

know what
God thinks
the threads of doctrine



Book 3 of the '89 *Basics Series*

Bible doctrine is the thinking of God related to the human race. Nothing is more important than knowing what God thinks and understanding His policy.

Joe Griffin



**Joe Griffin
Media Ministries**

know what God thinks

the threads of doctrine



Book 3 of the '89 *Basics Series*

Bible doctrine is the thinking of God related to the human race. Nothing is more important than knowing what God thinks and understanding His policy.

Joe Griffin



**Joe Griffin
Media Ministries**

This book is edited from the lectures and unpublished notes of Joe Griffin.

For a complete listing of available MP3s and publications, see our website at: www.joegriffin.org

Joe Griffin Media Ministries
1821 South River Road
St. Charles, MO 63303-4124
USA
www.joegriffin.org
e-mail: jgmm@joegriffin.org

© 2010 by Joe Griffin Media Ministries. All rights reserved.
First edition published 2005. Second printing published 2010.

Photography of Joe Griffin (back cover) by Gary Knight.

Cover design by Patti Stanfield.

Cover photography © 2005 Clayton Stanfield

No part of this publication may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopy, recording, or any information storage and retrieval system, without permission in writing from the publisher.

Scripture taken from the *Holy Bible, New International Version*®. Copyright © 1973, 1978, 1984 International Bible Society. All rights reserved throughout the world. Used by permission of International Bible Society.

Printed in the United States of America

ISBN 0-9760775-2-3

Contents

Dedication	iv
Preface	v
Acknowledgments	vi
Introduction	1
Chapter One: The Importance of Doctrine	3
Chapter Two: The Doctrine of Dispensations	20
Chapter Three: Doctrine of the Mystery	58
Chapter Four: Doctrine of the Faith-Rest Drill	75
Scripture Index	131
Subject Index	136
End Notes	Inside Back Cover

Dedication

Every professional has a mentor. An apprentice learns his trade from a master and I have had the privilege of learning the hermeneutics of dispensational, pretribulational, premillennial, infralapsarian theology from the preeminent theologian of the twentieth century, Rev. Robert B. Thieme, Jr., who was the pastor of Berachah Church in Houston, Texas, from 1950-2003. His advances in the literal-grammatical-historical method of biblical analysis produced cutting-edge expositions of God's immutable truth to believers throughout the world. His due diligence in studying and teaching the Word of God for over five decades led myriads to spiritual maturity and prepared a host of men with the gift of pastor-teacher to present Bible doctrine to congregations across the United States and abroad. The doctrinal content of this series of books reflects these dynamic teachings from which I have benefited as pastor of Grace Doctrine Church. It is from enduring devotion and continuing gratitude that I dedicate this series to Robert B. Thieme, Jr.

Preface

Before you begin your Bible study, if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, be sure you have named your sins privately to God the Father.

If we confess our [known] sins, He is faithful and righteous to cleanse us from all [unknown, or forgotten sins] unrighteousness. (1 John 1:9)

You will then be in fellowship with God, filled with the Holy Spirit, and ready to learn Bible doctrine from the Word of God.

“God is spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in [the filling of the] spirit and [biblical] truth.” (John 4:24)

If you have never personally believed in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Savior, the issue is not naming your sins. The issue is faith alone in Christ alone.

“He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey [the command to believe in the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” (John 3:36)

Acknowledgments ---

The publication of this series of books on the basic doctrines of the Christian faith is the result of popular demand. Without the appeals of so many people who have listened to the audiotope series, this project would never have been considered. Bringing it to fruition required the diligent assistance of a number of faithful people.

Years ago, the original class notes were lost in a computer disk crash. Modern publishing requires that manuscripts be provided in digital format. Carole Allen, a member of Grace Doctrine Church, took on the task of restoring the lost documents from the original hard copy and without her help the venture would never have gotten off the ground.

Patti Stanfield of Stanfield Designs in Wildwood, Missouri, did a masterful job of preparing the restored data for publication according to standards from *The Chicago Manual of Style*. The professional appearance of this series is due to Patti's hard work. I appreciate her patience with me as I missed several deadlines along the way.

Finally, my picture on the back cover does as much grace to the subject as photographic expertise can provide. I am privileged to have had my countenance struck by one of the country's leading photographers, Gary Knight of Blue Ridge, Georgia. A fellow member of the Berachah Battalion, Gary went out of his way to come to St. Charles to do the shoot.

Appreciation is extended to Lindenwood University of St. Charles, Missouri, (www.lindenwood.edu) for allowing

us to use Boonesfield Village's Old Peace Chapel at its Daniel Boone Campus in Defiance, Missouri, for the photo sessions.

Joe Griffin, Pastor
Grace Doctrine Church
St. Charles, Missouri
May 2010

INTRODUCTION

About the '89 Basics Series

You are about to delve into **Book Three** of the *'89 Basics Series*, a series of basic instructional biblical studies. This study is designed for two categories of people:

- (1) Those who are not familiar with Christianity but would like to become oriented to its basic beliefs and doctrines.
- (2) Those who already consider themselves to be Christians but have to this point not been entirely clear on what principles are basic to the Christian faith.

We affectionately refer to church as God's "Classroom for Christianity." I am the teacher. The textbook is the Bible. You are the student.

In our course of study you will find it helpful to have a Bible handy. If you do not own one, may I suggest that you purchase the *Oxford Scofield Study Bible*. It is available in the King James Version and the New International Version.

This volume is part of a four-book series that contains my class notes for the *'89 Basics Series*. You may wish to use it as a study guide while listening to the series on audiotape or MP3 recordings, or study it independently. Please note that the course can be used effectively with either books *or* tapes or a combination of books *and* tapes. As you read through the textual material, references will direct you to listen to the audio media should you desire. The corresponding lesson number will be noted as shown below.

If you would like to obtain other books in this series or the recorded series, please provide your mailing address, indicating the book title and/or your desired media format (audiotape or MP3) and mail it to the address indicated on the inside back cover of this book. Entitled *End Notes*, this information states our Financial Policy and provides ordering information for those who desire to continue the series or proceed with further studies.



CHAPTER ONE

The Importance of Doctrine

(1) Definition

Bible doctrine is the thinking of God related to the human race. Nothing is more important than knowing what God thinks and understanding His policy.

(2) The learning of doctrine is classified as worship.

Psalm 138:2 - I myself will worship toward the temple of Your holiness (heaven), and I will be motivated to praise Your person, because of Your grace and Your doctrine. Because You have magnified Your doctrinal teaching over Your reputation.

Doctrinal teaching is the only way anyone can understand who and what God is.

(3) Bible doctrine is personified in Proverbs 8:33-36

Verse 33 - "Heed my instruction (Bible teaching) and become wise; do not neglect it.

Verse 34 - Happiness to the man who listens to me, watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doors.

Verse 35 - He who finds me (Bible doctrine) finds capacity for life and obtains grace blessing from the Lord.

Verse 36 - But he who sins against me, injures himself.

All those who hate me, love death (the sin unto death)."

- (4) Pastors are commissioned by God to communicate doctrine to members of the local church.

Colossians 1:25 - I (Paul) have become its (the church's) servant by the commission God gave me to present to you the Word of God in its fullness—

Verse 26 - the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints (believers).

- (5) The results of Bible doctrine in the soul.

1. It produces confidence toward life and circumstances.

Hebrews 10:35 - Do not throw away your confidence in doctrine for it will be richly rewarded.

2. It produces divine viewpoint and establishes priorities in the soul.

2 Corinthians 10:4 - The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

Verse 5 - We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.

3. It is the basis for divine guidance and the execution of the will of God.

Romans 12:2 - Stop being molded to this age but

be transformed by the renovation of your thought so you may prove what the will of God is.

4. It develops occupation with Christ in the soul of the believer.

The Bible is said to be the Word of God in Hebrews 4:12 and the mind of Christ in 1 Corinthians 2:16.

We are commanded in 2 Peter 3:18 to grow in grace (spiritual growth through knowledge of doctrine) and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Having the thinking of Christ results in preoccupation with Christ rather than preoccupation with people.

BAS-24

Philippians 2:1 - Therefore, if there is any encouragement in Christ [and there is], if there is any fellowship with the Spirit [and there is], if there is any tenderness and compassion [and there is];

Verse 2 - bring to completion my happiness that you might be thinking the same things [divine viewpoint], having the same virtue-love, being one in spirit [united in soul], and one purpose.

5. Occupation with Christ becomes a major problem-solving device.

Too often new believers enter Christianity with unrealistic expectations.

Due to false information or misunderstanding, they assume that because they have believed in Christ, all

their troubles are over.

Or, if troubles should appear, they may simply pray that God work a miracle and the problem will magically disappear.

Wrong! God has saved you and has provided you with all the assets necessary to learn divine problem-solving devices.

You are asked to represent Him in a hostile environment and to do so with great poise, grace, and aristocracy.

He gives you power to learn His plan and power to execute His plan.

Your historical impact is based upon your willingness to demonstrate to a lost and dying world the superiority of divine viewpoint over human viewpoint.

Occupation with Christ allows you to avoid the following hazards consistent with life in the cosmic system:

1. Overemphasis on self. When you are not being treated the way you want to be treated, you get your eyes on self. You become frustrated, bitter, vindictive, and implacable. You therefore make bad decisions from a position of weakness in the Cosmic System.

Romans 12:3 - Stop thinking of self in terms of arrogance beyond what you ought to think, but think in terms of objectivity (sober judgment) as God has assigned to

each one a standard of thinking based on doctrine (measure of faith).

2. Eyes on People. This leads to frustration. You will always be disappointed by people until you attain personal love for God, impersonal love for all mankind, and occupation with Christ. You will never be treated the way you think you should be treated. But only through knowledge of doctrine will you ever be able to deal with it.
3. Eyes on Things. This is jealousy and envy. You decided that since you aren't being treated the way you want, you will get what you want through sublimation. This ranges all the way from shopping sprees to drug abuse.
6. Occupation with Christ is God emphasis over people emphasis.
 1. Fellowship with God is infinitely more important than fellowship with people.
 2. God must come first in your life in order for you to execute God's plan for your life.
 3. Knowledge of the plan of God is only possible through a knowledge of the Word of God.
 4. Knowledge of the Word of God is made possible only through the teaching ministries of the Holy Spirit. (Philippians 3:10; Matthew 22:29)
 5. The mechanics of our divine instruction in

the Word is found in 1 Corinthians 2.

Introduction to 1 Corinthians 2

1. We have learned from our studies that the Bible must be learned through a system called faith.
2. Remember, faith is transitive and demands an object. That object is the living Word, Jesus Christ, and the written Word, the Bible.
3. The Bible contains a collection of divine thoughts which God intends primarily for utilization by believers only.
4. The Bible is therefore supernatural information and supernatural information demands a supernatural teacher.
5. That supernatural Teacher is the Holy Spirit. The system He uses to instruct us in the Bible we are going to call "The Grace Apparatus for Perception," GAP for short.
6. Remember that faith is one of three systems of human perception. The other two are rationalism and empiricism.
7. There is an English word which beautifully describes the objective of all systems of learning: Epistemology.
8. Epistemology is that branch of science which seeks to establish from available information that which is true and valid. It is a quest for certainty. Once certainty and validity is established, then belief may follow.

9. Orthodox Christianity operates under the principle that the Scripture contains absolute truth within the original manuscripts.
10. The biblical science of epistemology is thus called Textual Criticism: The study of existing biblical manuscripts in order to reconstruct as closely as possible the original text.
11. The Christian thus has confidence that the Bible contains infallible principles of absolute truth.
12. Learning supernatural information from the Bible however, goes beyond the basic faith perception of the human mind.
13. The spiritual faith process of learning is energized by the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit.
14. The divine system for learning biblical truth under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit is the subject of 1 Corinthians 2.

1 Corinthians 2

Verse 4 - My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Spirit's power.

Message = λόγος, *logos*: The content of what the pastor teaches. It is often translated "word" in the English and in John 1 refers to Jesus Christ. John 1:1 - In the beginning was the Word (*logos*) and the Word (*logos*) was with God and the Word (*logos*) was God.

Verse 14 - The Word (*logos*) became flesh and

tabernacled among us.

1. *Logos* then can refer to the Bible, the thoughts of God, Jesus Christ or the message of the Bible teacher.
2. Here it refers to the content of Paul's message.

"...and my preaching = κήρυγμα, *kêrugma* = the proclamation of a herald."

Paul is emphasizing both the content of his message and its communication to the Corinthians.

Paul is about to show the Corinthians the source of his information is not human but divine.

"were not in persuasive words of wisdom"

BAS-25

Persuasive - πειθός, *peithos* - intellectual rationales.

- (1) Refers to the wisdom of the day which came in several categories.
- (2) The word for "words" is the plural of λόγος, *logos* and is used on purpose by Paul since this was the word used by the cults of the day to indicate divine knowledge.
- (3) Consequently, the wisdom here is human wisdom, human viewpoint and human conclusion.
- (4) The word for "wisdom" is σοφία, *sophia* and refers

to human wisdom, a word Paul will use later with reference to doctrine in the soul of the believer.

- (5) So Paul is saying that his message did not contain the wisdom of some human, philosophical system of thinking.
- (6) The systems which were popular in Paul's day were:
 - a. Stoicism: A philosophy which believed that the source of all order and life was a thing called *logos*.

It taught that *logos* was present in every man and that by knowing *logos* man could lead a rational life.

Thus *logos* became the mediator between God and man and the means of understanding God.

Paul and John both used *logos* to represent both divine thought and Jesus Christ in order to express to the Greek and Roman world the identity of Jesus Christ in their own terms.

- b. Epicureanism: The belief that since there is no divine being to fear, human success is whatever brings you the most pleasure or happiness now.
 - c. Gnosticism: These types claimed that their knowledge originated from special divine revelation. *γνῶσις*, *gnôsis* refers to knowledge of divine mysteries known only by the few.

They referred to the Supreme Being as "the one" and said that his knowledge was available only to a few and it came upon them suddenly.

What “the one” revealed to them was never disclosed to the uninitiated. It had to be kept secret and was therefore called “mysteries.”

CTL 1 Corinthians 2:4 - Both my doctrine and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom (not Stoic, Epicurean or Gnostic) ...

...but with a demonstration of the Spirit’s power.

But = ἄλλ᾽, *alla* = Means an alternative to that just stated. Instead of being the words of human philosophical systems it is instead some alternate concept.

The alternate source of Paul’s doctrine is the Holy Spirit.

