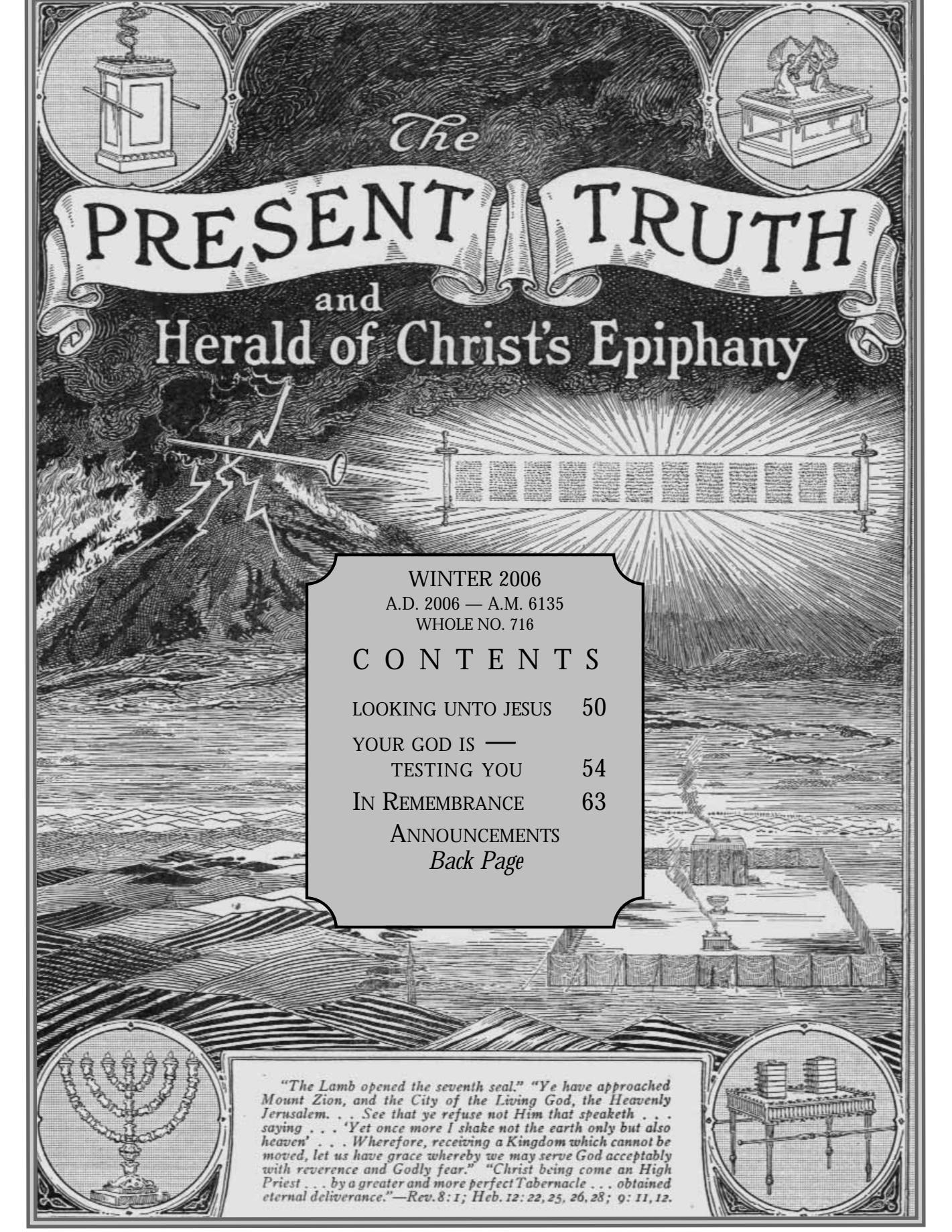


The
PRESENT TRUTH
and
Herald of Christ's Epiphany

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C O N T E N T S

LOOKING UNTO JESUS	50
YOUR GOD IS — TESTING YOU	54
IN REMEMBRANCE	63
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
<i>Back Page</i>	



"The Lamb opened the seventh seal." "Ye have approached Mount Zion, and the City of the Living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem. . . See that ye refuse not Him that speaketh . . . saying . . . 'Yet once more I shake not the earth only but also heaven' . . . Wherefore, receiving a Kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and Godly fear." "Christ being come an High Priest . . . by a greater and more perfect Tabernacle . . . obtained eternal deliverance."—Rev. 8: 1; Heb. 12: 22, 25, 26, 28; 9: 11, 12.

LOOKING UNTO JESUS



JESUS BEFORE
CHIEF PRIESTS



JESUS AT
GETHSEMANE



JESUS BEARING
THE CROSS



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Free from all sects, parties, organizations, and creeds of men,
but bound to God as it understands His Word, this magazine
stands for —

- The defense of the Parousia Truth, given by the Lord
through “that Servant,” as basic for all further development of
the Truth;

- The defense of the arrangements, charter and will given by
the Lord through “that Servant,” as binding on controlling
corporations and associations among Truth people; and for

- The exposition and defense of the unfolding Epiphany-
Basileia Truth, as meat in due season for the Lord's people, as He
is pleased to provide it.

2007 MOTTO TEXTS

*“Consider him that endured such
opposition from sinful men,
so that you will not grow weary
and lose heart”—(Heb. 12: 3)*
*“They that wait upon the Lord
shall. . .not faint”—(Isa. 40: 31)*

We have selected two Bible texts to be used as our devotion for the year 2007. The thoughts presented herewith deal with Heb. 12: 2, 3; which cover the adverse experiences of our Lord and how they developed in Him the qualities of character that prepared Him for His work of the future in the heavenly and earthly phase of the Kingdom. The implication is that we need to likewise concentrate on our own thoughts, words, and conduct to conform them to the principles taught in the Word. If we fail to correct those things that are wrong with ourselves, it may lead to the loss of our class standing as consecrated people of God. The second text Isa. 40: 31 “They that wait upon the Lord shall . . . not faint” will be treated in the January-February 2007 issue of the Bible Standard.

TO “CONSIDER HIM” seems to be to take note of, to have in mind, to reflect upon and not easily to forget how our Lord endured various trials and oppositions of sinners against Himself. In our own experiences we have, as the Lord’s followers, endured some opposition of sin and sinners against ourselves; but we have not yet resisted unto *blood*. We have not yet passed through the trying experiences through which He passed. When we remember that while we are poor, imperfect creatures, He on the other hand was “holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners,” then it is good to reflect that He endured patiently the opposition of sinful men. When trying experiences came to Him, He did not consider them as being merely from the individual Satan with whom they originated, but as being permitted by and under the supervision of the Father. When the Father permitted such experiences to come to Him, He was required to prove His loyalty by patient endurance. As He said, “*Shall I not drink the cup which My Father has given me?*” (John 18: 11).

So it is with us, Spiritual Israel. If the false teacher says, “*Let us follow other gods . . . you must not listen to the words of that prophet or dreamer. The LORD your God is testing you*” (Deut. 13: 2, 3). In proportion as we are able to take our Lord’s viewpoint in our experiences in life, we may need to be acquiescent. If the Father permits trying experiences for our testing, or for the testing or proving of others, in ways we may not fully comprehend, it is for us to rejoice to have His will done. The poet has beautifully expressed this thought when he so aptly says:

“My times are in thy hands,
My God, I wish them there.”

If we faithfully endure to the end, the reward will be ours. If we prove our loyalty and *keep our faith that God is supervising our affairs*, and that no good thing will be withheld from those who are walking uprightly, we shall some day hear His “Well done, good and faithful servant.”

