egypt; not a ray of the glory can there be discerned. "They looked toward the wilderness and behold the glory of the Lord appeared in the cloud." (16:10).

C.-Daily A Fresh Relationship With God:

1-Gather daily--daily portion
- --daily thanks for that day's portion

2-Gather sufficiently--EARLY
- --Before it melted (16:21).
- --Enough for all in own family
- --Couldn't gather for others

3-Gather without holdover--16:19-20
- --Designed to teach absolute dependence upon God for daily food & to instill confidence & trust in Him
- --hold-over stank & had worms
- --can't live today in power on

"spiritual left-overs"

4-ILLUS----Can't you hear someone complaining, "Nothing but Manna?"-------Reminds me of others today: "Nothing but Christ?" ; "Nothing but Bible Study?"

III.-THE MESSAGE OF THE MANNA:

A.-Bread Of Life:

1-Origin of life is from God

2-Sustenance of life is from God

3-Pr. 8:17-"I love them that love me; & those that seek me early shall find me"

4-Requires action on man's part--time to be saved
--time to feed upon Christ
--2 Cor. 6:2

5-Designed as sustenance in toil--Jn. 6:57

6-Designed to give life to the world

7-C.H.M.---If an israelite neglected to gather in the freshness of the morning hour, his daily portion of the divinely appointed food, he would speedily have become laking in strength for his journey. Thus it is with us. We must make Christ the paramount object of our soul's pursuit, else our spiritual life will inevitably decline

B.-Manna Speaks Of Christ --John 6:22-59:

1-Not given from Moses, but from God---6:32

2-Heavenly gift--provides life
--came down from heaven to die
--wilderness fare for pilgrims

3-Assurances--Jn. 6:35-37
--Christ is the Bread of Life
--Never hunger
--Never thirst
--Never cast out

4-BELIEVING is the issue--Jn. 6:28, 29, 35, 36, 40, 47

5-Jn. 6 teaches PARTAKING or APPROPRIATION, not mre mental assent is in view---6:40, 51, 58.

Concl: A.-What is the Point?:

1-Manna eaten----LIFE

2-Manna refused--DEATH

3-As simple & clear as that!

4-Numbers 11:4-8
5-Numbers 21:5-6
6-Hebrews 10:28-31
7-2 Cor. 2:15-16
} Read

(As authoritatively interpreted in Jn.6 (35)

B.-Parallels Between Manna And Christ:

1-Heavenly origin

2-Abundant supply

3-Easily obtained

4-Personally gathered & appropriated

5-Day-by-day continually refreshed supply

6-Needs to be sought EARLY---Eccles. 12:1

7-Satisfies all the needs of the Body & Soul

C.-Lessons Of The Manna:

1-God's gracious provision for His people--Picture of Christ

2-Special day set apart for God without work--Sabbath

D.-Reactions:

1-Will you receive the manna?

2-Rev. 2:17 "To him that overcometh will I give to eat of the hidden manna..."

3-God has good gifts EVEN for the REBELLIOUS

4-Isa. 55:1-3 "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not? Hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Incline your ear, and come unto me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you..."

5-God's question of 16:28---"How long will ye refuse to keep my commandments & my laws?"

6-Would you reject even God's GRACIOUS PROVISION?

INTRO.

A.-Leadership From Various Perspectives:

1-Army General--Gives commands to his forces to advance upon the enemy at their peril into the fire of opponents'guns.

2-Business Executive--Mandates activities of subordinates
--Requires efficiency of operation
--Performance or dismissal
--"Carrot" of a job & a paycheck

3-Pied Piper--Entices his followers like children
--Charms the unthinking to follow
--Single-file procession like lemmings
--May lead them to their destruction

4-Moses' Method--Do it all yourself
--That way you know what is done
--Even if the work doesn't all get done
--PROBLEMS BREWING !!

B.-Leadership Background: (Ex. 18:1-12)

1-Jethro comes to meet Moses
--Moses' father-in-law
--Has heard in outline the deliverance God has wrought for Israel
--Brings Zippora & 2 sons of Moses
** Gershom (= A Stranger)
** Eliezer (= God is Help)
--Glorious reunion of Moses & his family

2-Moses' character seen--Humility in obeisance (18:7)
--Love in treatment with kisses (18:7)
--Hospitality in concern for welfare of father-in-law & family
--Carefully rehearses ALL the details of God's deliverance (18:8)
--Gives the glory to the Lord

3-Jethro's reactions
--Rejoices for all the goodness which the Lord has done for Israel (18:9)
--Israelites **MURMURED** & saw only their privations
--But Jethro **REJOICED** at the good hand of God upon Israel, seeing God as the SOURCE of all blessings
"Blessed be the Lord (18:10-11)
** Jethro's conversion ??
** His OPEN CONFESSION ??
** Surely one or the other !!
** Previously evidenced that he knew Jehovah
--Sacrifice & worship followed (18:12)
** Moses & Jethro
** Elders of Israel
** Family also (implied)
** Worship is a CORPORATE AFFAIR !!

C.-Leadership Problem: (Ex. 18:13-14)

1-Ellicott--"Knowing that there was much business on hand, he did not allow the visit of his near connection (relative) to interfere with his usual habits, but held court as if Jethro had not been there."

2-Moses did all the judging alone

3-People lined up & WAITED their turn

4-Population estimates vary from 2½ million to 6 million

5-Jethro asks QUESTIONS (18:14)

- Q # 1--WHAT is this thing that thou doest to the peopl
- Q # 2--WHY sittest thou thyself alone?
- Biggest drawback was not to Moses, but to the people
- This work is TOO BIG for a "one man show !!
- This requires co-laborers

6-Leadership PROBLEM is evident

D.-Leader's Explanation: (18:15-16)

1-Two reasons--VERTICAL PLANE// "Because the people come to me to inquire of God"

- HORIZONTAL PLANE // "When they have a matter, they come to me."

2-Ministries Moses carried:

- Counseling & guiding the people
- Judging between the people in their problems
- Interpreting God's Word to them

3-Since Moses is THE LEADER, the people make him to be their sole source of help, for they feel they can trust his judgment & knowledge of God

4-Impression of INDISPENSIBILITY

5-Thus...the predicament of a job that is TOO BIG for any man

6-ILLUS--D.D. Eisenhower, when asked what kind of business passed over the desk of the President of the U.S. said, "Two kinds--the URGENT and the IMPORTANT. I spend so much time on the urgent, I can seldom get to the important."

