



“THE UNEXAMINED LIFE...

IS NOT WORTH LIVING”

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A TWELVE TRIBES FREEPAPER

SOCRATES ON TRIAL



Greek philosopher Socrates chose to die rather than cease teaching his philosophy, declaring that “no evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death.” In 399 BC Socrates was accused and convicted of impiety and moral corruption of the youth of Athens, Greece. At his trial, he presented a justification of his life. The substance of his speech was recorded by Greek philosopher Plato, a disciple of Socrates, in Plato’s Apology.

THE LAST WORDS OF SOCRATES

Thou doest wrong to think that a man of any use at all is to weigh the risk of life or death, and not to consider one thing only, whether when he acts he does the right thing or the wrong, performs the deeds of a good man or a bad...

If I should be found to be wiser than the multitude, it would be in this, that having no adequate knowledge of the Beyond, I do not presume that I have it. But one thing I do know, and that is that to do injustice or turn my back on the better is alike an evil and a disgrace. And never shall I fear a possible good, rather than avoid a certain evil ... If you say to me, ‘Socrates, Anytus [one of Socrates’s prosecutors] fails to convince

us, we let you go on condition that you no longer spend your life in this search, and that you give up philosophy, but if you are caught at it again you must die’—my reply is ‘Men of Athens, I honour and love you, but I shall obey God rather than you, and while I breathe, and have the strength, I shall never turn from philosophy, nor from warning and admonishing any of you I come across not to disgrace your citizenship of a great city renowned for its wisdom and strength, by giving your thought to reaping the largest possible harvest of wealth and honour and glory, and giving neither thought nor care that you may reach the best in judgement, truth, and the soul’...

So God bids, and I consider that never has a greater good been done you, than through my ministry in the city. For it is my one business to go about to persuade young and old alike not to make their bodies and their riches their first and their engrossing care, but rather to give it to the perfecting of their soul. Virtue springs not from possessions, but from virtue springs possessions and all other human blessings, whether for the individual or for society. If that is to corrupt the youth,

then it is mischievous. But that and nothing else is my offending, and he lies who says else. Further I would say, O Athenians, you can believe Anytus or not, you may acquit or not, but I shall not alter my conduct, no, not if I have to die a score of deaths.

You can assure yourselves of this that, being what I say, if you put me to death, you will not be doing greater injury to me than to yourselves. To do me wrong is beyond the power of a Meletus [another of Socrates’s prosecutors]

or an Anytus. Heaven permits not the better man to be wronged by the worse. Death, exile, disgrace—Anytus and the average man may count these great evils, not I. A far greater evil is to do as he is now doing, trying to do away with a fellow-being unjustly.

O Athenians, I am far from pleading, as one might expect, for myself; it is for you I plead lest you should err as concerning the gift of God given unto you, by condemning me. If you put me to death you will not easily find another of my sort, who, to use a metaphor that may cause some laughter, am attached by God to the state, as a kind of gadfly to a big generous horse, rather slow because of its very bigness and in need of being waked up. As such and to that end God has attached me to the city, and all day long and everywhere I fasten on you, rousing and persuading and admonishing you...

Be not angry with me speaking the truth, for no man will escape alive who honourably and sincerely opposes you or any other mob, and puts his foot down before the many unjust and unrighteous things that would otherwise happen in the city. The man who really fights for justice and right, even

if he expects but a short career, untouched, must occupy a private not a public station...

Clearly, if I tried to persuade you and overcame you by entreaty, when you have taken the oath of judge, I should be teaching you not to believe that there are gods, and my very defence would be a conviction that I do not pay them regard. But that is far from being so. I believe in them as no one of my accusers believes. And to you I commit my cause and to God, to judge me as seemeth best for me and for you.

THE JURORS FIND SOCRATES GUILTY

Men of Athens, many things keep me from being grieved that you have convicted me. What has happened was not unexpected by me. I am rather surprised at the number of votes on either side. I did not think the majority would be so little. As it is the transference of thirty votes would have acquitted me...

A fine life it would be for one at my age always being driven out from one city and changing to another. For I know that whithersoever I go the young men will listen to my words, just as here. If I drive them away, they themselves will have me cast out, and if I don’t drive them away their fathers and relatives will cast me out for their sakes.


THE JURORS PROCEED TO SENTENCE SOCRATES TO DEATH

O men, hard it is not to avoid death, it is far harder to avoid wrongdoing. It runs faster than death. I being slow and stricken in years am caught by the slower, but my accusers, sharp and clever as they are, by the swifter wickedness. And now I go to pay the debt of death at your

hands, but they to pay the debt of crime and unrighteousness at the hand of Truth. I for my part shall abide by the award; let them see to it also. Perhaps somehow these things were to be, and I think it is well...

Wherefore, O Judges, be of good cheer about death, and know of a certainty that no evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death. He and his are not neglected by the gods, nor has my own approaching end happened by mere chance. But I see clearly that to die and be released was better for me; and therefore the oracle gave no sign. For which reason, also, I am not angry with my condemners, or with my accusers; they have done me no harm, although they did not mean to do me any good; and for this I may gently blame them.

Still I have a favour to ask of them. When my sons are grown up, I would ask you, O my friends, to punish them, and I would have you trouble them, as I have troubled you, if they seem to care about riches, or anything, more than about virtue; or if they pretend to be something when they are really nothing, then reprove them, as I have reproved you, for not caring about that for which they ought to care, and thinking that they are something when they are really nothing. And if you do this, I and my sons will have received justice at your hands.

THE HOUR OF DEPARTURE HAS ARRIVED, AND WE GO OUR WAYS—I TO DIE, AND YOU TO LIVE. WHICH IS BETTER GOD ONLY KNOWS. 

The Greek philosopher Socrates had a strong sense of the value of a virtuous life. In his old age, he was tried and judged worthy of death for his deeply held convictions, and for expressing them publicly. Socrates accepted the judgment of the court and willingly drank the cup of deadly hemlock. He believed himself to be a good man, and that a good man would have a good eternal destiny. As the story goes, he received the judgment of those who condemned him, and entrusted himself into the hands of the Almighty.

MAN WILL LIVE FOREVER...

So, why did Socrates think and teach that for a man's life to be worth living it should be examined? Examined by whom? And what does a man do with the examination? Socrates knew that Man is more than the short life he has on this earth. Each of us has an eternal soul, and we determine our own eternal destiny by the choices we make in this life. For our thoughts become our deeds, our deeds form



“THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING”

~Socrates

our habits, and our habits result in our fixed character, and it is the character we formed in this life that we bring into eternity.

Without the judgment of one's life, without the knowledge you gain by this examination of the deeds you did in this life, what are you living for anyway? Without knowing that there are consequences of every choice one makes or deed one does, then what is life? Even the most worthless person actually *knows* there are consequences, but he goes against that knowledge!

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil...”
(Genesis 3:22a)

The knowledge of good and evil is inborn in all men. It is the way in which men and women are “made in the image of God” and are different from the animals, who have no such awareness in

themselves of good and evil.² Only the fool says in his heart, “There is no God.” He is deceiving himself when he says that he has no accountability for any action he does.³

The one who continues to harden his heart and justify his wrong-doing will eventually become *depraved*,⁴ and no longer be able to hear from his conscience. He has effectively silenced God's emissary in his heart. This one is “over the waterfall.” He cannot recover from the loss of his humanity — the image of God all men are born with. Having lost all human worth, he will spend eternity with all of the other *worthless* ones in the Sea of Fire, also called “the Second Death.”⁵ There could be nothing more tragic than the waste of a human soul.

God expects His highest creation (man who *knows* right from wrong) to do the good he knows, according to the *natural*

² Romans 1:18-20-32; 2:6-11

³ Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3

⁴ *depraved* — totally immoral, a warped character or a twisted mind.