We know that our Lord endured *physical* opposition. However, our English word *contradiction* properly translates the original, implying *verbal contradiction* of His words. As we consider our Lord’s case, we see that people opposed Him, not only physically, but in His words, His teachings. It was left for the High Priest and Sanhedrin and soldiers to do Him physical violence and put Him to death; and He could have resisted them if He had so chosen. The Apostle, therefore, seems to refer also to the contradiction of His words. This is implied by St. Peter, who says, “*He did not retaliate when he was insulted*” (1 Pet. 2: 23 TYN). So when we consider the 3½ years of Christ’s

ministry, we find that His doctrines were disputed, and that He was slandered. The Jews said that He had a demon, that He performed His miracles by the Prince of demons and that He was a blasphemer. These contradictions and oppositions on their part might have called out from Him some very just, truthful statements, respecting them. He might have given them as good as He got, and better. He might have told them that the devil was working with them, etc. His perfect power of language would have given Him ability to more than cope with them. When they sought to entrap Him in His words, He entrapped them in their words. But He reviled not. He did not render evil for evil, nor insult for insult. This, the Apostle shows, is the proper course.

But in the daily affairs of life, when people say all manner of evil against us, when they insult us, it is natural to the fallen flesh to think of something evil to say in return. Thus these things become tests upon us. If we yield to such a spirit, we are following the course of the enemy and not that of our Lord and Master.

PERSEVERE AMID OPPOSITION

“*Consider him who endured such opposition of sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*” When attacked by the adversary—whoever may be his agents and whatever may be their missiles, he cannot harm but will only increase our respect in the Lord’s sight, if we endure faithfully; and he can do no outward harm that God cannot overrule for the good of His cause—though that good may mean “siftings” of “chaff” and “tares” from the “wheat.” Evil speaking, backbiting and slandering are strictly forbidden to God’s people as wholly contrary to His spirit of love, even if the evil thing be true. As a preventive of anything in the nature of slander, the Scriptures very carefully mark out only one way of redress of grievances (Matt. 18: 15-17). Many, even among advanced Christians, seem to be utterly ignorant of this Divine ruling, and hence, professed Christians are often the most pronounced scandalmongers. Yet this is one of the few special, specific commandments given by our Lord; and considered in connection with the statement, “You are my friends, if you do what I command” (John 15: 14). The constant violation of this, our Lord’s command, proves that many are not far advanced in friendship—discipleship.

Let us look carefully at this rule, which if followed, would prevent gossip, “evil speaking,” “backbiting.” Let us look carefully at this rule as given in Matt. 18: 15-17, which if followed, would prevent gossip. Its first provision, for a conference between the principals alone, implies candor on the part of the accuser,

who thinks that he has suffered. It also implies his thinking no evil of the accused. They meet as “brethren,” each thinking his own course the right one, to discuss the matter; to see whether they can come to the same view. If they agree, all is well; the matter is settled; peace prevails; the threatened break has been averted, and no one is the wiser. In the great majority of cases, a frank, open discussion between the principals will bring about harmony. But both must be equally candid and governed by the Spirit of the Lord.

Thus did our Lord guard His true disciples from the insidious sin of slander, which leads onward to other and grosser works of the flesh and the devil, and stops growth in the Truth and its spirit of love. Let us also note that those who hear slanders and thus encourage slanderers in their course of wrongdoing, are partakers of their evil deeds; guilty partners in the violation of the Master’s commands. God’s true people should refuse to listen to slanders and should point the offender to the Lord’s Word and the only method therein authorized. Are we wiser than God? Experience teaches that we cannot trust to our own judgments and are on safe ground only when following the voice of the Shepherd implicitly.

REFUSE TO HEAR GOSSIP AND SLANDER

If any brother or sister brings to you an evil report of others, stop him at once, kindly but firmly. “Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them” (Eph. 5: 11). Refuse to have any share in this violation of the Master’s commands, which does great mischief in the Church. If the brother or sister be only a “babe” in spiritual matters, call attention to the Lord’s ruling on the subject (Matt. 18: 15; 1 Tim. 5: 19). If the conversation is not addressed to you but merely in your hearing, promptly show your disapproval by withdrawing.

If, after having had his attention called to the Lord’s command on this subject, the slanderer still persists in “evil speaking,” “backbiting” and telling you his “evil-surmising,” reprove him more sharply, saying as you go, “I cannot, must not, hear you; for if I did, I would be as criminal in the matter as you are, violating the Lord’s command. And even if I were to hear your story, I could not believe it; for the Christian who does not respect the Lord’s Word and follow His plan for the redress of grievances, shows so little of the Lord’s Spirit that his word cannot be trusted. He who twists and dodges the Lord’s words would not hesitate to twist and misrepresent the words and deeds of fellow disciples.” Then withdraw fellowship from such until his error has been confessed with promises of reform. If to any extent

you listen to such conversation, or express “sympathy” with it or with the gossip or slanderer, you are a partner in the sin and in all its consequences; and if a “root of bitterness” is thus developed, you are more than likely to be one of those “defiled” by it (Heb. 12: 15).

Be pure. Maintain a conscience void of offense toward God and men. Begin with the heart; harbor no thoughts that in any sense of the word would be evil. To fortify your position have Christ Jesus as your pattern often before your mind. When evil is obtruded upon you, either from without or from within, lift up your heart in prayer to Him for the grace promised in every time of need. Keep constantly before you the prayer, “Let the words of my mouth, and the meditation of my heart, be acceptable in your sight, O Lord, my strength and my redeemer” (Psa. 19: 14).

FOLLOW RIGHT PRINCIPLES

While seeking to follow the various specific commands of Scripture, let us seek more and more to understand and come in sympathy with the principles which underlie the Divine Law. These will enable us to judge of the right and the wrong of our words, thoughts and acts as may not be particularly specified in the Lord’s Word. Indeed, as we come to understand and sympathize with the principles of Divine Law, to that extent we are getting the Spirit of the Divine Word. Note the testimony of the Psalmist on this point, “O how I love your law! It is my meditation all the day. You through your commandments, make me wiser than my enemies for they are ever with me. I have more understanding than all my teachers: for your testimonies are my meditations. I understand more than the ancients, because I keep your precepts. I have restrained my feet from every evil way, that I might keep your word. I have not departed from your judgments: for you have taught me. How sweet are your words to my taste! Sweeter than honey to my mouth! Through your precepts I receive understanding: therefore, I hate every false way. Your Word is a lamp to my feet, and a light to my path” (Ps. 119: 97-105).

Shun a contentious and fault-finding disposition as contrary to the spirit or disposition of Christ—contrary to love. A certain amount of combative courage is demanded in overcoming the world, the flesh and the devil and their various snares. This fighting disposition may become a valuable aid to ourselves and to the Master’s cause if rightly and wisely directed against sin, first in ourselves and secondly in others; if used for the Lord and His people and against Satan and all his powers of darkness and superstition. This, in the Scriptures, is called fighting the good fight, and we all should be

gallant soldiers in this battle for Right and Truth, lovingly defending our Captain's honor and His people's liberties.

But such a good use of combativeness is not pleasing to the prince of this world, who will seek to pervert what he cannot directly use. Consequently, he attempts with some to make combativeness a chief virtue. He encourages them to fight everything and everybody; the brethren, more than the powers of darkness, nominal churchmen, more than the errors and ignorance which blind them and make them such. Indeed, his desire is to get us to "fight against God."

BE ON GUARD

Let us be on our guard on this point. Let us, first of all, judge ourselves, unless we cast a stumbling-block before others; let us fight down in our own hearts the wrong spirit which seeks to make mountains out of trifles and disposes us to be critical and contentious over non-essentials. Greater is "he that rules his [own] spirit than he that takes a city" (Prov. 16: 32). Let us guard ourselves that our defense of the Truth be, not from motives of self-glorification, but from love for the Truth, love for the Lord, for His people, the brethren. If love be the impelling spirit, or motive, it will show itself accordingly in a loving, gentle, patient, humble course toward all the fellow-servants. Let us be "gentle toward all." Let "the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God," which is quick and powerful, do all the cutting.