7-PROP: Leadership demands organization & cooperation by the whole body.

I.-A FATHER-IN-LAW'S RECOMMENDATION: (18:17-23)

A.-Jethro's Description: (18:17-18)

1-"The thing that thou doest is NOT GOOD"

2-Only a father-in-law or a good friend could get away with saying words of that kind

3-REASONS Jethro thought "it is not good"

- Wear away Moses
- Wear away the people
- Work load was too heavy
- Unable to "deliver" wise counsel alone on the scale that this would require

4-Often it is helpful to hear it from one who is not intimately involved in a situation--CLEARER PERSPECTIVE

B.-Jethro's Division (18:19-20, 22):

3

1-**ADVICE** is offered -Not dictation to Moses
-But kindly counself
-**One who cares** ought to be heard !!

NB 2-Chas. Eerdman -"Belief in divine guidance should not make one indifferent to the advice of friends."

3-**PROGRAM** of Moses' responsibilities **as Jethro suggested**:

[a] **AS A LEADER**

(1) Spiritual **MEDIATOR** (18:19b)
** Advocate for the people
** Representing them before God

(2) Spiritual **INSTRUCTOR** (18:20a)
** Teacher
** Interpreter
** Authoritative channel for the Word of God

(3) Spiritual **EXAMPLE** (18:20b)
** People need more than prayers & preaching
** People need a **ROLE MODEL** !!
** Phil. 4:9--"Those things which ye have both learned, and received, and heard, and seen in me, DO, and the God of peace shall be with you."
** Deals with -THE **WAY** to go
-THE **WALK** to experience

(4) Spiritual **SUPERVISOR** (18:20c)
** Work is to be given == **WHAT**
** Accountability is to be spelled out so all know == **TO WHOM** reportable

[b] **AS AN ADMINISTRATOR**

--**Find** qualified personnel (18:21a)
--**Assign** appropriate responsibilities (18:21b)
--**Delegate** authority carefully (18:22a
--**RESERVE** final authority in BIG ISSUES (18:22b)
** Put decision making as near the problems as possible
** Judge only the "Great matters" himself
** Involve people who are trustworthy
** Serve as a "SUPREME COURT"

4-[Results] of Jethro's division -Easier for Moses
-People will be involved
-Congregation will get better service for their needs.
-Burden will be spread
-Moses will serve as "**GENERAL**"
-Leaders will be the "**OFFICERS**" sharing responsibilities
-People as the "**FOLLOWERS**" who are served by leaders and a workable system
-**ORDER** is instituted into what has been chaotic

C.-Jethro's Delineation: (18:21)

1-Enlist others
- **Out** of the body ("out of all the people")
- **OVER** the people
- Bring the organization close to those it serves

2-**FOUR QUALIFICATIONS:**

(a) PHYSICAL
- "Able men"** Vigorous, active, energetic
  - ** Masculine leadership
  - ** Proven able to stand the tests of stress & time
- "Mighty men of valor" in 1Chron. 26:6

(b) SPIRITUAL
- "Such as fear God" ** Truly converted
  - ** God-honoring philosophy of life & ministry
  - ** Values determine their convictions
  - ** Conscientous & pious men
- **Fruit** of the Spirit evident in the lives of leaders in this local church
- Not novices who could falter

(c) MENTAL
- "Men of truth" ** Deeply convicted
  - ** **Men of the BOOK**
    - ** Carry it
    - ** Know it
    - ** Use it
    - ** Controlled by it
    - ** Live it before all
  - ** Principles set & unshakeable
- Men whose word is their bond
- TOTALLY TRUSTWORTHY

(d) MORAL
- "Hating covetousness"
  - ** Uncompromising on moral matters
  - ** Uncorruptible for any price
  - ** Indispensible qualities in a JUDGE
- Wholly committed ** Conviction is to hold certain truths
  - ** Committed is TO BE HELD by certain truths
  - ** Conviction may be PASSIVE
  - ** Commitment must be ACTIVE
- WHOLLY COMMITTED **involvement** is expected
- Counting it "worth it all" to be involved in the Lord's work
- **Localizes the focus** of his loyalty in the local church

3-Reminds of Acts 6:3-5

4-**Variables**
- Ex. 18:21b
- According to age, abulity & experience
- Different size of stewardships
- Grow into the higher levels of responsibility

D.-Jethro's Direction: (18:23)
1-Not by command, constraint or dictation
2-BUT by suggestion (18:23)
3-And by confirmation--By Moses' own heart
--By God's command on the matter
--NO PRESSURE for adoption
4-Will of God in the matter was doubtless discerned by use of Urim & Thummim.
Ex. 28:30--"And thou shalt put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim & the Thummim; and they shall be upon Aaron's heart, when he goeth in before the Lord; and Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel upon his heart before the Lord continually."
5-The man of God can learn & profit from good advice, whatever its source

II.-A SON-IN-LAW'S REACTION: (18:24-26; Num. 11:10-25)

A.-Moses Delays: (Num. 11:10-14)
1-Ellicott--"The appointment of judges, according to Jethro's advice was not made until after the giving of the Law and the setting up of the Tabernacle."
2-Moses didn't act immediately--Took time to consider Jethro's advice
--Took time to see if the load would diminish
--Good to respond SLOWLY !
--Better to be sure, than to be sorry !!
3-Problem got worse instead of better
4-Read Numbers 11:10-14

B.-Moses Decides: (Num. 11:14-15; Ex. 18:24
1-Moses comes to the end of Moses (Num 11:14-15)
2-Decides DEATH would be better than life under these circumstances
3-Hearkens to Jethro's advice (Ex. 18:24)
4-Willing to accept good avice, AFTER submitting it to the Lord for ratification
5-DIVINE AUTHORIZATION of this scheme of leadership seen in Num. 11:16--"And the LORD said unto Moses, Gather unto me 70 men of the elders of Israel..."
6-Personalization:
Isa. 41:10--"Fear thou not; for I am with thee. Be not dismayed; for I am thy God. I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."

C.-Moses Divides: (Ex. 18:25; Num. 11:16-7; 24-25)
1-Moses chose able men
--Popular election **DEut. 1:9-13
** Acts 6:3
--Ellicott--"Moses contented himself with investing the chosen men with their authority.