(1) Paul is about to make reference to the Divine Communications Network:

1. Revelation: The message of God related to the prophets and apostles.
2. Inspiration: The process where the prophets and apostles reduce divine revelation to writing. Thus you have “the inspired writing.”
3. Interpretation: The analysis of the “inspired writings” by a pastor.
4. Communication: The teaching by the pastor to his congregation.
5. Illumination: The teaching by the Holy Spirit of biblical truth to the soul of the positive-volition believer.
6. Animation: The application of divine viewpoint

to life in the form of correct thoughts, decisions and actions.

- (2) The supernatural teaching of the Holy Spirit is accomplished by means of δύναμις, *dunamis*: Power; a synonym for the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit functioning within the believer.
- (3) Paul says that his message was interpreted by him and communicated to them through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- (4) In other words, Paul has a spiritual gift of communication whereby the Holy Spirit functions through him in order to teach others.
- (5) And when that message is received by the listeners, it is also explained to them by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- (6) The message—*logos*—when taught by the Holy Spirit and accepted as truth by the believer becomes a knowledge which is superior to human knowledge.
- (7) Paul coined a new word to describe this super knowledge: *epignôsis* which means literally, “beyond gnosis.”
- (8) The Gnostic believed that the information they learned from the “logos” was a mystery known only to them and they called it γνῶσις.
- (9) Paul is about to demonstrate that the *epignôsis* of Christianity is available to an even more elite class of people: The royal family of God.
- (10) The knowledge known by the Christian is superior

to the knowledge known by the Gnostic.

- (11) The Corinthians were being attracted to the “secrets and mysteries” of Gnosticism.
- (12) Paul informs them that his wisdom is superior to that extolled by the Gnostics.
- (13) He challenges the Corinthians to choose the *epignôsis* of the Christian *logos* rather than the *gnôsis* of the Gnostic *logos*.

1 Corinthians 2:5 - Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the sphere of the power of God.

- (1) Paul warns the Corinthians that they should ignore the wisdom of the philosophers and submit to the power of God.
- (2) It is through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit that a person becomes knowledgeable about biblical truths.
- (3) The Greek is important here. The verse reads in the English, “in the power of God (KJV)” and “on God’s power (NIV).”
- (4) In the Greek it is ἐν, *en* + the locative of sphere from, *dunamis* and therefore should be translated, “in the sphere of the power of God.”
- (5) This sphere of power is in your soul. Within that sphere the Holy Spirit controls your thinking based on the amount of biblical truth available for recall.
- (6) Within this sphere of power the Holy Spirit will teach you the Word of God and further, He will

advise you as to its application to life.

- (7) This power is controlled by the “On/Off Switch” for the Christian way of life, the rebound technique.
- (8) The Holy Spirit utilizes the doctrine stored in the believer’s soul in assisting the decision making process.
- (9) The new believer has only a small amount of doctrine available for recall while the mature believer has a high inventory of ideas from which to draw.
- (10) The Holy Spirit will only recall for you those doctrines which he has taught and you have accepted.
- (11) He makes mention of mature believers in the next verse.

1 Corinthians 2:6 - However, when among mature believers, we keep on teaching wisdom (*sophia*) but a wisdom that does not belong to this age or to the leaders of this world who are becoming ineffective.

- (1) Paul asserts that the wisdom of his divinely empowered messages is the complete antithesis of the wisdom of the philosophers.
- (2) The impact of doctrine is that it enables the believer to separate the truth from the lie.

BAS-26

- (3) The believer with doctrine in his soul discovers that there is great wisdom to be found in empiricism.

- (4) For example, when you develop enough courage to apply doctrine to the problems of life, you enter into experiential Christianity.
- (5) The first time you apply doctrine to life you do it strictly on faith in the integrity of its Source: God the Father.
- (6) After you see doctrine work in your life you then have, in addition to your faith, experiential proof that doctrine works and that God is faithful.
- (7) At that point you put muscle on your faith. You have confidence God will do what He says plus you have personal experience He will do what He says.
- (8) Having seen doctrine work, you have even greater confidence in its power in the future.
- (9) Further, spiritual growth allows us to take the doctrines we have learned through faith and reach doctrinal rationales.
- (10) The ability to develop doctrinal rationales gives one courage to face life and circumstances and to endure testing.
- (11) For example, you suddenly face a major personal tragedy. You realize that it is real and is not going away. Therefore, you have no option but to deal with it. First of all you claim a promise.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - There is no testing taken you but such as is common to humanity (we all face problems of various descriptions): God is faithful (combination of immutability and omnipotence), Who will not allow you to be

tested beyond what you are able (God will not allow testings to enter the life of the positive believer beyond the capacity of his doctrinal inventory). But with the testing will provide a way of escape (biblical problem-solving devices which either solve the problem or provide the courage and wisdom to endure the problem), that you may be able to endure it (producing spiritual growth).

Claiming this promise gives you courage to face any exigency in life. You therefore develop a rationale: God is faithful; His Word is immutable; I have claimed the promise and I applied the doctrine. You reach the conclusion of Romans 8:31 - "If God is for us, who can be against us?"

Or, James 1:2 - Consider it pure happiness fellow believers, whenever you face trials (*πειρασμός*, *peirasmos*: Trials which have a beneficial purpose and effect; to prove by putting to the test) of many kinds (designed to put muscle on your faith),

Verse 3 - because you know that the testing of your faith develops perseverance *ὑπομονή*, *hupomonê*: stability, endurance and poise under pressure).

Verse 4 - Perseverance must finish its work so that you may be mature and complete (spiritual maturity) not lacking anything (reward and blessings).

Verse 5 - If any of you lacks wisdom (*epignôsis* understanding of doctrine), he should ask God, Who gives generously to all without finding

fault and it will be given to him (God will provide doctrine to those who are positive volition).

Or, 1 Peter 1:6 - In this you may rejoice though now for a time you may have suffered grief in all kinds of trials.

Verse 7 - These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

(12) Consequently, even though you may put muscle on your faith through experience and you may reach doctrinal rationales under pressure, the source for all your correct thoughts, decisions and actions is your faith in the Word of God.

(13) In verse 6, Paul says that this is the wisdom he is teaching, not the wisdom of the philosophers.

(14) As is being proven in our day, the false solutions of the philosophers are always found in the end to be wanting and ineffective.

1 Corinthians 2:7 - But we communicate wisdom from God in a mystery which mystery doctrine has been concealed and God predesigned before the ages resulting in our glory.

(1) Several very important things in this verse:

1. Mystery doctrine: μυστήριον σοφία, *mustêrion sophia*
2. Predesigned: προορίζω, *proorizô*
3. Ages: αἰών, *aiôn*

(2) Mystery doctrine is a body of divine knowledge

which God concealed from the Old Testament writers and believers.

- (3) These mystery doctrines became known through the writings of the New Testament apostles.
- (4) The verse says that God predetermined in eternity past that these doctrines would be made known.
- (5) However, until human history reached a certain point, He would keep them a mystery.
- (6) In order to understand the significance and the impact of the mystery doctrines we must pause and take a quick look at two doctrines:
 1. The Doctrine of Dispensations
 2. The Doctrine of the Mystery



CHAPTER TWO

The Doctrine of Dispensations

I. Introduction

- (1) Dispensations are God's administration of human history through delegated authority.
- (2) This delegated authority is possessed by an individual or by certain groups of people at different times in history.
- (3) Each dispensation requires its chosen agents to accept the responsibility of preserving, guarding and disseminating the Word of God.
- (4) Dispensations are not so much a segment of time as a period in which the chosen authority reveals its faithfulness or its faithlessness in fulfilling its mission.
- (5) If a given group fails to execute its assignment then God changes administrative agencies.
- (6) Judgment is brought upon the administration which failed.
- (7) Divine administrative authority is then delegated to a new individual or group.
- (8) Each succeeding administration retains some of the mandates of the former agent, some are rescinded and new ones are issued through the process of divine revelation.

- (9) Dispensations are therefore an outline of God's interpretation of human history.
- (10) The plan of God varies with every dispensation.
- (11) For example: In the Old Testament, the Jews were under the *ritual* plan of God.
- (12) God's plan, purpose and will was revealed through the Mosaic Law, the Levitical offerings, temple worship, feast days and holy days and the function of the Levitical priesthood.
- (13) In the New Testament, the Church is under the *power* plan of God.
- (14) God's plan, purpose and will are revealed through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit Who teaches the completed canon of Scripture to the believer inside the divine power system.
- (15) But while there are different plans for each dispensation, there is always only one way of salvation: faith alone in Christ alone.

BAS-27

II. Outline of the Dispensations

(1) The Theocentric Dispensations

A. THE DISPENSATION OF THE GENTILES

- 1. The Era of Positive Volition: From the creation of man to the fall.
(Genesis 2:7-3:6)

- a. The divine institution of marriage
(Genesis 2:22-25)
2. The Era of Negative Volition: From the fall to Abraham (Genesis 3:6-12:1)
 - a. The divine institution of the family
(Genesis 3:16)
 - b. Angelic infiltration of the human race
(Genesis 6:1-4)
 - c. The universal Flood (Genesis 6:5-8:14).
 - d. Human government
(Genesis 8:15-10:32)
 - e. The divine institution of nationalism
(Genesis 11:1-8)
 1. Tower of Babel (Verses 1-6)
 2. Introduction of languages (Verse 7)
 3. Creation of nations (Verse 8)
3. The Era of the Patriarchs: From Abraham to Moses (Genesis 12:1-Exodus 13)
 - a. It was the responsibility of the male head of the household to communicate spiritual truths to his wife and family.
 - b. Such revelation was made known through four systems of communication:
 1. Dreams (asleep)
 2. Visions (awake)
 3. Teaching angels
 4. Direct instruction by theophany

John 8:56 - "Your father Abraham rejoiced at the thought of seeing My

day: he saw it and was glad."

Verse 57 - "You are not yet 50 years old," the Jews said to Him, "And You have seen Abraham!"

Verse 58 - "I tell you the truth," Jesus answered, "Before Abraham was born, I AM!"

- c. The Patriarchs included Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob's name was ultimately changed to Israel.

1 Chronicles 2:1 - These are the 12 sons of Israel: Reuben, Simeon, Levi and Judah, Issachar and Zebulun, (Verse 2) Dan, Joseph, and Benjamin, Naphtali, Gad and Asher. (Genesis 25:12-16 and the 12 Tribes of Arabia.)

B. THE DISPENSATION OF ISRAEL OR THE JEWS

- 1. The Mosaic Law (Exodus 14-Acts 2)
 - a. Codex 1: Decalogue; the Ten Commandments. Statement of basic morality and an outline of freedom.
 - b. Codex 2: Spiritual Code. Taught complete Christology and soteriology through prophecy, ritual, the priesthood, the sacrifices, feast days and holy days.
 - c. Codex 3: The Judgments; the Establishment Code. Restated the four

Divine Institutions of volition, marriage, family, and nationalism. Established privacy of property, sanctity of human life; the principle of freedom with responsibility; free enterprise as the divinely ordained system of economics.

2. It was the responsibility of the Levitical priesthood to communicate spiritual truths to the male heads of households through the Spiritual Code, Codex 2.
3. Later the prophets made known through progressive revelation additional divine instructions.
4. The nation Israel was established as a client nation to God to administer the development, preservation, inculcation and dissemination of the Word of God.
5. The ritual plan of God was designed to act as a set of visual aids to assist the Jews in their inculcation of the Word.
6. The Mosaic Law was designed to convince the Jews that they were sinners and needed a Savior.
7. It further functioned to reveal that Savior to them.

(2) The Christocentric Dispensations

A. THE DISPENSATION OF THE INCARNATION

1. From the Virgin Birth to the resurrection,

ascension and session.
(The 4 Gospels plus Acts 1:1-11).

2. The Virgin Birth of our Lord was the introduction into human history of the unique Person of the universe.
3. At the moment of the Virgin Birth, God the Father imputed soul life to the biological life of our Lord thus creating His human life.
4. Up until the Virgin Birth, the biological life of Jesus was mother dependent upon Mary.
5. There was no soul life until the Virgin Birth as per Psalm 22:10 - "I (Jesus Christ) was cast upon You (God dependence) from (physical) birth. You have been My God out from (*mibeten*) My mother's womb."
6. At physical birth, God imputed soul life to our Lord's biological life thus creating human life.
7. His human life was, from that point to His physical death on the cross, God dependent: "I was cast upon You ...; You have been my God out from my mother's womb (Virgin Birth)."
8. The deity of Christ remained in heaven until the appointed time for His unique entry into history.
9. That unique time was the moment of the Virgin Birth when Christ's undiminished deity was united with His true humanity.

10. This is documented in Hebrews 10:5 -
Therefore, when He (Christ) entered the world (Virgin Birth), He simultaneously said, "You (Father) did not desire sacrifice and the act of presenting an offering, but You have prepared and supplied for Me a human body."
11. This union of deity with a human body formed what is known in theology as the hypostatic union.

BAS-28

12. In previous lessons we have defined the hypostatic union as follows:

In the Person of Christ are two natures, inseparably united, without mixture or loss of separate identity, without loss or transfer of properties or attributes, the union being personal and eternal.

13. Briefly put, the hypostatic union claims that Jesus Christ is undiminished deity and true humanity in one Person forever.
14. Christ's first claim in the Incarnation was to be the Son of David in fulfillment of the prophecy given to David in 2 Samuel 7:

Verse 11b - "The Lord declares to you that the Lord Himself will establish a dynasty for you.

Verse 12 - When your days are over and you rest with your fathers, I will raise up your Offspring to succeed you, Who will come from your own body, and I will

establish His kingdom.”

Verse 16 - “Your dynasty and your kingdom will endure forever before Me; your throne will be established forever.”

15. Peter taught the crowd in Jerusalem in Acts 2 that Christ had fulfilled this promise to David.

Verse 29 - “Brothers, I can tell you confidently that the patriarch David died and was buried and his tomb is here to this day.

Verse 30 - But he was a prophet and knew that God had promised him on oath that he would place one of his descendants on his throne.”

16. The historical fulfillment of the prophecy is noted in the genealogies of Matthew 1 and Luke 3.
17. His mission was to present Himself to Israel as its expected Messiah.
18. Had the Jews responded to His message, then our Lord would have set up the kingdom and fulfilled the promises to the nation of Israel.
19. He publicly presented his political and social platform for His kingdom reign in what is known as the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew 5-7.
20. However the nation Israel rejected Him as Messiah and thus the implementation of the

platform was postponed until the Second Advent.

