

# The Gospel of Matthew

## The Old Testament Ceremonial Law Fulfilled by Christ & Disannulled for Christians

The Old Testament Ceremonial Law was *fulfilled* by Christ and *disannulled* for Christians, but it was not *destroyed*! Vast amounts of scripture have been devoted to expound the mystery of redemption pertaining to Old Testament Law: its *fulfillment* and *disannulment*; but many multitudes of so called “Christians” would rather scratch-out the glorious masterpiece of the New Testament by summarizing the relevance and life-application of Old Testament dynamics into one simple word: *abolishment*. My reader, do you know the difference between *fulfillment*, *disannulment*, and *abolishment*?

“Think not that I am come to **destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil**. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, **till all be fulfilled**. Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the Kingdom of Heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven.” – Matthew 5:17-19

With profound and confrontational clarity, the Lord Jesus said, “I am not come to *destroy* the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to *destroy*, but to *fulfill*” (Matt. 5:17). With telling forthrightness, it’s a statement of fact. The Lord Jesus is not seeking *abolishment* but *fulfillment*. Stemming from this point the Lord vindicated the relevance of the seemingly insignificant commandments given in the Old Testament (“*the least commandments*”-Matt.5:19). We can conclude, therefore, based upon Matthew 5:17-19 as a contextual backdrop: however the Lord Jesus Christ did *fulfill* and *disannul* the Old Testament Law from the 1<sup>st</sup> century until now, “*the least commandments*” of the Old Testament Law still bear significance – to be **taught** (“*whosoever shall...teach them*”-Matt.5:19), to be kept in unbroken **obedience** (“*whosoever shall do...them*”-Matt.5:19), for the status of **greatness** in the Kingdom of Heaven (“*the same shall be called great in the Kingdom of Heaven*”-Matt.5:19)! This being the case, my reader, let us shun ungodly simplicity and give ourselves to all necessary study, according to the scriptures (Isa. 28:10, John 8:31-32, 2 Tim. 2:15); let us implore the Lord for grace so that, peradventure, in our latter end, what befell the early disciples might befall us: “*Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures*” (Lk. 24:45).

Old Testament Law can be divided into two primary veins, the Moral Law and the Ceremonial Law. Jesus Christ was and is the embodied *fulfillment* of the Moral Law and the Ceremonial Law of the Old Testament, on earth and Heaven, from the moment of His incarnation unto His bodily resurrection and ascension into glory. Moreover, at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Coming of Christ, the Lord will continue to *fulfill* both aspects of the Law in the Millennial Reign and thereafter, throughout the endless ages of eternity, in the New Jerusalem located in the New World (Rev. 20:1-6, 21:1-2). Jesus Christ did not come to *abolish* the Law but to *fulfill* it, and the very infrastructure of eternal redemption does prophetically declare it!

### *The Moral Law*

“For what the Law *could not do*, in that it was *weak* through the flesh, God sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: That **the Righteousness of the Law** [the Moral Law] might be **fulfilled** in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit.” – Romans

8:3-4

“Love is the **fulfilling of the Law**” – Romans 13:10 [Gal. 5:14]

By living a life of moral and sinless perfection, Jesus Christ **WAS, IS, and IS TO COME**: the embodiment of the Moral Law. Jesus Christ **WAS** sinless the entire duration of His humanity so that He might become a propitiatory sacrifice on behalf of fallen humanity; “*For in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive*” (1 Cor. 15:22). Jesus Christ **IS** still living-out the performance of the Moral Law on earth today – in and through redeemed humanity (“*Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, except it abide in the Vine; no more can ye, except ye abide in Me*”-John 15:4) – and as much as Christians learn to abide in Christ, howbeit imperfectly, they are thereby enabled “so to walk, even as He walked” (1 John 2:6). Having begun redemption by the volition of His own choice in each individual Christian’s life, Jesus Christ promises to persevere it unto its consummation. Speaking of Christians, it was written, “He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the Day of Jesus Christ” (Php. 1:6). This means that, **IN THE TIME TO COME**, Christians will experience the glory of sinless perfection for all eternity (1 Jn. 3:2, 1 Cor. 13:10, Php. 3:12, 1 Thess. 4:17, John 17:5, 22, 24). Our communion within Christ’s sinless perfection is made possible by and progressively experienced through His crucifixion, resurrection, ascension, glorification, return, and consummation. Speaking in reference to sinless perfection, Paul said, “not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which I am apprehended of Christ Jesus” (Php. 3:12).

Jesus Christ’s moral perfection was ceremonially significant on this wise: His resurrection from the dead on the third day signaled to all mankind the indisputable truth that Jesus Christ was, **firstly**, completely innocent and legally sinless before God the Father (testifying to this fact, the Lord Jesus could not die but rose again on the third day - “*it was not possible that He should be holden of it*” -Acts2:24 – a thing which is impossible for guilty sinners because, it was written, “*the soul that sinneth, it shall die*”-Ezek.18:4), and, **secondarily**, because Jesus Christ was sinless and yet, experienced death, He was a sin-burdened human body upon which was laid the entire weight of human guilt, into which was legally imputed the whole record of human wretchedness, a human body which was ceremonially offered (of His own will upon an earthly altar called, The Cross) and ceremonially accepted of God the Father as an atoning sacrifice (a wrath-absorbing sacrifice), testified to be so, because, if Jesus Christ did not bear the sin of mankind on Calvary’s Tree it would have been impossible for Him to die. Scripturally speaking, the only foreseeable reason death comes upon all men is that, all men have sinned, therefore when Jesus Christ died it was on behalf of sinful men (1 Cor. 15:54-57). Therefore now, when any sinful man believes on Jesus Christ... namely, the death that He died to sin, this man will experience salvation via the life that Jesus Christ lives (Rom. 6:1-14)! In His own words, Jesus Christ said, “whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall NEVER DIE” (John 11:26)! He said, “I am The Resurrection and The Life” (John 11:25)! Therefore, by necessity, all mankind who refuses to believe in Jesus Christ will die in their sins (John 8:24); seeing that they did not regard the death that Christ died to sin, they will die in their sins. [For more information on how Christians are required to live-out the Moral Law right now, according to scripture, see [Legalism: Law, Grace, and Works](#). For more information on how Christ did not come to reform the Moral Law, see “[The Sermon on the Mount](#)”. ]

## *The Ceremonial Law*

While many aspects of the aforementioned *fulfillments* of the Moral Law are gloriously apparent to true Christians, there is a pervading ignorance of the Ceremonial Law. Meanwhile, Christian’s attempt to live-out the personality of God depicted by the Moral Law without realizing the significance of the Ceremonial Law: namely, how Jesus Christ did, does, and will *fulfill* and *disannul* the Ceremonial Law.

Having been incarnated as a Jew into the tribe of Judah as the seed of David, Jesus Christ walked-out the Old Testament Ceremonial Law in all available and necessary means to fulfill all righteousness during his lifetime, according to the flesh. Howbeit not all of Jesus’ 33 years on earth were walked-out in the same way, apparently. There is, no doubt, a radical change in the life of Jesus after He was baptized at the age of 30 years old. Henceforth, this marked the beginning of Jesus’ public ministry to represent, proclaim, and become the fulfillment of all righteousness in *unprecedented ways* and by *superior powers*, far exceeding all that was available in the Old Covenant. This Man – endowed with the Holy Spirit & heralded by God the Father – entered the mantle of New Covenant glory and became the stand-alone Author of a New Faith, a New

Way, and a New Testament which would fulfill all the righteousness, promises, and prophecies of the Old Testament. Upon baptism and thereafter the Lord Jesus still fulfilled the Moral and Ceremonial Laws of the Old Testament but, mind you, it was in *unprecedented ways* which were not formerly engaged by Christ from birth until baptism. There is much to be said about this radical turning-point in the life of Jesus, but let it suffice the reader for now to understand the mystery of it all in parabolic language: “*No man putteth a piece of New Cloth unto an Old Garment, for that which is put in to fill it up taketh from the garment, and the rent is made worse. Neither do men put New Wine into Old Bottles: else the bottles break, and the wine runneth out, and the bottles perish: but they put New Wine into New Bottles, and both are preserved*” (Matt. 9:16-17). This parabolic statement given by Jesus answers for the conduct which He exhibited during the three years of public ministry which led Him to The Cross (a life-span of Moral & Ceremonial Law fulfillments which we shall soon survey in great detail). Before studying the relevance of Jesus’ *earthly ministry* we need to understand the grand scheme of redemption with respect to Jesus’ *heavenly ministry*.

After being offered to God upon an earthly altar called The Cross, the scheme of redemption was not yet complete. No, rather, it had just begun! The death of Christ on The Cross was the first step in the grand scheme of salvation which was yet to be accomplished via a High Priest after the order of Melchisedec (Heb. 5:6) in a Heavenly Environment which included a Temple and all associated instruments for the performance of an unprecedented ceremony. When Jesus Christ was fastened to The Cross by nails as a propitiatory sacrifice, this was but the beginning of this ceremony. When Christ said, “It is finished” (John 19:30), the oppression and affliction of becoming a sacrifice was completely accomplished (“*He was oppressed, and he was afflicted, and yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a Lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He opened not His mouth*”-Isa.53:7), but the ceremonial application of this blood-atonement must sprinkle the Throne of Heaven which resides inside of a Heavenly Temple (Lev. 16:14-15, Heb. 9:19-24, Rev. 7:15, 11:19). These things must proceed in Heaven after the similitude of the High Priest, Aaron, who dared not enter into the Holy Place of the earthly Tabernacle without “a young bullock for a sin-offering and a ram for a burnt-offering” (see Lev. 16:2-4). Even so, Christ, “by the sacrifice of Himself” (Heb. 10:26), was finally enabled to enter into “Heaven itself, now to appear in the Presence of God for us” (Heb. 10:24)! Finally enabled, I say, because theretofore a human body had never entered *such a place* to perform *such a ceremony* on behalf of the rest of condemned humanity! It was necessary for Jesus Christ to become a human that He might suffer and die, this is true, but also that He might be perfected and credentialed as a “**Merciful and Faithful High Priest**”!

“But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings. For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage. For verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a **Merciful and Faithful High Priest** in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.” – Hebrews 2:9-18

Upon being perfected and credentialed in this magnificent way, Jesus Christ assumed the role of a resurrected God-Man: “the Firstborn from the dead” (Col. 1:18, Rev. 1:5). “In 1Co 15:20, Christ is called the first-fruits of them that slept; and here, the chief and first-born from the dead; he being the first that ever resumed the natural life, with the employment of all its functions, never more to enter the empire of death, after having died a natural death, and in such circumstances as precluded the possibility of deception” (Adam Clarke). He was raised from the dead on the third day (1 Cor. 15:4), He appeared unto his disciples and over 500 others over a space of 40 days (Acts 1:2-3), He spoke of the mysteries of the Kingdom of God in a glorified human body which still hungered and thirsted (Lk. 24:41-43, John 21:5-6, Acts 1:2-3), a

body by which He ate and drank alongside his disciples just as other humans do (Acts 10:41), “until the day in which He was taken up”, scripture states (Acts 1:2). What day? The day of the Lord’s ascension into Heaven! Jesus Christ had theretofore been resurrected, but not ascended. Speaking of this, Christ disallowed Mary to touch him after she had just been wandering among the graveyard (a thing which would be improper and offensive, considering the circumstances of Jewish Law and, furthermore, the ceremonies the Lord was soon to perform in His human body; see John 20:17, Lev. 10:6-7, 21:10-12, Num. 19:16-22).

You see, my reader, while the body of the Lord Jesus was fixated on The Cross, the ceremony of salvation could not be accomplished. While Christ did reside among earth-dwellers after his resurrection, the ceremony could not be performed. He must – in human body – pass into the Heavens via the ascension (Heb. 4:1, Acts 1:2-11), enter the Gates beyond which a human body had never traversed (Ps. 24:7-10, Heb. 9:8), walk through the courts and into the Holy Place of the first and original Temple not made by human hands (Heb. 6:19-20, 8:2) – a Heavenly and Holy Place never before tread by the soles of human feet (1 Cor. 15:20-23, Acts 26:23, Rev. 1:5)! The ceremony of salvation that Christ was to perform on behalf of humanity was not located on earth, but in Heaven. According to scripture, it was necessary that a High Priest of an Eternal Priesthood called, the order of Melchisedec (Ps. 110:4, Heb. 5:6, 10, 7:1-21), enter into the Heavenly Courts of the Most Holy Temple to *sprinkle* the “heavenly things” with the blood of Jesus Christ, The Sacrifice (Heb. 9:19-24). Seeing that this was on behalf of mankind, this Priest and the Sacrifice must also be a Man... and until “the Lion of the Tribe of Judah” did prevail, humanity was left without the hope of redemption (Rev. 5:5)!

“the Way into the Holiest of all” – Heb. 9:8

After the Lord Jesus did prevail, He became “The Forerunner” behind which all humanity can follow. Positioned in Heaven right now in His human frame with its scars and all, “He ever liveth to make intercession” (Heb. 7:25), therefore because He “passed into the Heavens” ...so can we (Heb. 4:14-16)! Having such a High Priest over the House of God (Heb. 4:1, 10:21-22), redeemed humanity has “boldness to enter into The Holiest by the blood of Jesus” (Heb. 10:19, 9:8)! Having accomplished the full ceremony of salvation which was expected of Him in the Heavenly Arena (the reality of the typological similitude declared by the Old Testament Ceremonial Law; Col. 2:9-17, Heb. 8:1-6, 9:23-24), it was written that Jesus Christ did, last of all, sit down on the Right Hand of the Majesty on High (Heb. 1:3, 8:1, Php. 2:6-11). With the entire ceremony accomplished whereby mankind could be fully redeemed, the mode of redemption did thenceforth begin: *The Kingdom of God*. This mode of redemption began with the enthronement of Jesus Christ, the seed of David (a Human), as King and Lord of visible and invisible creation (Php. 2:9-11), soon to appear on earth yet again (Heb. 9:28, 2 Tim. 4:1, Rev. 19:11-16)! Upon this enthronement, *The Kingdom of God* began, and after this enthronement the Holy Ghost was poured out on the Day of Pentecost to mark the beginning of New Testament redemption on earth (Acts 2:33; i.e. *The Kingdom of God* on earth).

### The Ceremony of Salvation

**(1<sup>st</sup>) The Crucifixion** – *The Earthly Altar* (John 3:12-18)

**(2<sup>nd</sup>) The Resurrection** – *The Human Body for a Priesthood & Kingship* (Heb. 2:9-18, Php. 2:9-11)

**(3<sup>rd</sup>) The Ascension** – *The Forerunning Redeemer & 2<sup>nd</sup> Adam* (Heb. 6:19-20, 1 Cor. 15:22-23, Rom. 5:12-21)

**Firstly:** *The Ceremonial Purging of the Heavenly Things* (Heb. 1:3, 9:23)

**Secondarily:** *The Final & Everlasting Enthronement* (Heb. 1:3, 8:1, Acts 2:33, Ezek. 34:23-24, 37:24-25, Hos. 3:5, Jer. 23:5, 30:9, 33:15)

The Old Testament passed away because it lacked *eternity* and *sufficiency*, specifically because its ceremonies were *earthly* instead of *heavenly* (for the *earthliness* and *carnality* of the OT see Heb. 9:9, 10:1-4, 22, Gal. 4:3, 9, Col. 2:20), but these *shadows* do declare and explain the attributes of NT *realities* (which are *heavenly* and *eternal*), *realities* which are unfathomable without their *shadows* (see Col. 2:9-17, Heb. 8:1-6, 9:23-24). When Moses ascended Mount Sanai to receive the edicts of Old Testament Ceremonial Law, he saw the Heavenly Temple/Tabernacle, Heavenly Altars, Heavenly Incense Censers, Heavenly Instruments, Fixtures, and Furniture, Heavenly Cherubims, and a Heavenly Ark/Throne, and upon seeing all of these things the Lord instructed Moses to manufacture an exact pattern (**shadow**) on earth. In reference to manufacturing

and establishing an earthly shadow of the heavenly figures, the Lord said to Moses, “look that thou makest them after **their pattern**, which was shewed thee in the Mount” (Ex. 24:40). Moses saw the glorious and Heavenly Scenery in which Jesus Christ would eventually performed the ceremony of salvation on behalf of humanity, just as Aaron performed it on the Day of Atonement (Lev. 16). Speaking on this wise, the writer of Hebrews affirmed,

“Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the Throne of the Majesty in the Heavens; A Minister of the Sanctuary, and of the True Tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man. For every high priest is ordained to offer gifts and sacrifices: wherefore it is of necessity that this man have somewhat also to offer. For if He were on earth, he should not be a priest, seeing that there are priests that offer gifts according to the Law: Who serve unto **the example and shadow of Heavenly Things**, as Moses **was admonished** of God when he was about to make the Tabernacle: for, **See**, saith He, **that thou make all things according to the pattern shewed to thee in the mount.**” – Hebrews 8:1-5

This passage confirms the purpose of the Law in comparison to the Heavenly Things whereabouts the Lord Jesus does now Minister. This is, yet again, confirmed by the writer of Hebrews in another place, saying, “For the Law **having a shadow of good things to come**, and **not the very image of the things**, can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect” (Heb. 10:1). Yet again, in Hebrews 9:9, the word “**figure**” is used exactly as the word “**shadow**” has been cited and used:

“While **the first Tabernacle** was yet standing: which was **a figure** [*a shadow*] for the time then present, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience; which stood only in meats and drinks, and diverse washings, and carnal ordinances, imposed on them until the time of reformation. But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by **a Greater and More Perfect Tabernacle**, not made with hands, that is to say, **not of this building**; Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood he entered in once into **the Holy Place**, having obtained eternal redemption for us. For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth the purifying of flesh: How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God.” – Heb. 9:8-14

All this being affirmed and confirmed, let us understand that the Old Testament is a Covenant agreement between God and man via **earthly shadow** – shadows which were passing away – but the New Testament is an agreement between God and man via the **heavenly realities** (the substance that the earthly shadows declared). The difference between the two is emphasized in one point, foremost of all: that which is **earthly** is by essence, passing away, but that which is **heavenly** is by essence, eternal and undying. Hebrews chapters 7-9 are devoted to make plain this glorious attribute of the New Covenant, that its eternality is the victory of the “reformation” (Heb. 9:10). That now Christ, who is our Perfection (Heb. 10:14), Sacrifice (Heb. 10:12), Intercessor (Heb. 7:25), Priest (Heb. 5:6), and King (Heb. 1:8; Lk. 1:33), is eternal in His Person and His Work, and therefore the Covenant agreement is eternal.