--This variation from Jethro's plan shows the action of the will of God upon the plan
--**ADAPTATION** to conform in every respect with divine principles

2-Appointment was of "HEADS OVER THE PEOPLE" in varying sized groups
3-**Ordination** was of the acknowledged leaders (Num. 11:16)
4-**Empowerment** was by the Spirit (Num. 11:17a)
5-**Expectation** was "they shall bear the burden of the people with thee, that thou bear it not thyself alone." (Num. 11:17b)
6-This was what was actually done--Num. 11:24-26

D.-Moses Deploys: (Ex. 18:26)
1-**Placed** --Men put in their specific responsiblilities
--Assigned to their jobs by Moses
2-**Leader led** the organization, for that was his function, training, calling & position
3-PARALLEL--Shepherd over the congregation as PASTOR
--John 21:15-17
4-James M. Gray--"It is better to set 10 me to work, than to do the work of 10 men."
5-Smith's Bible Dictionary on **JUDGES**:
"The judge was reckoned a **sacred** person and was **secured** from even verbal injuries."
6-**May it be so** among these leaders, and all of our leaders, that we reckon it a thing not to be done to lift up our voices against them in slander
7-DISTINCTION--**Enacting** laws was God's prerogative
--**Administering** justice was put into the hands of men
** Division of labor & responsibility
** Leaders would handle the "small matters
** Hard cases came to Moses
--Blessing to all as the **duly elected and ordained** men became "HEADS OVER THE PEOPLE" (18:25)
8-Leaders were **expected to WORK** at their tasks
--Honorable, but not honorary offices
--ILLUS--Pastor called before the elders to explain his unusual conduct of steeling off at odd times to watch a train go by a crossing.
--"At last you have found me out. It has been so good to find something that actually **moves** without me having to **PUSH** it."

III.-A PEOPLE'S RESPONSE:

A.-Discern The Advantages In Sharing The Burdens:
1-Less **stress** on Moses (18:23b)
2-Less **inconvenience** for the people (18:23b)
PEACE among the brethren
3-Gave Moses **more time**
--For his responsibility as advocate---**PRAYING**
--For his responsibility as interpreter--**TEACHING**
--For his responsibility as judge--**SUPREME COURT**
--Parallel in N.T.--Acts 6:4--"But we will give our-

selves continually to prayer, and the ministry of the Word."
--**Delegate** the things which can be delegated
--**Retain** the matters which cannot well be handled by others

4-Developed Others--Leadership & talent **become evident** (like CREAM that rises to the top)
--Doubtless the "spies" of Numbers 12 were out of these men who were developing as leaders
--Gaining "ON THE JOB" training
--ILLUS--Philip the Deacon who became Philip the Evangelist
--A significant part of being a leader is to **develop the capabilities** of thers

5-Disputes--More easily & expeditiously handled now
--No long waiting in line to get Moses to settle every issue
--Deliverance from **one man rule**

6-ALL the burdens could thus be borne when they needed attention **
** Contrast, our civil courts need some kind of reform
Often cases involve months or years of delay before they are tried. *Justice delayed is justice denied*

7-The leader, Moses, being **able to render** PRUDENT COUNSEL when it was needed was a great accomplishment.....AND...
a great contribution of anyone's ministry to others

B.-Discern The Continuity To This System:
1-Deut 16:18--"Judges and officers shalt thou make thee in all thy gates, which the LORD thy God giveth thee, throughout thy tribes, and they shall judge the people with just judgment."
--System established in Exodus 18 & Num. 11 & Deut. 1 is **confirmed** and **adapted to the LAND**
** Same principles
** Different organizational arrangement in the Land

2-New Testament carry-over
--**Deacons** in the Church--Acts 6:1-6
--**Elders** in the Church--Acts 14:23
--Titus 1 & 1 Timothy 3

3-Thus this suggestion through a man is seen to have had its **source** in God

4-Its continuity should prove to us that God **endorsed** the plan as set forth by Jethro and then modified by Himself

5-We ought to expect organization in the Church so that God's work will function well

C.=Discern The People's Part:
1-Confirmation **by election** to office by the CONGREGATION

2-Confirmation **by FOLLOWING** leadership of the leaders
--Recognizing that **GOD** has **placed** these men as "HEADS OVER THE PEOPLE" of this congregation
--Realize that **this puts demands** upon each member:
** Heb. 13:7--"Remember them"==Look up to them so as to imitate their behavior

** Heb. 13:17--"Obey them"==Yield trustfully to their ministries
** Heb. 13:18--"Pray for us" (them)
** Heb. 13:24--"Salute them"==Greet warmly & appreciatively & affectionately

3-Extension of this attitude--To Elders
==To Deacons
--To Trustees
--To Sunday School Superintendent
--To S.S. Staff
--To Awana workers
--To Pastor

4-Why???--**PROP**:--Leadership demands organization and cooperation of the entire body !!

D.-Discern God's Part:
1-**We do** what is expected of us
2-Anticipate **His doing His part** also
3-Acts 6:7--"And the word of God increased and the number of the disciples multiplied in Jerusalem greatly; and a great company of the priests were obedient to the faith."

Westbrae--10/29/67 #13--"O Day Of Rest And Gladness"
O.K.B.C.--1/5/86 #337--"Lord, Speak To Me, That I May Speak
#294--"Joy In Serving Jesus"

The Law of Moses

Ex. 20:1-17

Intro: A. Question - "If all 10 of the Ten Commandments were repeated in the N.T. would we be under the law."
1- Illust - Same speed limit in OREGON + TEXAS — Similarity does not mean identity.

I. MOSAIC SYSTEM (like the Rambler Body — it's a unitized construction)
A. Unity of the System
1- Not just 10 commandments
2- 248 positive + 365 negative commandments
3 - 3 Parts: - 10 commandments — Will of God
- Judgments — Social life
- Ordinances — Religious life

B. Divine Commentary:
1- Jas. 2:10
2- Gal. 3:10

C. Addressees:
1- Israel + Proselytes
2- Never Gentiles or Church
3- Israel's condition - Redeemed by BLOOD
- Redeemed by POWER
4- Use of law - Rule of life for a redeemed people

II. PROBLEMS WITH MOSAIC LAW:
A. Common Problem — MEN
1- Rom. 8:1-4
2- No difficulty with law - Rom. 7:7, 12-
3- Difficulty is with MAN
4- Illus - Roast with fork or spatula
- WEak thru FLESH

B.- Moral Law:
1- True in every dispensation
2- Fulfilled in grace by X — Mt. 5:17-18
3- Fulfilled IN us by the Spirit — not BY us — Rom 8:4.