21. When Israel rejected His claims to Messiahship, our Lord turned his attention to the few who followed him through faith.
22. He informed them of a new dispensation which would replace the dispensation of Israel in what is known as the Upper Room Discourse in John 14-17.
23. While in the Incarnation, our Lord initiated a prototype system for living a life free of influence from the Devil's world.
24. That system was demonstrated by Him in eight major categories of function we will call the prototype divine power system.
25. Our Lord demonstrated the encapsulated environment of this system throughout His earthly ministry.
26. The prototype divine power system:
 - (1) Christ was filled with the Holy Spirit at the point of the Virgin Birth.
 1. Prophesied in Isaiah 11:

Verse 2 - The Spirit of the Lord will rest upon Him.
 2. Also note Isaiah 42:

Verse 1 - "Here is my Servant, Whom I uphold,

My chosen One in Whom I delight; I will put My Spirit upon Him and He will bring justice to the nations.”

3. Matthew claimed Jesus Christ to be the fulfillment of that prophecy in Matthew 12:18 where he quotes Isaiah 42:1.
4. Our Lord cast out demons by the enabling power of the Holy Spirit according to Matthew 12:

Verse 28 - “If I cast out demons by means of the Holy Spirit, then the kingdom of God has come to you.”

5. The enabling power of the Holy Spirit is noted in our Lord’s teaching ministry in Luke 4:

Verse 14 - Jesus returned to Galilee in the power of the Holy Spirit and news about Him spread through the whole countryside.

Verse 15 - He taught in their synagogues and everyone praised Him...

Verse 16 - He went to Nazareth, where He had been brought up and on the Sabbath day (Saturday), He went into the synagogue as was His custom. And He stood up to read.

Verse 17 - The scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. Unrolling it, He found the place where it was written (Isaiah 61:1-2).

Verse 18 - “The Holy Spirit is on Me, because God has anointed Me to preach good news to the poor (those who are without hope and

eternal life). He has sent Me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners (redemption for those who are imprisoned in the slave market of sin) and recovery of sight for the blind (those who are unbelievers are blind to the truth in their fallen state), to release the oppressed (those under the tyranny of religion),

Verse 19 - To proclaim the year of the Lord's favor (First Advent)."

6. It was the Holy Spirit which sustained our Lord during the Incarnation in a status of impeccability. Hebrews 9:

Verse 13 - If the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkled those who had been defiled and sanctified them to the purification of flesh,

Verse 14 - how much more (a fortiori) will the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Holy Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God (impeccability), cleanse your conscience from dead works (human good production) to serve the living God (divine good production)."

7. The Holy Spirit was available to our Lord at all times and without restraint according to John 3:

Verse 34 - For the one Whom the Father has sent speaks the doctrines from God, for God did not give the Holy Spirit in a limited way.

- (2) Jesus Christ grew both physically and spiritually and executed the basic problem-solving devices.

1. Luke 2:52 - He grew in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and men.
2. At age 12, our Lord displayed a complete understanding of doctrine. Luke 2:

Verse 46 - After three days they (Joseph and Mary) found Him in the temple courts, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking questions.

Verse 47 - Everyone who heard Him was amazed at His understanding and His answers.

- (3) Christ developed genuine humility which is the status of voluntary authority orientation.

1. This was expressed in His prayer at Gethsemane. Matthew 26:

Verse 39 - "Father, if it be Thy will, let this cup pass from Me, nevertheless, not My will but Thy will be done."

2. Our Lord emphasized the absence of arrogance in the state of humility in Luke 14:

Verse 11 - "Everyone who exalts Himself will be humbled and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

3. Such humility was developed at a very early age under the organized humility of the home of Joseph. Luke 2:

Verse 51 - He (Jesus) went down to Nazareth with them (His parents) and was obedient to them.

- (4) Under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, Jesus was able to rapidly attain spiritual maturity.

1. His spiritual growth is indicated in Luke 2:

Verse 40 - The Child grew and became strong being filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him.

2. His acquisition of spiritual truth was not as a result of study but by the divine instruction of the Holy Spirit. John 7:

Verse 15 - The Jews were amazed and asked, "How did this Man get such understanding without having studied?"

Verse 16 - Jesus answered, "My teaching is not My own. It comes from Him who sent Me."

Verse 17 - "If anyone chooses to do God's will, he will find out whether My teaching comes from God or whether I speak on my own."

3. Jesus further emphasized the point in John 8:

Verse 28 - "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on My own but speak just what the Father has taught Me."

4. In this same passage, He demonstrates His complete knowledge of doctrine. John 8:

Verse 54 - Jesus replied, "If I glorify Myself, My glory means nothing. My Father, whom you claim as your God, is the one who glorifies Me.

Verse 55 - "Though you do not know Him (γινώσκω, *ginôskô* : Suggests the process of knowledge; i.e., the Pharisees had not even begun to know God due to unbelief); I know Him (οἶδα, *oïda*: speaks of the fullness of knowledge about a subject; i.e., Jesus knew the Father perfectly). If I said I did not (know God), I would be a liar like you, but I do know Him (*oïda*) and keep His Word."

5. Jesus Christ possessed a personal love for God. John 14:

Verse 31 - "The world must learn that I love the Father and that I do exactly what My Father has commanded Me."

6. Christ fulfilled the salvation plan of God by directing impersonal love toward all mankind.
 1. The entire human race is the recipient of His saving grace. Ephesians 5:

Verse 2 - Live a life of impersonal love just as Christ impersonally loved us and gave Himself up for us as a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.

BAS-29

2. For the few who respond to His Gospel, He offers them His personal love. John 15:

Verse 9 - "As the father has loved Me (personal love), so I have loved you. Remain in My love (divine power system)."

3. Christ has impersonal love for all believers.
Revelation 3:

Verse 19 - "Those whom I love (impersonal love) I rebuke and discipline. So, get serious and rebound!"

4. Christ expresses personal love for the few who are positive volition toward doctrine.
John 14:

Verse 21 - "Whoever has My mandates and obeys them, he is the one who loves Me (personal love). He who loves Me personally will be loved by My Father personally and I, too, will love him personally and show myself to him."

5. Our Lord directs impersonal love toward all at the resurrection of the Church called the rapture. Romans 8:

Verse 35 - Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?

Verse 38 - I stand convinced that neither death nor life; neither angels nor archons; neither things present nor things future; neither powers;

Verse 39 - neither heaven nor hell nor any other created thing shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

6. Our Lord's personal love for the few who fulfill the plan of God in time will be

expressed at the royal award ceremonies of the judgment seat of Christ.

1. Knowledge of Bible doctrine produces correct thoughts, decisions and actions and earns special rewards for the believer in eternity. 2 Corinthians 5:

Verse 10 - For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, in order that each one (believers) may receive what is due him for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad.

2. For those who persist in the intake of biblical truth, they will receive rewards.
3. Such types are described in Revelation 2 and 3 as “winners” or as the KJV says “the ones who overcometh.”
4. In the Greek it is τῷ νικῶντι, *toi nikônti* and means “to the winner” or the one who endures a lifetime of persistent inculcation of doctrine. Revelation 2:

Verse 7 - “To the winner, I will grant the privilege to eat from the tree of life which is in the paradise of God.”

Verse 17 - “To the winner, I will give blessing from the hidden manna and I will give him a white pebble on which is written a new name; no one knows it except the one who receives it.”

Verse 26 - “The winner, even he who

keeps My assignments until the end, to him I will give authority over the nations.”

Verse 28 - “Furthermore, I will induct him into the order of the Morning Star.”

Revelation 3:5 - “The winner shall be clothed in a togae candida (white robe) and I will never blot his name out of the book of life, in fact, I will acknowledge his new title of royalty in the presence of My Father and before His angels.”

Verse 12 - “For the winner, I will make him a stele in the temple of My God, furthermore, he will never vanish from history. Also I will blazon on him (1) the title of My God, (2) also the New Jerusalem which shall descend from heaven from the source of God, and (3) also with My new name.”

Verse 21 - “To the winner, I will give the reward of sitting with Me on My throne.”

5. It should be noted that the availability of these rewards and blessings is a legitimate motivation for consistent attendance at Bible class and the subsequent application of doctrine to life.
7. Jesus entered momentum testing under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.

John 15:18 - “If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated Me first.”

In Verse 25, our Lord points out that “They hated Me without a cause.”

His testings under Satan were endured and passed by means of the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Luke 4:

Verse 1 - Jesus, filled by the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Holy Spirit into the desert.

Verse 2 - Where for 40 days He was tested by the Devil.

8. Finally, He achieved maximum happiness through the execution of divine thought inside the divine power system. John 15:

Verse 10 - “If you obey My commandments, you will remain in My love, just as I have obeyed My Father’s commandments and remain in His love.

Verse 11 - “I have told you this so that My happiness may be in you and that your happiness might be complete.”

1. Two things sustained our Lord on the cross: the enabling power of the Holy Spirit through the recall of doctrine and secondly, His perfect happiness which enabled Him not to be distracted by our sins. Hebrews 12:

Verse 2 - Be concentrating on Jesus, the Pioneer and Perfecter of our faith, Who, because of His exhibited happiness,

endured the cross, while simultaneously disregarding its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

9. Consequently, Christ fulfilled the salvation plan of God and thereby glorified God.
John 17:

Verse 4 - "I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work You gave Me to do."

10. It was the omnipotence of the Holy Spirit which energized the prototype divine power system. Romans 1:

Verse 3 - Concerning His Son, who was born from the progeny of David according to the flesh (hypostatic union),

Verse 4 - who has been demonstrated to be the Son of God (diety) by means of the power belonging to the Holy Spirit...

Acts 10:38 - God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power...

11. By successfully functioning for 33 years inside the prototype divine power system, our Lord served as a pattern—or a prototype.
12. As He utilized the available omnipotence of the Holy Spirit to fulfill the will of God in the Incarnation, so we are to utilize this same power to execute the plan of God in our lives.
13. Thus the Incarnation was a dispensation in which Jesus Christ demonstrated to us the

process and procedure whereby one glorifies God and executes His plan.

14. Christ originally approached the Jews and spoke to them about the kingdom of God in which He would be the ruling Messiah on David's throne in Jerusalem.
15. When He determined that the Jews had rejected Him as their Messiah, He initiated a change in His teaching.

B. CHRIST'S SHIFT OF THEOLOGY FROM ISRAEL TO THE CHURCH

1. Our Lord's messages and instructions initially centered upon His proposed kingdom reign over Israel.
2. But He did not wish to demonstrate His unlimited benefits on the nation Israel until He had been accepted as Messiah.
3. Therefore, He consistently made the statement in the book of John, "My hour has not yet come."

BAS-30

4. Once the Jews accepted his Messiahship, He would then begin lavishing His blessings on them.
5. Note John 2 and the account of the wedding at Cana:

Verse 3 - When the wine was gone, Jesus'

mother said to Him, "They have no more wine."

Verse 4 - "Woman, why do you involve me?"
Jesus replied, "My hour has not yet come."

6. His half-brothers who were all unbelievers at the time, pestered our Lord in John 7:

Verse 3 - Jesus' brothers said to Him, "You ought to leave here and go to Judea, so Your disciples may see the miracles You do."

Verse 4 - "No one, who wants to become a public figure, acts in secret. Since You are doing these things, show Yourself to the world."

Verse 5 - For even His own brothers did not believe on Him.

Verse 6 - Therefore, Jesus told them, "The right time for Me has not yet come..."

7. Christ had obviously been offering Himself as the King-Messiah of Israel.
8. His coronation and session depended upon the acceptance of His claims by the Jewish people.
9. So He says to His unbelieving brothers, "My time has not yet come."
10. Christ however, in fulfillment of the Law, went to Jerusalem for the Feast of Tabernacles but He did so in private.

11. At the halfway mark of the Feast, or the fourth day, Jesus went to the temple and began to teach.
12. At this session, He again put forward His claims of Messiahship but the people reacted rather than responded.
13. Their reaction involved trying to seize him.
John 7:

Verse 30 - At this point they tried to seize Him, but no one laid a hand on Him, because His hour had not yet come.

14. Again His offer of Himself as the Messiah was rejected.
15. Three days later, following the Feast of Tabernacles, Christ went back to the temple.
16. This time He not only faced the people of Israel but also the scribes and Pharisees.
17. In John 8:12 He begins an interesting dissertation:

Verse 12 - "I am the Light of the world. Whoever follows Me will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life."

18. The Pharisees protested that Christ's claim of being the Light of the world was invalid due to lack of witnesses.
19. But Christ offered Himself and the Father as witnesses to this fact.

20. Note verse 18 - "I am one who testifies for Myself; My other witness is the one who sent Me—the Father."
21. The Pharisees are ignorant of who the Father is.
22. The Scripture is clear that if you do not accept Christ as Savior, you do not have the privilege of knowing God.
23. It is important that this principle be made abundantly clear, so let's document this from the Scripture and from our Lord's own commentary:

Matthew 11:27 - "All things have been committed to Me by My Father. No one knows the Son except the Father and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal Him."

John 5:23 - "He who does not honor the Son does not honor the Father who sent Me."

Exodus 20:4 - "You shall not make for yourself an idol...[verse 5] You shall not bow down to them or worship them..."

John 5:37 - "The Father who sent Me has Himself testified concerning Me. You have never heard His voice nor seen His form,

Verse 38 - nor does His Word dwell in you, for you do not believe in the one He sent."

John 8:42 - "If God were your (Pharisees') Father, you would love Me, for I came from

God and now am here. I have not come on My own but He sent Me.

Verse 43 - Why is My language not clear to you? Because you are unable to hear what I say.

Verse 44 - You belong to your father, the Devil, and you want to carry out your father's desire. He was a murderer from the beginning, not holding to the truth, for there is no truth in him. When he lies, he speaks his native language, for he is a liar and the father of lies.

Verse 45 - Yet because I tell the truth, you do not believe Me!

Verse 46 - Can any of you prove Me guilty of sin? If I am telling you the truth, why don't you believe Me?

Verse 47 - He who belongs to God hears what God says. The reason you do not hear is that you do not belong to God."

John 8:19 - Then they asked Him, "Where is your Father?" Jesus replied, "You do not know Me or My Father. If you knew Me, you would know My Father also."

24. The Pharisees were legalistic, ascetic and pious Jews. Christ is personally telling them they do not know God.
25. He further instructs them that only He could introduce them to the Father.