⁵ Revelation 21:8; 22:15

law, which is innate in every man.⁶ We humans only have a short lifetime here on earth to choose to either defy God or to obey Him. He is not speaking to us directly with a voice from the sky, but through our conscience, which we all have. The conscience speaks with authority as God's vice-regent. A vice-regent is a person who acts in the place of a ruler, governor, or sovereign.

Our Creator has said that one hundred and twenty years is enough to determine where man will spend eternity,⁷ according to the path each man chooses in this life.

So why did Socrates say, “The unexamined life is not worth living”? *Examine* means to inspect closely, to carry out a thorough examination or investigation. Do you have anything to hide? Are you living in guilt and denial? If so, then your life is not worth living because it will end in futility.

WHAT IS DEATH?

Every man is born with an appointment with death. As the Scriptures say, it is appointed for all men to die once, and then face the judgment of our Creator.⁸ Physical dying is when your soul and spirit depart from your

⁶ Romans 2:6-16, esp. v 14,15

⁷ Genesis 6:3

⁸ Hebrews 9:27

body, going to a place of waiting called *Death*. In *Death* there are no distractions to keep you from considering your life — your motives and choices, your deeds and the consequences of those



deeds. You may not have taken the time to consider your deeds while you were alive, but in *Death*, there is nothing else to do but wait for the judgment, when your life will be examined by the

One who created you and gave you the knowledge of good and evil. Though you may hope for oblivion⁹ or annihilation¹⁰ when you die, there is no escape from this place of agonizing awareness called *Death*. In this agony, if a person can receive the truth of his conscience condemning him, perhaps he will “pay the just wages of his sin.”¹¹ But, in this agony, a worthless person will only rail against the voice of truth about himself. Both will stand before God on the day when God will judge the secrets of men’s hearts and the deeds in their lives, and determine who is worthy of a second life or a second death, both of which will never end.¹²

HOW CAN GOD CONDEMN PEOPLE FOR ETERNITY?

Many struggle to understand why God, who is love, could judge someone as worthy of eternal torment in the Sea of Fire. The fact that the consequences are so *dramatic* indicates the seriousness of honoring or dishonoring our Creator.¹³



⁹ *oblivion* — the state of being unaware or unconscious of what is happening.

¹⁰ *annihilation* — destroy utterly; obliterate. From a Latin word which means, “reduce to nothing.” Some religions teach that when you die you simply cease to exist. This goes directly against the inner knowledge we have that there are consequences for our actions.

¹¹ Romans 6:23

¹² 1 Corinthians 4:5; Revelation 20:12-15

¹³ Romans 2:6-16; Rev 20:12-15

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, “Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matthew 25:41)

The Sea of Fire was created for Satan and the angels who followed him in his rebellion. He is the author of rebellion and becomes the father of all the rebellious people on the earth. Rebellion is act of resisting or opposing authority. Iniquity was found in Satan when he reasoned that he could be like God, desiring to actually be greater than God, thus dishonoring the One who created him.

Being an eternal spirit, Satan will have to spend eternity somewhere. Presently he is loose on the earth, seeking to deceive mankind away from God’s righteous standard, just as he did in the beginning with Adam and Eve. Two thousand years ago, the Apostle John wrote that the whole world lies under the sway of the evil one.¹⁴ How much more today? All who are led astray from following their conscience by Satan, and continue to deny

God and follow Satan’s rebellion, will be with him in that place that was created for his eternal destiny.

In His great kindness, God put a conscience into all people to save them from eternal death and torment. That is the reason eternal consequences are in store for all who refuse the Creator. Those who go *against* the natural law of conscience are aligning themselves with the Evil One.

But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and

brimstone, which is the second death. (Rev 21:8)

Some will make themselves worthy of the *second death* by choosing to continually embrace the evil rather than the good. For those judged worthy of a second death, that place of torment will be their eternal dwelling place. This will apply especially to those who are confronted with the gospel. They are offered the *water of life* (which is the Holy Spirit),¹⁵ yet they choose not to overcome what keeps them from drinking.¹⁶ They will not receive the grace and faith of the Holy Spirit who is coming to them to set them free.¹⁷ They are the

“cowardly and unbelieving” of Revelation 21:8 — the first on the list of those who will go the Sea of Fire.

To be *cowardly and unbelieving* is to refuse to receive the truth which would save one’s soul from eternal torment, just as the rich young ruler rejected Yahshua’s offer of eternal life.¹⁸ Those who reject the gospel will have no need to go to the judgment for all men, since they have already judged themselves as unwilling to live in fellowship with their Creator.¹⁹ They are “judged already.”

So many are heedless and do not consider the consequences of their sins. The consequences one will suffer in the second death penalty

are far greater than the loss one may temporarily experience for being honest and upright — *doing* what he knows is right, and *not* doing what he knows is wrong. Every man knows in his heart what is right and what is wrong, and is responsible and accountable for the choices he makes.

GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A DEPRAVED MIND

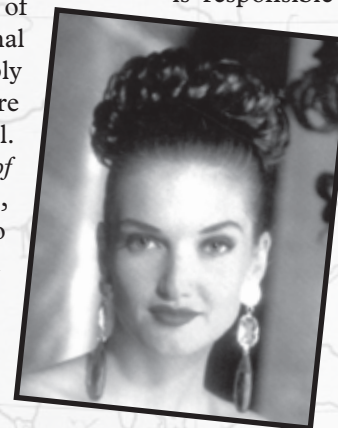
No one is responsible or held accountable for anything he did not know in his heart to be wrong. The frightening thing is that it is very easy to trust in your subjective reasoning and

increasingly lose touch with the instinctive knowledge of God that is in your heart, especially when you reason away your conscience in order to feel justified in your wrongdoing.²⁰ Though you may suppress the truth you know, deep inside you still know what you know, and God holds us all accountable for what we know.

Tragically, those who continue to suppress the truth in unrighteousness will eventually cease to hear anything at all from their conscience. They will be turned over to their depraved minds, which do not make a distinction between right and wrong any more. They have thrown off all internal restraint.

Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored among them. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things, which are not proper. (Romans 1:24,28)

*Sin is lawlessness,*²¹ which is to say that sin is to not pay attention to the restraint of conscience.²² Some people are *unrestrainable*. They do not submit to *natural law*, the instinctive knowledge of good and evil.



¹⁵ Revelation 21:6; John 7:37-39

¹⁶ Revelation 21:7; 22:17; John 3:18,36; 7:17

¹⁷ Ephesians 2:8-12; Romans 10:8-17

¹⁸ Mark 10:17-30

¹⁹ John 3:18; Acts 13:46

²⁰ Romans 1:18,21

²¹ 1 John 3:4

²² James 4:17

A depraved mind is not quickly formed. One must “kick against the goad”²³ of his conscience night and day in order to finally arrive at a depraved mind. But then his name is removed from the Book of Life²⁴ (where every man’s name is written when he comes into existence) and he is worthy of the second death, since he is no longer worthy of a second life.

It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.
(Hebrews 9:27)

The judgment will bring back *every* secret thing, the good *and* the evil.²⁵ Some will be able to pay the just wages of their sin in the first death.²⁶ The judgment will also reveal the sins too terrible for one to pay for in the first death,²⁷ so they will go on to the second death, which is eternal.

As Romans 3:23 says that *all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God*, but not all have sinned to the degree that they have been turned over to a depraved mind and eternal torment in the Sea of Fire.

All men have sinned and have an appointment with the first death.²⁸ The sins that take a person to the second death²⁹ have to do with one’s own consistent irresponsibility to live up to the expected standard. Our loving Creator instilled the natural law in us all from birth. We are all responsible, which means able to respond. Those who are responsible are also then accountable. Accountable means that one is answerable to give an explanation of why he did what he did, to see if the reason holds any weight before the judg-

ment bar of God, before which all must stand.³⁰ Every person is obligated to answer for every action. For God will bring every work or deed, every action into judgment, whether it is good or evil.³¹

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FEAR GOD?

Hardly anyone realizes the reality that the whole duty of man in this age is to fear God and keep His commandments.³² God’s righteous standard is present within every man from birth. This is the *natural law* written in his conscience.