C.- Salvation:
1- By law or grace?
2- ALWAYS by grace
3- Rom. 4:5 — Ps 130:4-5
Gal. 3:17-18 — Gal. 2:21

III.- LAW + GRACE
A.- Mixable?
1- Different mediators — Jn. 1:17
2- Must have grace or law is dead
3- But LAW will make grace barren
4- ILLUS — Water + oil won't mix
5- Opposite of Mk. 10:9 is true

B.- Law now chased:
+ Jn. 19:30 — Rom 6:14; 7:1-14
— 2 Cor 3:11 — Gal 3:25
— Eph. 2:15 — Col. 2:14
Heb 7:12

IV.- PURPOSES OF THE LAW:
A.- Sin
1- To reveal sin + turn to grace — Rom 7:7, 12 — Rom. 3:19-20 — Ex. 20:18-26 — 1 Tim 1:8-11
2- Yoke of bondage — Acts 15:10
3- Ministry of condemnation — 2 Cor. 3:5-9
B.- Schoolmaster — Gal. 3:19-25
C.- Rule of life for "CHILDREN" — not "SONS" Gal 4:1-7, 9.

Thankfulness for GRACE — Show sinfulness of sin — Need of God's enabling.

"ABORTION---BLESSING OR BARBARISM?"

Ex. 21:22-25

INTRO:

A.-The Subject Of Abortion:

1-Not many years ago Abortion was not a subject which ANYONE discussed in public, and NO ONE would admit to having had one in the family

2-Today--Magazine articles
--TV Talk shows
--Newspaper features
--Religious denominations are hailing abortion as "the greatest humanitarian advance since the invention of medicine."(May 1972 ETERNITY, Ostling)
--4 states have permitted abortion on demand
--January 1973 the Supreme court struck down virtually all anti abortion laws
--TIME Magazine carried a 2 page spread on the subject Jan. 29, 1973.

3-Polls show changing attitudes in USA toward abortion
--1967--21% of Americans favored legalized abortions
--1969--40%
--1972--64% (including 56% of the R.C.'s polled)
--1973--Currently something of a REVULSION & a REVERSAL of that trend

4-Abortions in USA
--1966--8,000 (Newsweek, 7/19/71)
--1970--400,000 (same sourse)
--1971--1,500,000 (TIME, 8/21/72)
** This means that in the 1 year(1971) abortions cost the lives of more in USA than the toll of all the wars of our 196 years of national existence.
** Those $1\frac{1}{2}$ million abortions would make a city 16 times the population of Berkeley in just one year.

B.-The FIVE Viewpoints On Abortion:

1-Personal freedom to decide apart from a moral question of right or wrong--Woman's "RIGHT" to determine the use of her own body
--Women's Lib movement is fostering it

2-Concern for "THE CONDITION"--Mother whose well-being is threatened
--Mother who was forced eithe by rape or incest
--Child that is deformed

3-Moralist/Biblicist--"Thou shalt not kill (="do murder")

4-Harmonizer of law and love (Not opposites, but supplements of each other

5-Pleaders for "RIGHT TO LIFE" for the unborn

C.-Complications Related To Abortion:

1-MEDICAL--Doctor is pledged to the duty of preserving life, not destroying it.
--Embryo & fetus are actually HUMAN tissue

--Almost never necessary to abort to save a mother's life
--In fact, abortion is a much more risky & fatal procedure than is childbirth
--Not a contributing factor to suicide according to statistics
--Rare that drugs or disease of Mother really affect the child, so why destroy 9 healthy babies to protect agains one questionable one?
--Carl F. H. Henry--"I maintain that abortion is not a completely private medical problem, any more than pollution of the environment can be dismissed as a purely chemical problem." "Abortion--An Evangelical View, P. 22, Christian Heritage)

2-LEGAL--Children and also a fetus have been recognized since the 18th century to have a right to inherit and to share in a trust
--Injury cases in behalf of the unborn have been instituted (as in the case of Thalidomide babies)
--Not only a right TO INHERIT, but also a right TO SURVIVE, in order to inherit
--Who is the attorney for the unborn?
--Fordham Univ. law prof Robert M. Byrn challenges abortion laws as a violation of the 14th amendment which holds that no state shall "deprive any person of life...without due process of law."

3-MORAL
--The connection between easy abortions and sexual promiscuity is obvious-----and GROWING !!
--Start on this "selective death" pattern & no stopping place can be seen
** Bill now in Florida Legislature to allow Euthanasia of the old
** Bill now in Hawaii Legislature to sterilize all women after their 2nd child is born
** "If we are free to destroy human life and to deny its dignity at one stage, why not at another?" (Carl F.H. Henry, P. 24)
** NO DIFFERENCE in such a rationale from Hitler's "final solution of the Jewish question."

4-BIBLICAL--No single passage in Scripture sets forth a POLICY ON ABORTION
--Not like 1 Cor. 15 on the Resurrection or John 3 on the New Birth
--Rather in general concepts & separated segments and they must be brought together to find a BIBLICAL VIEWPOINT

D.-Our Message:

1-Outline: I.-The Abortion Problem:
II.-The Biblical Case:
III.-The Believer's Conclusions:

2-Prop:--FACE tough & thorny problems, because this is a real world full of real-life agonies.
--FIND the kind of authoritative answers God's Word gives

--FIX our chart & compass in relation to the "North Star" of truth so our course will please the Lord

I.-THE ABORTION PROBLEM:

A.-Definition Of Terms:

1-Abortion refers to "the termination of pregnancy before the theoretical term of viability; i.e., before the 20th to 22nd week..." (Clarence W. Taber, Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary)

2-Therapeutic abortion is one which is performed when the life of the mother is endangered by the continuation of pregnancy. (This includes both mental and physical endangering)

3-Eugenic abortion is one which is performed when there is a possibility of deformity or mental retardation of the child.

4-Viability=="The ability of the fetis to exist independently of the mother." Formerly between 26th & 28th week; Now between 20th & 22nd week.

5-The "HOW" of aborticide is distasteful & not such as is suitable for public discussion. Since the "HOW" is not the issue before us, I shall not deal with it.

B.-Why Is Abortion Desired?:

1-Promiscuity & Illegitimacy
- --Great Britain; 47% having abortions are single girls
- --California (1967-69) 55.8% had never been legally married

2-Baby is "UNWANTED"
- --Subjective decision of parents
- --Such an attitude may change in time
- --Such a child could be placed for adoption; "WANTED" by many others!!