26. He appeared at the temple following the Feast of Tabernacles to demonstrate to the Pharisees and anyone else interested that He was the Light of the world and the Water of life.
27. The Feast of Tabernacles had two major rituals which taught about Christ:
 1. Lighting the golden lampstand so as to illuminate the court in the evening.
 2. Bringing water from the pool of Siloam to pour around the altar.
28. Lighting the golden lampstand was a type for Israel's need for light of which God was the only Source. Christ was that Light.
29. Pouring out the water was a type of Israel's need for cleansing or rebound adjustment.
30. While lecturing at the temple, Christ declared Himself as the "Light of the world" in John 8:12.
31. He had previously pointed to the ritual of pouring water around the altar in John 7:37 and said, "If a man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink."
32. All of these things were declarations of Messiahship so that in John 8:20 we read,

Verse 20 - He spoke these words while preaching in the temple near the place where the offerings were put. Yet no one seized

Him because His hour had not yet come.

33. Please note that throughout the book of John, our Lord has been teaching His people, the Jews.
34. He has provided for them miracles and fulfillment of Old Testament prophecies concerning Himself.
35. But the overwhelming majority of them had consistently rejected His message.
36. The result of this ongoing denial of His Messiahship caused Christ to make a statement over and over: "My hour has not yet come."
37. Once the nation Israel accepted Him as her Messiah, then His time would arrive to establish His kingdom.
38. But the Jews continued to say, "No! No! No!"
39. Finally an incident occurred that signaled Israel's negative volition was terminal.
40. The story of our Lord's ministry had been so powerful that Gentiles were responding to His message brought to them by word-of-mouth.
41. In our final passage, we see citizens of Greece coming to Jerusalem on Palm Sunday in order to seek an audience with Jesus.

42. John 12:

Verse 20 - Now there were some Gentiles among those who went up to worship at the Feast (Passover).

Verse 21 - They came to Philip, who was from Bethsaida (Beth-SAY-e-duh) in Galilee, with the request: "Sir, we would like to see Jesus."

Verse 22 - Philip went to tell Andrew; Andrew and Philip in turn told Jesus.

Verse 23 - Jesus replied, "The hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified."

43. The truth was now obvious: The Jews had rejected Him as their Messiah while the Gentiles were now willing to accept Him as Savior.

44. This initiated an instant change of plans:

1. The Kingdom must be postponed.
2. The nation Israel must be rejected by God for its unbelief.
3. A new dispensation must be initiated.
4. The Gentile's will now become God's new administrative agency in the Devil's world.
5. Christ must go to the cross to die for the sins of the entire world.
6. Those who respond from that point on will enjoy a unique relationship with God.
7. In this new dispensation, believers will receive privileges and benefits never before

- available to believers prior to the cross.
8. This elite group would be classified as the “new spiritual species;” members of God’s royal family.
 9. This new aristocracy would receive distinctive instructions defining a unique plan of God.
 10. This new plan would be the power plan of God.
 11. The dispensation would be called the Church Age.
 12. The distinctive instructions would include a large amount of information never before known or understood by the Old Testament writers.
 13. This new body of knowledge would be called the mysteries.
-
45. Our Lord immediately began introducing His disciples to this new body of knowledge in John 13.
 46. Note verse 1 - It was just before the Passover feast. Jesus knew that the hour had come for Him to leave this world and go to the Father.

A. Summary and Conclusion

- (1) In the dispensation of the Incarnation, Christ presented Himself in two phases:

Phase 1: As the Son of David, the prophesied Messiah, the ancient God of Israel.

In this phase, He made His identity clear by the performance of miracles, healing the sick and doctrinal lectures.

He presented His Millennial platform in the Sermon on the Mount, however Israel's rejection forced a postponement of this policy.

Phase 2: As Head of the Church over the royal family of God.

He first introduces the mystery doctrines of the coming dispensation in John 14-17 and Acts 1.

Israel's rejection of His Messiahship caused her to lose client nation status and brought about the creation of a new dispensation.

- (2) During the entire dispensation of the Incarnation, Jesus Christ functioned completely inside the prototype divine power system.
- (3) He resisted temptation and endured the cross thus setting the example for those believers of the new dispensation.
- (4) Only one Man has stood the test of *cosmos diabolicus* and remained inviolate: our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

B. The Dispensation of the Church

- (1) The Church Age began on the day of Pentecost, A.D. 30 and will end at the resurrection of the Church or what is commonly called the rapture.
- (2) Pentecost is a Jewish feast which occurs 50 days after Passover.
- (3) The Church Age is divided into two parts:
 - a. The Pre-Canon (A.D. 30-96). This is the era of temporary spiritual gifts such as miracles, healing, prophecy, apostleship and tongues.
 - b. The Post-Canon Period (96-rapture). This is the era of permanent spiritual gifts such as pastor-teacher, evangelist, showing mercy, helps, and administration.
- (4) The Church Age is unique because of its mystery doctrines, those principles found in the New Testament which were unknown to the Jews of the Old Testament.
- (5) The life of our Lord in the dispensation of the Incarnation thus becomes the source of all precedence for believers in the Church Age.

BAS-31

- (6) Divine policy is revealed through the New Testament epistles.
- (7) The unique aspects of the dispensation are revealed in what are known as the mystery doctrines.

- (8) The specifics of doctrines which make up the mysteries will be discussed briefly after we conclude our study of the dispensations.
- (9) But one unique factor we will note now is that there is no prophecy in the Church Age.
- (10) This dispensation could end at any moment for there is no prophecy in Scripture which must be fulfilled before the rapture of the Church may occur.
- (11) I think it interesting to note three passages of Scripture defining the termination of the Church Age, or the rapture.
 - a. 1 Corinthians 15:35-39; 42-57
 - b. Philippians 3:20-21
 - c. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
- (12) Between our salvation and our physical death or the rapture, whichever comes first, we are to execute the Christian way of life.
- (13) The Christian way of life is lived by the Church Age believer who functions at all eight areas of the divine power system through the application of doctrine to life.

C. The Eschatological Dispensations

Note: Eschatology: The study of any area of Scripture which deals with events which were future at the time of their writing. A more narrow view of eschatology concerns itself with prophecies which are yet unfulfilled in contemporary history. The prophecies of this latter area include the dispensations of the Tribulation and the Millennium.

(1) The Dispensation of the Tribulation

- a. This period of history lasts for approximately seven years and runs from the rapture of the Church to the Second Advent of Christ.
- b. This period is widely prophesied throughout the Scripture: Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel and Zechariah in the Old Testament and Matthew and Revelation in the New.
- c. In fact, Revelation 6-19 concerns this brief but cataclysmic period of future history in exacting detail.
- d. This is the most destructive, calamitous and degenerate time in all of world history.
- e. This is Satan's last desperate attempt to prevent the Second Advent of Christ.
- f. It will be revealed to him that he has failed miserably in establishing a perfect environment for the human race through human effort.
- g. The only way he can thus win the Angelic Conflict is to remove from history the only reason Christ must return to earth: The Jew.
- h. In the Old Testament, Jesus Christ made several promises to Israel.
- i. When God gives a promise, it must be kept or God is not God.
- j. These promises are called the unconditional covenants.

- k. These unconditional covenants consist of four paragraphs in God's contract with Israel:
 1. The Abrahamic Covenant: Promised Abraham that he would be the father of a new race of people which would become God's chosen people on earth.
Genesis 12:2; 13:16; 15:5; 21:12
 2. The Palestinian Covenant. Promised the Jews all the real estate between the Nile and Euphrates Rivers. This provides the chosen people Israel with a promised land.
Genesis 13:14-15; 15:18; 26:3; 35:12;
Exodus 6:2-5, 8.
 3. The Mosaic Covenant. Provided the chosen people a social, spiritual and establishment code by which to preserve its human and spiritual freedoms. This is known as the Mosaic Law and is contained in the Torah or the first five books of the Old Testament.
 4. The Davidic Covenant. The promise to David that one of his sons would rule on his throne in Jerusalem forever. That Son was Jesus Christ.
2 Samuel 7:16; Luke 1:32-33; Zechariah 14:9
 5. The New Covenant. The promise to Israel that in the future it will be God's final client nation during the Millennial reign of their Messiah, Jesus Christ.
Jeremiah 31:31-34
- l. All of these promises will be kept by Jesus Christ at the Second Advent and the Millennium to follow.

- m. If Satan can eliminate the Jew from history then that would effectively preclude the need of Jesus Christ's return to earth.
- n. If there are no Jews then there is no one to whom the Lord can fulfill His promises.
- o. If the Lord makes a promise He cannot keep, then He is not God, He is not trustworthy, He is not immutable and He is not faithful.
- p. As long as there is a Jew alive on earth, Jesus Christ can keep His promises to them.
- q. Consequently, this is one of the strongest rationales found in Scripture for pro-Semitism.
- r. Any time a believer expresses through thought, decision or action any anti-Semitic concept, to that degree he is contributing to the satanic plot to eliminate the Jew from history and cancel the Second Advent.
- s. The Tribulation is that dispensation in which such efforts reach their height.
- t. And noticeably, one of the great things which contributes to that period's chaotic conditions is the removal of the believer from history through the rapture.
- u. Note 2 Thessalonians 2:1-14 (NIV)

(2.) The Millenium

- a. This is the final dispensation of human history and will last for 1,000 years.
- b. It commences with the Second Advent of Christ and concludes with the destruction of the earth and the entire universe by Jesus Christ.
Revelation 19; 2 Peter 3:10, 12-13
- c. The larger portion of Old Testament prophecies involves the Millennium.
- d. The following describes the events surrounding the Second Advent and defines the conditions which are typical of the millennial reign of our Lord:
 1. Israel is restored as a nation.
Isaiah 5:26-30, 10:19-23, 11:11-16, 65:19;
Joel 2:16; Zechariah 8:20-23, 10:6-12
 2. All the unconditional covenants are fulfilled to Israel.
Daniel 9:24
 3. The Millennium has perfect environment.
Zechariah 14:10; Romans 8:21
 4. There is universal peace.
Psalm 46:9; Isaiah 2:4; Hosea 2:18; Micah 4:3
 5. There is universal prosperity.
Amos 9:13-15

6. Since the world will be under the benevolent dictatorship of Christ, there will be a perfect world government.
Isaiah 11:1-2, Zechariah 14:9
7. There will be universal knowledge of God.
Isaiah 11:9
8. There will be longevity in the human race.
Isaiah 65:20
9. There will be perfect administration of justice under the rulership of Christ.
Isaiah 11:3-4
10. There will be perfect environment in nature. Creation is restored to its original perfection. Romans 8:19-22. Animals lose their ferocity. Isaiah 11:6-9, 65:25
11. The Gog Revolution terminates the perfect environment of the Millennium.
Revelation 20:7-10.

This proves that perfect environment is not the solution to man's problems of the old sin nature and spiritual death. Only the believer can appreciate perfect environment and the One who provides it. Salvation and spiritual growth are the solutions to the problems of men, not the environment.

- e. Again it is obvious from Scripture that perfect environment does not solve the problems of man.

(3.) Review of Definition

- a. Dispensations are God's administration of human history through delegated authority.
- b. This delegated authority is possessed by an individual or by certain groups of people at different times in history.
- c. Each dispensation requires its chosen agents to accept the responsibility of preserving, guarding, and disseminating the Word of God.
- d. If a given group fails to execute its assignment then God changes administrative agencies.
- e. Judgment is brought upon an administration that fails.
- f. Divine administrative authority is then delegated to a new individual or group.
- g. Each succeeding administration retains some of the mandates of the former agent. (Example: the Ten Commandments)
- h. Some policies are rescinded. (Example: The ritual plan of God regarding sacrifices, temple worship, the specialized priesthood and the feast days.)
- i. Certain new policies are issued through the process of progressive revelation. (Example: The mystery doctrines of the New Testament.)
- j. Dispensations are therefore an outline of God's interpretation of human history.

- k. The plan of God varies with every dispensation.
- l. For example: In the Old Testament, the Jews were under the ritual plan of God.
- m. In the New Testament, the Church is under the power plan of God.
- n. In the Church Age, God's plan, purpose, and will are executed through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit Who teaches the completed canon of Scripture to the believer inside the divine power system, or the Bottom Circle.
- o. But while there are different plans for each dispensation, there is always only one way of salvation: faith alone in Christ alone.

CHAPTER THREE

Doctrine of the Mystery

I. Introduction

- (1) Church Age doctrine is called “mystery” because it was never revealed in the Old Testament.
- (2) Several New Testament passages make this point obvious.

Romans 16:25 - Now to Him Who is able to establish you by my gospel and the proclamation of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery hidden for long dispensations past,

Verse 26 - but now revealed and made known through the prophetic writings by the command of the eternal God, so that all nations might believe and obey Him.

Ephesians 3:2 - Surely you have heard about the dispensation of God’s grace (Church Age) that was given to me for you (Gentiles),

Verse 3 - that is, the mystery made known to me by revelation, as I have already written briefly.

Verse 4 - In reading this, then, you will be able to understand my insight into the mystery of Christ,

Verse 5 - which was not made known to men in other dispensations as it has now been revealed by the Holy Spirit to God’s holy apostles and prophets.

Verse 6 - This mystery is that, through the gospel, the Gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body (the Universal Church), and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:25 - I have become the church's servant according to the dispensation of God, given to me to present to you the Word of God in its fullness—

Verse 26 - the mystery that has been kept hidden for ages and generations, but is now disclosed to the saints.

Verse 27 - To them (Church Age believers) God has chosen to make known among the Gentiles the glorious wealth of this mystery, which is, Christ in you, the hope of glory.

- (3) The mystery doctrines of the church are to be taught, preserved, and defended by pastors and deacons:

1 Corinthians 4:1 - Men ought to regard us [pastors] servants of Christ and as those entrusted with the mysteries of God.

1 Timothy 3:9 - (Deacons) must keep hold of the mysteries of the faith with a clear conscience.

II. Word Study

- (1) The Greek word translated “mystery” in these passages is μυστήριον, *mustêrion*.
- (2) Paul uses this word because most unbelievers in his day were involved in or familiar with the ancient mystery cults. (Example: fraternities and sororities)

- (3) One of the policies of these fraternities was that only those who were initiated into the organization could be trusted with the mysteries or the secrets of the cult.
- (4) Once initiated, new members were instructed in the doctrines of the fraternity which they were never to reveal to outsiders.
- (5) Paul selects this word under the ministry of the Holy Spirit to define the new doctrines never before revealed but now available in the New Testament Scripture.
- (6) Paul's application carries with it the idea that divine knowledge simply cannot be apprehended through human systems of learning.
- (7) Knowledge which originates from the mind of God may only be revealed when God chooses to reveal it.
- (8) Such revelation may then only be understood as the Holy Spirit teaches it to the mind of the believer only.
- (9) Our passage, 1 Corinthians 2 has to do with an explanation of how these mystery doctrines are taught, understood and learned by the believer in the Church Age.
- (10) *Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary* gives a good definition for "mystery":
 1. A religious truth that one can know only by revelation.
 2. What cannot be fully understood by human reason.