When Gentiles, who do not possess the Law, do instinctively what the Law requires, these, though not having the Law, are a law to themselves. They show that what the Law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also

bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them. (Romans 2:14,15)

So anyone who goes against this law or inner restraint is a lawless or restraint-less person. He demonstrates his lack of respect and fear of God by being inconsiderate of others and the consequences of his actions. This is *sin*: knowing the right thing to do, but not doing it. Sin is *restraintlessness*,³³ as one who transgresses the natural law written in his conscience, saying in his heart, “There is no God.”³⁴ The result of this inner statement is expressed outwardly in evil deeds, even abominable deeds.

When one continues to go beyond the boundaries of conscience he is

eventually turned over to a depraved mind, which can no longer hear from the conscience. There is then no fear of God before his eyes,³⁵ which Ecclesiastes 12:13 says one must have as his *prime responsibility*. We are all accountable to God for how we carry out our responsibility.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man.
(Ecclesiastes 12:13)

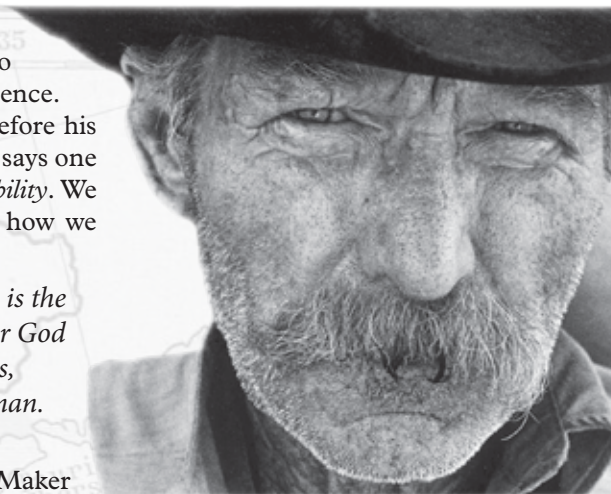
We will all stand before our Maker to give an account for how we lived our life. He will ask: “Did you not have a conscience? Then why did you not obey Me through your conscience? It was your God-given conscience. I gave it to you.”

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil...” (Genesis 3:22a)

Genesis 3:22 is both man and God working together to assure a second life for the man. The conscience³⁶ speaks from the common knowledge that God and man share concerning good and evil.

Although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:32)

Death is separation from life.³⁷ But it doesn’t have to be eternal separation. It is according to how we respond to the instinctive law within us. When Adam sinned, he was *immediately* separated from God. He could no longer walk with God in the Garden, in the life of hearing and speaking directly with God. But God did not abandon him to a second death, to be eternally with Satan. He gave Adam a way to indirectly hear His voice through the conscience. This was God’s mercy to help him (and us) to



walk within the restraints of doing good, not feeling free to do evil, and thus not losing the hope of a second life.³⁸

BEING SAVED FROM DEATH

When one continues to go against the voice of his conscience, he knows deep inside that he is deserving of death,³⁹ and will die, and after the judgment will go into death a second time. He even knows that the second time is for eternity. At least the first death has an end in sight, and then a judgment follows.⁴⁰ Some, who suffered greatly to do good in this present lifetime, will be determined as worthy of the second life in the nations of the eternal age.⁴¹ But for most, death will be the terrifying expectation of judgment for the second death which awaits them, and which is eternal.

God knew before the foundation of the world that man would need a Savior.⁴² He knew ahead of time how Satan would be determined to corrupt us, and how our selfish nature would incline us away from the good we knew to do, how our sin

would lead us to death, and for many, the second death. Yahshua,⁴³ the Son of God, paid for our sins by dying and go-



²³ goad — a sharp stick for driving cattle, a thing that stimulates someone into action

²⁴ Revelation 20:15

²⁵ Romans 2:16; Ecclesiastes 12:14

²⁶ Romans 6:23

²⁷ Revelation 21:8; 22:15

²⁸ Hebrews 9:27

²⁹ Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8; Matthew 25:41

³⁰ Revelation 20:11

³¹ Ecclesiastes 12:14

³² Romans 2:14-15; Ecclesiastes 12:13

³³ 1 John 3:4

³⁴ Psalm 14:1; 53:1

³⁵ Romans 3:10-18

³⁶ Con-science = co-knowing

³⁷ Ephesians 2:1 as Genesis 2:17

³⁸ Genesis 3:16-19; Job 14:14

³⁹ Romans 1:32

⁴⁰ Revelation 20:12-15

⁴¹ Revelation 21:24; 22:2

⁴² Revelation 13:8

⁴³ Yahshua is the Hebrew name of the one who has been more popularly called Jesus. See *Yahshua The Healer* on page 10 for more on the name Yahshua.

ing *into death* in our place, so we could receive God's mercy to escape death.⁴⁴ So why die and go to death for your sins when He had already gone there on your behalf?

The penalty of death for sin⁴⁵ can be removed in this present life, but only if one *actually* puts his trust in the One who can save him from death. To be saved from death means to be free from having to pay for our own sins *in death*,⁴⁶ and to be purified from all those things within us that led us to go against our conscience. For the one who actually puts his trust in Him, entering into an eternal covenant with Him, the penalty of sin is broken. The one who keeps his new "garment" (conscience) spotlessly white, obeying His word, will never see death at all⁴⁷ — not even the first death, which even believers will experience who do not keep their garments clean and white.⁴⁸

Eternal life in Messiah cannot be earned or paid for. Nothing one can do earns the free gift of eternal life, but who does God give this free gift to? One *cannot* pay for his obstinate rebellion,⁴⁹ which is *sin with eternal consequences*. But sin which is *not* rebellion can be paid for by one's own death — the *agonies of death*.⁵⁰

The wages of sin is death.⁵¹ This refers to both the first death and the second death. Since the fall of man there is a tendency towards selfishness, which leads to sin. But *rebellion*⁵² is Satan's sin. The Sea of Fire was created for Satan and his angels. Satan was a rebel from the beginning. Those who follow Satan's path will end up where he is going.

REBELLION IS THE SIN OF SATAN

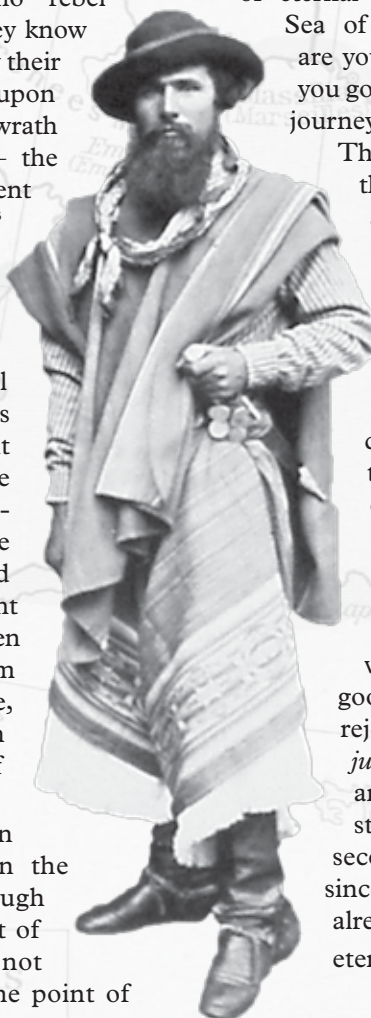
All who rebel against the truth they know in their heart will, by their own doings, bring upon themselves the wrath of God *eternally* — the never-ending torment of the Sea of Fire.⁵³ When the great search is made through all the names recorded in the Book of Life,⁵⁴ all those whose names are *not* found in it will suffer the same destiny as Satan, because they also were rebels. They rebelled against the restraint that was given to men to keep them from going over the line, to keep them within the boundaries of God's love.