Beware of all thoughts, feelings and conditions of heart directly or remotely connected with malice, envy, hatred, strife. Give these no place in your heart even for a moment; for they will surely do you great injury, aside from leading to the injury of others. Keep your heart, your will, your intentions and desires full of love toward

God and all His creatures—the most fervent toward God, and proportionately toward all who have His Spirit and walk in the way of His direction.

If conscience were a sufficient guide you would have no need of the Scriptures. The majority of people have as good as no conscience; for they are blind to the principles and laws of God given to guide conscience; and still worse off than these are those mentioned in 1 Tim. 4: 2. Hence, it is imperative to carefully heed the Lord's Word, and to walk circumspectly according to its light. We are not to faint in our minds nor become discouraged, feeling that so much has been said against us that we must give up the race. On the contrary, we are to feel assured like our Lord, that nothing can befall us except with the knowledge of the Father, who is working all things for our good. It was thus that our Lord was prepared for His exaltation. So we, if we are rightly exercised by our various experiences and follow as closely as possible the commands laid down for our guidance, will find that even reviling, slander, oppositions to righteousness, will work out blessings for us, as they did for Him.

But how many of us become weary and are in danger of losing our prize because we fail to consider what the Lord faithfully endured of opposition! If we would consider that the Lord, who was perfect, suffered in every sense unjustly for righteousness and that our own conduct is imperfect, we would not be weary of well doing, but would learn to fight and to "endure hardness as good soldiers of Jesus Christ"; God's people would continue to "fight the good fight of faith." "We have not an high priest which cannot be touched with a feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Heb. 4: 15).

* * *

GUIDE ME

Guide me, O thou great Jehovah,
Pilgrim through this barren land;
I am weak, but thou art mighty;
Hold me with thy powerful hand.
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more,
Bread of heaven, Feed me till I want no more.

Open now the crystal fountain,
Whence the healing streams do flow;
Let the fire, cloudy pillar,
Lead me all my journey through.
Strong Deliverer, Be thou still my strength and shield
Strong Deliverer, Be thou still my strength and shield

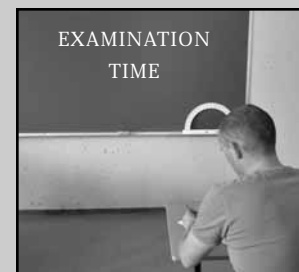
As I'm in the time of trouble,
Bid my faith in thee increase;
While the thousands round are falling.
Keep me, keep in perfect peace.
Refuge! Fortress! Thou hast set they love on me.
Refuge! Fortress! Thou hast set they love on me.

2007 ANNUAL HYMN

PAGE 71

YOUR GOD IS TESTING YOU

“The LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul” Deut. 13: 3.



We are to stand fast in the liberty wherewith Christ makes us free. That is not a license to gratify every liberty. That is the true liberty. That is not a lawless liberty. That is not a defiant liberty. It is not a liberty of sin and wickedness and disobedience to God's arrangements. But it is a liberty that brings us into slavery, quite a comparison or a paradox. But we even bring every thought into captivity unto Christ as we stand in the liberty wherewith Christ makes us free.

My subject today is “Your God is Testing You” and I wish to take for our text Deuteronomy 13: 3. “The LORD (and it's in capital letters meaning Jehovah) Jehovah your God is testing you to know whether you love Jehovah your God with all of your heart and with all of your soul.” Dear friends, this is not written to heathen people. This is not written to those that are unacquainted with God. This is not written to even those that have been in covenant relationship with God but are disobedient and rebellious under that covenant against God's will. This is written to the covenant people of God that proclaim Him as their God in verity, in Truth. And it was spoken by Moses to the children of Israel who were in covenant relationship with God. Antitypically, it is spoken by the antitypical Moses, primarily Jesus, to God's covenant people. During the Gospel Age, these are those who have made a covenant with God by sacrifice and those who have come into relationship with God under Christ as their head, those who are in covenant relationship with God. It was wonderful to be of that class! Our Lord gave in the Gospel Age the message of the High Calling and He will give a similar message of the earthly salvation in the Millennial Age as people then come into covenant relationship with God through Christ the Mediator. His message will be the same to them that it is to you and to me now. Jesus enlarged upon this text. Moses says with all of your heart and with all of your soul, those two things. But Jesus adds something in Mark 12: 30. He says that the first commandment, that great commandment, is that we must love “God with all of our heart,” then he says “with all of your soul” then he adds something that is very important for us who are under His headship. He says, “And with all of your mind and with all of your strength.” You might say, “Isn't that

included in what Moses said, “All of your heart and all of your soul”? Yes, in a way. Still it brings out two specifications that Moses did not utter. It must not only be with all of our heart, but we must keep our mind on it, that it continues to be with all of our heart. It must not only be with the whole soul, the whole being, but it must be with the full strength of that whole soul and being. You know, some people can love God half-heartedly. Some people can give their whole soul to God and, in a weak way, endeavor to serve him with the whole soul. But the Lord says, Oh, you must have, not only the fullness of heart but the fullness of the mind, to be thinking along the line of your heart disposition; to be fully minded and active, in other words in keeping that heart fully minded in the Lord's service. Then the Lord adds to the soul, the strength, for some can serve God with the whole soul weakly! Not w-e-e-k-l-y, although that might be so, too. But w-e-a-k-l-y! Some may be sick, as Paul says. Some of you are sick. Some of you are weak as well as asleep. You can have a whole soul that is asleep you know, too, as well as weak and as well as sick. We are not to be of those that are whole-souled and weak, nor whole-souled and sick, nor whole-souled and asleep! So the Lord wisely adds the word “strength.” And I think we have there a fullness of thought that we can appreciate, that the Lord takes what Moses says and makes it very practical in its application and enlarges it in many of its ramifications. So here, we have these thoughts that are added in Mark 12: 30.

EXAMINATION TIME

Our text says, “The LORD your God is testing you to know whether you love Him with all of your heart and with all of your soul.” Some might ask then, Does not God know without proving us? Does not God know whether you or I are going to be faithful; whether we have in our heart that which will bring us through to final victory without putting us to the test? Does not God know the end from the beginning? Doesn't He know all things? Then why does He have to prove us in order to know whether we love Him with all of the heart, mind, soul and strength? Notice what we read in Hebrews 4: 13 which verifies the thought that God, does know,

although there are also many other verses that prove this, but notice this one: "Neither is there any creature" [that takes in everyone] "Neither is there any creature that is not manifest to His sight, but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of Him with whom we have to do." So God knows all about us. There is not a thing that He does not know about us. He even knows our thoughts before we think. He knows the words that we are going to say before we utter them, as we read in that wonderful Psalm 139. I will not give you any one verse because the whole Psalm is so beautiful along that line. But oh, dear friends, we might say then, Why does then, God test us? If He knows all about us, why does He prove us? To know by demonstration! A person that is constructing a building with iron beams may say, Is this good iron? Oh, yes! And he may know it is good iron but he puts it to the test so that there will be no question about it on the part of the people that are buying the building, on the part of anyone that may be interested in that building. Those steel girders are put to the test before they are ever brought to the location of the structure.

GOD KNOWS IN ADVANCE

God is working along the same line, and very wisely. He could put His okay on your character and my character before He even tests it. But He wants to have it so thoroughly demonstrated that there will be no question in anyone's mind! Therefore He tests us, proves us, and there is not one of the Lord's covenant people, not one of His consecrated people that He is not going to thoroughly test for their position in His great work that He is accomplishing. In the Old Testament, we start back with Abel. The Apostle Peter and the Apostle Paul particularly show us how these Ancient Worthies were tested and proved. Paul starts with Abel, in the book of Hebrews the eleventh chapter, It was "By faith" not by accident, not by happenstance, not because Abel happened to be raising sheep. Some might say, Oh, well, Abel could hardly offer anything else. He offered what he raised; sheep. Paul says look out it is not just that. Paul says, It was by faith that Abel offered a sacrifice more acceptable than that of Cain. He probably reasoned on the matter. He may have prayed to God about it, talked with God about it. God talked with the Ancient Worthies, you know. Their faith was counted unto them for righteousness and God was willing to fellowship with them because of their faith and because of what He would accomplish for them at Calvary's cross. And so, as we read in Romans 4: 17, "God counts those things which be not as though they were." How come? In view of what will take place. In view of what is going to be. So God anticipates sometimes as He did with the Ancient Worthies. He dealt with them before Christ ever died for

them because He knew that Christ would die on their behalf and so He counted their faith to them for righteousness and He graciously accepted them into fellowship because of their faith and dealt with them in wondrous ways.