- (11) These mysteries are those doctrines which pertain to the Church Age only.

BAS-33

- (12) Most of these doctrines refer specifically to the individual Church Age believer and grant him privileges and opportunities which are unique to all other dispensations.
- (13) Learning what the mystery doctrines actually are is why we have Bible class.
- (14) They are revealed in the epistles of the New Testament beginning with Romans and running through the first three chapters of Revelation.
- (15) But this is a basics series and is designed to convey the basic doctrines of the faith so that you can understand the system, process, and procedure by which the mystery doctrines are to be learned.
- (16) A complete analysis of the mystery doctrines and the Christian way of life is the business of our regular advanced classes.
- (17) I urge you, following your completion of this basics series, to make yourself available to these advanced studies so that your growth may advance toward spiritual maturity.
- (18) Principle: You will never be able to grow spiritually until you leave the four Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John and get into the epistles; and the mystery doctrines of Paul, James, Peter, John, Jude and the author of Hebrews.

III. The Mystery Doctrines

- (1) As just mentioned, we will not undertake an analysis of the mystery doctrines in this series. But we will give you a list of them in order to provide motivation for advance in the system.
- (2) If our studies so far have been motivational, then it should be exciting to hear what is yet to come.
- (3) In our advanced studies we have examined several of these doctrines and will study them all eventually:
 1. Baptism of the Holy Spirit. Explains how the royal family of God is formed. It illustrates how the power of the old sin nature over our life is broken. It reveals how we can be confident of our eternal security and a resurrection body for eternity.
 2. The perfect environment of the power plan of God. We have mentioned this briefly as the eight areas of spiritual function which produce the Christian way of life. It includes the filling of the Holy Spirit, the system for learning the supernatural information of the Bible through the enabling power of the Holy Spirit. Further it involves the application of that information to life producing divine good.
 3. The royal priesthood. The unique provision whereby the believer represents himself before God. A priest represents man before God according to Hebrews 5:1. As a priest, we may approach God in prayer as per Hebrews 4:25. Through a rebound prayer we may petition the Father for forgiveness of our sins. 1 John 1:9

4. The royal ambassador. Another unique provision in which the believer represents God before man. We are Christ's official representatives on earth and thus seek to carry out His plan and purpose. 2 Corinthians 5:20
5. Citizens of heaven. We are no longer citizens of this world but of a heavenly community. We have divine protection therefore from God as we seek to serve Him in the Devil's world. Philippians 3:20
6. We are royal aristocracy. As members of God's royal family because of our relationship with Christ, we have prerogatives that far exceed anything any unbeliever might possess.

Examples: Prayer, understand the Bible, be confident of a resurrection body, utilize the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, enjoy the filling of the Holy Spirit, look forward to blessings in eternity.

- (4) We could list others but these should alert you to the fantastic studies which lie ahead for you. Many are already on tape and await your completion of this basics study.

We now return to our study of 1 Corinthians 2 where we are learning about a special system which God has provided to enable us to understand His Scripture.

We were in verse 7 of that chapter when we stopped to take a look at dispensations and the mystery. Let's review the translation of the passage for as far as we have gone.

1 Corinthians 2

Verse 4 - My message and my preaching were not with wise and persuasive words, but with a demonstration of the Holy Spirit's power.

Verse 5 - Your faith should not be in the wisdom of men but in the sphere of the power of God.

Verse 6 - However, when among mature believers, we keep on teaching wisdom but a wisdom that does not belong to this age, nor to the leaders of this world who are becoming ineffective.

Verse 7 - But we communicate wisdom from God in a mystery which mystery doctrine has been concealed and God predesigned before the dispensations resulting in our glory.

Verse 8 - None of the rulers of *cosmos diabolicus* understood it for if they had known it they would not have crucified the Lord of glory.

Note: All who crucified Christ were unbelievers. The Romans were involved in one of the philosophies or cults of the day. The Jews were involved in religion. There was one group involved in both called the Hellenizers.

Verse 9 - As it stands written, "Things which the eye has not seen and the ear has not heard (empiricism) also doctrines which have not entered into the minds of men (rationalism) are those things which God has prepared for those who love Him."

(1) God has a system that transcends all human systems of learning.

- (2) The information learned in this grace system is far superior to anything that can be learned in human systems.
- (3) But no believer must ever assume that from his own devices he is able to learn the Word of God.
- (4) It requires the enabling power of the Holy Spirit.
- (5) Remember one is able to establish the Holy Spirit's power over his thinking only through the grace provision of rebound.
- (6) Once filled with the Holy Spirit, the believer is taught by Him the doctrines of the Christian way of life.
- (7) This fact is pointed out next in verse 10:

Verse 10 - But to us (believers filled by the Holy Spirit in the divine power system) God has revealed them through the Holy Spirit. The human spirit investigates all things, even the deep things of God.

1. How the Holy Spirit reveals the Word of God to us involves a very important doctrine that takes place at the moment of our salvation.
2. This action by the Holy Spirit is called regeneration.
3. The Greek word is *παλιγγενεσία*, *palingenesia* and means "new birth."
4. This word can be seen in Titus 3:

Verse 5 - He (God) saved us, not because of right-

eous things which we had done, but because of His mercy. He saved us through the washing of regeneration (KJV); or rebirth (NIV) and renewal by the Holy Spirit.

5. This “new birth” is the result of faith in Jesus Christ.
6. We are born physically having a body and soul only. However, at the moment we believe in Christ, the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit.
7. Thus we are born physically in two parts: body and soul. We are born spiritually with the addition of a third part: the human spirit.
8. The moment a human spirit is created, God the Father imputes eternal life to that human spirit.
9. The human soul is where human life resides, imputed at physical birth. The human spirit is where eternal life resides, imputed at our spiritual birth.
10. Regeneration is often called being “born again,” because that’s the way it is described in John 3:1-18, in our Lord’s discussion with Nicodemus.
11. Note verses 6-7. “That which is born of flesh (human parents) is flesh (human flesh), and that which is born of the Holy Spirit is spirit (human spirit). Marvel not that I say to you, ‘you must be born again.’”
12. Thus in our passage we note both the Holy Spirit and the human spirit are mentioned in verse 10.
13. God reveals to us His word, plan and purpose through the Holy Spirit:

1 Corinthians 2:10a - But to us God has revealed them through the Holy Spirit.

14. An explanation of how this is done follows in the last half of the verse:

Verse 10b - For the human spirit investigates all things, even the deep things of God.

15. The Holy Spirit, being omniscient, does not need to investigate any category of divine knowledge. He has known all that is knowable, both actual and possible, since eternity past.
16. However, under the enabling power of the Holy Spirit, the human spirit is able to understand the deep things (mystery doctrines) of God.
17. In 1 Corinthians 2, verse 11, we see the word “spirit” used in a third way:

Verse 11 - For what man understands the things of man except man’s spirit within him? Even so, the things of God no one has known except the Holy Spirit.

1. The phrase, “man’s spirit within him” refers to human viewpoint systems of thought, i.e., psychology, Gnosticism, existentialism, or humanism.
2. The human mind can understand human things.
3. The enabling power of the Holy Spirit is the only way the human spirit can understand the things of God.
4. Thus if we are to ever learn the “things of God”

we are going to have to depend on the Holy Spirit to fill us in.

Verse 12 - But we have not received the world's spirit but the human spirit from the source of God in order that we might have a permanent knowledge of things that have been graciously given to us by God.

1. We no longer are shocked by the thinking of the world.
2. We have a human spirit which from the source of God is able to understand the supernatural information found in the Scripture.
3. That which the human spirit is taught by the Holy Spirit is permanently retained in the soul for application to life.
4. We call this process of learning Bible doctrine the Grace Apparatus for Perception. (GAP)
5. This grace apparatus is described in verse 13:

Verse 13 - Which things we teach, not by teaching from the source of man's wisdom, but by teaching from the source of the Holy Spirit, bringing together spiritual truth to a spiritual system.

1. GAP is a system of learning which God has provided the Church Age believer.
2. The real teacher is the Holy Spirit Who makes the supernatural information of the Bible understandable to the believer.

3. Spiritual truth is taught by Him to a spiritual system.
4. Here's how it works:
 - a. Spiritual information is taught in some manner.
 - b. The believer must have both positive volition and concentration on what is taught.
 - c. The Holy Spirit takes the information and teaches it to the human spirit where it becomes academic understanding.
 - d. The Holy Spirit transfers what is academically understood to the left lobe of the soul where it becomes *gnôsis*.
 - e. Faith or belief by the believer causes the Holy Spirit to convert *gnôsis* to *epignôsis* and transfer it to the right lobe.
 - f. Application of *epignôsis* produces wisdom.

BAS-34

5. The human spirit is taught in several places.
 - a. Job 32:8 - "But it is the spirit in man (believer) and the Spirit of the Almighty that gives perception."
 - b. Hebrews 4:12 - The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder between the soul and the spirit...

- c. Romans 8:16 - The Spirit teaches our spirit (human)...
- d. John 14:26 - "The Counselor, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you all things and will remind you of everything I have said to you."

Verse 14 - The soulish man does not accept things from the Holy Spirit for to him they are foolishness, furthermore, he is not able to even acquire academic understanding because they are spiritually discerned.

- 1. In this final verse we see that the unbeliever is called a "soulish man": ψυχικός, *psuchikos*.
- 2. The unbeliever has a soul and a body but no human spirit.
- 3. At the moment of our salvation, the Holy Spirit creates a human spirit in the soul of the believer.
- 4. This human spirit is what the Holy Spirit teaches in the Grace Apparatus for Perception.
- 5. Notice that the unbeliever is in two parts while the believer is in three parts.
- 6. Note Jude 19 - These men are those who divide you. They are soulish men (*psuchikos*), not having the Holy Spirit.

7. An unbeliever cannot be taught anything by the Holy Spirit beyond the doctrine of salvation.
8. Because of this the unbeliever is excluded from knowing and understanding the mystery doctrines of the Church Age.
9. He is outside the system and therefore cannot execute the Christian way of life.
10. Remember, anything that can be accomplished by the unbeliever is NOT the Christian way of life.
11. As a result, the believer regards the truths of the Bible as foolishness.

Romans 1:22 - Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ...

12. The unbeliever, functioning on human power within a human system, looks on absolute truth and calls it foolishness.

Principles

- (1) The importance of rebound once again is emphasized.
- (2) In order to have the filling and thus the teaching ministries of the Holy Spirit, the believer must be current on rebound.
- (3) With His enabling power, we are given the privilege of learning the mysteries of the Word of God.
- (4) With this power in our souls, we have the capacity to execute the Christian way of life.
- (5) Remember the plan of God is in three phases:
 - a. Salvation. A point in time where you express faith alone in Christ alone.
 - b. The Christian way of life. The time between salvation and physical death where the believer has available all the assets necessary to advance to spiritual maturity.
 - c. Eternal State. That period in the future where the believer will enjoy eternal bliss in the presence of God.
- (6) In Phase 2 we are required to grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
2 Peter 3:18
- (7) Note other passages which emphasize knowledge of doctrine as the top priority of the Christian way of life:

2 Timothy 3:16 - All Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training in righteousness,

Verse 17 - So that the man of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work.

2 Timothy 2:15 - Study to show yourself approved unto God, a workman that needs not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.

John 8:31 - Jesus said to the Jews that believed on Him. "If you continue in My Word, then you are My disciples indeed;

Verse 32 - And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

John 14:15 - "If you love Me, you will obey what I command."

1 John 5:3 - This is love for God: to obey His commandments.

Matthew 22:29 - Jesus replied, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."

- (8) Now that we understand rebound, the filling of the Holy Spirit, the system by which we learn and store doctrine, it is now time to learn how to apply it to our lives.
- (9) The Bible is filled with many problem-solving devices.
- (10) The first one we have already learned—rebound.

- (11) This is how we solve our temporal sin problem which keeps us out of fellowship and in the Cosmic System.
- (12) But once we confess our sins, we reenter the Bottom Circle and regain the filling and teaching ministries of the Holy Spirit.
- (13) As we learn doctrine, we store doctrine in our souls and slowly but surely grow in grace.
- (14) It is God's desire that we will use His Word in our lives to solve our problems.
- (15) The second of the basic problem-solving devices is what we will examine next.
- (16) We will call it the Faith-Rest Drill and we will note several passages to document this procedure.



CHAPTER FOUR

Doctrine of the Faith-Rest Drill

I. Introduction

- (1) Biblical Illustrations from Exodus 17:1-7; Numbers 20:2-13 and Hebrews 3:7-4:2.
- (2) Suggestions for a promise notebook.
- (3) Outline of the Faith-Rest Drill:
 - a. Claim a promise
 - b. Utilize doctrinal rationales
 - c. Draw doctrinal conclusions

II. Introduction to Exodus 17

- (1) This passage takes place seven weeks after the Exodus from Egypt.
- (2) The Jews have repeatedly seen the grace of God work on their behalf:
 - a. The Ten Plagues which ultimately freed them from Pharaoh Amenhotep II (Exodus 7-12)
 - b. Deliverance from the executioner angel at the first Passover (Exodus 12)
 - c. Parting of the Red Sea and the drowning of Pharaoh's army (Exodus 14)

- d. Provision of water at the wilderness of Shur (Exodus 15)
 - e. Provisions of manna and doves at the wilderness of Sin (Exodus 16)
- (3) The Jews, now freed from Egyptian slavery, are looking forward to their entry into the land promised them by God.
- (4) In route, they are to transverse the desert we know today as the Sinai peninsula.
- (5) For the Jews that area was a place of testing.
- (6) It was utilized by God to give them capacity and appreciation for the land of milk and honey He had prepared for them.
- (7) The events surrounding the Exodus of Israel until they enter into the land is a picture of the Christian way of life:
- a. Egypt was a place of slavery for the Jews just as the old sin nature is a place of slavery for the unbeliever.
 - b. Belief in the Passover lamb was the key to their being set free from this slavery in Egypt.
 - c. Belief in the true Passover Lamb, Jesus Christ, is the decision that sets the believer free from the slavery of the old sin nature.
- 1 Corinthians 5:7b - Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed for us.