All men were born with their name in the Book of Life. Though all have fallen short of the glory of God,⁵⁵ not all have fallen to the point of

being given over to a depraved mind,⁵⁶ and having their name erased from the Book of Life. So, at the judgment of the nations,⁵⁷ there will be some who *still* have their name in the Book of Life and will be found worthy to live a second life in the nations of the eternal age.⁵⁸

Today, during his lifetime, a man who was not acquainted with the Law of Moses still has his second chance at life. Man fell into death when Adam transgressed,⁵⁹ yet he is still able to make choices, and according to those choices he is given eternal life in the nations or eternal death in the Sea of Fire. Which are you choosing as you go through your journey in this life?

Those who hear the good news and obey the terms of peace are saved from the possibility of eternal death, and by their obedience have the possibility to never see death at all.⁶⁰ But those who hear the good news and reject it are *judged already* and will go straight to the second death, since they have already rejected eternal life.⁶¹



GOD'S TESTING GROUND

Everything must be tested to prove its worthiness. Man is no exception. Earth is God's testing ground for man. A man's character is formed in this life through his response to the instinctive knowledge of the Creator that is in him,⁶² as he struggles along his path through life.⁶³ One lifetime is enough to determine the eternal destiny of a man, for it is in this life that a man's character crystallizes into what he will be for eternity. That is why Revelation 22:11 says, "Unjust *still*... filthy *still*... righteous *still*... holy *still*..." *Still* means eternally.

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. (Rev 22:11)

What benefit is 60 or 70 or 100 years of living selfishly when compared with *eternal torment* for the unjust and filthy? Or what can be compared to the never-ending reward for the righteous? They paid the price in this life in a great struggle to overcome temptation, and they chose to do the good they knew to do. Sin is knowing the right thing to do and *not* doing it. It was not that the righteous did not sin, but they did not sin the kinds of sins which the unjust or filthy commit, to the hurt of others, leading them to the same destiny of the one they follow. If they were to live forever, the unjust and filthy would continue to lead others astray eternally, *still*, just as Satan and his angels for whom the Sea of Fire was created.⁶⁴



WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE FOOL?

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none who does good. The Lord looks down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there are any who understand, who seek God. They [the fools] have all turned aside, they have together become corrupt; there is none who does good, no, not one. (Psalm 14:1-3)

Psalm 14 speaks of the fool who says in his heart that there is no God — no responsibility or accountability, nor consequences for his abominable deeds. They have corrupted themselves who defy the truth of God they know in their conscience. They have rejected their Creator and will ultimately be away from His presence eternally, with Satan and his angels in the Sea of Fire, which is the second *unending* death.⁶⁵ All mankind *could* be blessed eternally, as the righteous will be. *As a man sows, he shall reap*. Every man will "lie in the bed he made" in this life — eternally, *still*...⁶⁶

⁴⁴ Acts 2:24,27,31

⁴⁵ Romans 5:12; 6:23

⁴⁶ Romans 5:21

⁴⁷ John 8:51

⁴⁸ Galatians 3:27; Revelation 3:4-5; Rev 2:11; 1 Ths 5:14-18; Rev 17:14

⁴⁹ Romans 2:8-9; John 3:36

⁵⁰ Luke 16:28; Acts 2:24

⁵¹ Romans 6:23

⁵² Rebellion: resistance to or defiance of any authority, control, or tradition.

⁵³ 1 Samuel 15:23; Proverbs 17:11; Jeremiah 28:16

⁵⁴ The Book of Life of the eternal nations — Revelation 20:15

⁵⁵ Romans 3:23

⁵⁶ Romans 1:24,26,28; Psalm 14:1-3

⁵⁷ Revelation 20:12-15

⁵⁸ Matthew 25:34-40; Revelation 21:24; 22:2

⁵⁹ Hebrews 9:27; Hosea 6:7;

1 Corinthians 15:22

⁶⁰ John 8:51

⁶¹ John 3:18,36

⁶² Genesis 3:22

⁶³ Job 14:14

⁶⁴ Matthew 25:41

⁶⁵ Matthew 25:41; Revelation 21:8; 22:15

⁶⁶ Revelation 22:11

THE JUDGMENT OF THE SHEEP & THE GOATS

The scene opens before us in Matthew 25, the last judgment.

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (Matthew 25:31)

Before Him are all the people of all the nations of the earth separated into two groups. This is in preparation to pronouncing judgment upon them.

And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. (Matthew 25:32-33)

Here the judgment begins, as the Son of Man praises those on His right for their kindness shown to Him — kindness that He took very personally.

Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." (Matthew 25:34-36)

Amazingly, they do not understand this. They feel as though there must have some kind of mistake.

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" (Matthew 25:37-39)

So He explains that it is how they treated these brothers of His — His very own disciples. He is rewarding them, the righteous, for the kindness they showed even the least of His brothers.

of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

There is an exactly parallel discussion with those on His left, which culminates in their condemnation. They will go to "the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (verse 41) for not showing kindness to one of the least of these, His very own disciples.

Then He will answer them, saying, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." (Matthew 25:45)


with the sheep nor to the left with the goats — no words are addressed to them in this judgment of the nations, but only about them. They are with Him. Based on their deeds alone, the righteous and the wicked, the sheep and the goats, go to the eternal destinies they deserve.

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Matthew 25:46)

But "these brothers of Mine," called from every nation and people, ransomed by the blood of the lamb, so weighty are their lives and their place as the "apple of His eye" that the eternal destiny of all who come into contact with them depends on how they treat His brothers. Because, as He makes it clear, that was exactly how they treated Him.

So it is obvious that there are Three Eternal Destinies of Man — the wicked, the righteous, and the holy:

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. (Revelation 22:11)

Here the *wicked* are called by the two most common ways they act: unjust and filthy. The *unjust* are those who take advantage of others, and the *filthy* are those who are sexually immoral. All three kinds of people, the wicked, the righteous, and the holy will be the way they are forever and ever, *still...* which is the basis and the necessity of their eternal destinies. 

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

Separate, distinct from the nations gathered before Him are "these brothers of Mine." Gathered neither to the right



The THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES of MAN:

This is written in the hope that it will liberate people to know the true character of the Creator of mankind. Almost everyone has heard of “heaven and hell,” but the good news we have come to know is that there are not just two, but three eternal destinies for mankind.

Even the terms “heaven” and “hell” (as eternal destinies) are misleading. It has been a stumbling block to many people that no matter what kind of person you are, no matter what good you have done, or how sincere or conscientious you may be, “if you don’t believe in Jesus, you are automatically doomed to go to a place of torment called the Lake of Fire.”

This “man-made” doctrine of there being only heaven and hell has repulsed thousands upon thousands of people from the God of the Bible for almost two thousand years. The Creator of the human race has been misrepresented, accused, blamed, and His name maligned – most often by those who claim to know Him.

We want to “re-present” Him to the world in hope that His true nature and heart could be revealed. The Three Eternal Destinies of Man justifies God’s heart toward mankind.

Every person must choose what his or her eternal destiny will be.

Revelation 22:11 declares...

*The THREE ETERNAL
DESTINIES of MAN:*

The Filthy and Unjust still...

The Righteous still...

And the Holy still...

These are the final destinations for all mankind. The Creator of heaven and earth leaves this choice up to each individual.

What are the THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MAN?

THE FILTHY

... give themselves over to degrading acts of immorality. They use and abuse others in order to fulfill their own base appetites for pleasure and indulgence.

THE UNJUST

... practice lying, deceit, greed, laziness, dishonesty, and slander. They pursue their own comfort and advantage at the expense of the suffering of others.

Like a dishonest lawyer who makes a living defending the guilty, and an unrighteous judge who condemns the innocent, or a journalist who makes a career out of lying...

Although there are differences between the two, the unjust and filthy both love and practice deeds that violate the law of conscience.

Their eternal destiny is the Lake of Fire.

THE RIGHTEOUS

... are those whose lives are characterized by faithfulness in their relationships, diligence in their work, and kindness toward the those whose lives they touch. Although they are not perfect in it, they suffer to do the good they know in their conscience, even when it cost them discomfort or rejection.