An Earthly Environment	A Heavenly Environment
<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>Old Testament</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Inferior Covenant Inferior Testament Inferior Promises Inferior Hope Inferior Sacrifices Inferior Ministers Inferior Tabernacle A Lesser and Imperfect Tabernacle</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>New Testament</u></b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">“A Better Covenant” – Heb. 8:6 “A Better Testament” – Heb. 7:22 “Upon Better Promises” – Heb. 8:6 “A Better Hope” – Heb. 7:19 “Better Sacrifices” – Heb. 9:23 “A More Excellent Ministry” – Heb. 8:6 “The True Tabernacle” – Heb. 8:2 “A Greater and More Perfect Tabernacle”-Heb. 9:11</p>

Inferior “Worldly Sanctuary” –Heb. 9:1	“The Sanctuary...which the Lord pitched, and not man” – Heb. 8:2
Earthly Things	“Heavenly Things” – Heb. 9:23
Something Inferior	“some Better Thing for us” – Heb. 11:40

The Old Testament is found “faulty” (Heb. 8:7-8) for all the reasons above, and more - every reason centering around the **earthliness** and **carnality** of the Old Testament. The “law made nothing perfect” (Heb. 7:19) because it was a “**carnal commandment**” (Heb. 7:16) of “**weakness and un-profitableness**” (Heb. 7:18; Note: compare this passage with Eph. 2:15, Gal. 4:3, 9, Col. 2:20, Heb. 8:1-5, 10:1). The “heavenly calling” (Heb. 3:1) and heavenly commandments given by a Testator who is a Heavenly Man, effectually reforms the former law by a “disannulling of the commandment” given in the Old Covenant (Heb. 7:18). Christ is the eternal Priest after the order of Melchisedec, and with this change of “priesthood” there must be “a change also of the Law” (Heb. 7:12).

The shadows that were pastime practices in the Old Testament were *disannulled* “for the weakness and the unprofitableness thereof”, for they were **temporary, physical, or “carnal commandments**” (Heb. 7:16, 18). These carnal/earthly ordinances were needed for men to “*draw nigh to God*”, but they were a rigorous **bondage** to complete in the fear of God, at the danger of death, and in the solemnity of carefulness (Heb. 7:19). These ordinances, which served as prerequisites for redeemed humanity to *draw near to God* via the Tabernacle/Temple courts, were fittingly called by Paul, “**bondage under the elements of the world**” (Gal. 4:3). This “**bondage**” was, in another place, called “**the yoke of bondage**” (Gal. 5:1). These earthly things said to be of “weak and beggarly elements”, are in other words just mere shadows of the heavenly realities to come.

All these things served as a yoke of bondage to the Israelites making the process of *drawing near* to God difficult, meticulous, and rigorous, for it was only after an Israelite had completed all ceremonial prerequisites that he could have confidence to *draw near* to God without the danger of DEATH. Freedom from this yoke would therefore be described as a liberty to *draw near* to God without the requirements of **carnal, physical, or earthly** ordinances (Gal. 4:3)... right? Indeed! Thus, the writer of Hebrews declares the rising of another Priest for a greater Priesthood to perform a more glorious and perfecting ceremony of salvation via the Heavenly Things!

“If therefore **perfection** were by The Levitical Priesthood, (for under it the people received the Law,) what further need was there that another Priest should rise after The Order of Melchisedec, and not be called after The Order of Aaron? For the Priesthood being **changed**, there is made **of necessity a change also of the Law**. For he of whom these things are spoken pertaineth to another tribe, of which no man gave attendance at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord sprang out of Juda; of which tribe Moses spake nothing concerning Priesthood. And it is yet far more evident: for that after the similitude of Melchisedec there ariseth another Priest, who is made, not after the Law of a **carnal commandment**, but after THE POWER OF AN ENDLESS LIFE. For He testifieth, Thou art a Priest for ever after The Order of Melchizedec. For there is verily a **disannulling** of the commandment going before for the **weakness and unprofitableness** thereof. For the Law *made nothing perfect*, but the bringing in of a better hope did; **by the which we draw nigh unto God.**” – Heb. 7:15-19

In and through the Son of God, WE ARE SAFE! As Old Testament Israel cared for earthly ordinances without which, they dare not draw near, we look unto the Jesus with boldness and draw near with freedom! Where Old Testament Israel was fastened in the yoke of earthly things which could never save, we are basking in a heavenly reality which can effectually and everlastingly save! Their focus, which was one of multifaceted and innumerable earthly ordinances, was BONDAGE, but our freedom, which is an all-out-gaze upon Jesus Christ’s perfect fulfillment of all things, is FREEDOM! Very specifically speaking, my reader, this freedom was a liberty to *draw near* to God without any reference to any obstacle of any earthly sort! This removal of redeemed humanity from the Old Testament Ceremonial Law was a removal of humanity from earthly things, and this redemption of humanity according to the Testament made possible by a Heavenly Man, is an ushering-in of humanity into the Heavenly Things! It behooves earthly men to be in bondage to earthly things, they are bound thereto! But if earthly men die to themselves and the world (Gal. 2:20, 6:14), and are born into the Family of a

Heavenly Man (“*not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God*”-John 1:13), then these formerly earthly men are freed from the Old Testament Law and released into otherworldly glories of heavenly consecration! Speaking on this wise, it was written,

“Know ye not, brethren, (for I speak to them that know the law,) how that the Law hath dominion over a man as long as he liveth? For the woman which hath an husband is bound by the Law to her husband so long as he liveth; but if the husband be dead, she is loosed from the Law of her husband. So then if, while her husband liveth, she be married to another man, she shall be called an adulteress: but if her husband be dead, she is **free from that Law**; so that she is no adulteress, though she be married to another man. Wherefore, my brethren, ye also **are become dead to the Law by the body of Christ**; that ye should be married to Another, even to Him Who is raised from the dead, that we should bring forth fruit unto God.” – Romans 7:1-4

“Wherefore **if ye be dead with Christ from the rudiments of the world**, why, **as though living in the world**, are ye **subject to ordinances** (touch not; taste not; handle not;)” - Col. 2:20-21

Romans 7:4 spoke of a marriage/union unto Christ who was risen from the dead. This Jesus has become our Husband, High Priest, and King, and the ceremonies by which He attained this honor were “not after the Law of a carnal commandment, but after the power of an endless life” (Heb. 7:16), namely because He was risen from the dead! Only death can lawfully separate us from earthly bondage and liberate us into the substance of heavenly realities (Romans 7:1-4, Hebrews 7:16, 8:1-5, Col. 2:17), but upon this liberation we are joined unto the Him whose life is everlasting in Heavenly reality – therefore we, through Him, by ceremony, live forever (“*And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life.*” – 1Jn.5:11-12)! Hallelujah!

The Priesthood of Christ was sworn in by an oath, which the scripture states, emphasizes how He is a surety for a better Testament... but why? Because the oath (Heb. 7:21) signifies that He is an everlasting Man (“He ever liveth to make intercession for them”-Heb. 7:25), and therefore His Priesthood is not as the *nominal, earthly, and meager* ones in the Old Covenant (comparatively speaking; see 2 Cor. 3:10-11). For this reason Christ’s is in an “unchangeable Priesthood” (Heb. 7:24), specifically because, shockingly, He is caught up in the “Heavenly things” (Heb. 9:23-24)! Christ is “consecrated” - - “*there*” -- behind the “veil” of Heaven (Heb. 6:19-20), standing in office as a High Priest “for evermore” (Heb. 7:28)! This, my reader, is so much greater and better a Covenant than that which is earthly! Of necessity according to The Priestly Order, and of necessity according to the Man, and of necessity according to the arena of His Ministerial Office – Jesus Christ “abideth a Priest continually” (Heb. 7:3)!

**Abolishment**, “in this respect” – 2 Cor. 3:10

The Old Covenant did have glory because God made it glorious (“*which glory was to be done away*”-2Cor.3:7), but *in comparison* to the glory of the New Covenant it had no glory at all (2 Cor. 3:10-11)! It existed to shadow and point-toward a greater and more glorious reality which would never be done away with! Thus when this greater and more glorious reality arrived and began its operation of redemption, the lesser was “abolished” from its operation of redemption by reason of the shadow-to-reality transition of law-fulfillments. The lesser is “done away” with because of the glory which excelleth beyond it; “*For even that which was made glorious had no glory in this respect, by reason of the glory that excelleth. For if that which is done away was glorious, much more that which remaineth is glorious*” (2 Cor. 3:10-11). Note: this *abolishment* was an expiration by reason of the law-fulfillments of a greater reality, it was not a *destruction* of all law-fulfillments as some wrongfully suppose; as the Lord Jesus did solemnly testify, saying, “I am not come to *destroy* the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to *destroy*, but to *fulfill*” (Matt. 5:17), even so it is... now and forever. Amen.

## The Disannulment of the Old Testament Clean & Unclean Laws

“*a disannulling of the commandment*” – Heb. 7:18

“a *change* also of the Law” – Heb. 7:12

The writer of Hebrews used the word *disannul* and *change* when speaking of diverse aspects of Old Testament Ceremonial Law which are no longer binding to New Testament Christians. There is no verse that more clearly expresses the *disannulment* of Old Testament Clean & Unclean Laws, but that when God said to Peter, “What God hath **cleansed**, that call not thou **common** [or unclean]” (Acts 10:15). Upon receiving this word from God via a trance Peter later understood its meaning. Being compelled by the Spirit of God to go to the house of one called Cornelius, a Gentile centurion, Peter experienced an unforeseen parallel to John the Baptist’s baptism. Peter said, “Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that He said, John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost” (Acts. 11:16). What happened?

Upon entering Cornelius’ house Peter “found many that were come together” (Acts. 10:27). Like Cornelius, they were all **Gentiles**... but Peter was a **Jew**. In any other occasion Peter would have denied *such an audience*. He would have refused to *enter into the house* of Cornelius or *keep company* with anyone therein. This is because, according to the Law, **the Gentiles** don’t belong in Israel. When God first gave the Israelites the Promised Land, He forbade **the cohabitation** of Israel and Gentile Nations. On this vein, God demanded the total annihilation of all Gentiles which abode in the Promised Land (Ex. 23:20-33, 34:11-14, Lev. 18:24-30, 20:22-27, Num. 33:51-56, Deut. 7:1-6, 16-19, 23-26, 12:1-4, 29-32, 18:9-14, 20:16-18, 23:1-17, Josh. 23:2-16, Judges 2:2-3). God was intent upon eradicating from the Land of Israel every *person, tradition, and custom* of all Gentile peoples that He might, in turn, preserve Israel as a **holy** and **set-apart** people unto Himself (“*I am the LORD your God, which have separated you from other people*”-Lev. 20:24). According to God’s Law the Gentiles were **unclean**; their religion, way of life, culture, customs, manners, and traditions made them so to be (Lev. 18:24-30, 20:22-27). According to God’s Law the Israelites were **cleansed** and commanded to **remain clean & holy**: in clothing (Deut. 22:5, 11-12), farming (Deut. 22:9-10), eating (Lev. 20:25), taxing (Ex. 22:25, Lev. 25:36-37, Deut. 23:19), living (Ps. 34:12-16, Deut. 32:39), dying (i.e. funeral ceremonies: Num. 19:16-18), and even in the excrement of their waste (Deut. 23:12-14), to name a few. In Israel every man (Prov. 5:21, 19:16), household (Prov. 3:32-35, 12:17), city (Eccl. 7:19, Prov. 11:11, 29:8, Deut. 28:3, 16), and province (Eccl. 5:8), and the entirety of the Land and Nation (Prov. 2:20-22, 10:27, 30) belonged immediately and especially to God; therefore the Gentiles were considered aliens, strangers, and enemies to the progress and prosperity to religion and society.

With all of this in Peter’s mind as he entered into the house and company of Cornelius’ family and friends, the 6 Jews who went with him did follow on with discomfort and reservation, to say the least (Acts 11:12). Seeing that both Peter and the Gentiles knew that this **mingling of company** was against Jewish Law, Peter was compelled to give an explanation for his actions.

“And he said unto them, Ye know how that it is **an unlawful thing** for a man that is a *Jew* to **keep company**, or **come unto one of another nation**; but God hath shewed me that I SHOULD NOT call *any man* **common** or **unclean**. Therefore **came I unto you** without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for...” – Acts 10:28-29

Peter was not misunderstanding Jewish Law here. According to the aforementioned scriptures this statement was not a residue of Pharisaical and heretical thinking carried over in the life of Peter from the time he sat under the anti-biblical Pharisaical traditions in 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism. You see, my reader, the Nation of Israel was not meant to be like Gentile Nations, according to the Law (Deut. 14:2). You must see the significance of this! There was an inseparable mingling of state and citizen affairs in Israel, namely because - Israel was **holy** unto God! The Land itself was **holy**! If this can be said of *the Land* then what can be said of *the people*? What can be expected of the people who inhabit and populate the Land of Israel? You see, my reader? Because the Land of Israel is **holy** this means that Israel is unlike any other Nation because state and citizen affairs were *not secular* but *religious*. Matters of state were matters of religion. According to the Law, the **branches of society** and **civilization in Israel** (every congregation held anywhere with any vocation in all of Israel) were, more specifically, **branches of Church Ministry**. Yes! And the congregants therein were **Church Ministers**! Therefore in Israel, the government and its citizens, along with the soldiers of war (Deut. 23:9-14, 28:7), the ingathering harvesters of the farm (Ex. 23:16, 34:22, Deut. 28:4-6, 10-13), the marital compatibility of individuals (Neh. 13:1-3), all things that



appertain to financial and economic prosperity or concourse (Deut. 28:4-6, 10-13), or likewise, family relationships and fruitfulness (Deut. 28:4-6, 10-13)... all persons of every vocation, or, “the children of Israel” as a people, had to be **separated** from all other peoples (exempting lawful converts from strange peoples who became Jews)---the *Land & people* were **holy!**

Closely considering what scriptures were addressed heretofore, how the Law forbade the very presence of Gentiles and sinners in Israel (Num. 15:29-31), the unlawful situation of a Gentile-ruled 1<sup>st</sup> century Israel made for a difficult environment for those who attempted to keep the Law in good conscience (as much as they were able to given the circumstances). The cohabitating Gentiles affected the cleanliness of daily life, the traffic of business, public commerce, and more. This is because when *something* or *someone* was **unclean**, their **uncleanness** did not suddenly vanish away (it lasted for a specific time period only to be *cleansed* by a specific regiment of *ceremonial purification*). The entire duration in which someone was **unclean** and the person was trafficking society (instead of remaining in isolation as the Law commanded), *whatever* or *whoever* the man TOUCHED did also become **unclean**, and also whoever TOUCHED that *object* or *person* which was just made **unclean** did also become **unclean**. Speaking of this, it was written, “whatsoever the **unclean** person TOUCHETH shall be **unclean**; and the soul that TOUCHETH it shall be **unclean** until even” (Num. 19:22). The radical advancement of **uncleanness** spreading throughout ALL OF SOCIETY was not only a potential but a likelihood that every good-conscience Jew had to reckon with as he faced the day. This would radically change the behavior pattern of good conscience Jews as they undertook the responsibility of their daily affairs or public commerce.

“But the man that shall be **unclean**, and **SHALL NOT purify** himself, **that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation**, because he hath **defiled the Sanctuary of the LORD**: the **water of separation** hath not been **sprinkled** upon him; he is **unclean**. And it shall be a perpetual statute unto them, that he that **sprinkleth the water of separation** shall **wash** his clothes; and he that TOUCHETH the **water of separation** shall be **unclean** until even. And WHATSOEVER the **unclean person** TOUCHETH shall be **unclean**; and THE SOUL that TOUCHETH it shall be **unclean** until even.” – Numbers 19:20-22

According to the Law, the **clean** and **unclean** was a matter of life and death! God said, “**that soul shall be cut off from among the congregation!**”! Israelites were thereby energized to keep the Law at all costs (“*I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live*”-Deut. 30:19). Put yourself in their shoes, my reader. What would you do? Israelites would be motivated to keep in memory the aforementioned Laws to avoid any circumstance wherein they might become unclean; and when faced with the decisions of public commerce and neighborly behavior this proved difficult. With unlawful methods of killing (“*things strangled*”) and cooking (“*blood*”), and with foods sacrificed and dedicated to idols infiltrating the grocery market on every side – the Land was full of the “pollutions of idols” (Acts. 15:20, 29), as Peter called them! Yes, and the Land was crawling with the people of idolatry: the **unclean** and **uncircumcised Gentiles!** With all the aforementioned means of uncleanness included, the Land was crawling with unconfined and unidentified Gentile women on menstrual cycles (Lev. 15:19-31), unidentified Gentile men defiled by their seed of copulation (Lev. 15:16-18), and unidentified and identifiable diseased men of every race oozing with defiling liquids (i.e. leprosy and running issues; Lev. 14:1-57, 15:1-15). Shockingly, each unclean person was leaving unidentifiable trails of uncleanness every place they went: on every garment, bed, chair, saddle, or any object for that matter, all over the City and in innumerable houses therein, uncleanness pervaded (Lev. 15:1-15, Num. 19:22)! Given the circumstances, it is understandable why Jews did not *keep company* with or *enter the houses of Gentiles*. Keeping company with Gentiles would involve touching them, and entering into Gentile homes would involve touching the objects which do touch them.

### Territorial Cleaness

I say again, it is no wonder that Israelites were strongly apprehensive to ever enter a Gentile man’s household! Think of it, my reader, Israel was intended to be **territorially clean**, according to the Law. All things outside of Israel were considered **territorially unclean**, the Gentile people included (exempting lawful converts). The concept of **territorial uncleanness** was introduced to Israel by the Law and enforced among Israel through the power of Divine-anger all throughout biblical history. For example, during Israelite conquests of war in The Promised Land (the Land of Canaan) everything that

breathed was slaughtered; this means that no person or animal was salvageable from the curse of **territorial uncleanness** (Deut. 20:16-18). During other conquests of war against non-Canaanite Cities or Nations, all males were slain and nothing more; this means that, circumstances permitting, everyone and everything else was salvageable from **territorial uncleanness** (Deut. 20:10-15). Howbeit let us remember, the salvageable persons and objects from these Cities or Nations needed to undergo a **cleansing** ceremony of **purification** before entering the Camp or territory of Israel (**a clean place**). Ceremonial instructions of purification were specified categorically according to what the object was: a person (Num. 31:19), an imperishable object (Num. 31:21-24), or a perishable object (Num. 31:21-24). All these things existed because the Land of Israel – *Itself* – was meant to be **a clean place**. When and if the Land of Israel was defiled it happened via unlawful bloodshed (Num. 35:33, Deut. 21:23), sexual sin (Deut. 24:4), idolatry (Jer. 3:9, 16:18, Ezek. 36:17), and all manner of sin (Jer. 2:7, Ezek. 22:24, Lev. 18:25, 27).