- d. Once a person believes in Christ, he enters Phase Two of the plan of God which is the Christian Way of Life.
- e. Phase Two is filled with tests and difficulties.
- f. These difficulties are designed to teach, educate, direct and guide the believer as God prepares him for life in the Eternal State.
- g. For the positive-volition believer, all testing is to be viewed as educational, not as disciplinary.
- h. From these testings we learn to trust God to solve our problems in the same way we trusted Him to solve our sin problem.
- i. Jesus Christ did the greatest thing that could ever be done for us by dying on the cross for our sins.
- j. God did the greatest thing that could ever be done for us by saving our souls when we believed in Christ.
- k. They did these things for us when we were still their enemies.

Romans 5:10 - If, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!

- l. Question: If Christ did the most for us while we were still His enemies, will He not do even more than the most for us now that we belong to Him?

- m. Further, if He did the most difficult thing, i.e., solve our sin problem, will He not therefore do the less difficult thing, i.e., solve our personal problems?
- n. Now let's take a look at Exodus 17.

BAS-35

III. Exodus 17

Verse 1 - The whole Israelite community set out from the Desert of Sin, traveling from place to place as the Lord commanded.

- 1. Please note that the Jews geographically are exactly where God wants them to be.
- 2. Consequently, the Jews should have immediately assumed that their difficulty was a part of God's plan and was intended for their training and blessing.
- 3. Testing is designed to build character, stability, and courage under pressure.
- 4. Note, 1 Peter 1:6 - In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.

Verse 7 - These have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory, and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

- 5. PRINCIPLE: The believer should never be dis-

couraged by trials and difficulties but should look on them as opportunities to apply doctrine, have faith in God's power, and anticipate His promised grace.

6. Such an approach will develop a relaxed mental attitude so that life becomes a place of refreshment.
7. A negative mental attitude breeds questions and uncertainties which blind the believer to the assurance of God's grace.
8. These Jews were in a place of refreshment and didn't know it.
9. The verse says they camped at Rephidim, but there was no water for them to drink.
10. Rephidim is a Hebrew word which means, "a place of refreshment."
11. This is a test: They have no water. So what? God has just accomplished the impossible by delivering them from Egypt. Can He not now provide for them water to drink?
12. PRINCIPLE: Confidence that you are in the plan of God turns trials into challenges to utilize doctrine and anticipate the grace of God.
13. PRINCIPLE: If you are in the plan of God then no matter what the difficulty, you may be confident God has already provided a solution.
14. Here's what the Jews should have done:
 - a. First ask the question, "Am I in the plan of

God?" (i.e., current on rebound and positive toward doctrine.)

- b. If so, then God has a responsibility to take care of the logistical details for those who follow Him.
 - c. I will claim a promise.
Example: Romans 8:28 - We know that God works all things together for good for those who love Him and are called according to His purpose.
 - d. With my thinking stabilized by claiming this promise, I may now concentrate on the following rationale: Since I am in fellowship, God intends this for good. I will place my trust in Him to take care of this problem.
 - e. I will function on the conclusion that the battle is the Lord's. 1 Samuel 17:47
15. There are over 7,000 promises found in the Bible which as a royal priest, you may claim.
16. In addition to Romans 8:28, for example:
- 1 Peter 5:7 - Cast all your cares upon Him because He cares for you.
- 1 Thessalonians 5:18 - Give thanks in all circumstances for this is God's will concerning you in Christ Jesus.
17. Unfortunately this is not what the Jews did. In verse 2 we read:

Verse 2 - So they quarreled with Moses and said,
"Give us water to drink."

1. The word for "quarreled" is the verb *riv* and would be better translated "complained."
2. If you make a noun out of this verb it becomes *meriva*, which is what Moses would name this place in the desert: The Place of Complaining.
3. What the Jews have failed to do is to look at their problem from the divine viewpoint.
4. They are very self-centered and can only evaluate events based on what they perceive to be an immediate inconvenience to them.
5. But this is a test offered by God so that they might look to Him and His grace for provision.
6. Instead we see them, in verse 3, blame Moses for the situation.

Verse 3 - The people were thirsty for water and they complained against Moses. They said, "Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to make us and our children and livestock die of thirst?"

1. PRINCIPLE: Doing things God's way always means to stop doing things the way you always have.
2. PRINCIPLE: The Devil's world expects you to continue to do things in the ways of the world.
3. PRINCIPLE: You will therefore become pressured to keep on using human-viewpoint solutions typical of the unbelieving world.

4. PRINCIPLE: One of the major challenges for you as a new believer is to stand fast and watch the deliverance of the Lord while your old cosmic-thinking friends pressure you to follow the old solutions.
5. Question: Do I break away from religion and get serious about learning doctrine or do I continue overt recognition of religion while secretly learning doctrine off tapes?
6. The Jews of Elijah's day were unable to make the choice and as a result great discipline fell on Israel.
7. Moses perceived a similar lack of faith in the Jews under his charge so we see his prayer in verse 4:

Verse 4 - Then Moses cried out to the Lord, "What am I to do with these people? They are almost ready to stone me."

1. Notice Moses did not opt for human solutions. His immediate decision was to turn to God for advice.
2. Notice that Moses is the divinely designated leader of the nation of Israel.
3. Moses' job is to follow the desires of God as expressed in His words to him.
4. When the people do not agree with Moses in reality they are disagreeing with God.
5. PRINCIPLE: In the Church Age, the pastor is God's appointed representative before the people—the congregation.
6. PRINCIPLE: The congregation must have confi-

dence that he is leading them in the ways God would approve and expect.

7. PRINCIPLE: If you do not have such a confidence in your pastor, then you need to pray that God would show you one in whom you could have such confidence.
8. Moses got his information straight from God and he then went face to face with the people.

Verse 5 - The Lord answered Moses, "Walk on ahead of the people. Take with you some of the elders of Israel and take in your hand the staff with which you struck the Nile and go."

1. Moses was to take with him the same staff with which he struck the Nile in Exodus 7:20, initiating the Ten Plagues.
2. This staff was to be a visual-aid reminder to the Jews of the omnipotence of God.
3. If God has the power to deliver us in the past, He has the power to deliver us now.

Verse 6 - "I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock and water will come out of it for the people to drink." So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.

1. The word for rock is *(t)sur*, a sharp, jagged rock and is a type of Christ.
2. Moses is going to take the staff of judgment and strike the rock.

3. When Moses strikes the rock with judgment, water will come out.
4. This is a picture of our Lord's spiritual death on the cross when God imputed our sins upon Him and judged them.
5. The result is that out of the Rock of Christ comes the water of eternal life.
6. Note our Lord's comment to the Samaritan woman in John 4:13 - "Everyone who drinks this water (from Jacob's well) will be thirsty again,

Verse 14 - but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."

Verse 7 - And Moses called the place Massah and Meribah (the place of complaining)...

BAS-36

IV. Numbers 20

A. Introduction:

1. This chapter is some 40 years after Exodus 17.
2. The participants are all new except for Moses and a handful of others.
3. The next generation of Jews is found still wandering in the desert trying to find the Promised Land.

4. Why after 40 years have they not found what is so close by? The entire first generation were losers. They refused to place their faith in God under pressure.
5. PRINCIPLE: You will never know God's rest and unlimited grace provisions until you face the tests of life.
6. PRINCIPLE: The tests of life must be faced through faith in God's power to provide the solution.
7. The old generation died in the wilderness having never learned that principle.
8. Here in Numbers 20 we see the next generation back for the same test.

B. Numbers 20

Verse 2 - Now there was no water for the community and the people gathered in opposition to Moses and Aaron.

Verse 3 - They complained (Meribahed) with Moses and said, "If only we had died when our brothers fell dead before the Lord! (Operation Self-Pity).

Verse 4 - Why did you bring the Lord's community into the desert, that we and our livestock should die here?

Verse 5 - Why did you bring us up out of Egypt to this terrible place? It has no grain or figs, grapevines or pomegranates. And there is no water to drink!"

1. After all these years they still remember Egypt.
2. One of the commandments the Jews were to execute was to teach their children, the next generation, about the grace and power of God. Deuteronomy 6:7
3. What the first generation had done instead was to remind their children of how great things were in Egypt.
4. They didn't mention the tyranny of a series of pharaohs or the slavery they endured for over 400 years.
5. PRINCIPLE: When you make the decision to follow God by learning His Word, you must understand that God is going to test that knowledge.
6. PRINCIPLE: When those tests come, you are going to be greatly tempted to return to Egypt, those halcyon days of ignorant bliss and energy-of-the-flesh solutions to life's problems.
7. Good luck!
8. What you must learn to do and learn quickly is the principle of Philippians 3:

Verse 13b - One thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead,

Verse 14 - I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.

Verse 6 - Moses and Aaron went from the assembly to the entrance of the Tabernacle and fell face down and the glory of the Lord appeared to them.

Verse 7 - The Lord said to Moses,

Verse 8 - "Take the staff (Aaron's rod that budded; Numbers 17) and you and your brother Aaron gather the assembly together. Speak to the rock before their eyes and it will pour out its water. You will bring water out of the rock for the community so they and their livestock can drink."

Verse 9 - So Moses took the staff from the Lord's presence, just as he commanded him.

1. The word for rock is *sela'*, which is a rock that is elevated above the people.
2. This speaks of Jesus Christ in resurrection.
3. Moses struck the rock in the previous Meribah incident and water came forth in picture of judgment.
4. Here he is to speak to the resurrected rock. Once Christ is judged for our sins, there is never any need for further judgment, only faith and prayer.

Verse 10 - Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together in front of the rock and Moses said to them, "Listen, you rebels, must we bring you water out of this rock?"

Verse 11 - Then Moses raised his arm and struck the rock twice with his staff.

1. What is wrong with this picture?
2. Moses, without question one of the greatest leaders in all of human history, has just suffered a major breakdown.
3. He has just received direct instructions from God and he immediately disobeys them.
4. Moses made a series of mistakes:
 - a. He mentally judges the people. (mental attitude sin)
 - b. He voices this mental attitude verbally by calling them rebels. (sin of the tongue)
 - c. He claims for himself and Aaron the power to provide water for the people, i.e., God does the work; Moses and Aaron take the credit. This is self-righteous arrogance.
 - d. He struck the rock twice when he was told to simply speak to the rock. (The end result of self-righteous arrogance is involvement in human good, human works. God's solutions require nothing of us but faith.)
5. Verse 11*b* concludes: Water gushed out and the community and their livestock drank.
6. The grace of God does not depend upon anything we do.
7. He has promised to provide everything we need for life and godliness (2 Peter 1:3). The Jews needed water, so God provided water.

8. Even though Moses failed as a leader, God did not fail as a provider for His people.
9. Verse 13 notes that the waters which gushed out were called “the waters of Meribah” because the “Israelites complained against the Lord.”
10. Now we must complete our illustration by looking at Hebrews 3.

V. Hebrews 3-4

Hebrews 3:7 - “Today if you will hear His voice:” (in context this refers to the Holy Spirit and specifically to the promises found in the Bible).

Verse 8 - “Do not harden your hearts (mind) as in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness.”

1. Note the word “rebellion” (NIV), or, “provocation” (KJV).
2. The word found here is παραπικρασμός, *para-pikrasmos* and is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *meribah*.
3. The Jews of every generation harden their minds when they ignore the promises given to them by God.
4. In the book of Hebrews, God is warning the Jews of the first century not to imitate their forefathers in the wilderness.
5. God had promised the Exodus generation to provide for them everything they would need for life and godliness.

6. He then demonstrated His integrity, faithfulness, and power by continually doing what He had promised.
7. He repeatedly placed the Jews in areas of testing to see if they would trust Him at His Word.
8. But verse 9 tells us the Jews rejected Jehovah's grace and instead tested Him:

Verse 9 - "... where your fathers tested and tried me and for 40 years saw what I did."

1. We evaluated earlier the several works of grace which God performed for the Jews in the wilderness.
2. All these demonstrations of His love for them plus the issuing of so many promises to them were again being ignored.

Verse 10 - "That is why I was angry with that generation and I said, 'Their hearts are always gone astray and they have not known My ways.'"

1. The major problem facing any generation of people is bound up in the phrase "have not known."
2. Ignorance of what God has provided for us means failure to utilize His divine provisions.
3. The heart going "astray" refers to a thought process which opts for human-viewpoint thinking instead of divine-viewpoint thinking.
4. "Have not known My ways," is a statement which brings to mind other passages of Scripture:

Isaiah 55:8 - "My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

Verse 9 - "As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts higher than your thoughts."

Matthew 22:29 - Jesus said, "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."

Verse 11 - "So I declared on oath in my anger, 'They shall never enter my rest.'"

1. Rest for the Exodus generation was found in claiming the promises of God resulting in His delivering them into the Promised Land.
2. The Promised Land was the place of rest. It is the result of allowing God's grace to solve your problems.
3. Those who reject God's guidance are said to anger Him.
4. This is known as an anthropopathism, which ascribes to God a human characteristic which He does not possess but is used as a device to communicate divine policy.
5. Divine policy toward the believer who rejects His divine provisions is divine discipline.
6. The discipline for the Exodus generation was divine refusal to allow them to enter into the land, or His rest.

Verse 12 - See to it, fellow believers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving right lobe that turns away from the living God.

1. It is God's desire that you allow Him to solve your problems.
2. He has made His problem-solving devices available in His Bible.
3. We are to learn the promises, believe the promises, and apply the promises to the problems of life.
4. The Hebrew word "rest" is *shabbath*, or Sabbath, in the English.

BAS-37

5. Sabbath is God's rest. God's plan is designed for you to do nothing and for Him to do everything.
6. The system works this way:
 1. You claim a promise pertinent to your problem.
 2. You take God at His Word that He will work this situation for the purpose of good which is to your benefit.
 3. You leave the problem in God's hands. In other words you rest.
 4. Your doctrinal conclusion is that since God is in control of the situation, you are in control of the situation.

7. The passage continues:

Verse 13 - But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

Verse 14 - For we are made partners with Christ if we hold confidently until the end that which we had at the beginning.

NOTE: If our confidence in God's promises continues until the situation is resolved, we must mix our faith with God's promises and trust Him to do what He says He will do.

Verse 15 - As has just been said, "Today, if you hear His voice do not harden your right lobes as you did in the rebellion."

1. The word for rebellion is *parapikrasmos* and is the Greek equivalent of the Hebrew *meribah*.
2. God wants us to trust Him. He is pleased when we exhibit our childlike confidence in Him to just take Him at His Word.
3. God's Word is immutable and He backs it with His integrity and His Omnipotence.
4. We display our belief in His providential care and provision when we simply believe His promises and await His solutions.
5. As you face your "no water" situation, you may think there will never be any relief.
6. But God is faithful. He will keep the pressure on

for as long as He deems it necessary to put muscle on your faith.