The pull of evil is like the current of a river that a person must exert himself to swim against. Going against the current of evil in society is truly a struggle, but the righteous use their will to overcome the pull of their fallen nature.

Their eternal destiny is a second and unending life in the nations of the eternal age.

THE HOLY

... are a people set apart. By His death, the Son of God opened the way to the tree of life so that a people could walk in the same way that He did. Those who are weary of their own sin and the death sentence it merits, and who see the Savior as worthy of their whole life, will leave everything behind to follow Him – not just their sin, but everything including family, career, and possessions.

They will become a set-apart people, wholly devoted to Him, for that is what “holy” means. They become His visible, tangible Body on earth, living together and loving one another just as the Messiah loved them.

Their eternal destiny is to rule and reign with their Master Yahshua the Messiah as His Bride — the Holy City.





Destiny

Destiny is like destination. It is the place where you arrive at the end of your journey. Each step takes you closer to where you are going, just as every choice you make takes you closer to your eternal destiny.

Every person will go to one of The Three Eternal Destinies based on how he lives and conducts his life. God the Creator does not decide for you, as though it were a matter of fate. No! You choose your own eternal destiny. Your actions reflect the choices you make and reveal your inner motives and true character.

Fate or Destiny?

There is a difference between fate and destiny. It is mankind's fate to die once. Fate, like death, is unavoidable. It is an appointment which every person must keep. You can't change fate, but you can change your destiny...

Your eternal destiny is set in direct relation to how you obey or disobey your conscience. Every person has a conscience which tells him instinctively what is right and what is wrong. That is why we are without excuse for the choices we make.

Your deeds, your words, the things you think, and even your hidden motives, are what you will have to give account for. It is so wonderful that God, our Creator, has left us the freedom to choose for ourselves what our ultimate eternal destiny will be.



Eternity...

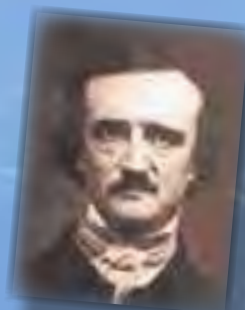


*The true God is not indiscriminate in His judgments, but distinguishes between the *Filthy and Unjust*, the *Righteous*, and the *Holy*. We can clearly see that there are three eternal destinies for mankind, not just two as Christianity has mistakenly taught us.*

The simple truth is that God recognizes another category of people: those who are righteous according to the instinctive knowledge of the truth which is inherent within their conscience.

Perhaps you are not used to thinking in terms of three eternal destinies, yet the truth of these words resonates with your conscience. How could a righteous and just God cast righteous and just people into the Lake of Fire?

Will He condemn men and women to eternal torment who suffer to keep a good conscience? Will He treat them the same as the cowardly, self-seeking, greedy, deceitful, and sexually filthy people who defile and corrupt themselves




and others? What is the point of having a conscience if God does not reward those who suffer to maintain it?

So who can you blame when you arrive at your eternal destination? It is ultimately up to you to decide what your eternal destiny will be. The Creator will not force you to do what is right. Since you have the knowledge of right and wrong at work within yourself, you are totally accountable for your deeds.

Fallen man must live by the knowledge of good and evil. He cannot stretch out his hand to eat from the Tree of Life, for he is under the sentence of death for his sin. Only if someone could take his place in death could he gain access to the Tree of Life.

Yahshua, the Son of God, took our judgment upon Himself in death and provided the way back to the Tree of Life. He is the Tree of Life. All who utterly surrender their own lives in order to live only for Him will be able to eat from the Tree of Life. They will be a set-apart people, just as the Tree of Life was set apart from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil. They are His holy people who will know Messiah intimately in a relationship that endures for eternity.

You can become one of His holy people if you want to. 



From time to time, radical men and their radical thoughts have swept across the stage of history. When these men appear, they disturb the comfortable and self-satisfied among us. But there is one man who deserves our special recognition. His life was like the path of a comet — in both its briefness and

unexplored areas of the human heart, bringing men's motives out of their dark burrows and into plain view. Even those who followed Him found the ancient foundations of their lives quaking in devastation.

The words that He spoke

caused such a stir? What was it that polarized all of humanity, causing some to adore Him and others to grind their teeth at Him?

It was something so wonderful that if you heard it, you could hardly believe it.

The good news He proclaimed was this:

Deny yourself. Turn away from your self-centered life. Let your old impulses and desires die inside of you. Follow Me in the way I am going and you will find yourself caring for others and having all your needs met.

Is it any wonder that the society of His day cried out against Him? Whatever else the deafness and blindness of His hearers might have missed, it's clear that they saw this: He was the seed of a whole new order of things. The greatest enemy to this man's message was the fossilized human heart.

Yet, what this man accomplished was enduring. That's why His name is important. His name shines in all that He has accomplished. His name is Deliverer.

The same world that He came into has made Him the victim of a great campaign, a campaign to distort His true image.

His shocking message and what it brings us all to has been intellectualized by a million hollow words. We've lost sight of Him in the dust of a stampede to enshrine Him and institutionalize Him. Although He poured out His life in the dusty, sun-bit villages of Judea, artists have insisted on presenting Him clean, combed and sleek, in spotless clothing,

What was it that polarized all of humanity, causing some to adore Him and others to gnash their teeth at Him?

and with an expression that the average child would think strange and repelling.

These, among a million other impressions, have made Him unreal to so many of us. This distortion of His image has also distorted His name. If we view Him in an unreal way, we truly cannot know Him or be connected to Him. His name is Restorer.

The traditional groups that have a supposed devotion to His memory largely ignore the matter that was closest to His heart — the message of His kingdom, the call of deliverance from the decaying society in which we live.

He was the most passionate and determined man who ever lived. The blazing quality of His life was so pure that even death has bowed down before Him. His endurance and single-mindedness have established a beachhead in this hostile world. He accomplished the mission He was given to do. He is God's Anointed Son, sent by His Father to set all creation free.

To the complex reasoning of the resisting heart, He is a tyrant, demanding total obedience. But

to the yielding heart, He is a King who offers total care. To take Him seriously is to enter upon a challenging and radical new path. Of those who find themselves stirred by His word, He said, "These are My sheep. They will hear My voice." He is the perfect Shepherd.

The life He established is unending, and one day it is going to fill the whole earth, and then the whole universe. Despite what we may have been told, we now know that His name is Salvation. This is the name He is known by among the people He is gathering. His name is true because it says what He is. His name is Yahshua. Does His name stir your heart? 🕊

YAHSHUA

The Healer

intensity. Who was this man? He was everything His name describes. He still is. His name is Healer.

Though His years were short, His extraordinary life established a new race among the afflicted, broken-hearted, and strife-torn peoples of the earth. There has never been a light like the light that shone forth from this man. His words

broke into the

had an amazing effect on people. When He spoke, some people totally abandoned their homes, families, jobs, and properties to follow Him from town to town, doing whatever He told them to do. Others heard His words and turned their backs on Him, or called Him a devil, or plotted to kill Him.

What did this man talk about that

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

Although commonly rendered as *Jesus*, **Yahshua** is actually the Hebrew name of the Son of God. It is what His mother Miriam (Mary) and foster father Yoceph (Joseph) named Him when He was born, as recorded in Matthew 1:21. The footnote for this verse in the NIV New Testament reads: "*Jesus is the Greek form of Joshua.*" In Hebrew, as in old English, there is no "j" sound, so the name is more accurately rendered *Yahshua*. It means "I am powerful to save," since it is constructed from *Yah*, the personal name of God, and *shua*, which is from a Hebrew root word that means "power and authority to save." In Exodus 3:14, God introduced Himself to Moses as *YAH*, meaning "I AM." Other examples can be seen in Psalm 68:4, KJV ("by his name *Jah*"), and in the familiar Hebrew word *Hallelujah* ("Praise Yah"). In John 5:43 and 17:11, Yahshua declared that He had come in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is not surprising that the Father's name would be directly incorporated into the Son's name. Acts 26:14-15 says that the apostle Paul heard the Son of God introduce Himself "in the Hebrew tongue." There it is recorded that He didn't use the Greek name *Iesous* nor the English name *Jesus*, but rather His Hebrew name. We call Him *Yahshua* because that truly is His name, the name above all names (Philippians 2:9, Acts 4:12).