Now it was by faith that Abel was tested to the point of his death. Cain rose in anger and murdered his brother. We will not go into further details as you are well acquainted with the story. Also, take such characters as Enoch, how God walked with Enoch, and Enoch had this record that he pleased God. Enoch walked with God. God walked with Enoch because Enoch walked with God! God will not walk with you if you do not walk with Him, you know. He may walk with you up until the present day, and you could turn away from Him and He will stop walking with you. Dear friends, there are some that say, Oh, the Lord's walking with me, when He is not walking with them in the ways of sin and error. He does not walk in that way. Notice such a character, for instance, as Noah the one that built the ark, how God walked with him as he walked with God. He was a preacher of righteousness. How many years, anyone? Yes, 120! How many converts? None! His sons, of course, and their wives and his own wife went along with him in faith to God, but I do not know as it took a hundred and twenty years to convert them. He had a hundred and twenty years of preaching righteousness and we read of not one convert. I wonder how many of us would last that hundred and twentieth year. Some of us go out in the colporteur work maybe and we do not get any results today and then we say, Well, I am not going out tomorrow. I do not think that is the faith that pleases God like Noah pleased God with his faith. You know, my dear friends, we certainly ought to live up to the standards that the Ancient Worthies met with what little light that they had for we have so much more light. And the Bible says, you know, to whom much is given much is required. So, God is proving us according to the "much" that He is giving us.

ABRAHAM AND ISAAC

Observe Abraham, the father of the faithful and how God put him to the test. Did not God know the outcome before He told Abraham to take Isaac, the son of promise, in whom centered the blessing. He was Abraham's dearly beloved son that God promised would be the seed for the blessing of the families of the earth. God said take now your son, your son of promise, to a distant place in the mountain where I will show you. This was a long painful journey that Abraham took, and there offered his son for a burnt offering. Did not God know beforehand that Abraham would do that, even to the raising of the knife before God stayed his hand? Yes, God knew it. Suppose God had never given Abraham that test, saying, Well, I

know he would do it, but I will not put him to the test. Would Abraham have ever attained to that which he did attain as an Ancient Worthy? No!

You say, Bro. Jolly, sometimes our tests are pretty hard to stand. Well, how about Abraham? I think if we would just do like Paul says, consider these servants, this great cloud of witnesses and consider what they went through and it will make our trials seem very light instead of heavy. Our light affliction which is but for a moment compared with eternity, very light; light like a feather, compared with the exceeding eternal weight of glory that we attain to as a result of faithfully standing under our test. Oh, we thank God for our trials, do we not? Yes, Paul says, "I glory in tribulation." How come, Paul? How come? "And not only that, but we also glory in tribulations, knowing that tribulation" produces—what anyone? Yes, Patience! That is constancy, cheerful endurance! The more trials I get—the more tribulation I get—the more I am going to continue to endure under those trials and the trials work a state of constant endurance. If the trials were to stop, maybe I would endure to the end and maybe I would not. Do you not see that God is testing every step of the way? And patience produces approval. It is translated experience in the King James Version, but approval is the more correct translation as you will notice in the Diaglott (Rom. 5: 4). We want God's approval. And how can we get it without the tribulation, without the trials? The word *tribulum* is the Latin word for a threshing instrument and I can remember as a boy seeing a farmer with an old time flail with two hinges. The first piece would flop out and another one would come with power as he would force the instrument down and then a third board would come with exceeding force which would beat the wheat out of the chaff. Then the chaff would blow away and the reaper would gather up the straw and the wheat.

TRIBULATION PRODUCES PATIENCE

You and I are going through a tribulation experience and we rejoice. We glory also in trouble knowing that tribulation works this day by day by day by day continuing, and sometimes we cry, Oh Lord, how long, how long? It is like I told one sister here on the floor at our convention who I had heard was having exceedingly severe trials, and I said, "Sister, take your trials as a caress, as a loving caress, of your Heavenly Father." She looked at me in surprise and I said, "Yes, I mean as a caress. It is a compliment, you know, from your Heavenly Father that you have such severe trials. For God says He will not try us more than we are able to bear and He must see that you are able to bear quite a trial now that you're strong enough in the strength of the Lord that you can stand a severe trial. So take it, then, as a compliment from God

that He is telling you that He is pleased with your development, that you have developed sufficient strength in the Lord, that you can take now a severe trial. He is testing you to determine if you love Him with all of your heart, soul, mind and strength." "Oh," she said, "Bro. Jolly, you don't know how that helps me!" Well, dear friends, it does help us if we think of it the way that the Apostle puts it. We rejoice also in tribulation, knowing that tribulation produces patience and patience works for the approval of God. And we want His approval and if we cannot get His okay on our character, we will never get eternal life. Let us keep that in mind. It is true. We want His approval. And then third, "approval produces hope"; a hope of attaining to that which God has so graciously offered to us. Can we have hope without God's approval? No! Can we, therefore, have hope without patience? "He that endures to the end, the same shall be saved." That means others will not. It is just that plain. Oh, no! We cannot have that hope if we do not have the faithfulness to endure under severe tribulation, under severe trial and persevering until the end and there receiving God's approval. It is just that simple. It is just that beautiful. It will help you while undergoing trial to recognize that the Lord your God is testing you, as to whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart. That is very essential, but that's not enough; you need also to love Him with all of your soul; and it must be with all your mind and with all your strength in connection with the fullness of heart devotion and performance in your whole-souled service unto God.

Chapter 13 of Deuteronomy divides into three large sections. Let us consider together these three sections because they are on the same line of thought that God is proving us to see if we are giving full devotion to Him.

FALSE DREAMERS

The first section is verses 1-5 "If there arise among you a prophet, or a dreamer of dreams, and gives you a sign or a wonder, and the sign or the wonder comes to pass [it could really come to pass] of which he spoke to you, saying, 'Let us go after other gods, which you have not known—and let us serve them,' you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams, [that speculator] for the LORD your God is testing you, to know whether you love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul. You shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear Him and keep His commandments, and obey His voice, you shall serve Him, and hold fast to Him. But that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams, shall be put to death [rather a serious offense, isn't it, to wean anyone away from the Lord and the following of His word in their full consecration and devotion to Him?] and that prophet or dreamer of dreams shall be put to death;

because he has spoken to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt and redeemed you out of the house of bondage, to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk in. So you shall put the evil away from your midst.”

Here we have, as the Lord in the antitype of Moses would tell us, the spiritual Israelites whom He has delivered from bondage, Egypt representing this present evil world; the bondage of Pharaoh representing the bondage of sin under his taskmasters of sin, error, selfishness, death and worldliness; anything that would lead us away from God.