3-Large enough family already
- --There are better means for family planning & settling the overpopulation problem
- --Again, Adoption is still an option

4-Mental or Physical status of the mother
- --Parental level of intelligence very low
- --Drugs could deform or addict the child (Heroin; Thalidomide); Less than 1 in 10
- --Disease exposure (Rubella, German Measles) Less than 1 in 7 suffered any effects at all
- --NO WAY TO TELL or to predict in advance
- --Dr. John L. Grady, MD, asserts that abortion is almost never needed to save a mother's life. (P. 12 Nicholas & Howe, The Problem Of Abortion, BAPTIST BULLETIN, April 1971)

5-Rape/Incest
- --State Prosecutor's Assn. & State Sherriff's Assn. both indicate that a case reported within 12 hours & confirmed by medical examination is easily & routinely cared for by a Doctor
- --No need to liberalize abortion laws for these because (Larson): "Many authorities consider

pregnancy due to rape or incest to be special cases for abortion. According to present laws in the U. S., most states allow abortion in cases of rape or incest." (Larson, Talbot Seminary Thesis, "The Biblical View Of Abortion")

6-Suicide prevention--No known case where a suicide was enacted with pregnancy as the cause in Birmingham or New York City over a period of 25 years.

7-"Woman has a RIGHT to do what she pleases with her own body"

--Our "Free Society" is putting hedonistic pleasure ahead of responsibilities of marriage, children & home

--Oakland Tribune, Jurate Kazickas, AP Writer--7/24/72--"The core of the abortion debate is the right of the unborn child VS. the right of the woman to control her body, an issue that has gained momentum from the feminist movement." (P. 25)

--ANSWER: "That fetus is not your body."

--Other ways of avoiding child-bearing
** Abstinence & Purity
** Contraceptives

--Civilized society has never granted an absolute right to a mother to do anything she wishes with her child.
** Child-abuse laws
** Rights of the mother END when another life is involved
** The baby has a right to HIS BODY too!!
** ILLUS--Your right to swing your fist ends at my nose!

C.-What Is Being Aborted---PHYSICALLY SPEAKING?:

1-English Gynecologist-Clergyman R.F.R.Gardner in his book ABORTION: A PERSONAL DILEMMA, has written: "Therefore since the fetus is something other than fully human, abortions are permissible for a wide variety of acceptable motives." He cautions, however, that abortions should only "take place before God, and in responsibility to Him."

--Whatever does that mean?
--No domumentation given of the non-humanity of the embryo & fetus

2-Development Pattern

--Development DNA set at the time of conception
--8th day--Sex is certain
--10th day--Veins have developed
--14th day--Mouth has formed
--26 days the body has a heart, limb buds & blocks of muscle tissue
--Heart begins pumping at 28 days
--All major organs, fingers & toes present at 8 weeks
--Brain activity at 8 weeks; recordable EEG pattern is clear and individual by then
--62 days--Hair & eyebrows formed
--64th day--Eyes are developed, though still closed
--11th week the fetus attains the length of 2½ inches, and ALL BODY SYSTEMS are now working
--20th week the fetus will have a 10% chance of survival outside the womb

3-QUOTES:--Larson--"On the basis of this evidence from medical science it may be said that from a scientific view-

point, life has begun, not potential life, but actual life, at the moment of conception." (P. 37)

--Brendan F. Brown--"...this cell is a human being with all the gene-structure of the fully grown and highly complex adult." (The Crime Of Abortion, Vital Speeches 36:550, July 1, 1970)

--John E. Archibold--"The unborn fetus is not merely a potential human being---he is a total and present human being with potential, in the same way that a newborn is a total and present human being with potential." (Abortion Issues: The Range Of Evangelical Thought, ETERNITY Feb. 1971)

--Dr. Felice, Prof of Biology at U. of S.F.--"There is not the slightest doubt from a scientific viewpoint that the prenatal child is a human being." (Oakland Tribune, P. 25, July 24, 1972)

--220 Physicians who sent an "amicus Curiae" brief to the Supreme Court arguing for the rights of the fetus. The brief says: "Modern obstetrics has discarded as unscientific the concept that the child in the womb is but tissue of the mother." (Reported in ETERNITY, Feb. 1972)

4-CONCLUSION:

--"Human life exists as a continuum that begins with conception and ends with death."

--Dr. Felice--"...at the age of 10 or 11 weeks an electrode can gather the brain waves of an unborn child, tell whether it is awake or asleep. It is illogical to say that only when it comes down the birth canal is it human." (Oak. Trib., P. 25, July 24, 1972)

--TO ABORT an embryo or a fetus, is, therefore, to abort a human being.

--Nicholaus & Howe--"This means that there is no fixed point in embryonic development before which one could kill the fetus and safely say he had not thereby extinguished a human life." (The Problem Of Abrortion, BAPTIST BULLETIN, P. 11, Apr. 1971)

D.-What Is Being Aborted---SPIRITUALLY Speaking?:

1-Views of when "LIFE" as a human being begins spiritually:

--TRADUCIANISM--View that the souls of all mankind were created in Adam and that the soul is passed along thru natural generation just as the physical body is passed (A.H.Strong, Roman Catholicism, W.G.T.Shedd, Chafer)

--CREATIONISM--View that each soul of each person is created by God in an immediate fashion at the time of birth & that only the body is generated by human parents. (C. Hodge, Eastern Orthodox, Many Reformed)

2-Problem with Creationism is that it makes God the creator of evil; an imperfect and fallen soul of man.

3-No single scripture that settles it, though strong evidence of TRADUCIAN view will be shortly shown.

4-Larson--"Thus, with regard to theological theories regarding the origin of the soul, acknowledging the lack of biblical evidence, the support is definitely in favor of conception as the point when man becomes a living soul." (P. 42)

5-I would therefore conclude that our problem is:
--PHYSICALLY speaking--To abort is to kill a human being
--SPIRITUALLY speaking--To abort is to kill a person possessed of a body, soul & spirit at any time after conception.

E.-Abortion As A Part Of The Social Scene:

1-We live in a very mixed-up time, when values of many appear to be in flux.
--Polls on abortion have shown growing agreeableness toward abortion, and now that is dramatically reversing (Oakland Tribune, PARADE, 2/10/73)
--War and Capital Punishment are being attacked by a liberal coalition as "destructive of human life & potential", but these same liberals are gung-ho in support of the termination of life of unborn infants(((((CLEMENCY for the guilty & DEATH for the innocent)))))

2-If ABORTION is legal at one end of life, how does this differ from EUTHANASIA (="mercy killing") at the other end of life ???