The Healing of the Nations

“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which was lost.”

~Yahshua, the Messiah

Yahshua came to a world which even two thousand years ago was full of strife, division and deep desperation. If man was “lost” then, how much more now in this age of skyrocketing suicide and divorce rates, medicated children, and the shameless pursuit of self-gratification. The ancient proverb says, “As a man thinks, so he is.” So what on earth is man thinking? Is there any hope that we could be renewed in our mind, soul, and spirit? For surely man’s great potential has scarcely been realized.

The word *lost* could mean perishing in the world. It could mean *destroyed*, meaning you’re no longer there or you might as well not be there — you’re lost, like a destroyed character, which no longer reflects the image of the Creator. Actually the word also means *marred*. After you mar something it is *marred* — defaced, disfigured, damaged, dissipated, defective...

Yahshua came to seek and to save those who were seriously damaged, injured, spoiled, ruined. Life in this world has marred God’s highest creation. Man’s soul has been bewitched, bothered, bewildered, transformed into another image, in deep trouble, in distress, scarred. That’s who

www.twelvetribe.org

He came to save, those who are sick and need a real doctor.

Probably not many of us would regard ourselves as so damaged or lost. But if we knew the glory a man was intended to have and the power of our Creator to restore us, we might just realize our true condition.



We can look to Yahshua as an example of man in His highest glory, reflecting the image of God. He lived as an example for us to follow, which requires a *true and real* deliverance from our fallen state. This is what salvation is all about — being restored and renewed, being healed from the inside out, in order that we could be like our Creator forever and ever.

RENAISSANCE

There is a *renaissance* coming for mankind, a rebirth or renewal, a restoration of all that has been lost. The Scriptures

reveal a *restoration of all things* at the end of this age, in the next age, and in the eternal age.¹ Our Creator’s ultimate purpose is to redeem and restore His highest creation from the devastating effects of evil and selfishness, and then fill the infinite universe with His goodness, kindness, and love. Though it could seem like wishful thinking or far-fetched to some, we believe it because we are experiencing a foretaste of the age to come, in actual communities where this restoration is happening.

Mankind has had ample opportunity for many thousands of years to try all of his self-help programs, vain philosophies, and man-made religions. But people have never been more alienated, self-centered, and unholy. We are surely living in the end of days foreseen by the prophet Daniel — the time when knowledge has increased exponentially and men travel to and fro all over the face of the earth.² Never has there been so much knowledge, yet so little wisdom, and so much activity with no real sense of purpose.

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you

¹ Mark 9:12; Luke 1:17; Acts 3:21; Revelation 21:1-5

² Daniel 12:4. In 2010, at any given moment, there are approximately 5,000 commercial passenger flights traveling in US airspace.

entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

(1 Thessalonians 5:23)

Our spirit, soul, and body must be renewed — made qualitatively³ new, to be eternal⁴ as the new heavens and earth will be *qualitatively* renewed, renovated by fire, made habitable for a new beginning.⁵ Our renewal comes through a deep healing process in which

THERE IS A RENAISSANCE COMING FOR MANKIND, A REBIRTH OR RENEWAL, A RESTORATION OF ALL THAT HAS BEEN LOST.

we overcome all of our wrong ways, the things in us that cause pain to others, alienating us from our Creator and our fellow man. The Holy, who have completely entrusted their lives to Yahshua in this age, will give themselves to this healing process, looking forward to the eternal day when we will be with Him and like Him in every way.⁶

THE HEALING OF THE NATIONS

The Holy give themselves to this healing process in this

³ Qualitative: relating to, measuring, or measured by the quality of something rather than its quantity.

⁴ Revelation 21:4

⁵ Psalm 102:25,26; Revelation 21:1-3

⁶ 1 Corinthians 1:2; 1 John 3:1-3; Revelation 21:2,9-12; Ephesians 1:18-21; 2:19-21; 3:21

present age, but the Righteous cannot be healed in their soul and mind until the eternal age. The Righteous will have enough human worth left in them to stand in the judgment that is coming for all men.⁷ They are those who will be found worthy of a second life, after they have paid the just wages of their sin in death.⁸ Going through death does not heal them.

And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations.
(Revelation 22:1-2)

Revelation 22:2 looks forward to the healing of the nations, of them and all who will be born to them forever and ever, from generation to generation.⁹

The minds and souls of their offspring will also need healing from the effects of their former life in this age. For the devastating effects of selfishness and evil run deep, even to the genetic level, and will take generations to heal completely.¹⁰ This can come about only through the holy ones who reign forever and ever over them to provide that healing.¹¹ Through their healing the Righteous will be restored to the fullness of how Adam and Eve were before the Fall.¹²

The original mandate of Genesis 1:28 to “*Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth, and rule over it*” has now been

⁷ Revelation 20:12-15

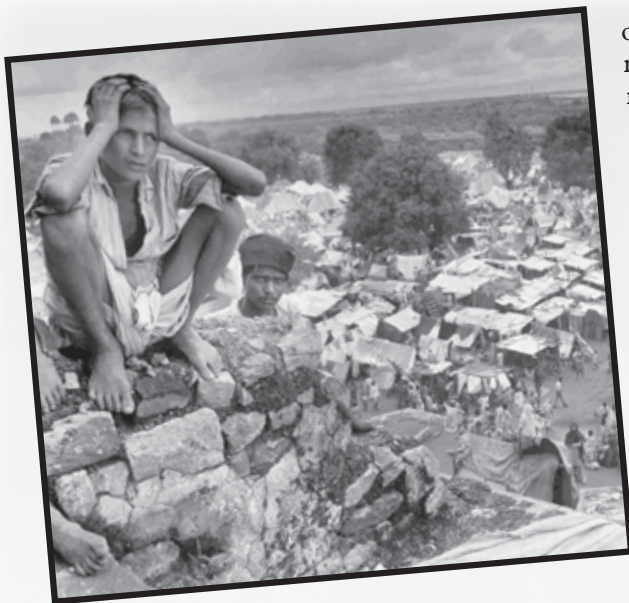
⁸ See “An Unexamined Life” on page 3

⁹ Ephesians 3:21

¹⁰ Exodus 20:5,6

¹¹ Revelation 22:2-5

¹² Romans 3:23



in abeyance for six thousand years, awaiting the restoration of man. Man has not been able in his fallen state to bring it about to its fullest extent — quite the contrary. But in the restoration of the nations in the eternal day, once more it will be given to them to fulfill — forever and ever, multiplying from generation to generation, forever and ever.¹³

THE HOLY WILL SERVE THE NATIONS FOREVER AND EVER

And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him. (Revelation 22:3)

Healing comes from the servants of Messiah — the Holy, who reign over the nations as “servant kings” just as Yahshua was in His days on the earth.¹⁴ To serve Him is to minister that deep healing to the nations who have gone through great struggle, hardship, pain, suffering, and last of all death.¹⁵ But through their struggle, the soul and mind was not healed

or renewed, not yet restored to its former state before the fall of man.

So in the eternal age, the people of the nations who have been granted a second life will need healing by the leaves of the Tree of Life,

which will be administered by the Holy — the servants of Messiah. You can see the heart of our awesome Creator that He cares so deeply about their lives and knows their struggle to overcome and maintain their righteousness against all opposition. This is what it means that they “will not lose their reward,”¹⁶ which they knew instinctively as they determined to choose the good in life.

The servants of Messiah will wipe away all tears from their eyes and heal their souls, restoring them to their former created state before selfishness and the evil one defiled their minds and caused great hurt and damage. The souls of the nations who are resurrected to a second life are not totally defiled, or there would be nothing that could be restored or renewed, nothing left if they were totally depraved in mind.