7. The more hopeless the situation and the more helpless you become, the greater the blessings from simply trusting in Him.
8. Chapter 3 concludes:

Verse 16 - Who were they who heard and rebelled?
Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt?

Verse 17 - And with whom was He angry for 40 years?
Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies fell in the desert?

Verse 18 - And to whom did God swear that they would never enter His rest if not to those who disobeyed?

Verse 19 - So we see that they were not able to enter because of their unbelief.

Hebrews 4:1 - Therefore, since the promise of entering His rest still stands, let us be careful that none of you be found to have fallen short of it.

1. There are over 7,000 promises in the Bible available for your use and application.
2. This verse warns the believer against failing to utilize their resources.

Verse 2 - For we also have had the gospel preached to us, just as they did; but the message they heard was of no value to them, because those who heard did not mix it with faith.

1. Please note that the promises of God are ineffective if they are not mixed with our faith.
2. They must be mixed with our faith or they are of no value.
3. Some principles emerge from this verse:

PRINCIPLE #1: Knowing a promise is of no value unless you believe the promise as well. (Academic understanding versus *epignôsis* understanding.)

PRINCIPLE #2: Believing the promise is no good unless you are willing to mix your faith with the promise.

PRINCIPLE #3: God's promise + your faith = rest.

4. The word for "mix" (or "combine" in this verse) is συγκεράννυμι, *sunkerannumi* and means "to mix with; to commingle; to blend; to combine."
5. The word for "rest" (in verse 1) is the noun κατάπαυσις, *katapausis* which carries the following meanings:
 1. Freedom from activity
 2. Tranquility
 3. Peace of mind
 4. That on which something leans for support
 5. To cease from action, motion, or exertion
6. From this we will develop the following definition for Faith-Rest:

"Mixing the promises of God with our faith

resulting in a status quo of physical relaxation and a mental stability which is free of anxiety and marked by a trust, reliance, and dependence on the faithfulness of God to solve our problems.”

Verse 3 - We who have believed enter this rest, just as God has said, “So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter My rest.’”

1. What the new believer must learn to do is to do nothing!
2. PRINCIPLE: When you are in a hopeless situation and you are helpless to do anything about it, your only option is to “stand still and watch the deliverance of the Lord.” Exodus 14:13
3. Faith-Rest living is available to all who believe.
4. The reason those who do not enjoy the environment it produces is, according to Hebrews 3:19, because of their unbelief.
5. And the use of the word “unbelief” in this context has nothing to do with salvation.
6. The people under discussion in this passage are believers who are not following the problem-solving procedures of the Word of God.
7. God’s desire is to bless us and provide for us solutions to our problems.
8. Such provision is known in Hebrew 3 and 4 as “His rest.”
9. The reason some do not enjoy His rest is because

they do not believe and apply His promises to life.

10. To reject God's grace provisions is considered by Him to be rebellion.
11. This is where the Church Age believer, who is negative toward the grace of God, imitates the Jewish Age believer who was also negative.
12. We are not to follow such an example but rather to make every effort to enter God's rest.

Hebrews 4:9 - There remains then a Sabbath-rest for the people of God;

Verse 10 - for anyone who enters God's rest also rests from his own work, just as God did from His.

Verse 11 - Let us, therefore, make every effort to enter that rest, so that no one will fall by following their example of disobedience.

Verse 12 - The Word of God is alive and powerful, sharper than any two-edged sword, penetrating even to the dividing of the soul and the human spirit, the joints and the marrow and judges the thoughts and intentions of the right lobe.

Verse 13 - Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of Him to Whom we must give an account.

Verse 14 - Therefore, since we have a Great High Priest Who has gone into heaven, namely Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess.

Verse 15 - For we do not have a High Priest Who is

unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but we have One Who has been tempted in every way, just as we are—yet without sin.

Verse 16 - Let us then approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

BAS-38

VI. Approaching the Throne of Grace: The Mechanics of Faith-Rest

A. Introduction

1. The Faith-Rest Technique is a basic problem-solving device for the believer.
2. As a part of the Christian way of life, Faith-Rest is classified as Gate 2 of the divine power system.
3. Faith-Rest is a system of problem solving which allows you to gain control of a situation.
4. This problem-solving device is broken down into three stages:

Stage 1: You reach out by faith and claim a promise in the Bible. The claiming of a promise means to recite the passage while concentrating on what it means. To remember God's grace promises serves to calm you down. With your soul now free of fear, you are enabled to concentrate on the doctrines you know.

Stage 2: Reverse Concentration. The recall of doctrines gives you confidence in the Lord's

ability to solve your problem for you. There are many doctrines available for use but the three most used are:

- a. The essence of God
- b. The plan of God
- c. The logistical grace of God

Stage 3: After claiming a promise stabilizes your soul and you concentrate on doctrines pertinent to your problem, you then reach a conclusion. You become confident that the Lord is in control of the situation and consequently, you need not be concerned. Although the problem is still a reality, you know that the Lord has provided the perfect solution.

5. We will now briefly study these three stages of the Faith-Rest Drill.

B. Stage 1 - Claiming Promises

1. The Bible contains over 7,000 promises from God.
2. These verses express divine integrity. If God is immutable then the content of the statement will not change.
3. If God is veracity then the statement is true.
4. If God is omnipotent then He has the power to stand behind the promise.
5. If God is sovereign then He has the authority to carry out the promise.
6. We will now look at a collection of promises

available to you for utilization in Stage 1.

7. What God is promising is obvious on the face of most of them.

2 Peter 1:4 - He has granted us His precious and magnificent promises in order that by them we might become sharers of the divine nature.

1 John 1:9 - If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us of all unrighteousness.

Matthew 21:22 - "All things, whatsoever you ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive."

Matthew 11:28 - "Come to me, all you who are weary and heavy laden and I will give you rest."

Psalms 119:89 - Forever, O Lord, Your Word is settled in heaven.

Psalms 18:30 - As for God, His way is blameless; the Word of the Lord is tried; He is a shield to all who take refuge in Him.

Luke 1:37 - "With God nothing is impossible."

Romans 1:17 - The righteous shall live by faith.

2 Corinthians 5:7 - We walk by faith—not by sight.

Hebrews 11:1 - Now faith is the confidence of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.

1 Corinthians 2:9 - Eye has not seen nor has ear heard, neither has there entered into the minds

of men the things which God has prepared for those who love Him.

Philippians 4:6 - Stop worrying about anything but in everything by prayer and supplication after thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God.

Verse 7 - And the peace of God that passes all understanding shall garrison your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

1 Corinthians 10:13 - There has no testing taken you but such as is common to man; God is faithful, Who will not allow you to be tested beyond what you are able, but with the testing will provide a way of escape, that you may be able to endure it.

Exodus 14:13 - "Do not fear! Stand fast and see the deliverance of the Lord which He will accomplish for you today."

Deuteronomy 31:6 - "Be strong and courageous, do not be afraid or tremble at them, for the Lord your God is the One Who goes with you. He will not fail you or forsake you."

Deuteronomy 31:8 - "The Lord is the One Who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear, do not be dismayed."

Deuteronomy 33:27 - "The eternal God is our refuge, and underneath are the everlasting arms."

Isaiah 40:29 - He gives power to the faint; and

to them who have no might He increases strength.

Isaiah 40:31 - Those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength; they will mount up with wings as eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will march and not grow weary.

Isaiah 41:10 - "Do not fear for I am with you; do not anxiously look about you for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

BAS-39

Psalms 55:22 - Cast your burden upon the Lord and He will sustain you, He will never allow the righteous to be shaken.

Psalms 37:28 - For the Lord loves justice and does not forsake His godly ones. They are preserved forever.

Psalms 37:25 - I have been young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken of his descendants begging bread.

1 Thessalonians 5:18 - In everything give thanks for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 4:11 - I have learned to be content in whatsoever circumstances I am.

Verse 12 - I know how to get along with humble means and I also know how to live in prosperity; in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering and having need.

Verse 13 - I can do all things through Christ Jesus Who strengthens me.

Psalms 23:1 - The Lord is the One shepherding me, I shall not lack anything.

Psalms 4:8 - In peace I will both lie down and sleep, for You alone, O Lord, do make me to dwell in safety.

Psalms 56:3 - When I am afraid, I will put my trust in You.

Psalms 56:11 - In God have I put my trust, I shall not be afraid. What can man do to me?

Romans 8:31 - If God is for us, who can be against us?

Psalms 46:7 - The Lord of the Armies is with us; the God of Jacob is our refuge.

Psalms 146:5 - How blessed is he whose help is the God of Jacob, whose confidence is in the Lord his God.

Psalms 108:13 - Through God we shall do valiantly; and it is He Who will tread down our adversaries.

1 Samuel 17:47 - The Lord does not deliver by sword or by spear for the battle is the Lord's.

Zechariah 2:5 - "For I," declares the Lord, "will be a wall of fire around (you)."

Psalms 33:12 - Blessed is the nation whose God is

the Lord, the people whom He has chosen for His own inheritance.

Isaiah 26:3 - God will keep the nation of steadfast purpose in perfect safety, because it trusts in Him.

Verse 4 - Trust in the Lord forever, for in the Lord Jesus Christ we have an everlasting Rock.

Deuteronomy 32:4 - "The Rock! His work is perfect for all His ways are just; a God of faithfulness and without injustice. Righteous and upright is He."

Psalms 37:4 - Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your soul.

Verse 5 - Commit your way to the Lord, trust also in Him and He will do it.

Psalms 145:18 - The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call upon Him in truth.

John 8:31 - "If you continue in My Word, then you are truly My followers,"

Verse 32 - "And you shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

Proverbs 3:5 - Trust in the Lord with all your soul and do not lean on your own understanding.

Verse 6 - In all your ways acknowledge Him and He will make your paths straight.

1 Corinthians 2:5 - Your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men but in the sphere of the power of God.

Isaiah 65:24 - "And it will come to pass that before you pray, I will answer; and while you are still speaking, I will respond."

Lamentations 3:22 - "It is the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

Verse 23 - They are new every morning; great is thy faithfulness.

Philippians 4:19 - My God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus.

Romans 8:28 - We know that God works all things together for good for those who love Him, for those who have been called according to His predetermined plan.

1 John 5:4 - Whatever is born of God overcomes the world; and this is our victory that has overcome the world—our faith.

Hebrews 13:8 - Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Ephesians 3:20 - He is able to do exceedingly abundantly beyond all that we ask or think, according to His power that is at work in us.

Psalms 100:5 - The Lord is good, His mercy is everlasting and His faithfulness endures to all generations.

John 10:28 - "I give unto My sheep eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man

pluck them out of My hand.”

Revelation 21:4 - And He shall wipe away all tears from their eyes and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, not crying, neither shall there be any more pain; for the former things have passed away.

John 14:26 - “The Holy Spirit shall teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.”

Hebrews 4:16 - Let us therefore draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

BAS-40

C. Stage 2 - Doctrinal Rationales

1. The claiming of promises creates a status of stability and tranquility in the soul.
2. Free of fear and panic, the believer is now able to concentrate on the inventory of ideas stored in his right lobe.
3. The Holy Spirit will bring to his remembrance those doctrines which contribute to solving the problem.
4. As the believer concentrates on these doctrines he is able to establish certain rationales.
5. We will take a quick look at three doctrinal rationales available to the believer under pressure.

1. The Essence of God Rationale

- a. Sovereignty: God is the absolute authority of the universe. Therefore He is in complete control of your problem.
- b. Righteousness: God is always right. Therefore He must have something for you to learn from your problem.
- c. Justice: God is completely fair. Therefore, you have no excuse to feel taken advantage of because of your problem.
- d. Love: God loves His own perfect righteousness wherever it is found. Since you have the irrevocable imputation of His perfect righteousness, God loves you and will help you with your problem.
- e. Eternal Life: God has always existed. He has neither beginning nor ending. He is not limited by time. Therefore, He prepared a solution to your problem in eternity past.
- f. Omniscience: God knows all that is knowable including all the facts of your problem. He also knows the best solution for your problem. He provided that solution in eternity past.
- g. Omnipresence: God is all places at once. All places include your problem. Therefore, He is an Eyewitness to your problem.
- h. Omnipotence: God is absolute power. Therefore, He is able to do all things,

including solving your problem.

- i. Immutability: God cannot change. He keeps His promises without fail. He honors His doctrines without question. When you claim His promises and doctrines, He will provide a solution to your problem.
- j. Veracity: God never lies. Therefore we can depend on Him to tell us the truth. If He says something, then you can believe it to be true. Therefore, claim His promises and doctrines and He will do the work.

2. The Plan of God Rational

Romans 8:29 - Those God foreknew, He also predestined,

Verse 30 - and those He predestined, He also elected...

Here we see three theological terms which define the plan of God for the life of the believer.

- a. Foreknowledge: You were in God's thoughts in eternity past. Therefore, He knew before human history every detail of your life including your problems.
- b. Predestination: You were in the plan of God in eternity past. He provided the solution to your every problem in eternity past. God's plan for the believer goes right on regardless of any circumstances, whether adverse or prosperous.

- c. Election: You were in the purpose of God in eternity past. His plan and purpose is for you to glorify Him in the Devil's world. As long as that plan and purpose calls for you to be alive, all the forces of Satan himself cannot remove you from this life.

3. The Logistical Grace Rationale

- a. God guarantees to all believers everything they need to survive both physically and spiritually in the Devil's world.

2 Peter 1:3 - His omnipotence has guaranteed to us everything pertaining to life and godliness...

- b. The basis for logistical grace support is the imputation of God's righteousness at salvation.

Matthew 6:33 - "First, seek the kingdom (believe in Christ) and His righteousness and all these things (daily needs) will be provided for you."

- c. As long as we are alive, God assumes the responsibility of providing everything necessary for our support.

Lamentations 3:22 - Because of the Lord's great love we are not consumed, for His compassions never fail.

Verse 23 - They are renewed every morning; great is Your faithfulness.

- d. All the forces of *cosmos diabolicus* cannot remove you from this life apart from God's permission.

Romans 8:38 - I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any power,

Verse 39 - neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

- e. As long as you are alive, God promises to provide everything necessary for you to advance to spiritual maturity.

- 1. Matthew 22:29 - "You are in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God."

Consequently, God must produce, distribute and protect the Bible which is the textbook of Christianity.

- 2. Hebrews 10:25 - Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing...

Therefore, God must provide the local church which is the classroom for Christianity.