SIGNS OF JESUS' SECOND COMING

Our Lord Jesus puts this to us clearly, in answer to the disciples' question in Matthew 24: 3, "What shall be the sign of your coming and of the end of the world?" The Greek word "*ionos*" meaning the age, the end of the age; *iono*, *ioniono*. Jesus answers, among other things, in verse 24 and verse 25. Here is one of the signs of His second coming, His Second Presence. "What shall be the sign?" they ask. He said, "there shall arise false christs and false prophets and shall show great signs and wonders." You would almost think that they are really teaching the Truth, for Satan's emissaries are set forth as angels of light. Oh, they can preach beautiful, flowery sermons! They can say pleasant beatitudes. They can speak pleasant things to itching ears. They can tell you their falsehoods in such an attractive way that it appeals to your flesh. Therefore, if you are not very, very careful, you may be deceived. So He says there will be false christs and false prophets, false anointed ones and false teachers. The word prophet here is used also in the sense of one who instructs, or teaches, or speaks forth what they claim to be the Word of God and shall show great signs and wonders and shall, if it were possible, deceive the very elect, or as the Greek has it "even the chosen," even the elect ones. "Behold," notice what the Lord says, "Behold I have told you." In other words, to be forewarned is to be forearmed. Jesus is telling us, Now, when that time comes, do not be surprised. Just remember I have told you beforehand that this will take place. Some of the friends today are astonished that the Lord is allowing this to take place; that He allows false teachers to come in among the Lord's sheep, wolves in sheep's clothing, teachers arising from our own midst sometimes among the Youthful Worthies as Bro. Johnson said there would be. Bro. Johnson showed that the Great Company had various sifting leaders, the bad Levite leaders as he called them, as those different groups first developed, and then he said as we came to the good Levites and the good Youthful Worthies he warned them that after his death there would be different ones arise

from among the Youthful Worthies as there had arisen from among the New Creatures endeavoring to lead them astray, sifting in their efforts. And I want to say, my dear brethren, that after the Great Company are all gone and Youthful Worthies are the instructors in the earth and the Lord's mouthpieces, you may have different ones arising from among the Consecrated Epiphany Campers that, likewise, will endeavor to lead you astray from the Word of God; false prophets. That is the principle that the Lord showed would operate among His people at the time of His Second Advent, He especially pointed this out. We had the five great siftings of Bro. Russell's day. We had the sixth great sifting or shorter weapon of the time of Bro. Johnson, the Epiphany. You know, my dear brethren, that same principle is operating today and will continue to operate, I think, among the Consecrated Epiphany Campers after the Youthful Worthies are the Lord's mouthpieces in the earth. So the Lord said, I have told you beforehand. I have forewarned you. Do not be surprised when it comes, but be prepared. Now, notice again, that He refers directly to these things that were done in type and these things that were done aforesaid, written for our benefit. Notice 1 Corinthians 10: 11: "Now all these things" [not a few of them] now all these things happened unto them for ensamples (or examples, or types). For the Greek word, here is *typoi* or *tupoi* and it is in the plural of *typos*, which is the singular. Types! These things are happened for types. They are your examples, your types. That all those five siftings that the Apostle Paul had described "were written for our admonition upon whom the ends of the world have come" [the ends of the ages, it is in the plural]. The word world in the Greek is plural of the word age, *ionion*, and should be translated as, the end of the ages and has been shown in Scripture to be the end of the Jewish Age, in its Harvest. It was then that those five great siftings occurred as Paul pointed out, and we had the same corresponding siftings in the Gospel Age Harvest reaping time under Bro. Russell. Now, notice Romans 15: 4, another verse that speaks to the same point, "For whatsoever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience [constancy, cheerful endurance under test] and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope." For the Scriptures show us the purpose of tribulation working toward that hope that makes not ashamed.

FALSE TEACHERS

The Apostle Peter, after the Lord's death, puts it very plainly in 2 Pet. 2: 1. "But there were false prophets also among the people even as there shall be false teachers among you." Here, Paul says, that it is going to be among us even as it was back in fleshly Israel. As there were false prophets back there, so he says even as there shall be false

teachers—showing that the prophets here do mean teachers, those who speak forth the truth or error. And here the false prophets would be those who lead astray by erroneous teachings, “As there shall be false teachers among you who shall bring in damnable heresies.” Now, that word damnable. Oh, it might be admissible, but the more correct thought would be “destructive.” See the Diaglott: “They shall bring in destructive heresies [not true doctrine, but false doctrine, teachings that are not true] even denying the Lord that bought them [as their head, no longer bringing every thought into captivity under Christ, no longer harmonizing every one of their teachings with the word of God; denying the Lord that bought them so that they are not under his headship in teaching their errors, no matter what their professions might be] and bring upon themselves swift destruction.” How plain that is! Let us believe it the way that as it is given for that is what the Apostle here tells us we can expect in our day and time.

WORSHIPING IDOLS

Deuteronomy 13 was written beforehand for our learning. It is provided as a Bible type and symbol, for our benefit upon whom the ends of the ages have come, a warning that the Lord gives us pertaining to our present time, and the Apostle Peter confirms it saying that this is exactly what would take place. It warns us against idolaters and against tempters toward idolatry. Well, what is idolatry? Idolatry is having some other object of supreme heart-allegiance and soul-performance in place of God. Oh, yes! Many idols can come into our lives and under all these temptations toward idolatry, Satan would like to lead us astray. Sometimes it is the wife or the husband that we are worshipping above God. Sometimes it is the husband yielding to the wife contrary to his full allegiance to God. The wives and the husbands should love one another in the Lord. And so the Apostle tells us in Ephesians, the fifth chapter, that the wives are to be subject to their husbands; that is against this modern “Liberation” idea, isn’t it? They are to be subject to their husbands, but notice “in the Lord.” If your husband ever tells you to do anything that is contrary to the Lord’s instruction, you cannot yield. You must hold faithfully to God and to the Lord Jesus Christ as your head, above your husband. He is your head under the Lord! The husbands are told to love their wives as the Lord loved the Church. They are to love their wives as their own body, doing for the wife as much as they would do for their own body, for their own self. They are to consider very carefully the wife’s welfare and help her along the line of that which is for her highest interest for he is her head. He has no right to be a tyrant. He has no right to be despotic and cruel to his wife. So you see, the perfect marriage relationship is

beautiful! And it will give us the liberty wherewith Christ has made us free. We do not want any other kind of liberty. It must be in the Lord, as the Bible tells us. Well now, I am not going to give a wedding sermon at the present time, but also one may follow a leader, an elder in the congregation. Some of the brethren express that they have certain friends as elders and certain elders that they do not think are so friendly. They do not like some elders. They say, Oh, if Bro. So-and-so is going to speak, I’ll be there! If Bro. So-and-so is going to speak, Oh, I do not like him. He said something the other day in his sermon that hurt me. He stepped on my feelings. Do God’s consecrated people have corns? No, if the new heart, mind and will is in control of us, we are no longer ruled by our flesh. But he stepped on my corns! In other words he hurt my flesh. And instead of taking the crucifixion of the flesh, I defend my flesh! So, I am not going to go to hear that elder, because he said something that hurt my flesh. Look out brethren! Some have gone away from God into idolatry worshipping one that brought them into the Truth! I remember a sister down in the tropics in the British West Indies, I won’t tell you which one of the islands, because I’m not going to spot her, but she told me, “I’m going to hold to Bro. so-and so even though he has gone away from Bro. Johnson. He is still holding to Bro. Russell some things that pleased him, you know. He held to those things. And she says, “I’m going to follow him because he brought me into the Truth.” Now, I told her, “Sister, you’re making a great mistake. When you consecrated, did you consecrate to him as your head or did you consecrate to the Lord as your head?” “Well, to the Lord, but I like him. He brought me into the Truth. I can thank him for all the Truth I’ve gotten and so forth...” Wrong viewpoint! Idolatry!

PRIDE IS SATAN’S TOOL

Now the Apostle John tells us in 1 John 5: 21, “Little children” (he was a very aged Apostle at the time and he could call the dear brethren his children, figuratively of course), “Little children, keep yourselves from idols.” And those are the last words he wrote in that first epistle, 1 John 5: 21. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Keep that heart, mind, soul, and strength fully God’s. Yield nothing to that which would take the place of God in your heart and in your life. Satan can tempt so much along those lines—how careful we have to be for the working of Satan is with power and signs and lying wonders, or as the Greek has it “wonders of falsehood.” Now Jesus makes this application to the gazers, to the speculators. Satan works through pride, through those who are self-opinionated. Bro. Johnson said, some of the brothers will get some kind of a little old bee that buzzes in their bonnet and they have just got to tell somebody!