All of these specifications were decreed by God's Law to give the Israelite Land and people a God-given identity; and demonstrations of Divine-fury were performed so that among common Israelites it would be an unforgettable identity! The concept of **territorial uncleanness** was enforced with the power of Divine-fury in several different historical events recorded in the Old Testament. Each of the following instances were relevant memories to any good-conscience Jew who avoided the company and households of Gentiles in the 1<sup>st</sup> century: when Achan was defiled by accursed objects and Israel became unsanctified thereby (“*Achan the son of Zerab, and the silver, and the garment, and the wedge of gold, and his sons, and his daughters, and his oxen, and his asses, and his sheep, and his tent, and all that he had. . . Israel stoned. . . and burned*”; see Josh 7:13-15, 24-25), when the Korah-led rebellion was punished by God (“*the earth opened her mouth, and swallowed them up, and their houses, and all the men that appertained unto Korah, and all their goods. They, and all that appertained to them, went down alive into the pit. . .*”-Num. 16:32-33), and when Jericho was territorially cursed and territorially unclean except Rahab (“*Joshua saved Rahab the harlot alive, and her father's household, and all that she had*”-Josh.6:25; see Josh. 6:17-19). Remembering these historical events, can you imagine how a good-conscience Jew would journey about the Land of 1<sup>st</sup> century Israel as it was crawling with such abominations!? Echoing in Jewish memory would be the words of Moses, God, and Joshua, who said,

“And he spake unto the congregation, saying, **Depart**, I pray you, **from the tents** of these wicked men, and **TOUCH nothing of theirs**, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.” – Numbers 16:26

“Up, **sanctify** the people, and say, **Sanctify** yourselves against to morrow: for thus saith the LORD God of Israel, There is **an accursed thing in the midst** of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye **take away the accursed thing from among you**.” – Joshua 7:13

“he that is taken with **the accursed thing** shall be burnt with fire, **he** and **all that he hath**: because he hath transgressed the Covenant of the LORD, and because he hath **wrought folly in Israel**” Josh 7:15

Associated with these historical events were foreseeable and theoretical events of idolatry or other sorts, addressed by the Law. For example if there was an outbreak of idolatry in an Israelite city so that it was given over to idol worship, the Law commanded, “*smite the inhabitants. . . destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof. . . gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street thereof. . . burn with fire the city and all the spoil thereof every whit*” (Deut. 13:15-16). Such a generation-to-generation command given by God was terrifyingly relevant to any Jew who assayed to enter the house of a 1<sup>st</sup> century Gentile man in Israel. Dare he be caught by God in the company of intruding rebels in God's Holy Land!? It would be moral apostasy for a good-conscience Jew to fearlessly waltz into Gentile households or engage in Gentile companionship.

These Laws were binding upon the most fundamental aspects of life and religion in biblical Judaism. For example when keeping the Passover, God said, “Seven days shall there be **no leaven in your houses**” (Ex. 12:19), “there shall **no leavened bread** be seen **with thee**, neither shall there be **leaven** seen with thee **in all thy quarters**” (Ex. 13:7). In the case of a person's death, it was written, “*when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days*” (Num. 19:14). These stand as relevant examples to the subject at hand, this is for sure, but the

most notable example exists in the forms of uncleanness which Peter called, “pollutions of idols” (Acts. 15:20, 29). In the theoretical City of Israel which turned to idolatry, nothing was spared (no life or object; see Deut. 13:15-16)! Even the precious metals of Jericho were salvageable (Josh. 7:19)... but not for a backslidden City of Israel – to them belonged the greater sin! Therefore, my reader, revisit the aforementioned question: dare an Israelite be caught in the *company* or *household* of idolaters? The common Gentile household would be decorated with and polluted by rampant idolatry! And God, foremost of all, was determined to destroy these objects of His jealousy! – Any true Jew would have been minded likewise.

“If thou shalt hear say in one of thy Cities, which the LORD thy God hath given thee to dwell there, saying, Certain men, the children of Belial, are gone out from **among you**, and have withdrawn the inhabitants of **their City**, saying, Let us go and serve other gods, which ye have not known; Then shalt thou enquire, and make search, and ask diligently; and, behold, if it be truth, and the thing certain, that such abomination is wrought **among you**; Thou shalt surely **smite the inhabitants of that City** with the edge of the sword, **destroying it utterly**, and **all that is therein**, and **the cattle** thereof, with the edge of the sword. And thou shalt **gather all the spoil of it into the midst of the street** thereof, and shalt **burn with fire the City**, and **all the spoil** thereof **every whit**, for the LORD thy God: and it shall be **an heap for ever**; it shall not be built again. And there shall cleave nought of **the cursed thing** to **thine hand**: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers; When thou shalt hearken to the voice of the LORD thy God, to keep all his commandments which I command thee this day, to do that which is right in the eyes of the LORD thy God.” – Deut. 13:12-18

Idols polluted and defiled peoples (Deut. 13:12-18), territories (Deut. 13:12-18), and objects (Deut. 13:12-18). Backslidden Israelite people or Cities suffered the most severe woes of separation as you can see, my reader... nothing is left salvageable! When the Law was reversed back to uncleanness in the Land, woe to the inhabitants of Israel! Before the Law was ever established (like I mentioned before), precious metals were able to be salvaged from the territory of Jericho, but not from the idols found within Jericho or anywhere else! All gold or silver found on every idol found anywhere was an utter abomination to God! The Lord explicitly commanded,

“The **graven images** of their gods shall ye **burn with fire**: thou shalt not desire **the silver or gold that is on them**, **nor take it unto thee**, lest thou be **snares** therein: for it is **an abomination** to the LORD thy God. Neither shalt thou **bring an abomination into thine House**, lest **thou** be a **cursed thing like it**: but thou shalt **utterly detest it**, and thou shalt **utterly abhor it**; for **it** is a **cursed thing**.” – Deut. 7:25-26

Do you see how God said, “**thine House**”! With such commandments given by God of this sort – throbbing with jealous fury against idol worshippers, idol materials, idol habitations, and idol households – what would a good-conscience 1<sup>st</sup> century Jew be thinking about when and if he entered **the Household** of a Holy-Land-intruding and idolatry-polluting Gentile? Aye, the terror! Could the wrath of God be so kindled in that hour that then, in any present 1<sup>st</sup> century circumstance, the mind of God would sound the alarm, “Touch nothing of theirs” (Num. 16:26)!? It may be... but one thing is for sure at any given time: “**The curse** of the LORD is in **the House** of the wicked: but he blesseth **the Habitation** of the just” (-Prov. 3:33). Rightly did Peter say to the company of Gentiles in Cornelius’ House,

“Ye know how that it is **an unlawful thing** for a man that is a Jew to **keep company**, or **come unto one of another nation**; but God hath shewed me that I SHOULD NOT call *any man* **common** or **unclean**. Therefore **came I unto you** without gainsaying, as soon as I was sent for...” – Acts 10:28-29

My reader, this is “a *disannulling* of the commandment” (Heb. 7:18) and “a *change* also of the Law” (Heb. 7:12)! When Peter came back from Cornelius’ House he was compelled to give an answer for his seemingly unlawful behavior. “Thou wentest in to men uncircumcised, and didst eat with them” (Acts 11:3), was the contention of the believing Jews (Christians) when they heard that Peter entered the house of Cornelius and ate with him. As Peter expounded to the Jewish Christians the details of what had happened from beginning to end (Acts 11:1-18), Peter was confident that the events which transpired

speak for themselves. The event – itself – settles the argument. As Peter began to rehearse everything up to the point where he was about to open his mouth and preach to the Gentiles, it is written,

“And as I began to speak, the Holy Ghost fell on them, as on us at the beginning. Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that He said, John indeed **baptized with water**; but ye shall be **baptized with the Holy Ghost**. Forasmuch then as God gave them the like gift as He did unto us, who believed on the Lord Jesus Christ; what was I, that I could withstand God? When they heard these things, they held their peace, and glorified God, saying, Then hath God also to the Gentiles granted repentance unto life.” – Acts 11:15-18

Peter concluded, “Can any man **forbid water**, that these should not be baptized, which have **received the Holy Ghost** as well as we? And he commanded them to be baptized in the Name of the Lord” (Acts 10:47-48). This is what it meant to Peter, when God said, “What God hath **cleansed**, that call not thou **common**” (Acts 10:15). This event signaled to the Jewish Christians that God was pleased to make Gentiles Christians by the very same means whereby they were made clean; “*the Jew first, and also to the Gentile*” (Rom. 2:10)! Peter recalled how *the Jews*, thronging by multitudes, went unto John for the Baptism of repentance for the remission of sins – a baptism of water – but how, shockingly, this was but a foreshadow of what was about to come! Peter understood the connection between the three year earthly ministry of Jesus Christ unto Israel in comparison to what was unfolding then, beginning with Cornelius, unto the Gentiles – that as salvation began among Israel in Jesus’ three year earthly ministry and culminated in the Day of Pentecost outpouring, even so, likewise, salvation must continue beyond the Jews and unto the Gentiles throughout all the world in THE VERY SAME WAY! Peter recalled the word, “ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost”. Peter remembered the supremacy of Jesus Christ’s ministry above John the Baptist’s ministry and the supremacy of Jesus’ baptizing powers above John’s baptizing powers! What dawned upon Peter cannot be fully understood until we, like Peter, understand the three year earthly ministry of Jesus Christ in relationship to John the Baptist’s ministry, with all associating controversies in mind.

## Matthew’s Cohesive Argument that Jesus of Nazareth was and is the Messiah

*The Messiah: the Fulfillment of the Moral and Ceremonial Law Walking in Bodily Form, on Earth and in Heaven*

“And *the Word* was made flesh, and dwelt among us...” – John 1:14

“For *all the promises* of God in Him are yea, and in Him Amen...” – 2 Cor. 1:20

To preach the gospel in our generation, one might preach the last 3 Chapters of the Gospel of Matthew. This may be sufficient, in some regard, for the mind of a heathen man...but not for a Jew. For a 1<sup>st</sup> century Jew to hear and understand the Gospel he would need to hear it preached just as Matthew wrote it Chapters 1 through 28 in full! The mind of a Jew would be utterly abhorrent to and unprepared for the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus, if he was not first prepared by Matthew Chapters 1 through 25. The entire book of Matthew is, “The Gospel of Matthew”! Therein, from beginning to end, is one cohesive and scriptural argument which addresses every major controversy against Jesus Christ, refutes every major heresy of 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism, confirms every event and doctrine relevant to the Gospel with infallible accuracy, to the end that a Jew might understand why and how Jesus of Nazareth is indisputably and unquestionably the long-looked-for Messiah promised to the Jews. What looks like, to a Gentile, an assortment of historical events randomly collected and chronicled is, to a Jew, a carefully thought-out and systematic argument Divinely inspired by God the Holy Ghost. The details and implications of the historical events accounted by Matthew (what Jesus said and did) were framed in perfect order and sharpness to unloose the common Jew from captivity and blind-servitude to the ignorance and dead religion of 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism. All this being said, my reader, let us brace ourselves; we, being Gentiles, have need of some reflection and consideration as we read. What is unnoticeable and nearly unrecognizable to a Gentile’s mind is glaringly obvious to

a law-abiding Jew. Therefore if we are going to understand The Gospel of Matthew we need to understand the thought-process of a 1<sup>st</sup> century law-abiding Jew (the audience to whom he wrote), and to understand this we must understand the Law.

In this masterful piece of Divine-argument the writer of The Gospel of Matthew cites five historical facts which support and verify Jesus Christ as the Messiah according to Old Testament prophesy. (#1) Verified by the Genealogical Record, (#2) How He was Born, (#3) Where He Was Born, (#4) The Calamity Surrounding His Birth, and (#5) Where He Grew Up.

1:1-17 → **Verified by the Genealogical Record:** The genealogical proof that Jesus is the Son of David, an heir to the Throne according to the flesh.

1:18-25 → **How He Was Born:** The Virgin Birth (1:23, Isa. 7:14) and the name of the child – JESUS: meaning “Savior”, “for He shall save His people from their sins” (1:21).

2:1-12 → **Where He was Born:** The predestinated circumstances which forced the birth of the child in Bethlehem (2:6, Micah 5:2), and the subsequent and notorious visit of the Magi.

2:13-18 → **The Calamity Surrounding His Birth:** Herod’s fury, Jesus’ flight to Egypt (2:15, Hosea 11:1), and the subsequent slaughter of the newborns (2:18, Jer. 31:15); via parallelism, a slaughter which suggests the situation in which Moses (the deliverer of Israel from bondage and a typological forerunner of Christ –Deut. 18:15) was born into and scarcely escaped.

2:19-23 → **Where He Grew Up:** The death of Herod and the subsequent traveling of the family to Nazareth to take residence there (2:23, Num. 6, Isa. 11:1): “He shall be called a Nazarene”.

Being guided by inspiration, Matthew details the credentials provided by differing agents chosen by God to verify Jesus’ true identity in the visible and invisible world: (#1) The Greatest of the Prophets, (#2) Two Persons of the Trinity, and (#3) The Devil.

3:1-12 → **Credentialed by John the Baptist:** The Cry in the wilderness, John the Baptist (3:3, Isa. 40:3), declaring the imminent end of Judaism if no fruits of repentance were found (3:10-12). Jesus Christ, the Messiah, is the Judaism-Changer – upon His arrival, which was imminent, Judaism will never be the same! John said, “*He shall baptize you WITH THE HOLY GHOST, and with fire: Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly **purge** His floor, and **gather** His wheat into the garner; but He will **burn** up the chaff with unquenchable fire*” (Matt. 3:12)! For Jews, this is a staggering proclamation!

3:13-17 → **Credentialed by the Trinity:** An unprecedented confirmation and inaugural declaration wherein Jesus was heralded, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased”, by God the Father’s voice from Heaven (3:16-17) and, secondarily, the endowing presence of God the Holy Ghost was descending upon Jesus to rest upon Him henceforth like a mantle (Note: the mantle was for the ministry!). For the first time in human history all Three Persons of the Trinity were *sensibly present* and *sensibly distinct* One from Another at *one single location* for a testimony to mankind!

4:1-17 → **Credentialed by the Devil:** The Devil bears witness of the undeniable truth that Jesus is “the Son of God” (4:3), and after his enticements were withstood, Christ began His ministry in the Land of Zebulun according to the prophesy (4:15-16, Isa. 9:1-2). You may wonder the veracity of this credential, my reader. You may be thinking, “How can one be credentialed by the Devil seeing that he is the father of lies?” To hold all scripture in balance we must consider, *firstly*, the significance of a personal visitation by the devil. Moreover, *secondarily*, we must look at the manner and content by which the devil tempted Jesus of Nazareth. Think of it, my reader. Why would the devil be visiting Jesus of Nazareth unless, like Job, He was the most righteous man on earth in His time? In the scenery of celestial glory this mysterious controversy arose between God Almighty and the Devil concerning Job; “*And the LORD*

said unto Satan, Hast thou considered My servant Job, that there is none like Him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil" (Job 1:8)? Upon this statement, the trial of Job's life began... a trial which Job failed to endure. But, to the Jesus' credit, where Job failed Jesus of Nazareth prevailed! Furthermore, my reader, look at the content of the Devil's temptations to Jesus. These are not ordinary temptations undergone by ordinary human beings! The Devil tempted Jesus to command stones to become bread! I have never been tempted to do this, my reader; I do not suspect that you have either. This is because the Devil *knew* that Jesus was the Son of God. The fact that Jesus was the Son of God was somehow evident to the whole hoard of unclean spirits which resided under the leadership of Satan. Every time unclean spirits encountered Jesus they were about to or did cry out, "Thou art the Son of God", but the scripture states that Jesus "straitly charged them that they should not make Him *known*" (Mk. 3:9-12). The demons knew *the real identity* of Jesus of Nazareth, my reader. It is affirmed by scripture that, "they *knew* Him" (Mark. 1:34). One can only imagine the celestial conversations which transpired in the invisible realm as a result of the incarnation and up-bringing of Jesus of Nazareth. "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men*" (Lk. 2:14)!

With all the aforementioned details and verifications which credentialed Jesus as the Messiah and Christ, Matthew saw fit to overview a general introduction to His Ministry: (#1) Where His Ministry Began, (#2) What His Ministry Included, and (#3) How His Ministry was Distinct.

4:12-17 → **Where His Ministry Began:** Jesus Christ began His ministry in the Land of Zabulon according to the prophesy (4:15-16, Isa. 9:1-2).

4:18-25 → **What His Ministry Included / How It Became Famous / What Made it Unstoppable** (compare 4:18-25 with 8:14-17): Here we see the call and ingathering of the apostles at the onset of Christ's ministry, a ministry which was ignited by the working of miracles. The flames of widespread fame did burn up the whole Land ("*I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled*"-Lk.12:49) because the Lord Jesus was full of healing power which cured sicknesses and diseases **in fulfillment of all the promised blessings via Old Testament Covenants** (Ex. 15:26, Deut. 7:15, Ps. 103:3, Isa. 53:4), a healing power which was **the fulfillment of prophecies foretelling the accomplishments of the Messiah** (the sick: Isa. 53:4, the lame: Isa. 35:6, the blind: Isa. 43:8, the deaf: Isa. 35:5, the dumb: Isa. 35:6, the dead: Hos. 6:2, 13:14, Isa. 25:8, 26:19, John 5:28-29), and, furthermore, the Lord Jesus had all authority to cast out and subdue devils of any sort **in fulfillment of what was foretold** as Christ's express purpose to overthrow, spoil, and punish the rulers, princes, and spirits which pertain to the invisible and worldwide kingdom of hell ("*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel*" -Gen. 3:5; Rom. 16:20, Heb. 2:14-15, Isa. 24:21, Lk. 10:18, Rev. 12:7-8, 17, 1 Jn. 3:8, Col. 2:15, Rev. 20:10). **Note:** The Spirit in which Christ came (Lk. 9:55) to Israel was not to kill the demon-possessed or the adulteress, as the letter of the justice did righteously demand (demon-possessed: Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12; adulteress: Lev. 20:10, Deut. 22:21-24)... the purpose of Christ's coming was not to enact the curse/justice of the Law but to bear it - to absorb it and take it upon Himself! His purpose was not to bring a famine upon the Land to punish the wicked doers according to their evil deeds... no, my reader. Rather, it was to bring streams in desert places and spiritual health to a hell-bound people until the dry land becomes a pool of water (Isa. 35:5-8, 41:18). My reader, this is the thesis of Christ's miracle ministry (see Matt. 8:14-17)! On this wise the Lord argued and testified, "*If I do not the works of the My Father, believe Me not. But if I do, though ye believe not Me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him*" (John 10:37-38). "*Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake*" (John 14:11). "*If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause*" (John 15:22-25).