3-Dr. Paul Marx of Seattle U. says: "When legal restraints are removed, who is to say where the consequences will stop?"

4-Sir John Peel, Pres. of Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynecologists addressing U. of Melbourne: "If society gives sanction to the destruction of life for one set of circumstances for what it claims to be the good of society, why should it not sanction the infanticide of the abnormal neonate (="newly born child "), the mental defective, the delinquent, the incurable, the senile? The mind recoils from such suggestions, but let us face it, society in the past has sanctioned all these. Is it fanciful to think that we may be moving toward a situation in which the sanctity of human life is no longer recognized----where human life can be created artificially at will, and equally at will expunged? Shall we have state boards to decide who shall live and who shall die? Lest you think I am romancing, I would remind you that state boards decide who shall have an abortion in some countries today.."."(Quoted from Robert J. Terry's article in THE PLYMOUTH CRUSADER, Jan-Feb., 1971)

5-Perhaps it is well to close this segment of our consideration of the PROBLEM OF ABORTION with a QUESTION----

(((("Is it quite reasonable to do away with CAPITAL PUNISHMENT for the guilty and then to advocate CAPITAL PUNISHMENT for the innocent by way of abortion?"))))

6-Let us reaffirm with Larson-"Man is not man because of what he does, but he does because he is." (P. 44)

7-Let us as Christians consider that this problem of abortion must be for us:
--Not just a matter of convenience, but of CONVICTION
--Not just a matter of medicine, but of MORALITY

--Not just a matter of human law, but of DIVINE LAW....

so....Let's look on to....

II.-THE BIBLICAL CASE:

A.-Moral Purity Commands:

1-Since 47% (Great Britain) to 55.8% (California in 1967-1969) of abortions are performed on women who are not and never have been married, let us begin with God's Word on moral purity.

2-1 Cor. 7:1-5a--"GOOD" not to have physical contact because this excites & enlarges physical appetites & desires
--"GOOD" doesn't mean "BETTER" to remain unmarried, but only for purity's sake
--Marriage is ordained of God to help us avoid sins of the flesh
--Each man is to have his own wife
--Each woman is to have her own husband
--AND each is to be fully available to their own partner in the sense of sexual responsibility

3-1 Thess. 4:1-8
--Possess your own vessel (="body") as set apart to the Lord and with honor
--Lust of evil desires such as control the unsaved are to have NO PLACE in a christian
--Not to defraud others by sexual exploitation of another, because GOD WILL JUDGE such sin
--Our calling as Christians
** Not to uncleanness
** But to holiness of living.

4-Heb. 13:4--Sex inside of the marriage relationship is normal, wholesome, approved & expected
--Sex outside of a marriage relationship will incurr the wrath and judgment of God

B.-Texts Related To LIFE Before Birth:

1-Job 10:8-12--Poetic passage
--Job clearly confesses that he is God's special creation, & not an "evolved" species
--Development of the embryo is seen as GOD'S WORK
--Delitzsch--"...the continuation of development according to natural laws is not less the work of God than the creative planting of the very beginning." (I, P. 167, JOB)
--Verse 12 shows God as the GIVER OF LIFE, as well as its preserver
--Since the embryonic period is in view here it is clear that Job considered that God had communicated life before birth

2-Ps. 22:9-10--MESSIANIC Psalm
--Considered as a PERSON

** While an infant
** While still in the womb
** Because only a Person can have a personal relationship with a Personal God

3-Ps. 51:5--David's testimony is being given
--Under inspiration of the Holy Spirit he views himself as a person who is guilty from conception on
--GUILT is obviously a condition of a PERSON before his God

4-Ps. 139:13-16
--POINT of the passage is truth about God, that He is omniscient and omnipotent
--IMPLICIT in the passage is truth about the Psalmist, that he was a person even before he was conscious of himself
--Verse 16--"Yet being unperfect"=="Yet being an embryo"
--Clearly this passage shows that "HUMANITY" is not tied to to a moment of time or the experience of birth
--Larson--"Thus, God's knowledge of and activity in the life of each individual begins at conception and continues unbroken throughout the period of gestation, the moment of birth and the rest of life." (Page 12)

5-Zech. 12:1--Three participles; "stretcheth forth","layeth" "formeth"
--"FORMETH", as of a potter who forms a vessel out of clay
--Implication: Soul not simply created & implanted at some point of time, but rather that there is a developmental process as with the rest of man's being.
--SO.....man has life before his birth !!

C.-Unborn Infants Considered Humans:

1-CHRIST--Prophesied of in Isa. 49:1-2, 5
--Prophetic expectation--"Thou art My Serv ant"
--PERSONAL pronouns used of Him before conception
--Same term "formed" used in 49:5 as in Zech. 12:1

2-Jeremiah--Jer. 1:4-5
--Call of Jeremiah to his office as a prophet
--Choice of Jeremiah for this task was BEFORE conception, and preparation for his life-work began in the womb.

3-SEVERAL WERE NAMED IN ADVANCE OF BIRTH, indicating that God and parents considered these to be PEOPLE while still in a fetal stage/

4-John the Baptist--Luke 1:13-16
--John was promised and DETAILS were given
--Certainly a lot of minute particulars of his life and ministry if he is not to be yet considered to be "human"

5-Jesus Christ--Lukel:30-35
--Note again the intimate accuracy of DETAILS
--Larson--"It seems ludicrous to suggest that an unborn child could be deity incarnate, the very Son of God, and yet nothing more than prehuman

or 'potentially' human tissue. The truth of the incarnation teaches that God became man at the very moment of conception by the Holy Ghost, and not at some later time as the heretical adoptionists claimed." (P. 27)

6-Paul--Gal. 1:15-16b
  --Speaks of God's hand in his life
  --Convinced that this begain before his birth

7-OTHERS could also be traced--Isaac
  --Samson
  --Samuel
  --Cyrus

8-Unless we are prepared to regard all these as "SPECIAL CASES" our conclusion must be that God's interest in the individual and His consideration of them AS PERSONS goes back beyond birth as a baby----back to the pre-natal existence as an embryo and fetus

9-One other point: Could we have condoned the action of Mary if she had ABORTED that holy seed entrusted to her ??????