GOD WILL BE WITH THEM AND AMONG THEM

So in Revelation 22:2, *healing* means that someone human and touchable, visible and material will have to minister to them the leaves of the Tree of Life, giving special attention to cure or heal them of the hurt ways in their souls. This kindness and care is actually coming from the Creator Himself, as He will live in His Body — the holy ones, the Twelve Tribes of Israel united with their husband, Messiah Yahshua.¹⁷

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them. (Revelation 21:3)



The healing of the people of the nations will take special care by the personal presence of those attending to their damaged minds and souls. So the holy ones whom God lives in and ministers through will take

special notice of each damaged soul. This will take human-to-human care and attention.

The holy ones will be their attendants until all tears can be wiped from their eyes and the memory of their own death, and the death of their family, and the pain of their past life and their time in death, is gone. There shall be no more curse, only freedom.

GOD’S SERVANTS ARE REDEEMED AND HEALED IN THIS AGE

God is spirit, and He needs His very highest creation to be redeemed by the blood of His son Yahshua, who lived His life on earth as a servant to bring healing to those He touched. And who will be the servants who will care for the people of the nations, but these redeemed sinners who were far worse than those of the nations who went through such hard service to maintain their conscience.¹⁸ That is why they will be redeemed in this age to overcome their selfish ways, learning to walk by His Spirit and love with His love.¹⁹ They will be His servants, His ministers whom He can minister through to heal the people of the nations. They will have so much compassion and respect for those people after all they have been through in this age to be redeemed.

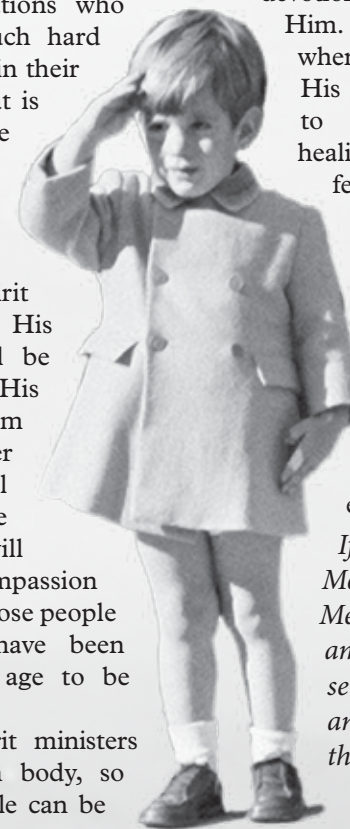
As one’s spirit ministers through his own body, so God in His people can be

“with men” — the righteous men of the nations. But the holy ones must be like His firstborn son Yahshua, and have His same attitude, who took the form of



the servant.²⁰ The Holy willingly offer their obedience, devotion, and loyalty to Him. They serve Him where He dwells by His Spirit, ministering to and receiving healing through their fellow servants. Those who serve Him now, in His Body, are those who will serve Him eternally as part of His Body — His dwelling place forever and ever.²¹

If anyone serves Me, let him follow Me; and where I am, there shall My servant also be; if anyone serves Me, the Father will honor him. (John 12:26)



¹³ Revelation 21:24; Ephesians 3:21

¹⁴ See “The Majestic Ones” on page 14 to learn more about the Holy.

¹⁵ Job 14:14; Revelation 21:4

¹⁶ Matthew 10:42; Mark 9:41

¹⁷ Revelation 21:2-4,9-12; 22:1,2

¹⁸ Isaiah 24:5

¹⁹ John 13:35; 1 John 3:14,16

²⁰ Philippians 2:1-11

²¹ Revelation 21:3; 22:2,6

CON+SCIENCE

*If you don't know that there are consequences for every decision you made
every word you said, every deed you did, if you don't know that, then what is life?*

*If what you do now doesn't make a difference one way or another
if eternity is not affected by today, then life is meaningless now, too.
You might as well be an insect and wander on your way.*

CO+KNOWING

*But even the person who feels that his life is worth nothing actually knows inside
that there are consequences to what he does, but he goes against that knowledge.*

*He denies it, but he knows deep down that it is true:
there is a God up there somewhere who watches and it matters what we do.*

*We've heard it said that there is no God, no one in charge of the universe,
no judgment to come, no one looking down on us, no condemnation, say some.*

WITH+KNOWLEDGE

*Others have said there is a wrathful God who judged you before you are born,
who's watching you, condemning you, no matter what you've done.*

*We live our lives believing what we will, but when death comes, as it does to each one,
then our eyes can see who've we become.*

Will we say, "I didn't realize...why didn't anyone tell me what I could have done?"

KNOWING WITH GOD

*Why are there such dramatic consequences for being a human being?
Why can't we be like a little bird, make our nest and not think about eternity?
Or why can't we be like water, flowing like a river into timeless time?*

*What would heaven be like if you were there the way you are now?
Would just being in paradise finally change you?
Or would your hurtful ways change paradise into hell all over again?*

CONSCIENCE

*As for the saints
who are upon the
earth, they are the
noble, glorious,
majestic, and
excellent ones in
whom is all
My delight.*

~Psalm 16:3

Who and where are these “saints” whom the Creator of all holds in such high esteem? Surely they are those who hold His name in high esteem, and who labor night and day to make His name excellent in all the earth! Presently, the name of God stands in need of being redeemed in all the earth, since it has been brought low by those who claimed to revere Him, yet behaved shamefully before all the watching world. At least 17 centuries of violence and corruption have stained the garments of those who claim to be God’s spokesmen on the earth.¹ They

have been anything but majestic and excellent!

However, the Psalms of David are prophecy, which must be fulfilled. King David looked into the future, seeing the great worth of man and the ultimate purpose for which he was created — to rule over all creation:

The Majestic Ones

*What is man
that You take thought of him?
And the son of man, that You care
for him? Yet You have made him
a little lower than God, and you
crown him with glory and majesty!
You have made him to rule over the
works of Your hands; You have put
all things under his feet.*

(Psalm 8:4-6)

Ultimately, God’s name is no better than the ultimate attainment of His highest creature, His noble and most excellent creature — Man. All the rest of His creatures are creatures of instinct and cannot *choose* to honor Him. Thus they cannot bring the *highest* honor to His name, even though they and the mountains and all of creation do bring Him glory.² Yet as long as His highest creature, His highest creation, is not reflecting His glory, God can have no rest, day or night.³ Not until His *ultimate creature* is ruling the universe with love can His *ultimate purpose* be fulfilled, for He created all things for His highest creature to rule.

Psalm 8:6 says, “You have made man to have delegated authority, rulership, or dominion over the works of Your hands.” Man is the highest thought God has ever had. He could not make us any better if He tried, for we are made in His likeness, so that He could make His home in us and communicate His love through us. Can you imagine what that will be like?

Man was made only a little lower in glory than His Creator, yet because of sin, he fell short of that glory. Still, King David,

² Psalm 19:1

³ 2 Corinthians 4:15,17 NRSV; 1 Corinthians 2:9; 8:6; Ephesians 1:22-23; 4:10

writing as a prophet, said, “He has crowned him with glory and honor and majesty.”⁴ Can you imagine how our Creator longs to see His highest creation restored to how He created us to be? He desires it so much that

He gave
His precious son Yahshua⁵
as a ransom, in order to redeem us and
save us!⁶

The Holy Ones

The revelation of *The Three Eternal Destinies of Man*⁷ rightly identifies the category of the *Holy* as these noble, majestic ones, the royal sons of Yahweh, who will reign with Him eternally.⁸ Yahshua, the Messiah, paid

the price that makes them Holy. He bore their shame in order that they could bear His glory.⁹ He delivered them from their meaningless existence and set them apart for His own special purpose, which is what *holy* actually means — *set apart*. They have been called and chosen to reign over the men of the *nations* in the eternal age, as God’s eternal dwelling place — a corporate body to house His Spirit eternally.¹⁰ The Holy will be the *Redeemed Man*¹¹ ransomed by the blood of Yahweh’s first-born son, Yahshua.