5:1-7:29 → **How His Ministry was Distinct from False Judaism / What His Preaching Emphasized / A Comprehensive Refutation of Heretical Judaism** (i.e. the tenets of inward religion re-clarified) / **The Moral Law Upheld:** The Lord Jesus upbraids the popular heresy of heretical Judaism in what is called, [The Sermon](#)

[on the Mount](#). His intentions were not to *abolish* the Ceremonial or Moral Law, but to *fulfill* and *uphold* them both. Confessing this, Jesus said, “*Think not that I am come to destroy the Law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill*” (5:17). Therefore let us understand: in whatever point Jesus Christ was denouncing and refuting heretical Judaism, He did so to establish and uphold true Judaism - not to *destroy* but to *fulfill*. [Click here for a detailed study of [The Sermon on the Mount](#).]

Having begun in the Land of Zabulon and from thence, being famed throughout the Land of Israel through miracles, the miracles made way for the message, *The Sermon on the Mount*. Thenceforth and in the wake of so great a denouncement of popular heresy and false Judaism, the false prophets vehemently pursued Jesus’ defamation before the public-stage. This being the case – the stage being set: Truth vs Lie, The Messiah vs Popular Authority – a selected number of miracles which Jesus performed were recounted and narrated for the reader’s observance and full understanding. Doubtlessly, these events were controverted and slandered as they were reportedly sounded throughout the Land of Israel by the venomous tongues of bitter and envious Jews. In such a case, the events needed clarification by the true Disciples of Christ... What really happened? In what situational context? For what purpose? Who was present? And what does it all mean? The following historical events which Matthew recounts in Chapter 8 through Chapter 13 are an answer to the former questions. The historical events were not ordered by Matthew for the purpose historical chronology event-to-event, like a historian would be minded so to write. Matthew recounted and ordered a selected number of historical events for the sake of Gospel argumentation; he was trying to systematically persuade the Jews that Jesus of Nazareth is the Messiah. Therefore let us understand this most glorious fact: these miraculous deeds which Jesus did preached volumes of Gospel messages to a Law-enriched Jewish mindset! 1<sup>st</sup> century heretical Judaism with all the pomp of “established religion”, with the trust and title of the people and place of practical Judaism – even it could not withstand the impact of the Lord Jesus’ miraculous ministry because it was staged in perfect harmony with His majestic argumentation! The Lord Jesus’ deeds preached what the message, ministry, and Person of the Messiah existed to establish – A reformed, more perfect, and unprecedented Kingdom of God!

## What His Deeds Preached: A Message, Ministry, and Person Defended & Confirmed!

8:1-4 → **The Unclean Leper Touched:** Jesus Christ, a seeming law-breaker, TOUCHED an unclean Leper (Lev. 13:1-46, Num. 19:22) and it cleansed the unclean man... “*immediately his leprosy was cleansed*” (Matt. 8:3). Jesus Christ is, therefore, “the Law of the leper in the day of His cleansing” - reformed and fulfilled (Lev. 14:1)! He is, in other words, a greater sprinkling than the blood of birds sprinkled seven times; He is a greater water than the old-time washing and a more purifying ceremony than full-body shaving; He is a greater anointing than oil-sprinkling and oil-pouring; He is a greater sacrifice than the sin-offering which was offered for the old-time atonement (see Lev. 14:1-20)!

8:5-13 → **An Unclean Company Cleansed:** Jesus Christ agreed to go into the home of a Gentile Centurion to heal his servant (“*I will come*”, see Matt. 8:6-7), but because the Gentile man loathed the idea of defiling the Lord (apparently he was aware of the Law), he said, “Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldst come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed” (Matt. 8:8). Jesus Christ was about to enter the home of a Gentile, unashamedly... but how? If the Lord would have entered the Gentile man’s house He would have likely taken some refreshments while being in his company, thus the Lord Jesus would have been eating and drinking in the company and house of a Gentile man! The Jewish Law which forbade the company of Jews and Gentiles was common knowledge among Jews and Gentiles (“*Ye know how that it is an unlawful thing*”-Acts 10:28). Therefore because the Gentile Centurion believed in the Law (which commanded such things as Lev. 10:10, 11:47, 20:25, Ezek. 22:26, 44:23) he was abased in his own eyes. In this humility the Gentile man entreated the Lord that Jesus would not come to his house. Even though Jesus Christ never came into the house of the Gentile man (and instead healed the servant through the power of His spoken word), the Lord Jesus vindicated His intention to eat and drink with a Gentile man by a staggeringly relevant declaration: He foretold that non-Israelite Gentiles will come from far and distant Lands to *sit down and keep company, eating and drinking at the Table of the Kingdom of God with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob*, but “the children of the Kingdom”, the Jews, “shall be cast out” (Matt. 8:10-12)! The Lord Jesus was signifying why wisdom justified His entry and company within the House and presence of Gentiles, giving reference to the future

state of the Kingdom of God [relevant citations: Acts 10:15, 25-29, 11:3, John 18:28-29]. This is shocking! Apparently, in Jesus' presence, the unclean company is cleansed! According as it was written, "*And in that Day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious*" (Isa. 11:10).

8:14-17 → **The Person and Work Foretold, A TOUCH-able Redemption** (the unlawful "TOUCH" & the demon-possessed unlawfully preserved alive): Jesus Christ encountered Peter's sick mother-in-law and it was written, "*He TOUCHED her hand*" (Matt. 8:15). This "TOUCH", and many more like it, were famed abroad so much so that it was written at a later time, "*as many as TOUCHED were made perfectly whole*" (Matt. 14:31, Mk. 6:56). This is because Jesus Christ is the embodiment of salvation (via OT promises: Ex. 15:26, Deut. 7:15, Ps. 103:3; via OT prophecies: Isa. 53:4, Isa. 35:6, Isa. 43:8, Isa. 35:5, Hos. 6:2, 13:14, Isa. 25:8, 26:19, John 5:28-29). Jesus Christ did, thereafter, heal as many as came to Him and cast out every devil (Matt. 8:16)! The unclean people who were defiled by disease did throng upon Jesus Christ... and as many as touched Him were healed! The unclean came and touched, and went away clean! According to the inspired writer this was in fulfillment of the prophecy, "Himself TOOK our infirmities, and bare our sickness" (Matt. 8:17, Isa. 53:4)! Jesus Christ "TOOK" them, the writer said! This verb emphasizes how Jesus Christ did, in some cases, reach forth and touch the helpless and hopeless to take away the wretched curse which crushed both body and soul – diseases which were ceremonially forbidden to touch! – and in the cases where the unclean took liberty to reach out and touch Christ, they did so by believing that He existed to take it away from them! Also here, in Matthew 8:14-17, another sort of uncleanness is cleansed on a widespread scale. Jesus Christ did forcefully and powerfully cast out formerly unconquerable devils from all who came to Him for help! Credibly, this attribute of redemption was prophesied and foretold, and here demonstrated: the expressed purpose to overthrow, spoil, and punish the rulers, princes, and spirits which pertain to the kingdom of hell ("*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel*" -Gen. 3:5, Rom. 16:20, Heb. 2:14-15, Isa. 24:21, Lk. 10:18, Rev. 12:7-8, 17, 1 Jn. 3:8, Col. 2:15, Rev. 20:10). This is true, but this is not just a prophetic wonder but a law-fulfilling wonder! The Spirit in which Christ came (Lk. 9:55) to Israel was not to kill the demon-possessed or the adulteress, for example, as the letter of the justice demanded (demon-possessed: Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12; adulteress: Lev. 20:10, Deut. 22:21-24). Jesus Christ wielded a redemptive power instead of a damning power because His mission was that of mercy and not of penalty; in other words and in this case, the Lord Jesus wielded the power to cast out devils instead of killing the demon-possessed, according to the letter of the Law. The purpose of Christ's coming was not to enact the curse/justice of the Law, but to bear it, absorb it, and take it upon himself! It was not to bring a famine upon the Land to punish the wicked (Deut. 11:17, 28:23-24)... rather, it was to turn the dry land into a pool of water (Isa. 41:18) – this is the metaphorical thesis of Jesus Christ's miracle ministry conveyed by prophetic language (see Matt. 8:14-17)! This one attribute of the Man, Jesus Christ – **The TOUCH-able-ness of Human Redemption** – was so notoriously spread abroad that when the multitudes gathered around Him (accounted in Matt. 12:15-21 & Mk. 3:6-12) He asked that he might find refuge in a boat to preach to the people from a removed location. He did this, "lest they should throng Him. For He healed many insomuch that they pressed upon Him for to TOUCH Him, as many as had plagues. And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before Him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. And He straitly charged them that they should not make Him known" (Mk. 3:9-12). Note: **The Ceremonial Law-fulfillment of His Touch:** As Jesus Christ went about Israel doing good, it became apparent that this Man was a body into which all sin would be imputed and absolved, from which all righteousness would be imputed and imparted to others.

8:19-20 → **Incomparable Humility & Loneliness** (a Ministry characterized by unexpected rejection): A learned scribe came to Jesus Christ, and said, "I will follow Thee whithersoever Thou goest", thinking that Jesus Christ would probably live an honored life like his was for the past many years he spent learning the Law. Christ responded with confrontational boldness against flagrant apostasy! His response demonstrated the incomparable humility which Christ was predestined to undertake to save a sin-cursed people who didn't want their Messiah (Php. 2:5-8, John 13:1-17). Jesus Christ was predestined to suffer an unexpected rejection by popular Judaism and the widespread public. This foretold lifestyle of Jesus Christ (its loneliness) brings in view an attribute of redemption which deserves grave and thoughtful reflection. Through the prophet Isaiah, the Lord said, "*And I looked, and there was none to help; and I wondered that there was none to uphold: therefore Mine own arm brought salvation unto Me; and My fury, it upheld Me*" (Isa.63:5). Jesus Christ



had power to accomplish human redemption standing-alone; He had the humility to suffer for and save a guilty and condemned people by Himself. Even when the Law stated and affirmed every man's guilt and condemnation based upon their own deeds which they had committed, individually speaking (Ex. 32:32-33, Ezek. 18:20, 30), the Lord of glory has power to absolve every man's law-bound accountability to their disobedience through His own singular and stand-alone obedience! *"The gift by grace, which is by One Man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many"* (Rom. 5:15)! Every man's law-bound and individual accountability was punished by the power of Divine-fury all throughout the centuries in such a manner that, shockingly, individual Israelites perished not alone in their iniquities! According to biblical history, the violent abhorrence that disobedience was to God, in essence, provoked a violent arousing of Divine-justice (Jonah 1:12-16, Num. 16:22, 17:13, Josh. 22:16-20, Num. 25:1-13, Josh. 7:25, 1 Chron. 21:15-17, Num. 32:14-15, 23), but the LORD did stir-up a more violent force of grace and love in Jesus Christ which, comparatively, is now manifest in reversed parallelism to the justice depicted in the aforementioned examples (examples where by one man's sin all men suffered the demise of overflowing wrath) – so that now, by One Man's obedience, collective redemption is unloosed in furious and overflowing grace upon all men who believe! *"For as by the one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of One shall man be made righteous. Moreover the Law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound"* (Rom. 5:19-20). In a stand-alone and redemptive obedience, the Man Jesus is resurrected and ascended with a great company of sinners clothed in His righteousness!

8:21-22 → **Incomparable & Collective Royalty**: Jesus Christ's mission (and its followers) were obliged to and bound by a greater obligation than what was demonstrated in the Law (by the holiness of the priesthood: Lev. 10:6-7, 21:10-12; by the holiness of the Nazarites: Num. 6:3-7; and by the general holiness of Israelites: Num. 19:11), thus Jesus Christ said, like in the aforementioned citations, *"let the dead bury their dead"* (Matt. 8:22). Consecration from the defilement of dead bodies was for Divine-reception unto a Divine-purpose of grave importance, and how much more the ministry and mission of Jesus Christ – The Priesthood of Melchisedec (Heb. 7:17)! When men were in near-proximity to Jesus Christ's bodily presence in the 1<sup>st</sup> century, the location at which they stood was as if they had entered a holier place than the Temple of God itself. Speaking of Himself, Jesus said, *"in this place is One greater than the Temple"* (Matt. 12:6)! Therefore as the priests of old-time did go to and fro throughout the Temple to accomplish their employment of work on the Sabbath day (Matt. 12:5), the disciples of the Lord went to and fro in attendance to Jesus Christ. The special necessity of priestly labors necessitated a special exception from otherwise undeniable obligations of Law. In the historical situation accounted by Matthew 8:21-22, special exception to the Law which commanded to honor one's father and mother is allowed (Ex. 20:12, Deut. 5:16). In the historical situation accounted by Matthew 12:1-8, special exception to the Law which forbade work on the Sabbath day was allowed (Ex. 20:8-11, Num. 15:32-36). In both occasions the 1<sup>st</sup> century disciples of the Lord Jesus became more holy than Old Testament priests because of a new priesthood (the order of Melchisedec-Heb.7:17), a priesthood which was irrespective of one's physical lineage via the seed of Aaron (Ex. 28:43, Num. 16:40)! – This was a collective priesthood active in a superior royalty which *appeared* contrary to the Law! A priesthood which would soon include the Gentiles, of all people (*"a royal priesthood"*-1Pet.2:9)!

8:23-27 → **Unconquerable & Stand-Alone Authority** (a Mission so impossible there will be an unexpected victory by a Man of stand-alone authority): The journey of salvation for the disciples is thus demonstrated in this with pictorial vividness: a tempestuous storm crashing over the boat and well-nigh drowning the un-believing believers, but Christ will arise in due time and rebuke the seeming impossible circumstance to absolute stillness at the instant His command was uttered – demonstrating unconquerable & stand-alone authority. Jesus Christ had authority to hush and still all the plagues of God's wrath (i.e. the overflowing waters; see Ps. 89:8-9, 107:24-29) with a single word. He did this standing-alone---without any ceremony to merit Divine-favor, without any judgment to appease Divine-justice, contrary to all the historical instances in the Law where such things were necessary to pacify the wrath of God (Jonah 1:12-16, Num. 16:22, 17:13, Josh. 22:16-20, Num. 25:1-13, Josh. 7:25, 1 Chron. 21:15-17, 22, Num. 32:14-15, 23)... this was an unprecedented expression of authority which was simply unheard of and borderline blasphemous, except this Man be GOD!

8:28-34 → **The Man: A Stand-Alone Eradication & Expulsion of All Uncleaness:** By appearance, it seemed that Jesus did not abide by the Clean and Unclean Laws which the Old Testament commanded (Lev. 10:10, 11:47, 20:25, Ezek. 22:26, 44:23). Moreover when Jesus encountered demon-possessed people, instead of killing them He cleansed them (Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12)! In this short passage the unclean spirits were expelled, unclean beasts and the associated enterprises which made a business out of uncleaness were destroyed, and an unclean society rejected the Clean Man because they were terrified of His cleansing wave! The demon-possessed came from the tombs (which were unclean, see Num. 19:16-22), the Israelites were herding swine for an unclean enterprise (Lev. 11:7, Deut. 14:8, Lev. 20:25-27), and, shockingly, all of it was suddenly driven into destruction as the aftermath of Jesus' command to the devils (Matt. 8:30-32; Note: unclean spirits desire to inhabit unclean places). As a consequence to this, the whole unclean city came together for fear of Jesus' power to cleanse and eradicate uncleaness in all its forms! They plead with Jesus Christ, saying, "depart out of [our] coasts" (Matt. 8:34), which they wished to remain unclean and un-TOUCHED by The Man who cleansed everything in near-proximity! What a staggering event! Every man must choose *cleanness* or *uncleaness* when and if the Man, Jesus, who is the fulfillment of all cleanliness in bodily form, walks into a Land or City in bodily form... thus were all men in an upheaval for or against Jesus Christ! When men interacted with Jesus it made them want to kill Him or die to self, one or the other.

9:1-8 → **A Sin-Absolving "Blasphemer"** (spiritual uncleaness is forgiven): The Pharisees said, "This man blasphemeth", because the Lord Jesus said to the man with palsy, "Thy sins be forgiven thee". Forgiveness was granted without any OT ceremony or sin-offering for atonement because it was written, "He shall bear their iniquities" (Isa. 53:11). Shockingly, He was able to offer the salvific virtue which was yet to be accomplished (which, also, had been accomplished from eternity past –Rev.13:8, 5:6), which, apparently, was alive in real time inside of Himself!

9:9-13 → **An Unclean Company Cleansed:** The man, Matthew, found by the Lord sitting at a table of uncleaness ("*sitting at the receipt of custom*"-Matt.9:9), responded to the call, "Follow Me". So gloriously did Matthew experience saving conversion that, thereafter, "Jesus sat at meat" in his house at a great feast he had prepared for the Lord and a multitude of guests (Lk. 5:29). These guests were there to behold the spectacle which the conversion experience of Matthew beckoned ("*old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new*"-2Cor.5:17) and to hear from the Lord Jesus the words of Life. The Lord Jesus preached everywhere He went! The Pharisees, looking on, were in utter disbelief that Jesus Christ is the Messiah. They did not believe He was the Man or the Message of salvation for Israel, thus they scorned the miracle of salvation. All the Pharisees could see was, "Jesus sat at meat in the house...behold, many publicans and sinners came and sat down with him and his disciples" (Matt. 9:10). All the Pharisees could say was, "Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners" (Matt. 19:11)? They did not understand that the unclean company of sinners was being cleansed by encountering the walking fulfillment of the Ceremonial and Moral Law in bodily form. What the Pharisees were beholding was a new ceremony! It was the ceremony of a new salvation via an evangelistic outreach! – an outreach that they should have marveled at because of the glory of salvation working within needy sinners, but instead it was an outreach they marveled at because of the law-fulfilling method of salvation in Christ which was not apparent to them and seemingly contradictory to the letter of the Law.