D.-Command Against Murder: (5-)

1-First enunciated in Genesis 9:6 as for all men

2-Elaborated in Ex. 20:13 for Israel--"Thou shalt not kill" (="do murder")

3-Deplored as a HENIOUS CRIME in Herod's slaughter of the innocent children of Bethlehem — Mt. 1:16-18

4-Recognized by Paul as applicable to the Church
  --Acts 25:11--"For if I be an offender, or have committed any thing worthy of death, I refuse not to die: but if there be none of these things whereof these accuse me, no man may deliver me unto them. I appeal unto Caesar"
  --Rom. 13:3-4--"For rulers are not a terror to good works but to the evil. Wilt thou then not be afraid of the power? do that which is good, and thou shalt have praise of the same. For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil."

5-Those who commit murder are said to be barred from the New Jerusalem & the presence of God (Rev. 21:8; 22:15)

6-The only question in the prohibition against murder is the question------

---Is an unborn child included in the consideration as "A PERSON"??

E.-Problem Passage: (Ex. 21:22-25)

1-Only O.T. passage that deals with punishment if death is caused to a fetus.

2-Bruce Waltke & NASB hold that this passage deals with a miscarriage of the fetus, & add "further" before the word "mischief". In this view the life of the mother is more valuable than that of the fetus & so he concludes that the fetus is not a person until birth.

3-KJV, ASV, Young & Darby translations along with Keil,

Umberto Cassuto, Clarke & others see "her fruit depart from her" as a term used of BIRTH (Gen. 25:25-26), not of miscarriage, & that view is confirmed throughout the O.T. Further, they do not add unwarrantedly the word "FURTHER" before "mischief" (="lasting injury"). This is in full accord with the Hebrew text.

4-In this way either the death of the mother or the death of the child born prematurely would require life for life. However, if no lasting injury to either mother or child eventuate, then a FINE would be paid to the husband for the injury

5-NASB will read this way also if you take out the "further" and read the marginal readings.

6-Thus we say with Larson: "...The O.T. views the unborn child as a total person, a person whose existence God foreordained, a person in whom God is actively at work from the moment of conception, and a person whose life is protected by law." (P.21-22

F.-Summary Of Biblical Case:

1-Moral purity is commanded of believers
2-The embryo & fetus are treated as PERSONS with personalities in Scripture
3-Unborn infants were named & called & predestined before birth
4-God is actively forming---BY A PROCESS, not an act---each person in the womb from conception onward
5-Murder is PROHIBITED of God
6-Death of a fetus or an embryo is considered murder and as such is worthy of death penalty
7-SO.....The Biblical case is clear that abortion is NOT ALLOWED for an obedient, instructed believer.
8-CMA Editorial (11/8/72) "To wilfully terminate that development at any point is to violate the 6th Commandment and its injunction against taking human life."

III.-THE BELIEVER'S CONCLUSION:

A.-Life Is Sacred:

1-From the very beginning of creation man was made "in the image of God"
--Gen. 1:27--"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them."
--MORAL image or righteousness
--MENTAL image of reasoning and self-determination (I am, I ought, I will)
--NATURAL image as a trichotomous being

2-The rest of Scripture confirms that this image persists
--Badly damaged by the fall into sin
--But not dashed to the level of animals
--1 Cor. 11:7--"For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man."
--Col. 3:10--"And have put on the new man which is renewed in knowledge after the image of Him that created him."

3-Because man is created & re-created in the image of God,

we have no right to destroy life:

** Not the life of a child
** Not the life of an adult
** Not the life of an unborn embryo or fetus
** This is confirmed by repeated OT & NT prohibitions against premeditated murder

B.-Life Begins At Conception:

1-This assertion can be challenged--By some Medical men
--By some Theologians

2-But it certainly is supported by many also

3-EXAMPLE: California Medical Assn. Official Journal; Sept. 1970: "Since the old ethic has not yet been fully displaced, it has been necessary to separate the idea of abortion from the idea of killing, which continues to be soically abhorrent. The result has been a curious avoidance of the scientific fact, which every one really knows, that human life begins with conception & is continuous whether intra-or-extra-uterine, until death. The very considerable gymnastics which are required to rationalize abortion as anything but taking a human life would be ludicrous if they were not put forward under socially impeccable auspices." (Quoted in THE INQUIRER, June 1972, P. 14)

4-Bible supports this position--Considers the inhabitant of the womb to be ALIVE
--Unborn infants are sometimes NAMED, spoken of with PERSONAL PRONOUNS, and on occasions even called to Divinely appointed tasks
--The one Biblical passage th that deals with premature birth in a legal sense fully recognizes the status of the fetus as being a separate person & that the death of that fetus is MURDER

5-Therefore we conclude that "human life exists in a continuum that begins with conception and ends with death"
--Life is inherently sacred
--Birth selection==ABORTION; this is inherently WRONG
--Death selection==EUTHANASIA; this is also inherently wrong---whether of the aged, the infirm, the handicapped, the socially undesireable or the politically repugnant.

6-Larson summarizes this, saying: "Medically speaking, birth is not a beginning of life, but rather a change in environment, and manner of nutrition. From a functional viewpoint there is virtually no difference between a day-old infant and a fetus one day before birth." (P.45)

C.-Facing Problem Situations:

1-Rape or Forcible Incest (So similar we'll consider together)

--This is the REALLY EMOTIONAL point in the whole discussion

--Let's remind ourselves first that these constitute less than 5% of all pregnancies for which abortions have been sought

--Other avenues of help
** Don't have to wait for an abortion procedure
** Immediate report to Police and/or Family Doctor
** Contraceptive foam can be used up to 12 hours after such an attack

--If too late for such immediate action help

** Nicholaus & Howe--"This is a complex question & an absolute Biblical answer may not be presently available." (BAPTIST BULLETIN, P. 30, Feb. 1971)

** Surely it ought to be remembered that though both the woman and the will of God have both been violated, YET that unborn child---conceived even under such circumstances---has rights of its own also!

** Larson--"The so-called humanitarian idea of aiding a woman who has become pregnant due to rape or incest, does not change the fact that the child is entirely innocent of any crime. Certainly, a crime committed by one man cannot justify killing of a helpless innocent party. One is certainly overwhelmed with emotion when he considers the tragic nature of many situations in which pregnancy occurs. Emotion, however, should not sway true moral convictions." (P. 49-50)

--Let it also be added that though a woman forced into motherhood by rape or incest would not usually be able or desirous of keeping the child so-conceived, there are people waiting in line at adoption agencies that would be very willing to take and to rear such a child.