Sometimes it is not the proper humility before the Lord, it is sometimes not in harmony with His Word and they go off leading others astray also into error. The Apostle's words give support to this view by saying: "The working of Satan is with all power," and I'm quoting, "and signs and lying wonders, or wonders of falsehood and with all deceivableness of unrighteousness" (2 Thes. 2: 9, 10). The Diaglott gives it, "every deception of iniquity," I think that is very good with all deceivableness of unrighteousness, every deception of iniquity, "in them that perish." Notice, you do not get eternal life by following error in opposition to God's word. It leads toward destruction.

LOVE OF TRUTH—ESSENTIAL

The Apostle continues, "In them that perish because they receive not the love of the Truth that they might be saved." Oh, they have the Truth, but as Bro. Russell used to say, "You are in the Truth but is the Truth in you?" Many are nominal Truth people today. I am not saying that you here in this audience are nominal Truth people, but I am saying of the general condition, many are nominal Truth people! They are not being activated by the Truth! Some of them know the Truth and are not performing! The Lord says, "You know these things. Happy are you if you know them!" Does He say that?—No! No! You know these things, "Happy are you if you do them!" The doing is the important thing if you have the knowledge and that is how God is testing His people. So, some have not received the love of the Truth that they might be saved. "Oh," you say, "Bro. Jolly is it the love of the Truth that saves us?" Yes, it is. "How can the love of the Truth save us, I thought Jesus saved us?" Well, He is a part of the Truth. He said to us that He is the very essence of the Truth, the most important feature of the Truth. "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life." You know I like the way that is put. If He had said "life" first, he would have had it all backwards. "I am the way. No one can come to the Father, except by Me" if "I am the way." Lord, you are the way. Now we are going to follow you in all of our ignorance. We do not care for any Truth, but you are the way that will lead to eternal life. Never! The Lord says that the Truth is essential. "The words, I speak unto you, they are spirit and they are life." It is the words of Truth that bring life and Jesus said to the Heavenly Father in that wonderful prayer in John 17: 17, "Sanctify them through Your Truth." And what is His Truth? "Your Word is Truth." Yes!

Brethren, right here is where we have the words of life. Not in Bro. "A" or Bro. "B's" ideas. Our faith is to be established not in the teachings of men, but in the power of God, in His Holy Word.

Jesus is the way that leads to justification by faith, justification; by faith in His blood, and then He is the Truth that leads us to sanctification for He prayed, "Sanctify them through Your Truth, Your Word is Truth." And if we are faithful in following the way with Jesus in sanctification by the Truth to the very end, the same shall be saved. We then receive eternal life. So we are to fight the good fight of faith and lay hold on that eternal life.

We read here that they did not receive the love of the Truth, that they might be saved and for this cause, [or as the Greek has it, because of this] because of this God shall send them strong delusion. Oh, it is a delusion. Many of them will say, "Well, I don't agree with you. I prefer to believe so-and-so." Well, but the Bible says so-and-so. "Yes, but that isn't in harmony with my faith. This is what I believe." I love you just the same even though I don't agree with you." So they say that they think they have the Truth. You show them the Word of the Lord and they will try to circumvent it and get around it and they will take former statements and make them as though they are the latest thoughts that Bro. Russell, Bro. Johnson gave. No. The Lord says, "God shall send them a strong delusion. It is a delusion. They are really deceived. They may be sincere in heart. We would not judge their heart. But they are certainly deceived. They are under delusion and God tells you why, because of this, for this cause. What cause? Because, while they were Truth people they did not receive the love of the Truth, enough to live it in spite of all opposition all persecution. Oh, no. They wanted to go along with something that tickled their ears. Maybe it was the hope of the High Calling still open. Maybe it was the hope of Youthful Worthyship, still open. Something maybe that appealed to their flesh, maybe subconsciously, and because they did not have the real genuine love of the Truth that would die for it, they begin to follow in the paths of iniquity and error. "For this cause God shall send them strong delusion that they should believe a lie" 2 Thes. 2: 9-11.

WHY CAN'T WE HAVE PEACE?

My dear friends, we see that what the Lord has said would come, has come. What the Apostle Peter warned us against is really here. And we see what Bro. Johnson said would arise among Youthful Worthies that there are Youthful Worthy leaders, those who were Youthful Worthies, that now are teaching different kinds of error. And some of the friends will say, "Well, let's all try to get together." That is what Judge Rutherford said to Bro. Johnson. "Why can't we have peace?" Bro. Johnson said, "Yes, we can have peace on the basis of God's Word. We can't deny our faith in order to shake hands with error." So some of the friends are saying today, "Why all these factions? Why the schisms among the Lord's people? Why the divisions?" Brethren, I had one that quoted me

this verse, as some say, “I am of Peter, or Cephus. Some would say I am of Paul. Some I am Apollos, some I am Christ.” Why do we have all of these divisions among the Lord’s people? That is quite a difference. That is not a good analogy at all. Paul was talking to Christian people that were holding to the Truth. Some following Peter, some Paul, some Apollos. And Paul said, No, that’s a mistake. You should not develop those earthly schisms. “Is Christ divided?” No! Christ is not divided! The Apostle made that very clear, but these factions were among the Truth people. But what do we find today? Can we say that Judge Rutherford had a Truth presentation and that it was just another faction of truth that was following a different leader? Oh, no. That is entirely different, and the case now that we have is what our Bible here tells us about, those leading away from God! Leaders into idolatry! And what communion hath light with darkness? You cannot get together and shake hands with darkness! What communion has the table of the Lord with the table of these devilish errors! Oh, no! That is entirely different. We must have only one loyalty and that must be to God and to His Holy Word, regardless of any leader.

So, one arises and says, “Well, we used to think that the Parousia would be followed by the Epiphania or the Apocalupsis.” But he wants to be the Apocalypse Messenger, if you please. He even gets out a Manna book, Bro. Russell’s comment, Bro. Johnson’s comment and the comment of the Apocalupsis Messenger as though it were distinct from the Epiphany Messenger; a trick of Satan and it has deceived some. Some follow that error. Can we shake hands with that error? No! Do we pity the ones that are deceived under that delusion? Yes! Would we endeavor to help them? Certainly. Would we say that they are not our brethren just because they are deluded? Oh, no! Those that are under a deception may have true, sincere hearts before God. We would not judge their heart. But we do know the error when we see it, if it is not in harmony with God’s Word. Because the Bible proves so conclusively in the Present Truth as you have it presented, that the Epiphaneia and the Apocalypse are one and the same period and are the Time of Trouble as Bro. Russell taught and as Bro. Johnson taught, and as the Bible clearly teaches.

DO YOU WANT WHAT GOD WANTS

Another one arises leading away into idolatry, away from God, contrary to His Word of Truth. What would he say, “The priests are still here in the earth. Bro. Johnson was all wrong when he said that he was the last priest.” Well that tickles the ears of some that say, “I want to be in the Bride of Christ.” “It is what I want,” instead of asking, “What is it that God wants?” I want what God wants and if my flesh does not like it, very well. If we have the new heart, mind