9:14-17 → **An Unprecedented Man Calls-for Unprecedented Conduct:** The aforementioned situation provided the Pharisees with ammunition to slander the name of Jesus. Doubtlessly, they pointed out the differing behavior and conduct of John the Baptist and Jesus Christ. Being motivated by this controversy, the disciples of John came and inquired of the Lord concerning this difference. The subject of "eating" is at hand, because Christ's company with which He ate was unprecedented by any other person for fear that the individual would break the Law and become unclean... but every unclean place or person which Jesus Christ ventured into or touched, He cleansed! Thus, an unprecedented Man performing an unprecedented salvation (physically and spiritually) necessitates an unprecedented behavior from the salvation-enriched followers of Jesus. This principle is communicated by Jesus via the reference of a Wedding, New and Old Garments, and New and Old Wine. The Bridegroom, who is the life and center of the Wedding Ceremony, determines the conduct of all its attendees... thus while Christ is among His disciples they are salvation-enriched (i.e. if this new conduct existed in the old circumstances it would be sin – ruinous to the soul and transgressing of the Covenant). If this new conduct, like a new patch, was applied to the circumstances

of the Old Covenant (even the greatest of the prophets of the Old Covenant), the perfectly woven Covenant would be rent/transgressed. If this new conduct, like new wine, was applied to circumstances in the Old Covenant (even the greatest of the prophets of the Old Covenant), the very casement of the Old Covenant would be rent/transgressed. Jesus Christ lived-out and exemplified a conduct which was in truth, law-fulfillments of every inspired letter of the Old Covenant, but the law-fulfillments were accomplished via a superior virtue than what the letter offered.

9:18-26 → **Defiled by the Dead and Touched by the Unclean:** Illustrating this, the seekers of salvation take the Kingdom of God in the violence of unprecedented conduct and behavior! They don't abide among the funeral dirge and isolate themselves among his unclean companions. They don't isolate themselves for seven days so that they, who are defiled by the dead, refrain from spreading uncleanness throughout the Land ("*This is the Law, when a man dieth in a tent: all that come into the tent, and all that is in the tent, shall be unclean seven days*"-Num.19:14). Or in the case of uncleanness via a running issue, they don't isolate themselves for seven days lest they spread uncleanness throughout the Land ("*And if a woman have an issue, and her issue in her flesh be blood, she shall be put apart seven days: and whosoever toucheth her shall be unclean until even*"-Lev.15:19). No... In either case, because of the unprecedented near-presence of the cleansing Man, the Messiah, the people were allowably diverting from the instruction of the Law (seemingly law-breaking) because there is a greater fulfillment available ("*The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the Gospel*"-Mark1:15). The new and unprecedented behavior is allowed because of the presence of the unprecedented Man, the Bridegroom. The unclean man who had been defiled by the dead sought out Jesus and cried, "come and lay Thy hand upon her" (an act which would have defiled Christ on two points: (1) by entering the house and (2) touching the dead)... a thing which Jesus did with all boldness: "He went in and *took her by the hand*, and the maid arose" (Matt. 9:18, 25)! The unclean woman traversed across society and pressed through crowds endeavoring TOUCH Jesus Christ (an act which would defile Christ if He were an ordinary man), but when she "TOUCHED the hem of His garment" she was cleansed and healed (Matt. 9:20)! Jesus Christ is the greater fulfillment of the Old Testament "purification for sin" which was prescribed for those who were defiled by the dead (Num. 19:1-22). Jesus Christ is a greater sacrifice than "two turtles" or "two young pigeons" (Lev. 15:29), and a greater atonement than any Old Testament sin-offering (Lev. 15:30). "*In that Day there shall be a Fountain opened to the House of David and to the inhabitants of Jerusalem for sin and for uncleanness*" (Zech. 13:1). Hallelujah!

9:27-34 → **Boundless Powers of Healing & Restoration** (insomuch that the blind see and the dumb speak, according to prophesy): The blind men followed Christ, saying, "Thou Son of David, have mercy on us", acknowledging that Jesus was the Christ (foretold to be the Son of David and a healer of the blind; "*they eyes of the blind shall be opened*"-Isa.35:5). The restoration of their physical sight was a result of their spiritual sight – thus, and because of this, the blind men boldly and violently approached the Man from which proceeded a fountain of saving power and physical restoration ("*the violent take it by force*"-Matt.1:12)! This is a literal fulfillment of a Messianic regathering and restoring of Israel foretold by prophesy, saying, "*Bring forth the blind people that have eyes, and the deaf that have ears*" (Isa. 43:8)! When they were thus allowed to approach the One who captured their eyes of faith, it was written, "Then TOUCHED He their eyes, saying, According to your faith be it unto you" (Matt. 9:29). Amen! The Man, Jesus, was an absorbent vacuum of every sin-caused malady which assailed the common public, and this, so much so, that even blind men could see that Jesus was the long-looked-for and promised Messiah, the Son of David! The entire environment of the visible and invisible creation was so captivated by the Messianic powers which emanated from bodily frame of the God-Man that, shockingly, in the event that, haply, the chosen people held their peace from shouts of praise and lauds of adoration, at this time "the stones would immediately cry out" in their place (Luke 19:40)! And so it was moreover testified and proven again and again, "*As they went out, BEHOLD, they brought to Him a dumb man possessed with a devil. And when the devil was cast out, the dumb spake: and the multitudes marveled, saying, It was never so seen in Israel*" (Matt. 9:32-33). The manifestation of the Messiah could not be foretold any clearer! It is written, "the tongue of the dumb shall sing!" Hallelujah! "*Then the eyes of the blind shall be opened, and the ears of the deaf shall be unstopped. Then shall the lame man leap as an hart, and the tongue of the dumb sing: for in the wilderness shall waters break out, and streams in the desert. And the parched ground shall become a pool, and the thirsty land springs of water: in the habitation of dragons, where each lay, shall be grass with reeds and rushes. And an highway shall be there, and*

*a way, and it shall be called **The way of holiness**; the **unclean** shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein.*” – Isaiah 35:5-8

9:35-38 → **Immeasurable Compassion & Heart-Moving Tenderness** (the Church is thereby established as an outlet or channel for His love to continue!): In the aforementioned words and deeds heretofore detailed, the Lord Jesus was known so to behave. He “went about all the cities and villages” – “teaching” & “preaching” – and “healing every sickness and every disease among the people” (Matt. 9:35), and as it was all said and done He was not satisfied! “*But when He saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd. Then saith He unto His disciples, The Harvest truly is plenteous, but the labourers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the Harvest, that He will send forth labourers into His Harvest*” (Matt. 9:36-38). My reader, do you know the love of Christ? It was Paul’s prayer that the Church may be enabled to “*comprehend with all saints what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height; And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with the fullness of God*” (Eph. 3:18-19). As you will soon see, my reader, the Lord Jesus is not satisfied to lay His hands on a the Lepers and the diseased, being compelled by so great a zeal for the wellbeing of sinners Jesus of Nazareth laid His hands of called-out disciples to impute and impart the virtue of cleansing power so that they, alongside of Him, would fill the Land of Israel full of the goodness which flows from Jesus’ Name.

10:1-8 → **A Church-Body to Spread the Restoration Power of Christ in Greater Magnitude** (Christ living through Christians): In the aforementioned heart and desire the Lord called, anointed, and endowed twelve disciples as apostles and sent them abroad. They were sent so to do exactly what Christ was doing (Matt. 10:7-8). By message and miracles, the Kingdom of God was effectually proclaimed! Their mission was directed toward the House of Israel and not the Gentiles (Matt. 10:5-8); “*to the Jew first, and also to the Greek*” –Rom. 1:16. Oh, my reader, take note! The inspired text said, “also to the Greek!” The love of Christ which began in Israel must travel abroad into all the world, my reader, but He is looking for channels through which the mighty waters will flow! They eyes of God are upon 20<sup>th</sup> century Christians that they would yield themselves to God so to be, like exemplified in Israel but in the Gentile countryside. If Christ’s love is comprehended by any Gentile Church Age saint... it is a comprehension which surpasses the confinements of earthly intelligence (“*the love of Christ which passeth knowledge*”-Eph.3:19). Oh that we could grasp the unknowable! That we, like the 1<sup>st</sup> century disciples, would become bodies through which the life of Jesus could flow! That we, like Him, could become walking law-fulfillments of cleansing power! So that we, like Christ, would be ambassadors of this TOUCH-able redemption which was prophesied to spread throughout all the world! If we truly understood the love of Christ that motivated Him to lay His hands upon the apostles and, thus, envision the innumerable company of Christians which would be conformed to the image of the Jesus through their endowment as apostles, we all, as Christians, would feel as though the holy hands of our Lord are reaching toward us right now! Every blessing and virtue of their endowment is our anointing, dear saints! Thus when we pray we are exhorted to be reflective of this most glorious mystery, “the power that worketh in us” (Eph. 3:20)! Hallelujah! May we see this glory again in its 1<sup>st</sup> century purity and virginity, according to the witness and testimony of the New Testament! After all, the New Testament is the only sure and infallible definition of what normal Christianity is.

10:9-31 → **A Clean Man & Message REJECTED by an Unclean Land / Salvation & Damnation in Terms of Territorial Cleanness & Uncleanness**: The targeted people for whom the missionary journey existed was the Israelites, a people who were supposed to be clean (the people, their possessions, Homes, territories, Cities, and Land). This being the case, inquiry was to be made in each City the apostles entered. The inquiry was in search for what Christ called, “*son of peace*” (Lk. 10:6). Who is this man? This is a man who receives the message and Man of the Gospel, apparently. Upon finding him (the son of peace), the apostles were instructed to abide in his house because it is worthy/clean (Matt. 10:11-13). If the house was unworthy/unclean it was because the people of the household were unclean via rejecting Christ (“*whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear your words*”-Matt. 10:14). Notice carefully the terms of damnation, my reader. Whoever rejected the *apostles* did thereby reject *Christ*! Jesus Christ was being represented and expressed via the messengers, their message, and the associated miracles which were all performed in His Name; therefore, Christ said, “*He that receiveth you receiveth Me, and he that receiveth Me receiveth Him that sent Me*” (Matt. 10:40). This is an amazing statement! Jesus Christ had power to impute and impart cleanness inside of

ambassadorial messengers who will, thereby, become walking law-fulfillments of cleansing power in the Name of Jesus unto all who will receive the Man of their message through them! This has become, therefore, through the Church (“which is His body”-Eph.1:23), a TOUCH-able redemption spreading through ambassadors who express the Man, message, and miracles necessary for salvation (a faith-inspiring reaction within unbelievers enabling them to engage the Living God)! This reality was so real and actual – through missionary journeys via the Church – we can see the operation of salvation and damnation via the terms of **territorial uncleanness**! This was proven when, according to the Lord Jesus’ instruction, the apostles encountered a City where all the men therein were unclean, it was then that the whole Land was left without hope and help thereby... but how is this discerned? It was discerned by the rejection of the Christ-sent missionaries who represented Him! Upon finding no House and no man within a City to receive the messengers of Christ, a declaration of *public testimony* needed to be made to the apostate people. The Lord’s instruction was shocking! He said, “When ye depart out of that House or City, shake off the dust of your feet” (Matt. 10:14)! Adam Clarke gives helpful commentary on the meaning of this demonstration,

“**Shake off the dust of your feet** - The Jews considered themselves defiled by the dust of a heathen country, when was represented by the prophets as a polluted land, [Amo 7:17](#), when compared with the land of Israel, which was considered as a holy land, [Eze 45:1](#); therefore, to shake the dust of any city of Israel from off one’s clothes or feet was an emblematical action, signifying a renunciation of all farther connection with them, and placing them on a level with the cities of the Heathen. See [Amo 9:7](#).” – Adam Clarke.

The individuals, Households, Cities, and Lands which rejected Christ’s message via His messengers (Matt. 10:40-42) were thereby reduced into such an abhorrent estate of wickedness before God Almighty that, shockingly, they were more *unclean* and *defiled* than the Land of Sodom and Gomorroah (Cities which were given over to all manner of uncleanness, fornication, and “going after strange flesh”, Cities which the common public knew were “set forth an example” in how they were utterly annihilated by the wrath of God; see Jude 1:7). Notice how Christ pronounced woe upon the “City” as a territory – a territory that had been blackened by a more terrible uncleanness than the territorially unclean “Land” of Sodom and Gomorrah (which was defiled by strange flesh; see Matt. 10:15 & Rom. 1:24, 26-27). A territorially unclean and God-forsaken City is witnessed against by an action which communicated territorial uncleanness & territorial damnation, like heathen Lands and nations. Christ pointedly confirmed the meaning of this by comparing “that City” to “the Land of Sodom and Gomorrha” – both of them as territories of uncleanness – only in this case, shockingly, the Israelite was more abominable than the Sodomite! This is utterly astonishing! How offensive would this be to the Jews, my reader!

No wonder then, seeing that these Cities and Lands were crawling with unclean men... Christ called them “wolves”. He said, “beware of men”, for they will use their synagogues of *worship* and councils of *righteous judgment* as scourging arenas to discipline and murder clean men (Matt. 10:17-22) – so much so that the God-sent and holy apostles were considered as unclean as “Beelzebub” himself (Matt. 10:23-25)! What a staggering thing! The most clean were, by the most unclean, considered the most unclean! Truly, “An unjust man is an abomination to the just: and he that is upright in the way is abomination to the wicked” (Prov. 29:27)!

10:32-42 → **A Family/City/Nation- “Rebel” and a Curse-Burdened “Criminal” Doomed for the Crucifix** (a rebel: Micah 7:6 & Matt. 10:35-36, a cursed criminal: Gal. 3:13 & Matt. 10:38): In such a circumstance (formerly detailed) Christ did not come to bring peace. “*What peace, so long as the whoredoms of thy mother Jezebel and her witchcrafts are so many?*” The Lord Jesus sent his disciples to contradict the lies and liars of popular Judaism by unashamedly confessing the true Messiah (Matt. 10:32-33). The Lord Jesus and His followers would not behave in any way which could be considered “peaceful” conduct in a society at war against God; at war by religious creed, mind you! Society-conformity in this 1<sup>st</sup> century situation would have been truth-apostasy. Though the entire society calls Jesus Christ and His followers, “Beelzebub”, the Lord chooses the hard truth: to be a curse-burdened rebel of their society’s religious code. The truth meant self-sacrifice, in this society. Expressing this the Lord quoted Micah 7:6 as a satirical rebuke to men who suppose they represent true Judaism. Apparently Jesus Christ was accepting and unashamed of the false-identity they tagged him with, boldly stating the hard truth of a ministry of revival in the midst

of apostasy: “For the son dishonoureth the father, the daughter riseth up against her mother, the daughter in law against her mother in law; a man’s enemies are the men of his own house” (Micah 7:6, Matt. 10:35-36). Jesus Christ chose obedience, even if He *appeared* to be a cursed law-breaker or a rebellious up-riser, as the prophet Micah spoke of. I say again, Jesus knew that peace in this Judaistic society meant war against God! With these things in mind and with all boldness, Christ illustrated the pathway of salvation as a curse-burdened and cross-bearing pathway, a road trod by those who lose their temporary livelihood to keep it for eternity (Matt. 10:37-39)! Jesus Christ preached Himself as the cursed man who was doomed to hang on a tree (“for he that is hanged is accursed of God”-Deut.21:23, Josh. 10:26-27), for the redemption of a cursed and unclean society which was otherwise doomed. It was written, “*Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the Law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree*” (Gal. 3:13). Because Jesus Christ was a Clean Man in an Unclean Land, He became a cursed, rejected, and crucified Man!

11:1-19 → **The Inquiry of the Greatest Prophet / John the Baptist Offended at Jesus’ “Unclean Practices” / The Notorious Offenses of Christ Offended John the Baptist:** After the Lord Jesus had been slandered and misrepresented all across the Land of Israel, John the Baptist was noticeably affected. Can a Messiah be so hated and slandered? Would the Messiah utterly trespass the framework of 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism as Jesus had? Could the Messiah be so misunderstood and infamous? On one occasion, for example, the Lord Jesus was compelled to defend Himself against the accusations of his own family members who supposed Him to be crazy. The justification for Jesus’ actions were easily explained. He said to his family members, “The world cannot hate you: but Me it hateth, because I testify of it, that the works thereof are evil” (John 7:7). This was truthful for his carnal family members, this is for sure... but in Matthew 11 John the Baptist is offended – Jesus’ beloved cousin and forerunning prophet who was filled with the Holy Ghost from the womb! Consider it, my reader: what compelling Jewish controversies would have been able to dissolve the confidence of John the Baptist’s faith in Jesus – the same man who testified before the multitudes, “He must increase, but I must decrease” (John 3:30). The same man who cried out, “Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world” (John 1:29)! My reader, the controversies were compelling... to say the least. It was surely purported by many that John the Baptist would not have received Jesus as the Messiah, given Jesus’ outrageous misconduct and seeming disregard for Jewish Law. Jesus was made-out to appear completely insubordinate to Jewish Law by every major authority in the Jewish sphere of religious influence.

With all this in mind, what would the Lord respond to the inquisitive messengers sent by John the Baptist? What answer would settle the heart of the seemingly unshakable prophet, His beloved cousin? The Lord Jesus answered the inquiry of John the Baptist by deeds, not mere words. “*Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do hear and see: The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them. And blessed is he, whosoever shall not be offended in me*” (Matt. 11:4-6). Jesus expected John the Baptist to discern if He was the Christ through these mighty acts, for good reason. Such acts speak for themselves because they were a confirmation of the word of God.

The flames of widespread fame did burn up the whole Land (“*I am come to send fire on the earth; and what will I, if it be already kindled*”-Lk.12:49) because the Lord Jesus was full of healing power which cured sicknesses and diseases **in fulfillment of all the promised blessings via Old Testament Covenants** (Ex. 15:26, Deut. 7:15, Ps. 103:3, Isa. 53:4), a healing power which was **the fulfillment of prophecies foretelling the accomplishments of the Messiah** (the sick: Isa. 53:4, the lame: Isa. 35:6, the blind: Isa. 43:8, the deaf: Isa. 35:5, the dumb: Isa. 35:6, the dead: Hos. 6:2, 13:14, Isa. 25:8, 26:19, John 5:28-29), and, furthermore, the Lord Jesus had all authority to cast out and subdue devils of any sort in fulfillment of what was foretold as Christ’s express purpose to overthrow, spoil, and punish the rulers, princes, and spirits which pertain to the invisible and worldwide kingdom of hell (“*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel*” -Gen. 3:5, Rom. 16:20, Heb. 2:14-15, Isa. 24:21, Lk. 10:18, Rev. 12:7-8, 17, 1 Jn. 3:8, Col. 2:15, Rev. 20:10). Note: The Spirit in which Christ came (Lk. 9:55) to Israel was not to kill the demon-possessed or the adulteress, as the letter of the justice did righteously demand (demon-possessed: Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12; adulteress: Lev. 20:10, Deut. 22:21-24)... the purpose of Christ’s coming was not to enact the curse/justice of the Law but to bear it - to absorb it and take it upon Himself! His purpose was not to bring a famine upon the Land to punish the wicked doers according

to their evil deeds... no, my reader. Rather, it was to bring streams in desert places and spiritual health to a hell-bound people until the dry land becomes a pool of water (Isa. 35:5-8, 41:18). My reader, this is the thesis of Christ's miracle ministry (see Matt. 8:14-17). Jesus Christ was expecting John to discern the same matter which was appealed to others in clear argumentation: *"If I do not the works of the My Father, believe Me not. But if I do, though ye believe not Me, believe the works: that ye may know, and believe, that the Father is in Me, and I in Him"* (John 10:37-38). *"Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father in Me: or else believe Me for the very works' sake"* (John 14:11). *"If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. He that hateth me hateth my Father also. If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both me and my Father. But this cometh to pass, that the word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated me without a cause"* (John 15:22-25).