The men and women of the nations (those who are *not* part of His holy nation) are expected to live by the instinctive knowledge of God which He put in every man’s conscience. The righteous

⁴ Psalm 8:5; Revelation 22:5; Daniel 7:18,27 NRSV

⁵ *Yahshua* is the Hebrew name of the one who has been more popularly called *Jesus*. See *Yahshua the Healer* on page 10 for more on the name *Yahshua*.

⁶ John 3:16,17; Matthew 1:21

⁷ Revelation 22:11

⁸ Revelation 1:6; 5:9,10

⁹ 2 Corinthians 5:21; John 17:22

¹⁰ Revelation 21:3; 5:9,10; Daniel 7:27

¹¹ *redeem* — compensate for the faults or bad aspects of something; gain or regain possession of something in exchange for payment.

people of the nations who obeyed their conscience will be the *Restored Man* in the eternal age¹² — restored to the original state of the first man and woman before the Fall.

The Holy = Redeemed Man

The Nations of the Eternal Age = Restored Man

One Heart and One Way

The Holy are called to treat one another with dignity, having great appreciation for who He has made each one of them to be. They treat *all men* with dignity and respect, but especially they treat those of their own household with all dignity and honor. This is their response to the glory they see in each other, which demands love and respect. This is the nature of their life — having one heart and one way.¹³ This is how all men will know

who belongs to Him — because they love Him with all of their heart, mind, soul, and strength, and they love one another as themselves.¹⁴

This can’t happen while living only with one’s own nuclear family, but only as it was in the beginning with the first-century church: *All those who believed lived together and share all things in common.*¹⁵

The Holy are a Royal Priesthood

But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God’s own possession, that you may proclaim the excellencies of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; for you once were not a people, but now you are the people of God; you had not received mercy, but now you have received mercy. (1 Peter 2:9-10)

The holy nation is a royal priesthood of twelve tribes who diligently serve God night and day.¹⁶ They no longer live for themselves, but for Him who

¹² Revelation 21:24; 22:2

¹³ Jeremiah 32:39; Psalm 133; Acts 4:32

¹⁴ Matthew 22:37-40; John 13:35; 17:21-23

¹⁵ Acts 2:44; 4:32

¹⁶ Acts 26:7; James 1:1; Revelation 21:9,12

¹ See *The Mystery of the Black Box*, <http://www.twelvetribe.org/publications/black-box/>

died and experienced the agony of death in their place.¹ They will be fulfillment of what He called the children of Israel to be when He delivered them out of Egypt,² following in the footsteps of their father Abraham.³

For I have chosen him [Abraham], in order that he may command his children and his household after him to keep the way of Yahweh by doing righteousness and justice; in order that Yahweh may bring upon Abraham what He has spoken about him. (Genesis 18:19)

The Holy have royal children in the process of being trained up in the way of Yahweh — to *do justice and righteousness*. These holy offspring are not wasting their lives with foolish and vain pursuits, nor are they conformed to the world, for they are the hope of the world.⁴ Most people in our day would never understand that this is what it is going to take to fulfill the promises God made to Abraham.⁵ — fathers turning their hearts to their children to raise them up in *the way they should go*.⁶ This is an essential aspect of the holy nation, for this is what sets them and their children apart for God's purpose and His will alone.

The Glorious Ones

*The glory that You have given
Me I have given them, so that
they may be one, even as
We are one. (John 17:22)*

The Holy are the glorious ones, having inner worth that demands the respect of others. This fellowship of heart and life binds them together as one, bringing the highest honor to the One who gave them His glory. *Glory* is the heaviest weight by which God can be honored. God crowned man with the highest degree of glory and honor and dominion. *Honor* is excellence. *Dominion* is to be ruler over all, to reign, govern, and have authority over all of His creatures and creation. *Redeemed Man* (the Holy) is to rule and reign over *Restored Man* (the nations of the eternal age).⁷ This is how Yahweh Himself (in His Body) will be with the men of the nations, caring for them and wiping every tear from their eyes, bringing deep healing to their souls.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Now the dwelling of God [which is the Bride, the Holy City] is with men [the men of the nations], and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away." (Revelation 21:3-4)

The Body of God

The honor given to the Redeemed Man "in whom is all His delight" is even a greater honor than his original glory.

The "saints" are the Holy in Revelation 22:11 — "*let him be holy still*." The

Righteous have the glory restored to man that was his original glory and honor before the Fall — "*let him be righteous still*." *Still* means forever and ever, as man's character is set for eternity in one of three categories — the Holy, the Righteous, or the Unrighteous (unjust and filthy).

The saints are the *redeemed* — those purchased by the blood of the Lamb, even from the foundation of the universe.⁸ God's original purpose was to have a *Redeemed Man* of splendor, honor, glory, magnificence, and beauty to be His own eternal dwelling place. The holy nation would be a corporate body fit for Him,⁹ made ready without fault or blemish, wholly compatible, able to be together as one forever and ever, holy and worthy of Him.¹⁰

King David prophesied, "You have made man to have rulership as kings with the highest glory and honor" — to be respected as God Himself dwelling in human flesh, in His eternal dwelling place.¹¹ Just as Yahshua was chosen before the foundations of the world,¹² so we were chosen to bear His glory,¹³ in order that many could believe and put their hope in our Master Yahshua, the Messiah. ☞

¹ 2 Corinthians 5:15; Acts 2:24

² Exodus 19:5-6; Deuteronomy 7:6; 14:2

³ Galatians 3:29

⁴ 1 John 2:12-17; 1 Peter 4:4; Romans 8:18,19

⁵ Genesis 15:18

⁶ Malachi 4:5,6; Proverbs 22:6; Deuteronomy 6:4-7; 29:29

⁷ Revelation 1:6; 5:9-10; Revelation 21:24

⁸ Revelation 13:8; Ephesians 1:4

⁹ Ephesians 2:21-22; Revelation 21:3,9,12,24

¹⁰ Revelation 3:4-5; 5:9,10; 19:7,8

¹¹ Hebrews 1:3; Revelation 21:3; Matthew 1:23

¹² Revelation 13:8

¹³ Ephesians 1:4; 1 John 3:1-3; 1 Peter 1:18-23





If God lived on my street, I'm sure the house would be big. It would have lots of rooms for all the widows and orphans who live there. It would be their home, not some institutional orphanage with bars on the windows. I'm sure the rooms would have windows to let lots of light in. The house would probably be old and fixed-up, not new and plastic.

There would be a nice white fence around the house, so that the children are safe inside. It would have a gate that is easy to open, so that guests could come in. No mean dog would bark and scare people.

Lots of people would live in God's house, I'm sure, because God doesn't want to be alone. He's not a lonely God. Nobody would cry alone in their rooms at night, or at the dinner table over a bowl of reheated canned soup. No, all the people would eat together, and some would cook, and some would clean up, but they would all be together.

They would invite everyone on my street to a special dinner. They would invite the poor couple in the small apartment, and the crippled woman, and the lame boy with the funny legs that curved inwards. And the blind man, yes, everybody knew his name, and he came all the time. There was a place for everyone at the table, but not everyone came. The important people never came, because they were too busy doing important things. They could have come, but they didn't.

God's house would be clean. God's yard would be clean. In fact, all the trash on the street would get picked up. You could tell someone cared.

God is love, and love is God. I think – if I lived where Love lived, that I could change my bad habits. I could even be honest about the bad things I had done, and then I could change. I bet everybody who lived at God's house says "I'm sorry" a lot and "I forgive you" even more.

If you wanted to come over, you'd be welcome. All the people inside would stop and talk to you. If it was getting late, God would invite you to spend the night and give you His room. He'd even let you move in to His house. And you could bring home another person, too.

It would be a place to belong, a place to be for a long time, a place where the people belong to God, and He belongs to them.

I would move in and live with Love, if God lived on my street. ♦



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