and will in full harmony with God, we want what God wants. If we do not want what He wants, if we want what we want instead of what God wants, look out! We are on dangerous ground to say the least. It reminds me of some brethren, and I got a letter just like this last week, who wrote in and said, “Please don’t send me any more of your literature. It isn’t in harmony with what I believe.” So what? “It isn’t in harmony with what I believe, therefore, don’t send me any more.” That person should be humble enough and meek enough to examine what he believes and see whether it is in harmony with God’s word instead of condemning the true message that comes to him. Oh, yes, the darkness hates the light for their works are evil, so the Lord says. So, then starts another one and says, “Well, there are priests still in the flesh. I used to believe there were no more priests in the flesh. Bro. Jolly even printed one of my articles in the Present Truth showing that I believed the priests, now, are all gone.” Brethren, that same one, leading astray many of the Lord’s people in a spirit that anyone should recognize as an improper spirit, that one has deceived quite a few into believing that there are priests still in the flesh when it contradicts the Word of God, it contradicts the teachings of Pastor Russell, it teaches a contradiction to Bro. Johnson, the Epiphany Messenger. And in spite of all that, oh, yes, there are some people who think they want to be priests and, believe there are priests still in the earth. And of course, these would be priests that want their own way instead of studying carefully and accepting God’s way. We have, now, eighty proofs, Bro. Johnson had given us sixty-three. The Lord now has given us some more making up a total of eighty. And you have the eighty proofs that the High Calling is really closed. These are scriptural proofs, too, and out of the eighty, they ought to find at least one or two that are in harmony with God’s Word. But no, they will just throw the whole thing overboard. “No. That is not what I want. I want to believe that the High Calling is still open.” Brethren, let us keep ourselves from hybrids—going into these various systems of error and that is what this chapter is condemning. And now I want to mention along this line, and some might say, “Well, Bro. Jolly, is there any Bible that tells us really that there are no more priests in the earth?” Yes. It is contrary to Scripture, reason, and fact. Let us notice, for instance, what our Lord says, in Matthew 23: 34, 35. The Lord says, “Therefore, indeed, I send you prophets, wise men, and scribes: some of them you will kill and crucify, and some of them you will scourge in your synagogues and persecute from city to city, that on you may come all the righteous blood shed on the earth, from the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, son of Berechiah, whom you murdered between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation.”

The son of Berechiah has been examined in the Present Truth by Biblical Numerics as the son of Berechiah was written in there. The one who transcribed probably wondering who this Zachariah was and there might have been some Berechiah living at that time I don't know, but anyway he put what he supposed, apparently, the son of Berechiah, but Biblical Numerics throws that out as spurious, but Zechariah is genuine. And the Lord says, "The son of Zechariah whom you slew between the temple and the altar. Assuredly, I say to you, all these things will come upon this generation." Very well, from Abel to Zechariah! Why not from Abel to John the Baptist? Well the Lord was referring to that which is recorded in the scriptures. He could have said to John the Baptist, but he did not go on to John the Baptist, he was talking from, what we might say "Genesis to Revelation," the beginning to the end of the Scriptures. And the book of Revelation, of course, is in the New Testament, but the last book of the Old Testament was 2 Chronicles. And if you don't believe it look at Leeser's translation back there on the table, he was a Jew you know, and he has it according to the Jewish arrangement of the Scriptures. You will find in the little book called the Leeser Translation, back on the table, 2 Chronicles, as the last book in the Old Testament Scriptures from which Jesus was referring. From Abel, the very first murdered one to the last one of the Ancient Worthies that was murdered, namely, Zechariah. You find it recorded in 2 Chron. 24: 20-22. "Then the Spirit of God came upon Zechariah the son of Jehoiada the priest, who stood above the people, and said unto them, Thus says God: Why do you transgress the commandments of the LORD, so that you cannot prosper? Because you have forsaken Jehovah, He also has forsaken you." I do not imagine they liked that did they? "So they conspired against him and stoned him with stones at the command of the King in the court in the house of the Lord. Thus Joash, the King, did not remember the kindness which Jehoiada his father had done to him, but killed his son and when he died, he said the LORD look upon it and repay!" Now Jesus points to Abel and to Zechariah, the first and the last recorded in the Holy Scriptures at that time and their blood was to be required of that generation at the end of the Jewish Harvest, in the end of the age.

Now we have the parallel in the Gospel Harvest and all the blood from antitypical Abel [who was antitypical Abel? Our Lord Jesus Christ!] whose blood speaks better than that of Abel? Abel has called for vengeance. Jesus' blood, the antitype, calls for peace in the earth. So Abel is the type of our Lord Jesus as there shown and Jesus said, "from the blood of Abel [and the antitypical Abel being Jesus] to the blood of Zechariah [the antitypical Zechariah being the Epiphany Messenger] the last one of the Little Flock to leave the earth. He was persecuted with

symbolical stones, of course, and was silenced as has been explained in the Present Truth. Now, Bro. Russell says that from Abel to Zechariah, in this antitype, includes all of the sin offering; from the first to the last; from Abel to Zechariah, and the Lord did not say from Abel and to Zechariah and a few others that say that they are priests. No! From Abel to Zechariah, no more! And that's the whole sin offering as Bro. Russell has shown and as the Lord indicates when he said from the first to the last; from Abel to Zechariah. That is the whole sin-offering. There are no priests in the earth after Zechariah leaves according to what the Lord taught there. So Bro. Russell taught it, the whole sin-offering. Bro. Johnson taught it by telling us plainly from that Scripture and other Scriptures that he would be the last priest. But in spite of that, one will stand up and say there are still priests in the earth and others will follow after him, many of them being deluded. Some of them doubtless with good conscience, but nevertheless, under a delusion, and God says, Why? Because they did not have the love of the Truth sufficient to deny their own ideas and accept what God teaches.

Our Lord Jesus said, "from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zechariah." Others may say, And a few more after Zechariah's death. Bro. Johnson shows us that he fulfilled every detail in that Zechariah type, and if anyone tells you that Bro. Johnson was not the antitype of Zechariah, ask them who was and they will be speechless. They cannot point out anyone else that has fulfilled the type of Zechariah as given there in 2 Chronicles 24: 20-22.

Our Lord, therefore, points to the last priest definitely, in mentioning Zechariah, the last one mentioned in the Old Testament Scriptures. The Parousia Messenger says that is the whole sin-offering. The Epiphany Messenger, in harmony with the Scriptures and the teachings of Bro. Russell, tells us that he was the last priest. In spite of all these three proofs some will say, Oh, no! There are priests still in the earth! And many will follow such leaders into idolatry, worshipping their own ideas contrary to the Word of God. And they will say, "Do not send me any more of your Present Truths. It doesn't agree with my belief."

TWO WINGS OF THE EAGLE

We read in Psalm 91: 4, "He shall cover thee with His feathers (the individual teachings of Truth) and under His wings (the Old Testament wing and the New Testament wing) under His wings shalt thou trust. His truth shall be thy shield and thy buckler." Some are losing their shield. Some are also losing the buckler of consecration, which is the Truth that holds them to the Lord as their Head. Oh, it is a sad picture, my dear brethren! However, it is now being fulfilled in our midst and we should recognize it and warn the brethren against such idolatry

that is leading away from the Truth of God's Word. All right, but you say, Bro. Jolly, there was something terrible in that passage of Scripture you read, that if anyone was teaching anything that would lead away from the Lord into idolatry, into worshipping of other ideas than the Truth that is given in God's Word, you read that they should be stoned. Yes, that is what it says. It is in Deut. 13: 5 "And that prophet, or that dreamer of dreams [that speculator, that gazer that brings out ideas of his own, contrary to the Word of God] shall be put to death [cut off as a leader among the Lord's people] because he has spoken in order to turn you away from the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt [delivering us from the power of Satan and his dominion in this evil world] and redeemed you from the house of bondage [unto sin and death, giving you the liberty wherewith you stand in Christ] to entice you from the way in which the LORD your God commanded you to walk. So you shall put away the evil from your midst." The fourth verse shows how you should walk: "You shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice; you shall serve him, and hold fast to him."