By the statement, "blessed is he whosoever shall not be offended in Me", it is clear that John the Baptist was temporarily overtaken in offense. But what was so offensive about the Person and Work of Jesus Christ, very specifically speaking? After affirming John the Baptist's superiority over all former prophets in Matthew 11:7-15 (quoting Mal. 3:1 in Matthew 11:10 & Mal. 4:5 in Matthew 11:14), the Lord Jesus addressed the primary matter of offense which was being noised abroad (this underlying issue was hinted at before in Matthew 9:14). Think of it, my reader. John the Baptist's disciples had more in common with the Pharisees than Jesus' disciples did, therefore the disciples of John are compelled to ask Jesus, *"Why do we and the Pharisees fast oft, but thy disciples fast not?"* (Matt. 9:14)? More questions could be asked in connection to this distinction of conduct, this is for sure. Jesus Christ goes straight at the matter, and said, *"For John came neither eating nor drinking, and they say, He hath a devil. The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a winebibber, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children"* (Matt. 11:18-19). With the central issue then brought to the surface of the reader's attention, Matthew is preparing to make a point of argument thereafter... but, as of now, let the reader understand the foremost issue of notorious offense which pervaded the Land of Israel insomuch that John the Baptist was offended: Jesus' blatant disregard to the letter of the Law as it pertained to the Clean and the Unclean according to the Old Testament. Howbeit, my reader, what appeared to be law-breaking was actually law-fulfilling! If the Jews only knew...

**11:20-30 → The Man & Relationship Upon Which Hinged All Cleanness and Uncleanness / All Who Received Jesus Became Clean & All Who Rejected Jesus Became Unclean:** Shockingly, the Clean Man was received by unclean companies of people who were thereby cleansed (*"publicans and sinners"*-Matt.11:19), but He was expelled from the *"clean people's"* Households, Cities, and Lands... so it seemed (Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum-Matt.11:20-24). Note: These are the same people who are offended that Jesus does not keep the Clean and Unclean Laws written in the Old Testament. Those people who by letter appeared to be clean were actually unclean and unconverted in truth, and those who by letter appeared to be and in truth were unclean... they were made clean! Why? Such a question could be answered by correlating arguments uttered by the Lord Jesus on other occasions:

**(#1)** *"Jesus said, For judgment I am come into this world, that they which see not might see; and that they which see not might see; and that they which see might be made blind. And some of the Pharisees which were with Him heard these words, and said unto Him, Are we blind also? Jesus said unto them, If ye were blind, ye should have no sin: but now ye say, We see; therefore your sin remaineth"* (John 9:39-41).

**(#2)** *"And when the Pharisees saw it, they said unto His disciples, Why eateth your Master with publicans and sinners? But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, Thy that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance"* (Matt. 9:11-13).

You see, my reader. These Pharisees were wise in their own conceits and supposed that they could see (discern what is righteousness and who are righteous), therefore their sin remained uncleansed! But, on the contrary, the publicans were those who were humbled/blinded from the damnable conceit of hypocritical Pharisees who trusted in themselves that they were righteous. Because of the shame of what could be easily detected as sin, the publicans and sinners were thus humbled... therefore they, relating to Christ as a blind man in need of sight, were given sight! As much as the Pharisees said in their hearts, "We see", or in other words, "We are the righteous", they were blinded

and deafened to the identity and call of Jesus Christ which would lead them into saving repentance! According to Luke 18:9-14 the Pharisees “trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and despised others”. In denouncement of this hypocrisy (directly following the notorious controversy [Matt. 11:18-19] stirred up by the unconverted Jews), the Lord Jesus declared the truth of the matter!

While the Lord Jesus was notoriously considered to be unclean by the companionship of unclean company (Matt. 11:19) because the unbelieving Jews were blinded to the cleansing-power of faith in Christ (the unsuspected law-fulfillments of the Messiah), Jesus attempted missionary endeavors to convert the public mass which was supposedly, on the contrary, “a clean people”... but He was notoriously rejected by Chorazin, Bethsaida, and Capernaum. Matthew cites the consequence of this to answer the notorious controversy which well-nigh subverted John the Baptist. As a consequence of the supposed “clean people” and “clean places” rejecting Jesus, the Lord denounced them in terms of damnation via territorial uncleanness! As a declaration of what truly happened, the Lord Jesus relayed a message to express that these cities were overtaken in territorial uncleanness and thereby they rejected God’s Clean Man and Cleansing Message, thus they are worse off than Tyre and Sidon (two heathen cities lawfully and territorially unclean), doomed to be subjected to greater torments than the Land of Sodom itself (the most notorious Land of uncleanness of all time)! These are the most staggering and insulting denouncements which could have been declared to the self-righteous and hypocritical Jews of the 1<sup>st</sup> century (and in the wake of so great a false controversy they have been spreading throughout the Land of Israel!). This rebuke (in Matt. 11:20-24) is much like the rebuke delivered to Jesus’ home town in Nazareth. In Luke 4:23-27 the Lord Jesus justified the absence of the miraculous power which visited Capernaum by citing how Elijah did not visit with, abide among, provide for, or cleanse any Israelite during the years of famine. Instead, Elijah abode with a Gentile woman who was a widow in the city of Sidon, and cleansed the Gentile name Naaman, the Syrian.

Some notable and thematic conclusions which need to be made on behalf of this integral chapter in continuity to the entire argument delivered by Matthew heretofore: This notorious controversy took occasion through the easily discernible difference of conduct exhibited by John the Baptist and Jesus Christ, and John was recognized by all as a true prophet before Jesus even began His ministry. These distinctions of conduct and method can be justified through understanding how, **firstly**, John the Baptist abode in the wilderness before the days of his ministerial appearing to escape the rampant uncleanness and widespread apostasy of 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism, and, thus, in confirmation to this, in the hour of John’s appearing he preached a water baptism of repentance for the remission of sins through a ceremonial washing, so to speak (a typological and symbolic experience which represented the lawful and ceremonial washing/cleansing necessary to remove all the uncleanness’ of the people), and, **secondarily**, this is relevant to Jesus Christ in that, John said, “He that cometh after Me is mightier than I...He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 3:11). This same thing Jesus confirmed, saying, “John indeed baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost” (Acts 11:16). This is the radical difference between John and Jesus! Think of it, my reader: both of them were baptizers... but John’s baptism was inferior to Christ’s baptism. The former was of water and the latter of the Spirit. The former was visible but the latter invisible. Needless to say, John’s Divinely-commissioned *method* of cleansing uncleanness was inferior to Jesus’! John’s baptism drew men into the wilderness so that (like in the days of Moses in Exodus 33:7) everyone who sought the Lord needed to withdraw themselves from the territorial uncleanness’ which pervaded the Land and, thus, be cleansed via water baptism, but Jesus Christ was a Spiritual Fountain whereby men were baptized in the Holy Ghost! This baptism was not with mere water, oh no! This baptism was not of earthly significance in the Ceremonial Law of the Old Testament, no! This baptism originated from Heaven and its essence was GOD. This baptism so far exceeds the cleansing power of John’s water baptism like the chasm between earth and heaven! Seeing this great difference between the two men and their ministries, Jesus Christ was able to behave differently as He traversed the Lands of Uncleanness on foot. Jesus Christ invaded the Lands of uncleanness with cleansing power like floods of waters breaking forth into a desolate wilderness (Isa. 35:6-7)! Everywhere He went, everything He did, and everything He said communicated the cleansing-power of the Kingdom of God (“*For the Kingdom of God is not in word, but in power*”-1Cor.4:20) so that the otherwise unclean, hopeless, and UNTOUCH-able people were cleansed and redeemed! [Note: The Book of Acts is organized as a careful answer to the notorious controversy raised against Christ by false Judaism (Matt. 9:9-13, 11:19, Acts 10:28-29).] This glorious



distinction between John and Jesus and the superior salvation which Jesus Christ performed among Israel was only observable and understandable by the elect individuals whom God gave eyes to see (Matt. 11:25-30).

12:1-8 → **A Corn Gathering Sabbath-Breaker:** What is so controversial about gathering corn on the Sabbath day? According to the letter of the Law there is great occasion for concern in this. If men were caught gathering anything at all which could appear to be work on the Sabbath day, the consequences were grave. Demonstrating this, a man was once put to death for “*gathering sticks*” on the Sabbath day (Num. 15:32-36). Seeing that the Lord and His disciples were *gathering corn* on the Sabbath day, an occasion for accusation was provided and taken by the **merciless** and **blind-eyed** Pharisees.

**Merciless**, I say, because the Lord and His disciples were poor men (“*The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of Man hath no where to lay His head.*”-Matt.8:20). The Pharisees should have been merciful to the poor, like the Law demands (Prov. 19:17, 14:21, 28:27). The Pharisees should have been provisional for the poor, like the Law exemplified (Lev. 19:10, Deut. 24:21). If the Pharisees had mercy then they “*would not have condemned the guiltless*” (Matt. 12:7).

**Blind-eyed**, I say, because the Pharisees did not understand the potential of lawful exceptions to the letter of the Law as it was exemplified in inferior circumstances to the present situation of the Messiah, a situation that they murmured against and ferociously condemned. The Lord Jesus defended Himself and His disciple’s actions through citing David as an example – a situation where circumstances permitted the otherwise unlawful to happen without blame. In this circumstance David was on the run for his life (and in a masterful and dignified way, so was Jesus), he had no time or ability to provide for himself on the journey he was compelled to suddenly take (and in a masterful and dignified way, so was Jesus), so the High Priest gave him the holy bread to eat which was ordinarily and lawfully “*only for priests*” (Matt. 12:4). This circumstance for David was not altogether unrelated to the ordinary and repeated event at which “*the priests in the Temple profane the Sabbath and are blameless*” (Matt. 12:5). Jesus Christ was making the point very clear: extraordinary circumstances do justify otherwise unlawful behavior on the Sabbath, according to scripture. We can say for sure that if anyone is commissioned and employed in a holy order of New Testament priesthood which is comparable to the Old Testament priesthood, it is Christ and the apostles! Therefore if anyone is privileged in a like-circumstance to, as some might accused according to the letter, “*profane the Sabbath*”, it was Jesus and His disciples.

Moreover the Lord did, in another Gospel account, clarify the reason the Sabbath existed in the first place (Mk. 2:27). We can be sure that the Sabbath did not exist [1] to starve mankind when preparations were not possible (Matt. 12:3-4) or [2] to provide occasions for harm or pain in unpredicted but presently preventable situations involving animals or humans (see Matt. 12:9-14), for God is a merciful God. Furthermore and above all other arguments of potential justification for Jesus’ and His followers’ “Sabbath-Breaking” deeds, if the Jews knew the identity of the One who walked among them they would not have dared to accuse Him (Matt. 12:6)! That which is done on every Sabbath day within the Temple is never contested because of the stature and dignity of the priesthood... the work of holy men continued on holy days even when all others rested! Speaking on this wise, Jesus Christ said, “*But I say unto you, That in this place is One greater than the Temple*” (Matt. 12:6)!

In each one of the circumstances over which the Pharisees stumbled, arguably in all of them, the Pharisees were misinterpreting the Law because they did not believe that Jesus Christ was the Messiah: in other words they disagreed with the superiority and progress of His mission above the aforementioned examples. Therefore when Jesus and others were found in extraordinary circumstances which “appeared” to be in transgression to the Law, the Pharisees sought to defame and incriminate Jesus based upon appearance even though they would justify *a person of inferior holiness* doing the same actions in *a place of inferior holiness* in *a time of inferior redemption* than when in the 1<sup>st</sup> century... shockingly, the God-Man walked among them! My reader, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld His glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth*” (John 1:1, 14)! Therefore the subject is settled: “*the Son of Man is Lord even of the Sabbath day*” (Matt. 12:8)!

12:9-14 → **A Traditional “Sabbath-Breaker” via Healing** (unbiblical traditions defied and refuted): In continuation of purpose to the former verses found in Matthew chapter 12, Matthew narrates a historical event which refutes an *unbiblical tradition* incorporated in 1<sup>st</sup> century Jewish Sabbath Rules. Herein it is proven that the Sabbath did not exist to provide occasions for harm or pain in unpredicted but presently preventable situations involving animals or humans. With majestic power and authority Jesus broke-through the iron bars of unbiblical tradition! By way of summary, my reader, let us understand the follow:

***Two Distinct Reasons for Blamelessness of Every Accusation Delivered by the Jews***

**(#1)** Blamelessness because of the dignity, holiness, and power of Jesus to be the fulfillment of the Law in every circumstance. Note: this blamelessness exists even though the letter of what was written in the Law is apparently defied, thus Christ fulfills the Law in Kingdom realities which are unpredicted by and superior over the Old Testament Law.

**(#2)** Blamelessness because the seeming transgression of the Law which Jesus stands accused of is actually a man-made tradition (a misinterpretation of the letter of the Law), thus all of Jesus’ defiance of these things is justifiable!

12:15-21 → **A KING Who Does Not Fight, A Sword-less King / A King Who Would, by Sacrifice & Surrender to Injustice, Establish Justice & Worldwide Dominion:** After Jesus Christ had seemingly and justifiably defied the letter of the Law pertaining to the Sabbath (Matt. 12:1-8), and then, afterward, back-to-back (according to the argument written by Matthew), the Lord Jesus defied the unbiblical Sabbath day tradition fabricated by the Pharisees which forbade healing and doing good on the Sabbath day (Matt. 12:9-14)... Matthew emphasizes that, because of this, “*Then the Pharisees went out, and held a council against Him, how they might destroy Him*” (Matt. 12:14). Having defiled the idolatrous shrine created by the Pharisees – the Sabbath Day tradition – and having a seeming disregard to all the tenets of Jewish conduct theretofore (according to the demented mind of an unbelieving and blind Pharisee), the Pharisees were then, at this point, driven into the fury of murderous conspiracy (see Matt. 12:14). Upon this circumstance, ordinarily, the to-be-KING of Israel would not retreat or surrender but take-up-sword and fight! This cannot be understated, my reader! Kings were raised up for the purpose of sword-in-hand battles to overthrow every cause of injustice and establish all necessary righteousness in and among the physical nation of Israel (Ps. 18:32-50, 1 Chron. 20:1, 1 Kings 10:9, Jer. 23:5, Psalm 72). This was the common and consistent behavior of all the Kings of Israel and Judah, generally speaking, noted throughout the pages of biblical history... and yet, Jesus, the greatest KING Israel had ever seen, at the moment he “knew” how the Pharisees sought to “destroy Him” by bloodshed and murder --- He “withdrew Himself” (Matt. 12:14-15). Because this conduct is so contrary to the ordinary, biblical, and historical behavior of every righteous King in Israel or Judah, and because this conduct is contrary to the popular opinion of what the Messiah would do when and if He appeared in Israel, Matthew was compelled to make a defense.

Matthew argued that Jesus acted in fulfillment of a prophesy from Isaiah which foretold that the Messiah would not be a man of physical war or carnal brutality for the establishment of *all* justice and judgment in the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent (“*He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear His voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall He not break, a smoking flax shall He not quench, till He send forth judgment unto victory. And in His Name shall the Gentiles trust.*”-Matt.12:19-21). Rather, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent, the Messiah would behave in such a way in the midst of physical conflict (conflict which threatened to overthrow the future hope of the Messiah’s Kingship in Israel, so it seemed) which would lead to a worldwide dominion over the Gentiles via His betrayal and substitutionary death! But how... you wonder? According to prophesy, Christ would be betrayed for blood-money (Zech. 11:12, Matt. 26:14-15), by a “*friend*” (Ps. 55:12-14, 41:9, Zech. 13:6, Matt. 26:49-50), and the unsuspecting disciples which followed Him would forsake Him (Zech. 13:7, Matt. 26:56, Mk. 14:27), only then to be accused by false witnesses before an assembly of Jews (Ps. 35:11, Matt. 26:59-60), to be interrogated and condemned by the heathen ruler Pontius Pilate (“*And He answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marveled greatly*”-Matt.27:14), and, thus, moreover, He would be smitten, beaten, bruised, and spat upon (Isa. 50:6, 53:5, 7, Matt. 27:12-14, 26, 29-30) --- all the while remaining silent! This is profound behavior for a KING in the thrall of injustice! Yes, and therefore Matthew was compelled to put the Jews in memory of this profound

prophecy by Isaiah concerning the Messiah's unexpected behavior. Do you remember when the Lord Jesus willingly surrendered Himself into the hands of injustice, saying to Peter, "*Put again thy sword into his place: for all they that take the sword shall perish with the sword*" (Matt. 26:52)? Do you remember how Jesus said to Pilate several hours after His surrender, "*My Kingdom is not of this world: if My Kingdom were of this world, then would My servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is My Kingdom not from hence*" (John 18:36)! This is no ordinary King or Kingdom... this is for sure.