2-Maiming Drugs:

--ILLUS is the THALIDOMIDE problem of the early 1960's.

--Drug was used to induce sleep or to minimize morning sickness

--Found that this drug caused failure of limb-growth, giving rise to short or absent extremities

--Celebrated case of Mrs. Robert Finkbine of Phoenix, AZ., who sought an abortion after it was reported that many who took Thalidomide in the early months of pregnancy had given birth to deformed infants with flippers instead of arms or legs

--About NINE out of TEN proved O.K.

--Why destroy 9 healthy babies in fetus because 1 out of 10 may be deformed??

--One can't liken the abortion of such a fetus to SUICIDE, which some have called " a purely personal decision". The life of a child is at stake, and that life needs to be protected.

3-Crippling Disease--German Measles (Rubella)

--1964 there was an epidemic of this prob-

lem which can seriously affect a child born of a mother who had Rubella in the first 3 months of pregnancy

--Indiana University School of Medicine found anomalies of any sort to be 43 out out of 280 births, and that was in a year when ten times the normal rate of mothers suffer from Rubella

--Let us also remember the SOVEREIGN HAND OF GOD in such matters

** Many people with deformities have been grateful for the lives they have had

** Very many handicapped people have made significant contributions to the lives of others (Helen Keller, Fannie Crosby, Dr. and Mrs. Petrie, etc.)

** Many parents also have seen their own capacity for love, concern and compassion greatly enlarged by what medically might be called a "defective" child

--Besides all that::::"About 30% of all fertilized eggs are lost due to spontaneous abortion. Thus God is exercising His right to prevent birth according to His divine and sovereign omniscience." (ETERNITY, "Abortion Issues", 22:26, Feb. 1971)

Miscarriage

4-FAMILY PLANNING:

--Some are concerned about OVERPOPULATION of the earth, but certainly there are many far less questionable means to curtail overpopulation than to resort to abortion

--Certainly most of us believe in family planning, both as to the number and the spacing of our children born in our homes, but such family planning is PRE-CONCEPTION planning, as opposed to POST-CONCEPTION destruction of life

--Many methods of Birth Control ** Abstinence
** Pill
** IUD
** Prophylactics
** Diaphram
** Foam

--Nicholas & Howe: "Whether or not a particular child in a marriage was decidedly 'PLANNED', it has a right to live. Family planning is one question, but to kill a developing embryo in defference to this plan or simply out of convenience to the parents is an entirely different matter." (BAPTIST BULLETIN, "The Problem Of Abortion", P. 30)

--Such SITUATIONAL ETHICS we hear from unregenerate churchmen as Joseph Fletcher (TIME, Jan. 29, 1973, P. 47)

D.-Christian Attitude Toward Abortion:

1-In days of old people left unwanted baby girls on the public garbage heaps to die. In CONTRAST, the christian attitude has always disapproved of infanticide, and seeks to protect the weak and the innocent.

2-Abortion encourages & rewards moral laxity, and it is undeniable that there is a close correlation between easy abortions and the rise of sexual promiscuity and V.D. in our day.

3-Abortion opens the door to vicious abuse---not only in connection with the unborn, but with all other ages and levels of life (Aged; Senile; Non-Productive; Maimed; Handicapped, etc) As Carl F. H. Henry has said: "If we are free to destroy human life and to deny its dignity at one stage, why not at another?"...

....WHERE WOULD IT STOP ???

4-Ultimate reminder:

--Each of us individually will one day stand before God to give an account of his or her own life

--Regardless of the STATE LAWS or the rulings of the SUPREME COURT, each will have to give an account of the lives committed to his or her care

--When you stand in His holy presence, would you be prepared to say:

** "Abortion was a private matter of my own conscience, and not a moral matter." ???

** "Abortion was a blessing for which I am happy." ????

--OR...

would you have to confess abortion is a BARBARISM not worthy of a true christian who recognizes himself as accountable before God????

Westbrae--3/11 & 18/73

#297--"Joy Unspeakable"

287--"Wonderful Peace"

#354--"Living For Jesus"

#363--"Abide With Me"

SHECHINAH GLORY OF GOD

Ex. 40:33-38

Intro.

Question: What kind of a God do you have?

1.- Laban's --- Rachael stole it and sat upon it & hid it

2.- Ahab's --- (on Mt. Carmel) Asleep or away on a journe

3.- Not so Israel's---By means of the Shechinah glory they had assurance in visible form of the PRESENCE, PROTECTION, & PATH of the only true God.

I.* PRESENCE OF GOD WITH THEM

A. Fellowship-- thru the God-ordained system of sacrifice.

B. Assurance of Acceptance--thru presence of cloud & fire.

C. Security--camped about the pillar. They had visible proof of Divine presence.

D. Promise--Abraham "I will be their God" Ge.17:3
Moses "I will be with thee" Ex.3:12

Illus Josh 5:1 1 Kings 18:38-39

Ex 40:38

II.* PROTECTION OF GOD ABOUT THEM

A. From NATURE where they were---beri beri. De. 8:4

B. From WOLVES from within--usurpers of priestly function in Num. 16

C. From ENEMIES who attacked from without--Pharoah & his armies at Red Sea. Pillar was a division between Israel & Pharoah in Ex. 14:20

Rogers on Atlantic Protected in life or in death

III.* PATH OF GOD BEFORE THEM

A. Obvious---no doubt--couldn't miss. When God moved, they moved too. That was the signal.

B. Available to ALL--from greatest to least when they were in their own place..

C. Sure leading in the Path.--WHEN & WHERE God led them, they were safe in following. illus. Num. 9:17-23.

illus Turn Right & Left.

illus Ps.8:8 Commander Murray USN

Concl. If these things were true of Israel, HOW MUCH MORE of us We worship the same God, but we have a complete revelation of him. We have heard the good news of God dwellin in human flesh in the Person of Jesus Christ. Therefore

1.-We may rest in assurance of the PRESENCE of God with us--"Christ in you, the hope of Glory." Col. 1:27

Present now for every need

2.-We may trust in His sure protection from the World, the Flesh, & the Devil--"Being confident of this ver thing, that he that hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ." Phil 1:6

Protecting now in each one's place

3.-We may all count upon the path He wants us to follow Each step will be obvious and commanded when we are to move when we are in the place of His choosing which is the center of His will. The result will be sure when our eyes are "looking unto Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith." Then it may be said of YOU and of ME, "The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord." Ps. 37:23.

Leading now in His own path