SYMBOLIC STONING

Now, they were to put to death—the one that was sifting them away from full allegiance to God. How were they to do it? It was by stoning. Well, what does that mean? The stones represent the Truths of God's word. It is a symbolic stoning of course. We do not literally stone anyone. It is the symbolic stoning and the stones represent the Truths of God's Word. How do we know? Well, we read, for instance, in Numbers 15: 35, 36, "And the Lord said unto Moses, The man must surely be put to death; all the congregation shall stone him with stones outside the camp. So, as the LORD commanded Moses, all the congregation brought him outside the camp, and stoned him with stones, and he died." Now, of course, figuratively, our weapons, you know, are not carnal but spiritual to the pulling down of strongholds, to the bringing down of imaginations, gazings, speculations contrary to the Word of God. These stones are the words of Truth that we find in the Bible. We read, for instance, in connection with David and the stones that he took out of the brook and smote the giant Goliath. We read of these five smooth stones; and you remember the one that was the Ransom? The Ransom is the one that put to death the great evolution theory pictured by the giant Goliath. We read in Psalm 102: 14, "For Your servants take pleasure in her stones [speaking of Jerusalem, the City of God] and show favor to her dust." Even the finest details of Truth are favored by God's Truth people. So the Apostle Paul says that the weapons of our warfare are not

carnal. We are not to think of literal stoning of the brethren, of course, but we are to take the Truths of God's Word and refute the errors by the word of Truth.

Now these first five verses describe the individual that would become an idolater or that would lead others astray from the Truth of God's Word into their speculations, their gazings, their ideas and their leadership.

RESPONSIBILITY OF CLOSE RELATIONSHIPS

The second form of idolatry found in Deut. 13: 6-11. Let us notice carefully that this is in connection with blood relatives and close friends. Here, we bring in the personality. We see here even though it be your closest friend that goes out of the Truth, that goes to worshipping idols, other ideas, you can't go along. It could be the wife of your own bosom; could be your brother, your sister, your husband. You must not go along if you are going to be fully faithful to God and He is proving you if you love Him with ALL of your heart or just ninety percent of it; with all of you mind, with all your soul, with all of your strength. He is testing you. That is why He allows these things to take place. I have seen some very, very severe trials that have been stood by a faithful wife when her husband went astray, or have been stood by a faithful husband when the wife goes into the world and into idolatry such as the worshipping of power, or position, or social position in Babylon. Some husbands have had to be faithful to God under such stressful conditions where the wife went into Babylon and spoke evil of her own husband saying he had gone crazy on religion. Oh, yes, some very severe trials! And the Lord has been testing his people along those severe trials sometimes, in those severe ways.

UNFAITHFUL MOTHER

I have known some cases where a mother or a father would follow their own son. I am thinking of a mother that followed her son. She worshipped her son. She idolized her son, and when he went out of the Truth and went into worldly things, and he wanted her to come with him in his worldly functions; he had now a business, and he had to associate with others and they had to play cards and drink liquor and so forth, wanted his mother to go with him. She was a widow lady. She went with him. I know of a case where one of the former pilgrim brothers of Bro. Russell's day, one that I admired very much when he was faithful to the Lord, but I had to resist him when he went astray, following his son who was a Universalist. And this dear brother turned into Universalism because his son told him that Pastor Russell's idea of destroying the wicked was foolish; that God is powerful and is going to save everybody, even the

devil. The father went into that kind of idolatry and lost his favor with God. Sometime it may be a leader that brought you into the Truth, as we saw awhile ago; or one that you admire very highly and you put above God in your devotion, a big mistake. So, my dear friends, it says here that he must be the very first one to cast the stone. He has got to resist his own wife, her own husband when they go astray from the Lord. He is to be the first one to refute her, not literal stoning, not literal killing, no, but cutting her off from fellowship with him in the Lord if she goes to the table of devils or if she goes into the world. You remember the Apostle Paul spoke of Demas as one of these. Demas brought him much grief for Demas had been faithful as a servant of God and had helped the Apostle Paul in the Gospel ministry, but he said, "Demas is no longer with me for he loved the pleasures of this world." Paul could not go along with him. He was the first one that would disapprove of his wrong course.

The third form of idolatry is noted here. That brings in Deuteronomy 13: 12-18 where the whole city went into idolatry, and led them astray and had made a system of error. Please read the text and our comments follow: The sword of the Spirit, is the Word of God! Yes. The cattle are the supporting teachings that they might have; maybe like evolution deriving something from what they think is science. The camels, the cattle, would represent their sustaining and supporting theories.

A RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT

Indeed, these things were written aforetime for our learning that we, through patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope. First, we have the individual that would lead into idolatry, with himself becoming an idolater. Second, we have our own loved ones, however close, that would lead us far astray even to worshipping some things that formerly we had never heard of, some new truths, as they call them. Now this whole system of leaders with followers makes a system, a city. A city represents, you know, religious government, and these sifters frequently get enough following that they have a religious government of their own. The whole system together with its error should be gathered

together and burned by God's Holy Spirit. Destroyed! The word of Truth and the Spirit of the Truth only are to be held. Our devotion to God must be supreme above all other loves, devotions, and affiliations. The LORD your God is testing you, and me, whether we love the LORD our God with all of our heart, with all of our soul, with all of our mind, and with all of our strength. God is proving us in order that He may reward us in harmony with His good pleasure, but we are not to be hireling servants. We are to serve God because we love Him. We are to hold to the Truth because we have the love of the Truth in our hearts! We are to be sanctified by the Truth and not try to be sanctified by any system of error or any individual leader of error or any error itself, even though it may come from the nearest and dearest of our loved ones. We are to be the first to refute it! We are to be the first ones to expose the error or the sin and to hold faithfully to God.

Brethren, let us be strong in the LORD and in the power of His might. I have not tried to preach negatively this afternoon, but I know this Scripture is given for our benefit and we are living in the day that was prophesied that these things would be in our midst. God allows them in our midst to test us. May we rejoice that God is testing us, that we may have His okay on our characters when His work in us is completed. We are His workshop, brethren, and God is working in you to will and do of His good pleasure.

May God go with you from this convention greatly strengthened in the LORD and in your determination to stand faithfully and joyfully under the test that He is giving you that you may have His final, "Well done, good and faithful servant! Enter you into the joys of the LORD!"

I trust for the LORD's blessing on our study together of this beautiful thirteenth chapter of Deuteronomy, which was written for our benefit.

God bless you all,
Bro. R. G. Jolly

* * *

in remembrance

CLARA LEMON MCLEISH, died at the age 116. Sr. Clara was from Bartons, St. Catherine, Jamaica. The funeral services were held September 17. Bro. Calvin Hall. (LHMM Representative in Jamaica) officiated.

FAIRY CAIN TURNER, age 82, of Town Creek in White County, Georgia died October 8, 2006. She is survived

by her sons Mahlon and Melvin and two daughters Patricia Gailey and Sr. Sharon (Rush) Mauney of Cleveland, Georgia. Sr. Turner shared her love of God, creation and acceptance of Christ as the Ransom for all mankind with those she came in contact.

* * *

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MEMORIAL DATE FOR 2007

Saturday, March 31, after 6:00 p.m.

The Memorial date this year comes on March 31 after 6:00 p.m. The newing of the moon nearest the vernal equinox, at Jerusalem, occurs at 5:05 a.m. March 19. Accordingly Nisan 1 begins at 6:00 p.m. March 18 and Nisan 14 begins at 6:00 p.m. thirteen days later, or at 6:00 p.m. on March 31. May the Lord bless His consecrated people as we properly prepare ourselves to commemorate Him and His great sacrifice for us (1 Cor. 5: 7, 8)!

2007 LHMM CONVENTIONS

France: *Spring: March 24-25; Summer: July 27-29;*

Autumn: October 27-28

Germany: *Velbert, May 26-28*

Lithuania: *Kowno, June 16-18*

Poland: *Poznan, April 28-30; Bydgoszcz, July 10-12; Katowice, July 14-16; Rzeszow, July 17-19; Susiec, July 20-22; Krakow, August 24-26*

Ukraine: *Orlowka, June 29, 30 and July 1; Lwow, August 17-19*

United Kingdom: *Hyde, August 3-5; Sheffield, October 27 and 28*

United States: *California, March 16-18;*

New England: Windsor Locks, CT, May 18-20;

Ohio, July 20-22; Minneapolis, MN, September 21-23

HYMNS FOR 2007

Our hymn for the year 2007, is number 71 "Guide Me." Use this hymn on the first of each month as the day's hymn; all other days, please use the seventh (last) hymn listed with the day's Manna.

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