Doubtlessly, if Jesus Christ would have *opened His mouth* to make a defense before the court of Jews which examined Him on that predestined night of Christ's substitutionary condemnation, all men would have been unraveled from their mischievous cause insomuch that Jesus would have been freed and His accusers punished! Yea, but instead... "*Jesus held His peace*". The High Priest could hardly believe Jesus' behavior, and said, "Answerest thou nothing" (Matt. 26:62-63)!? If Jesus Christ would have made a defense of Himself at any time *in word only*, without any physical force, the multitudes of both the Jews and the Gentiles would have been undone from the spell of Satan and, finding the Man innocent, would have ushered Him away from the scourging court, out from the interrogation shackles, far yonder from the road to Calvary's hill! We can be sure that if, at any time, Jesus would have given *a verbal defense* of His Person and Work... the events which would have transpired would have been just as it always was in every previous instance when He opened His mouth to speak! – the multitudes would have stood in silent admiration and astonishment (Matt. 7:28-29, 9:8, 26, 31, 33), the common people would have believed on Him (Mk. 12:37, Matt. 12:23), the Pharisees, Lawyers, and Scribes would have been unable to answer Him (Matt. 22:46, Mk. 12:34, Lk. 20:40), and the soldiers who had been sent to seize Him would have been utterly disarmed ("*Never a man spake like this man*", the soldiers confessed!-John7:46) or fallen backward upon the ground ("*As soon then as He had said unto them, I am He, they went backward, and fell to the ground*"-John18:6)! But, alas, and glory to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, "*He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He OPENED NOT HIS MOUTH: He is brought as a Lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, SO HE OPENETH NOT HIS MOUTH*" (Isa. 53:7)! Contrary to the popular opinion of 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism, when the promised Messiah did appear it was for this a carefully detailed and foretold cause – Self-sacrifice, Self-surrender, and Silent-Endurance! Therefore in the hour of Jesus' betrayal and in times of distress, times where Kings were expected to fight and overcome their adversaries to begin their Kingdom from thenceforth, Jesus Christ surrendered. He was not an ordinary King of Israel whose reign is temporary, whose Kingdom is of this world, whose swords were swung by arms of flesh and blood... Christ said, "*My Kingdom is not of this world*" (John 18:36)! The common Jew (the disciples included) was so estranged from the aforementioned characteristics of the Messiah's conduct during the 1<sup>st</sup> Advent that Peter, of all people, took Jesus aside and "*began to rebuke Him*" when the Lord began to confide the secrets of His coming death and resurrection to His closest disciples (Matt. 16:16-28). It seemed so contrary to every former King of Israel, and it was! The Lord Jesus was about to surrender Himself to a conspiracy of injustice that former Kings would have fought against and subdued by brute force! This conduct was supported by the letter of the Law in every other circumstance except that of the coming Messiah, according to prophecy. Jesus Christ had power to reign as King in worldwide dominion over the Jews and Gentiles by the most unexpected means --- by Self-Sacrifice and Self-Surrender to the cause of criminal injustice! Unlike every other King of the Jews which went before Him, Jesus Christ could not die! If the Jews only knew this it would have given them some pause. They had a greater problem on their hands than what death could silence into forgetfulness! Glory to God the Father and our Lord Jesus Christ, He is alive!

Before moving forward in the Book of Matthew, one further note needs to be made concerning Matthew 12:15-21. This one attribute of the Man, Jesus Christ – **The TOUCH-able-ness of Human Redemption** – was so notoriously spread abroad that when the multitudes gathered around Him (accounted in Matt. 12:15-21 & Mk. 3:6-12) He asked that he might find refuge in a boat to preach to the people from a removed location. He did this, "lest they should throng Him. For He healed many insomuch that they pressed upon Him for to TOUCH Him, as may as had plagues. And unclean spirits, when they saw him, fell down before Him, and cried, saying, Thou art the Son of God. And He straitly charged them that they should not make Him known" (Mk. 3:9-12). Amazing! This is truly amazing. This was no ordinary Man. This was no ordinary King! "*But Jesus called them unto him, and said, Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them. But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever will be*

*great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant: Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many” (Matt. 20:25-28).*

12:22-45 → **The Manner of the Messiah’s Coming** (signified by the statement, “*The Kingdom of God is come*”): The Lord Jesus, having defied the Jewish expectancy of the Messiah’s conduct in full volume, theretofore becoming a spectacle of misconduct and a reproach to 1<sup>st</sup> century Judaism, and then, as a consequence, the stage was set for His murder insomuch that He was compelled to “*withdraw Himself*” (Matt. 12:14-15), Matthew pointed out the end-all interaction which severed Christ from Pharisaical Judaism once and for all! This end-all point of no return for the Jews was attested to by Matthew here, at this point (in Matt. 12:22-37), signifying the manifestation of utter reprobation to be blasphemy against the Holy Ghost (Matt. 12:31-32).

Upon the event wherein the Pharisees did utterly condemn themselves, the Lord saw fit to declare the root issue which led to their demise – their lack of *inward* religion. The Lord Jesus conveyed the spiritual anatomy of *inward* religion in Matthew 12:33-37. The Pharisaical Jews were, therefore, “A generation of vipers”, and how can such men “speak good things” (Matt. 12:34)? Because they lacked *inward* conversion toward God, and because they were utterly bankrupt from all the necessary influences of the Spirit of God (Matt. 13:9-16, John 6:44, 63, 7:16-17, Rom. 11:7-10), the coming of the Messiah and His Kingdom was utterly indiscernible to the once-born Jews. Jesus Christ did declare the manner of His Kingdom and His Kingship, how he opposed the Kingdom of Satan, bound strong men, spoiled their possessions, and liberated their captives! By these deeds the point was proven, “*If I cast out devils by the Spirit of God, then the Kingdom of God is come unto you*” (Matt. 12:28). The Lord Jesus was declaring the discernible fruits of the Messiah and His Kingdom which, evidently, was not of this world! This is a spectacle to be wondered at by the Jews!

If the Messiah came to defend a Kingdom which was of this world, like all the biblical and God-sent Kings of Israelite history did exemplify, the King of the Jews would have taken out his sword and fought for a physical Kingdom, and, furthermore, anytime he would have encountered a demon-possessed person he would have taken a sword in his hand and slain the cursed person, according to the letter of the Law (Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12). The fact that the Lord Jesus battled the Kingdom of Satan from an unprecedented dimension proves the point that He is an unprecedented King of Israel! According to prophesy, the Lord Jesus had all authority to cast out and subdue devils of any sort in fulfillment of what was foretold as Christ’s express purpose to overthrow, spoil, and punish the rulers, princes, and spirits which pertain to the invisible and worldwide kingdom of hell (“*And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed; and it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his heel*” -Gen. 3:5, Rom. 16:20, Heb. 2:14-15, Isa. 24:21, Lk. 10:18, Rev. 12:7-8, 17, 1 Jn. 3:8, Col. 2:15, Rev. 20:10). And having this authority, the Lord Jesus did not slay the demon-possessed (which was just, according to the Law) --- He forgave and liberated them! What a wonder! This is the Kingdom of the Messiah at hand, truly! The Spirit in which Christ came (Lk. 9:55) to Israel was not to kill the demon-possessed or the adulteress, as the letter of the justice did righteously demand (demon-possessed: Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12; adulteress: Lev. 20:10, Deut. 22:21-24)... the purpose of Christ’s coming was not to enact the curse/justice of the Law but to bear it - to absorb it and take it upon Himself (“*the chastisement of our peace was upon Him*”-Isaiah53:5)! Or, in other words, His purpose was not to bring a famine upon the Land to punish the wicked doers according to their evil deeds (Deut. 11:17, 28:23-24)... no, my reader. Rather, it was to bring streams in desert places and spiritual health to a hell-bound people until the dry land becomes a pool of water (Isa. 35:5-8, 41:18).

*Jesus came down, from Heaven up high, having been sent to every earthly kingdom to proclaim the reason why.  
Because God looked down, bearing the sinners cry, in Satan’s misery held fast and justly doomed to die.  
Jesus came forth, walking to and fro, to taste of humanities misery and all their sufferings know!  
To drink of the cup of wrath, to let the sinners go, to go back to the Father and make all the world know.  
God became a Man, it was a predestinated plan, to punish Satan’s pride and let the oppressed go free!  
Where death abounded, and misery remained, the blind were astounded and the dumb did proclaim!  
Christ The Life, did all people astound, as mercy like rivers did circle the starving people all around!*

*The people came and drank, the Life-giving power, every man finding relief from their sin-sick hour!  
Because as sin did abound, **much more** grace was found, till every devil in proximity around cried out,  
“MERCY!” ...but none was found.*

**“I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death:  
O death, I will be thy plagues; O grave, I will be thy destruction: repentance shall  
be hid from Mine eyes.” – Hosea 13:14**

*The Punisher came from heaven, to send forth the eleven,  
to plague the grave and undo death, persecuting the devil!  
Christ’s plagues blew in, they brought LIFE to everything,  
till sinners round about them were compelled to SHOUT and SING!  
A world-wide proclamation, heralded by healing-miracles and bread from Heaven,  
the preachers of Christ’s Kingdom announced Jesus Christ’s resurrection!  
So that those bound in sin, in death’s misery detained,  
were all welcomed in to feast on Christ’s liberty displayed!  
The fruits of Christ’s Kingdom were all in hand,  
they bore them up for show before every fallen man,  
gazing upon them – promises indeed – they were eaten by all who were in need,  
because all who drew near to this Incarnate Man, He FREED!  
a foretaste Divine, of what shall be wrought by the resurrection in time!  
Because it was for us He died, He wants us to know the reason why,  
to taste of the Fountain of Life and feel, we need not ever die!  
Because, Jesus said, “Whosoever believeth in Me shall never die.”*

12:38-42 → **A Turning to the Gentiles / The Gentiles Justified & the Jews Condemned at the Balance of Divine Judgment:** The Pharisees had become human-beasts of the most contemptible sort, like vipers are the abhorrence of all men, thus they saw fit to kill and remove from among all mankind the Prince of Life Himself, Jesus Christ! Their conspiring was already underway (and already introduced in the context since Matt. 12:14) and thus the Lord Jesus gave His infallible opinion on the matter that He knew was secretly in-the-making. All people who would truly believe by seeing signs and wonders (see Matt. 11:3-6), to them Christ was exceeding abundant in goodness and mercy! Yes, He shewed them many signs over and over again (“*Except ye see signs and wonders, ye will not believe*”-John 4:48)! But to those who would not believe even after they had personally seen and heard of many signs and wonders (Lk. 4:23), and, furthermore, after all of mankind was stirred into a frenzy over the impact of the many signs and wonders being performed in every place (John 11:48), yes, I say, after the matter was an undeniable fact which could be reasonably denied by no one (John 11:47-48, Acts 10:37-38, 26:26), then did the Pharisees make their feigned request: “*Master, we would see a sign from Thee*” (Matt. 12:38). To them, Christ said, “*An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas*”.

Masterfully, the Lord Jesus was alluding to His own death (the success of their secret conspiracy begun in Matthew 12:14). The Lord was not deceived by their feigned request. Instead, He relayed to them the sign which they shall soon see and know, His death, burial, and resurrection! Christ identified His own ministry to be that of contempt to Jewish pride, like the prophet Jonah’s ministry was a sacrilege to the merciless and insidious self-righteousness of the Jews in Jonah’s day - namely because Jonah was the only prophet in biblical history who was personally sent to the Gentiles to prophesy in the polluted land of the heathen, and that, with success! Consequentially Jonah was a man who was rejected by the Jews for this unprecedented deed, but, I say again --- the man was received by the Gentiles of Nineveh! The Lord was hereby conveying to the Pharisees that they are worse off and more vile than the heathen nation of Nineveh, and that Pharisees, who supposed they are superior in holiness and goodness above any Gentile

Nation, would be condemned by a Gentile woman from the south in the day of Judgment (Matt. 12:41-42). Superior greatness belonged to Christ, above Jonah and Solomon, thus superior wretchedness belonged to the Jews and the Pharisees!

Though the Pharisees would succeed in their evil cause to murder the Lord Jesus, He would rise again... an event which would be heard of around the world! From thenceforth will the Pharisees know the sign of Jonah because, yet again, like in Jonah's day, the world of Gentiles will hear from the Man who came back from the heart of the earth like Jonah came back from the great deep! Think of it, my reader! The sign of Jonah's resurrection from his watery grave was spread throughout the heathen world by the time Jonah stepped foot in the Land of Nineveh. The ship-mates at sea with Jonah filled the countryside with their staggering report! Thus, Nineveh had heard all about the man who was cast off the ship while at sea, only to be swallowed up by a whale. They heard all about how, before this, the heathen men appealed each one to his own gods to no avail. They heard how the ship-mates discovered the man Jonah was asleep in the boat for sorrow. They heard how, at last, Jonah took the blame upon himself and gave the ship-mates instructions whereby they would save their own lives because the storm was for his sake. They heard how, at last, when all hope was lost and every other plan failed, the ship-mates casted Jonah into the sea only to find his words proven true! With the angry Deity immediately assuaged, the unrelenting storm which endangered all of their lives came to a startling halt! Therefore, at last, when the man, Jonah, was alive from the great deep (and he, having told the ship-mates about his unwillingness to obey the voice of the Lord), Nineveh heard the message from a resurrected man! Even so, at last, the world of Gentiles will hear Jesus – they will repent, believe, and be converted, to the bitter and angry jealousy of the once-born Jews! Shockingly, and seemingly contrary to the letter of the Law (Gen. 26:4, Jer. 33:19-26), the redeemed multitude of the Gentiles have become "Abraham's seed" (Gal. 3:29) through Christ! To the Gentiles, it was spoken, "*If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise*" (Gal. 3:29).

**12:43-45 → An Unclean Nation Possessed by Unclean Spirits:** Though the King and Kingdom of the Messiah was altogether indiscernible to apostate Judaism, the Lord Jesus made His presence known among them by the accompanying signs which dignified Him as King (i.e. power to overthrow and pillage the captives and possessions of the Satan' Kingdom; Matt. 12:28). Albeit, when Jesus' tour among them does cease and the witnesses of His resurrection, the apostles, go into all the world in Gentile-saving-power as a testimony to the God-forsaken Jews, the latter end of the Jews will be worse for them than in the beginning. Though the physical nation of Israel and the infrastructure of the Kingdom of God existing in the fleshly lineage of Abraham was so exceedingly blessed by the incarnation and touring of their long-looked-for Messiah – and though the Lord Jesus did cast out devils, heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, and go about Israel doing good to all men who were oppressed by the Satan (Acts 10:38)! – the latter end of national Israel (Abraham's literal seed) will be worse for them than at the beginning! At the beginning, before the Lord did ever come and bind the strong man's grip over their lives and people for a space of time... this was a better estate than how they shall be! Alas, this evil end! The Lord said, "Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation" (Matt. 12:45)! Israel was an unclean and polluted nation which was temporarily relieved by a Fountain for Cleansing sprung up in their midst! But then, at last, after they can no longer endure the rivers of cleanliness which did meander abroad throughout the Land, they will kill the Prince of Life by hanging Him on a Cross! They will thus curse the man who came to bless! And in national Israel's latter end Satan's Tyranny will resume its former regiment in 7-fold greater power and wickedness than before, ending in the 70 AD annihilation of all they called life! Foretelling this event, as Jesus journeyed down the final boulevard of the murderous conspiracy preplanned by the Jews and predestinated by God, Jesus said, "Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children" (Lk. 23:28).

**12:46-50 → Nationalistic & Familial Alliances Announced as Irrelevant:** Now, at last, with the doom of Abraham's literal seed prophetically declared by Jesus Christ, their soon-to-be crucified King, Matthew points the attention of all men to understand the anatomy of the Kingdom of God which shall exist thenceforth. The Kingdom of God will exist, irrespective of flesh and blood and impartial toward literal Israel, so much so that Jesus' literal and physical Mother, brothers, and sisters, will be left outside of "The Family", so to speak. The Family and Lineage of

this Kingdom will exist otherwise, “For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in Heaven, the same is My brother, and sister, and mother” (Matt. 12:50), Jesus said. Upon this final answer Jesus left His mother, brothers, and sisters disrespected (in a carnal sense) and outside of the Family, so to speak, when they “stood without” desiring to speak with Him (probably thinking Jesus had gone mad; see Mk. 3:21, John 7:1-5). Jesus unashamedly gestured toward those who stood around Him to hear the word of God by faith (contrary to His carnal family), saying of them, “Behold My mother and My brethren” (Matt. 12:49)! With godly impartiality and sincerity the Lord Jesus delivered the faithful judgments of the Kingdom of God just as He had received them from God: to His greatest enemies and His closest friends, carnally speaking. Because Jesus showed no partiality toward his Mother, brothers, and sisters, neither should His followers. Today, in this generation, for the cause of Christ’s Kingdom and for the good of every Christian’s carnal family and friends, a parallel witness should be upheld! One day, my reader, not too far yonder: the entire number of individuals from every generation who became the Family of God in truth will dine together in a heavenly fellowship God’s Family Reunion, just as Christ foretold in Matthew 8:11-12, saying, “*many shall come from the east and west, and shall sit down with Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, in the kingdom of heaven. But the children of the kingdom shall be cast out into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth*” (Matthew 8:11-12). Hallelujah!

13:1-52 → **The Messiah’s Kingdom in its Beginning, Continual Rise, & Consummation** (via seven parables which express unutterable mysteries): The Messiah’s enthronement is an unexpected and mysterious Kingdom in its *beginning* and how it would *progress*, a mystery “which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory” (1 Cor. 2:8). It was, alas, “hid” from their eyes (Lk. 19:42)! And the Gentiles shout – “Alas, and did my Savior bleed, and did the Sovereign die?!” Christ lamented at their blindness to God’s mystery, and that for this – **their blindness** – He said to Israel: “thou **knewest not** the time of thy visitation” (Lk. 19:44). The mystery of the Messiah and His Kingdom was revealed to a chosen remnant who were elected to believe. Christ said to them, “Blessed are **your eyes**, for they see: and **your ears**, for they hear. For verily I say unto you, That many prophets and righteous men have desired to see those things which ye see, and have not seen them; and to hear those things which ye hear, and have not heard them” (Matt. 13:16-17, see also Romans 11:5-7). Beloved readers, Christ revealed these things to His disciples, a “little flock” (Lk. 12:32), while the vast and numerous Israelite nation groped in spiritual blindness, deafness, and confusion of face. Christ preached IN THEIR HEARING, the mysterious *beginning* and continual *rise* of His Kingdom, how He would be the rejected by the Jews, how this would turn and allow the engraftment of the Gentiles (Rom. 11:7-25), and how that finally, through the Gentiles, a final salvation of physical Israel would consummate the ages – a consummation which, shockingly, would usher the whole world into a regeneration of sinless bliss and paradise – somehow, a worldwide experience described as “life from the dead” (Rom. 11:12, 15), where the creation itself will be “delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God” (Rom. 8:21)! Hallelujah!

Who can expound such mysteries? To so unlearned a people? In so few sentences? By open air sermons? To an impatient, unbelieving, proud, and self-confident Israel? Through **parables**, my reader, Christ did. Why parables, you ask? For good reason. Christ used parables to explain the untold “mysteries of the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matt. 13:11) because, by using parables, He **hid the meaning** of the parables from the damned and **revealed it** to the elect. These parables would metaphorically and pictorially reveal: **(Firstly)** how the Kingdom would suddenly *begin* and *rise* in power – through the death of One Man, as a mustard seed (Matt. 13:31-32), falling into the ground and dying (John 12:23-24). This marks the beginning of the Messiah’s everlasting, unconquerable Kingdom and Throne (Dan. 2:44-45), the throne of David (Isa. 9:6-7, Zech. 14:9, Ps. 72:8-11, 110:1-7, Acts 2:22-36), and this Kingdom, **(Secondarily)** though it be by the smallest of beginnings, like as a pitiful mustard seed is the smallest of seeds (Matt. 13:31-32), this Kingdom will one day rise from the earth in which it was buried, and it, surpassing all other trees, will extend its branches into the very heavens above. By interpretation, the Messianic Kingdom will consummate in *worldwide sovereignty*, thrusting earthly humans upward into heavenly citizenship, calling heaven’s otherworldly powers to come down for earthly regenerations. Its roots extending down into the earth, its branches high into the heavens, it will come to be that, in Christ, heaven is the home of clay-made humanity while they abide on earth, whereabouts staggeringly, heaven cometh down to earth and earth up to heaven (Col. 2:20, 3:1-4, Matt. 6:9-10, Heb. 3:1, Rev. 21:2, 22:16-17)! Alas, and did my Savior bleed, and did the Sovereign die?! So that, for me, even for me...I see “a ladder

set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it” (Gen. 28:11-12)! Do you understand? Do you have ears to hear? My reader, the parables of Christ explain the mysterious beginning of Christ’s Kingdom, how that, in its continual rising, it is undetected and unconquerable in progress, to the end that an eventual and unthinkable consummation would fulfill all things. [For a comprehensive and detailed overview of Matthew Chapter 13 see **Tares Among the Wheat.**]

13:53-38 → **From Whence Cometh This Man:** The question is not, “Whence hath this man this wisdom, and these mighty works?” The real question is, From whence cometh this Man? If only they knew and believed the scripture which they have grown up hearing! Even as Isaiah prophesied, saying, “*Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall all His Name Immanuel*” (Isa. 7:14)! “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever. The zeal of the LORD of hosts will perform this” (Isa. 9:6-7). Aye, Jesus’ home town! They who could have been the most blessed became the most cursed! What a tragedy! What an ungodly familiarity they had with the God-Man! Oh, let it not be so in our day, dear Lord! This was not Joseph’s son but *God’s Son!* – And we His *brethren*... (Heb. 2:11-12). This is a mysterious Kingdom indeed! All of Israel was happy to hear that Saul was King (for, “*he was higher than any of the people from his shoulders and upward*”-1 Sam.10:23). Samuel said, “*See ye him whom the LORD hath chosen, that there is none like him among all the people? And all the people shouted, and said, God save the King*” (1 Sam. 10:24). But of this Jesus, it was written, “*there is no beauty that we should desire Him.*” Would to God that all men would desire Him! But, shockingly, He is sprung up from the most unexpected of places, to begin a Kingdom of unexpected infrastructure, to surmount all Kingdoms with unprecedented power! “*For He shall grow up before Him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see Him, there is no beauty that we should desire Him. He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not*” (Isa. 53:2-3). The devils “knew” Jesus but His hometown didn’t...

## The Accolades of a Reformer during “The Time of Reformation”

“Who hath believed our report? And to whom is the arm of the LORD *revealed?*” – Isaiah 53:1

“At that time Jesus answered and said, I thank thee, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because thou hast **hid** these things from the *wise* and *prudent*, and hast revealed them unto *babes*. Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in thy sight. All things are delivered unto me of my Father: and no man knoweth the Son, but the Father; neither knoweth any man the Father, save the Son, and *he to whomsoever the Son will reveal him.*” – Matthew 11:25-27

“The Time of Reformation” is a time wherein the Law is *fulfilled* and not *destroyed*, though it is fulfilled in the most unexpected ways to an unbelieving public from whom it was hidden (Matt. 11:25-27). The truth is, if Jesus Christ was not God manifested in human flesh – the embodiment and fulfillment of the Moral and Ceremonial Law – the various miracles which He did would have been law-breaking according to scripture. If, and only if, Jesus Christ was not God... He was breaking the Law. In other words, if, and only if, Jesus Christ was not the embodied fulfillment of the Ceremonial Law, the Man from whom proceeds all the virtue and substance which the shadows of the Old Testament typologically represented, then the law-breaking deeds or miracles that He performed would have been law-breaking miracles! Albeit, in truth, Jesus Christ was a more glorious fulfillment of Old Testament salvation! He was a more effectual Savior than what Old Testament salvation provided as means of redemption for the sin and ceremonial problem of man. But because Jesus Christ forgave, cleansed, and saved by an ulterior means besides what the letter of the Law explicitly offered via shadows (the Jews being blinded to prophesy and shadow-to-reality fulfillments of the Law), the once-born Jews rejected



him with “scriptural arguments”. The Jews were able to incriminate the Lord Jesus on substantial grounds according to scripture if *in fact* Jesus Christ was just a regular Jew... but He wasn’t. Since the Jews were unbelieving that Jesus Christ was GOD, they were bent upon a seemingly justifiable zeal which was supported by scripture, so it appeared (according to the wisdom and prudence of the unbelievers; i.e. “the wise and prudent”), and thereby they were able to estrange the mind of the common people who were intimidated by the oppressive exercise of their authority (an authority which monopolized the means of salvation in Old Testament terms: “*the Jews had agreed already, that if any man did confess that He was the Christ, he should be put out of the synagogue*”-John9:22). Albeit, an unprecedented Man performing an unprecedented salvation (physically and spiritually) necessitates an unprecedented behavior from the salvation-enriched followers of Jesus, “the Way, the Truth, and the Life” (Jn. 14:6).

- 1) **Power to cleanse Lepers** (by TOUCH: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:1-4, shadow: Lev. 14:1-20]
- 2) **Power to cleanse Gentiles** (by TOUCH: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:5-13, shadow: Lev. 10:10, 11:47, 20:25, Ezek. 22:26, 44:23] Note: *The future state of the Kingdom of God is foreshadowed and foretold.*
- 3) **Power to heal all sickness & diseases** (by TOUCH: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:14-17, shadow: Ex. 15:26, Deut. 7:15, Ps. 103:3, Isa. 53:4] Note: *Jesus Christ is the manifestation of “The Word”, or in other words He is the manifestation of every Old Testament promise given to Israel existing in bodily form. To fulfill the promises which God gave to Israel, God gave Israel His only begotten Son.*
- 4) **Power to overthrow the Kingdom of Satan via the casting out of devils instead of killing the demon-possessed** (a mercy: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:14-17, shadow: Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12]
- 5) **Humility to suffer for and save a guilty & condemned people standing-alone** (a collective justification: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:19-20, Rom. 5:15, 19-20, shadow: Ex. 32:32-33, Ezek. 18:20, 30, Jonah 1:12-16, Num. 16:22, 17:13, Josh. 22:16-20, Num. 25:1-13, Josh. 7:25, 1 Chron. 21:15-17, Num. 32:14-15, 23]
- 6) **Royalty & Holiness Superior to all former codes which allowed for the dishonor and neglect of otherwise undeniable duties** (a collective, all-tribe, and all-race royalty: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:21-22, shadow: Ex. 20:12, Deut. 5:16, Ex. 28:43, Num. 16:40]
- 7) **Stand-Alone Authority to hush and still all the plagues of God’s wrath with a single word** (a pacification of wrath: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:23-27, shadow: Ps. 89:8-9, 107:24-29, Jonah 1:12-16, Num. 16:22, 17:13, Josh. 22:16-20, Num. 25:1-13, Josh. 7:25, 1 Chron. 21:15-17, Num. 32:14-15, 23]
- 8) **Power to expel all uncleanness, its agents, and its enterprises, becoming a cleansing wave of terror to men at peace with the Judaistic norm of Satanic and swine-like uncleanness** (a cleansing: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 8:28-34, shadow: Lev. 10:10, 11:47, 20:25, Ezek. 22:26, 44:23, Ex. 22:18, Lev. 20:6, 27, 19:31, Deut. 18:10-12, Num. 19:16-22]
- 9) **Power to forgive sins without OT ceremonies, sacrifices, or judgments** (a forgiveness: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 9:1-8, Isa. 53:11, Rev. 13:8, 5:6, shadow: Numbers 15:27-28, Ex. 32:32-33, Ezek. 18:20, 30]
- 10) **Power to cleanse Unclean Company** (in TOUCH-able radius which was seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 9:9-13, shadow: Lev. 10:10, 11:47, 20:25, Ezek. 22:26, 44:23]
- 11) **Conduct which lived-out law-fulfillments by a virtue superior than what the letter offered** [Matt. 9:14-17]
- 12) **Power to cleanse the Dead** (by TOUCH: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 9:18-26, shadow: Numbers 19:14]
- 13) **Power to cleanse unclean persons defiled by running issues** (by TOUCH: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 9:18-26, shadow: Lev. 15:19]
- 14) **Power to impute and impart Cleanness inside of ambassadorial messengers** who would thereby become walking law-fulfillments of cleansing power in the Name of Jesus for all who would receive the Man of their message (TOUCH-able redemption spread through

ambassadors who express the Man, miracles, and message necessary for cleanness: seeming law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 9:35-10:31, shadow: Lev. 10:10, 11:47, 20:25, Ezek. 22:26, 44:23]

- 15) **Power to Denounce “Clean Territories” (i.e. Israelite Territories) as Unclean Territories** because of their relationship to the Clean Man and His messengers (a curse: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 10:9-31, shadow: Ezek. 45:1, Amos 9:7]
- 16) **Power to rebel against family** (a dishonor: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 10:32-42, shadow: Ex. 20:12, Deut. 5:16, Ex. 32:26-29, Deut. 33:8-10]
- 17) **Power to be a cursed Man** (to absorb the curse of all mankind and absolve it via the Crucifix) [reality: Matt. 10:32-42, shadow: Deut. 21:23]
- 18) **The Notorious Unclean Man Who Eats and Drinks With Sinners** (an outreach: seeming law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 11:1-19, shadow: Lev. 10:10, 11:47, 20:25, Ezek. 22:26, 44:23]
- 19) **Power to Denounce “Clean Territories” (i.e. Israelite Territories) as Unclean Territories** because of their relationship to the Clean Man and His messengers. Contrary to popular controversy and regardless of the letter of the Law, to reject Christ means personal, Household, City-wide, or National Uncleanness [reality: Matt. 11:20-30, shadow: Ezek. 45:1, Amos 9:7]
- 20) **Power to Profane the Sabbath by right of Royalty & Circumstance** (royalty superior over the Temple itself: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 12:1-8, John 5:17, shadow: Ex. 20:8-11, Lev. 23:3, Num. 15:32-36]
- 21) **Power to be a Sword-less King of Israel who surrenders to the cause of injustice** (a surrender: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 12:15-21, 20:25-28 shadow: Ps. 18:32-50, 1 Chron. 20:1, 1 Kings 10:9, Jer. 23:5, Psalm 72]
- 22) **Power to offer virtuous justification based upon His eventual crucifixion** (contrary to the letter of the Law) and, thus, through the duration of Jesus’ entire ministry the rivers of abundant mercy and grace did flow throughout the dry and thirsty Land [reality: Matt. 12:22-45, shadow: Ex. 32:32-33, Ezek. 18:20, 30]
- 23) **Power to welcome death and thereby win the Gentile world** (a triumph: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 12:38-42, shadow: Ex. 32:32-33, Ezek. 18:20, 30, Amos 3:2]
- 24) **Power to begin a family lineage of Abraham’s seed in the flesh of Gentiles** (a family: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 12:38-42, 46-50, Gal. 3:29 shadow: Gen. 26:4, Jer. 33:19-26]
- 25) **Power to loose a Land from the dominion of Unclean Spirits and the defilements of Uncleanness**, and power to leave and abandon them into the hands of their defiled oppressors once again (an authority: seemingly law-breaking) [reality: Matt. 12:43-45, shadow: Ezek. 45:1, Amos 9:7]

### The Ceremonial Law-fulfillment of His TOUCH

*As Jesus Christ went about Israel doing good, it became apparent that this Man was a body into which all sin would be imputed and absolved, from which all righteousness would be imputed and imparted to others...*

Jesus Christ was extolled as supreme in greatness by the greatest prophet (Lk. 3:16), and twice, by the voice of God the Father booming from Heaven, to the end that He would be recognized and obeyed above all other prophets: especially by his closest rivals to Jewish fame, Moses and Elijah (Matt. 17:3-5, John 1:17, 5:45)! Think of it, my reader! The Lord Jesus was rejoiced over and admired by Abraham (John 8:56-58), the Father of our Faith! The Lord Jesus was seen by King David and, by confession, worshipped (Lk. 20:41-44, Acts 2:29-36, Lk. 6:3-5)! The Lord Jesus was wiser than Solomon (Matt. 12:42, Lk. 11:31), Lord over the Sabbath (Matt. 12:8, Mark. 2:28, Lk. 6:5), a greater prophet and sign than Jonah (Matt. 12:39-41), and, furthermore, He was alive from everlasting (Heb. 1:1-2)! This being the case, the Lord Jesus was salvation in a **Person**... and to brush by Him was a life-changing event! As the multitudes encountered Jesus Christ as He traveled to and fro, they experienced salvation *physically* and *spiritually*! The energy of salvation seemed to explode from His very being! Those who followed-on in **near proximity** were filled with a continual awe and wonder at the past, at the

present, with holy anticipation of the near future. As long as Jesus Christ did abide among the 1<sup>st</sup> century multitudes, all who were in **near proximity** to His **Person** did experience waves of salvation rolling over their *physical* and *spiritual* frames (Luke 5:34-35; see also John 17:6, 12)! - They all, being quickened by the power of His spoken word (John 6:63, 68, 15:3, 18:6, Acts 9:4, 22:7), healed by the present-tense ability He possessed to create mankind from the dust (i.e. eyes from clay in John 9:6 & Gen. 2:7), made-alive by the life-giving wind of His breath (Gen. 2:7, Job 33:4, Ezek. 37:9, John 20:22), ceremonially cleansed by the Law-fulfillment of His touch (Mk. 6:56, Matt. 14:36), embraced in salvation by the shadow of His bodily frame (Ps. 91:1, John 13:23, Mark 10:13-16, Isa. 40:11, Acts 5:15), were shocked by the magnetism of His unprecedented Person and Work (Mark 7:37, 11:18, Lk. 4:32, 5:9, John 1:29, 36, 7:46, John 17:6, 12)! "*And there are also many other things which Jesus did, the which, if they should be written every one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that should be written*" (John 21:25)! As Jesus Christ went about Israel doing good, it became apparent that this Man was a body into which all sin would be imputed and absolved, from which all righteousness would be imputed and imparted to others.

Matthew's message of the Gospel is very clear! Jesus Christ, who cleansed Lepers by TOUCH (Matt. 8:1-4) does also cleanse Gentiles by KEEPING COMPANY with them (Matt. 8:5-13)! He who has power to heal all sicknesses and diseases by touch (Matt. 8:14-17) and unloose the otherwise doomed-to-die demon possessed individuals who roam the countryside (Matt. 8:14-17), is able to do so because He has chosen to lay down His life as a sin-offering before God the Father on behalf of the Israelites among whom He traversed (Matt. 8:19-20). He, having superior royalty and holiness above all orders of consecration which were before Him (Matt. 8:21-22), began a ministry which would, in its consummation, fully reconcile man to God via the formerly un-TOUCH-able arena of redemption established in Heaven (Matt. 8:21-22, Heb. 9:23-28). Therefore Jesus, knowing from whence He came and whither He was going (John 3:13, 3:31, 8:14), had the ability to pacify the plagues of God's wrath with stand-alone authority (Matt. 8:23-27). Naturally, also, He could cleanse and expel all uncleanness from a people or Land with a single word, uncleanness which whelmed like a tempestuous storm of threatening destruction (Matt. 8:28-34)... and this He did!

Just as Jesus Christ had power to forgive sins on earth (Matt. 9:1-8), He had power to cleanse a formerly unclean company of sinners and publicans (Matt. 9:9-13). Jesus Christ was the lived-out law-fulfillment of every Old Testament operation of redemption in a superior form, shadow-to-reality (Matt. 9:14-17)! Therefore He had power to cleanse the dead and those defiled by running issues by a single TOUCH (Matt. 9:18-26)! Shockingly, and furthermore, Jesus imputed this power into ambassadorial messengers so that they did, similar to Christ, walk-out in law-fulfillments of New Testament cleansing power to express the Man and message of salvation before lost multitudes (Matt. 9:35-10:31)! And when and if a City or people rejects Jesus Christ or His endowed messengers, the Lord was able to denounce those places as territorially unclean and territorially doomed (Matt. 10:9-31)! In such a mission which wields such superior powers of redemption as the aforementioned examples, the prerogative supersedes that of familial obligations (Matt. 10:32-42). Jesus Christ was the Man to whom all the curse of sin was imputed... thus the Man and His followers embrace the cross (Matt. 10:32-42, Deut. 21:23)! And as Jesus lived to embrace, absorb, and absolve the curse of sin and uncleanness, He embraced the unclean of society so as to make them clean (Matt. 11:1-19)! Albeit those who rejected His open-armed embrace did consequentially become unclean (Matt. 11:20-30), despite their observance of Old Testament operations of cleansing and redemption. Because of this conflicts arose between the Clean Man and the unclean people, conflicts in which Jesus maintained the testimony of His greatness and superiority over any Old Testament situation (Matt. 12:1-8). As Jesus maintained this testimony with all authority and power, the Jews were driven in the madness of their folly to plot led the murder of their own Messiah (Matt. 12:15-21). Jesus Christ, knowing this, did not fight against it... He surrendered to it (Matt. 12:15-21)! He had power to, thereby, accomplish a virtuous justification on behalf of cursed humanity (Matt. 12:22-45) - becoming a curse for them! Thus Jesus did welcome death and thereby win the Gentile world (Matt. 12:38-42), begin a new Family lineage of salvation in Abraham which included transformed and newly born Gentiles-into-Israelites (Matt. 12:38-42, 46-50, Gal. 3:29)! And, shockingly, the Lord Jesus abandoned the Jerusalem, the Jews, and Judaism to resume their former regiment which existed before His arrival with a 7-fold increase of demonic tyranny among them (Matt. 12:43-45)! Hereby and henceforth there began a Gentile World-Kingdom of the Jewish Messiah which would is mysteriously spreading throughout the world up to this time right now, to suddenly spring forth into physical power at the end of time (Matthew 13)!

Old Testament Clean & Unclean Laws Explicitly Cited & Applied  
as Exemplary Shadows for New Testament Realities

Coming soon, Lord willing...