- 3. Ephesians 4:11 - It was He who gave some to be ... pastor-teachers,

Verse 12 - to prepare God's people for works of service so that the body of Christ might be built up.

The spiritual gift of pastor-teacher has been provided as the messenger for transferring doctrine from the Textbook to the believer assembled in the classroom.

4. 2 Peter 3:18 - Grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

In order for us to comprehend and metabolize the supernatural information of divine revelation, there must be a system for doing so. This system was studied earlier in this book as the Grace Apparatus for Perception.
1 Corinthians 2

- f. Being bad, stupid, sinful, a failure, revisionistic, carnal, cosmic, of negative volition, or arrogant does not remove logistical grace from you. However, such a lifestyle will encourage divine discipline from God. Those who act in such a manner have forgotten they are royal family.

BAS-41

Hebrews 12:5 - You have forgotten that word of encouragement which addresses you as sons (υἱός, *huios*): "My son, do not take lightly the Lord's discipline and do not be weakened when He scourges you."

1. The Greek word for “discipline” is παιδεία, *paideia* and means the training of a child through discipline and correction.
2. The King James Version uses the Middle English word “chasten” as a translation.
3. “Chasten” came into English from the Latin *castigare* which is a compound of two words: *castus*, which means “pure” or “clean”; and *agere* which means “to drive.”
4. Therefore, the Latin *castigare* literally means “to drive pure,” and therefore, “to cleanse through discipline.”
5. Children need to be cleansed from the impurity of their souls through discipline.
6. Without discipline, children will always remain recalcitrant, disobedient, rebellious and unmanageable.
7. God calls us children. We are babes in His sight and we must be brought into line through discipline.
8. We should not take this discipline lightly nor should we become discouraged by it.

9. Some believers simply do not believe that God would ever discipline them out of love and therefore look on all periods of difficulty as being someone else's fault.
10. Others take discipline much too seriously in that they look on periods of difficulty as a sign that God has forsaken them and even that they have lost their salvation.
11. But the child of God should neither ignore discipline nor be discouraged by it.
12. Instead we are to be encouraged by discipline because this is proof that we are really His children.

Hebrews 12:6 - "The Lord disciplines (chastens) those whom He loves and punishes (μαστιγοῖ, *mastigoi*: to scourge with a whip) everyone He accepts as a son."

Verse 7 - Endure hardship as discipline; God is dealing with you as sons. For what son is not disciplined by his father?

Verse 8 - If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are bastards and not true sons.

Verse 9 - Moreover, we have all had human fathers who disciplined us and

we respected them for it. How much more should we submit to the Father of our human spirits and live?"

Verse 10 - Our fathers disciplined us for a little while as they thought best; but God disciplines us for our good, that we may share in His holiness.

Verse 11 - No discipline seems pleasant at the time, but painful. Later on, however, it produces a harvest of righteousness and peace for those who have been trained by it.

- g. So we will be disciplined for the purpose of getting us out of the Cosmic System, but we never lose the support of God's logistical grace.

2 Timothy 2:13 - If we are faithless, He remains faithful; for He cannot deny Himself.

BAS-42

D. Stage 3 - Doctrinal Conclusion

1. Those who operate on the basis of grace never lose control of a situation.
2. In Stage 3, doctrine places the reality of God's power and grace over the reality of your problem.
3. When the reality of doctrine meets the reality of your problem, the reality that wins out determines whether you pass or fail the test.

4. If the reality of the problem wins out, then you will be afraid—fear will rule your thoughts and you will fail the test.
5. If the reality of God's power and grace wins out, then you will be in control of the situation—doctrine will rule over your thoughts and you will pass the test.
6. No matter what your problem is, the reality of the Word of God must be more real to you than the reality of your problem.
7. You can't learn to think under pressure until you have had practice.
8. God gives you tests to see if you are willing to apply the doctrines you have learned to them.
9. If you fail to use the Faith-Rest Technique during the small tests (charge of the mosquito), then when the true disaster comes (the charge of the elephant), you're going to fall apart, fail and be a coward.
10. The difference between fear and courage is the ability to think under pressure.
11. Principle: Fear is lack of thought under pressure! Courage is the ability to think under pressure!
12. Fear must be overcome before the Faith-Rest Technique can really work.
13. Fear, doubt, worry, anxiety and dread may all be overcome and neutralized by claiming the promises of Scripture; Stage 1 of the Faith-Rest Technique.

14. Solutions can be executed by the application of doctrine to the situation you face; Stage 2 of the Faith-Rest Technique.
 15. Confidence in the Word of God produces courage toward life and circumstances; Stage 3 of the Faith-Rest Technique.
 16. And the final conclusion you should always reach after executing the Faith-Rest Technique is: Since God is in control of the situation, I don't have to sweat it!
- E. Faith-Rest Technique - Biblical example from Romans 4
1. Note Genesis 17

Verse 16 - "I will bless Sarah and she shall be a mother of nations; kings of peoples shall come from her."

BAS-43
 2. At this point we need to briefly take up some principles on Discipline and Suffering.

Principles on Discipline and Suffering

1. There are three categories of suffering:
 - a. Law of Volitional Responsibility
 - b. Law of Divine Discipline
 - c. Suffering for Blessing
2. Law of Volitional Responsibility
 - a. We are all responsible for our decisions in life.
 - b. Volitional responsibility comes in three categories:
 1. Self-Imposed Misery: Suffering caused by bad thinking and wrong motivation.
 2. Self-Induced Misery: Suffering caused by bad decisions and wrong actions.
 3. Self-Indulged Misery: Suffering caused by the gratification of the lust pattern in the production of sin, human good and evil.
 - c. Wrong thinking leads to wrong decisions resulting in wrong actions.
 - d. Wrong decisions are based on several factors:
 1. Sin
 2. Human Good
 3. Evil
 4. Emotion
 5. Bad Judgment
 6. Lust Pattern
 7. False Teaching

- e. The Law of Volitional Responsibility applies to believers and unbelievers alike.
- f. Impulsive actions bypass motives and decisions and are related to the lust pattern and self-gratification.
- g. Deliberate actions are related to decisions and thus are reflections of one's thinking and motivations.
- h. Hosea 8:7 - "For they sowed the wind and they reaped the whirlwind."

Proverbs 22:8 - He who sows wickedness reaps trouble and the rod of God's punishment will surely come.

3. Law of Divine Discipline

- a. All divine discipline is a grace action by God designed to steer us away from wrong thinking and false motivations.
- b. It is His desire to bless us and He cannot do so as long as we are executing Satan's plan over His plan.
- c. Divine discipline is for believers only as per Hebrews 12:8 - If you are not disciplined (and everyone undergoes discipline), then you are bastards and not true sons.
- d. There are three categories of divine discipline
 - 1. Warning: Added to the misery of the Law of Volitional Responsibility. The believer is

capable of realizing the problem and to rebound.

Revelation 3:20 - "I stand at the door and I keep on knocking. If anyone hears my voice (warning discipline) and opens the door (rebound) I will come in and reestablish fellowship with Him and he with me."

2. Intensive: Those who ignore rebound must enter into an area of unbearable pain and discipline. This is the last chance to return to God's plan before hardness of heart shuts down all spiritual orientation.

Hebrews 4:7 - "Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts."

Hebrews 10:31 - It is a dreadful thing to fall into the hands of the living God.

3. Dying: Refusal to return to the divine power system makes it impossible for the believer to execute the plan of God. The longer one spends in the Cosmic System the less capable he becomes of making a recovery decision. Eventually he is locked in negative volition.

Hebrews 6:4 - It is impossible for those who have once been enlightened...

Verse 6a - if they fall away (hardness of heart), to be brought back to repentance (rebound)..."

Consequently, they reach a status of irreversible sinning which leads to death.

1 John 5:16 - If anyone has seen his fellow believer committing a sin not leading to death, he should pray and God will give life to those who have not committed the sin leading to death. There is a status of sin that leads one to death.

- e. All three categories of divine discipline are mentioned in 1 Corinthians 11:

Verse 30 - For this reason (partaking the Eucharist elements while living in the Cosmic System) many are weak (warning) and sick (intensive) and a number of you have fallen asleep (dying).

Verse 31 - But if we would judge ourselves (rebound) we should not be judged.

4. Suffering for Blessings

1. For the believer who is advancing in the Christian walk inside the divine power system, all suffering is designed for blessing.
2. There are three types of suffering for blessing:
 - a. Providential Preventive Suffering: Designed to keep the believer from becoming arrogant over his spiritual aristocracy.

2 Corinthians 12:7 - Lest I should become arrogant because of the surpassing quality of revelations, I was given a thorn in the

flesh, a messenger of Satan that he might torment me, lest I become arrogant.

- b. Momentum Testing: Designed to hasten the believer's spiritual momentum. The adult believer views testing as blessing and a challenge for application of doctrine to life. Such an attitude remains positive and is motivated by the prospect of blessing.

There are four categories of Momentum Testing:

- 1. People Testing: A test which challenges you to relinquish your spiritual life to others.

1 Corinthians 15:33 - Do not be deceived: "Bad company corrupts good morals."

Proverbs 13:20 - He who walks with the wise will be wise. But the friends of fools will suffer evil.

- 2. Thought Testing: The conflict of human viewpoint versus divine viewpoint.

2 Corinthians 10:4 - The equipment and weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh but of the power of God for the destruction of fortifications.

Verse 5 - We assault arguments and demolish speculations and every obstacle of arrogance against the knowledge of God, making a prisoner of every

thought to the obedience of Christ.

3. System Testing: The believer is treated unfairly within a system including policy, people and authority structure.

Colossians 3:23 - Whatever you do, keep functioning with all your soul as if you were working for the Lord and not men.

Verse 24 - You know you will receive the reward of your inheritance from the Lord. It is the Lord Christ Whom you serve.

4. Disaster Testing: The challenge to endure under the pressure of extreme difficulty and trauma; the opportunity to manifest poise under pressure.

1 Peter 1:7 - These tests have come so that your faith—of greater worth than gold which perishes even though refined by fire—may be proved genuine and may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.

- c. Evidence Testing: Designed to glorify God in human history. It is part of the Angelic Conflict designed to demonstrate to Satan and his demons that no matter what form of disaster enters your life, your faith in God and loyalty to His plan is unwavering.

This testing is always unfair, unjust and undeserved. It always comes suddenly

and is completely unexpected. Its duration is relatively short. There is no apparent explanation for it or why it is happening to you. Only the mature believer has the capacity to handle evidence testing.

Documentation: The Book of Job

BAS-44

5. Comparison—Suffering for Discipline and Suffering for Blessing:

	For Discipline	For Blessing
Issue:	Sin, Human Good and Evil	Momentum
Status:	Walking in Darkness	Walking in the Light
Category:	Unbearable	Bearable
Viewpoint:	Arrogance and Subjectivity	Humility and Objectivity
Solution:	Rebound	Faith-Rest Technique: Unconditional love toward mankind; Courage toward life and circumstances.

Genesis 17:

Verse 17 - Then Abraham fell on his face and laughed and said in his heart, "Will a child be born to a man a hundred years old? And will Sarah, who is ninety years old bear a child?"

Verse 18 - And Abraham said to God, "O that Ishmael might live before You!"

Verse 19a - But God said, "No, but Sarah your wife shall bear you a son and you shall name him Isaac..."

1. At first neither Abraham nor Sarah believed this promise from God.
2. However, after utilizing the Faith-Rest Technique, they came to a state of confident expectation regarding the birth of Isaac.
3. Now note Romans 4:

Verse 19 - So without becoming weak in faith, he completely understood his own body which had become sexually dead when he was a hundred and also understood the deadness of Sarah's womb.

Verse 20 - He, Abraham, staggered not at the promise of God in unbelief but was empowered by means of doctrine poured into him, giving glory to God.

Verse 21 - And he was fully convinced that what God has promised, He was able also to accomplish.

4. A word in verse 20 gives us the clue to Abraham's confidence under pressure.
5. That word is translated "strong" or "strengthened" in translations but in Greek it is the verb ἐνδυναμόω, *endunamoō* and means "to receive power from something poured into you."

6. Abraham faces two realities:
 1. His problem. He is sexually dead as is his wife Sara. They cannot, scientifically speaking, procreate any more children.
 2. God's promise. God has promised a son to both of them.
7. This verse says that Abraham decided from doctrine resident in his soul that the reality of God's promise was more real to him than the reality of his sexual death.
8. It was faith in the Word of God that gave Abraham the ability to think under pressure.
9. He is said to have not staggered, or doubted the promise of God but was rather empowered by means of doctrine poured into him.
10. We see in verse 21 that because of utilizing the Essence of God Rationale he was able to reach a doctrinal conclusion:

Verse 21 - And he was fully convinced that what God had promised, He was able also to accomplish.

11. In stage 2, Abraham concentrated on the following attributes:
 1. Omnipotence: God has the power to accomplish His promises.
 2. Veracity: God told Abraham he would have another son and God cannot lie.

3. Immutability: Now that God has stated His promise He is unable to go back on His Word.
4. Integrity: God has the honor and faithfulness to keep His Word.
12. This rationale resulted in Abraham having complete confidence in the promise of God.
13. Stage 3 was the doctrinal conclusion: what God had promised, He was able also to accomplish.
14. Without Bible doctrine resident in his soul, Abraham would have had nothing on which to concentrate in Stage 2.
15. With no doctrine on which to concentrate, Abraham would have reached no doctrinal conclusions in Stage 3.
16. Principle: Knowing a promise (γνώσις, *gnôsis*) is no good unless you believe the promise as well (ἐπίγνωσις, *epignôsis*).

Verse 20 - Abraham did not doubt the promise of God in unbelief...

17. Principle: Believing the promise is no good if you do not have doctrine in your soul to give you confidence in the promise.

Verse 20b - ... but he was empowered by means of doctrine poured into him.

18. The doctrine in which he placed his faith was the Essence of God Rationale poured

into him through the process of GAP.

19. Principle: Believing promises and recalling doctrine allows you to reach doctrinal conclusions which give you confidence in the face of hopeless situations.

Verse 21 - And Abraham was fully confident that what God had promised, He was able also to accomplish.

20. The reality of God's integrity was more real to Abraham than the reality of the problem he faced.

21. Consequently, knowledge of doctrine produces for us life's only true security.
Doctrine is the only real security in life.

- F. Faith-Rest Technique - Literary Illustration from
McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader

THE RIGHTEOUS NEVER FORSAKEN

It was Saturday night, and the widow of the Pine Cottage sat by her blazing fagots, with her five tattered children at her side, endeavoring by listening to the artlessness of their prattle to dissipate the heavy gloom that pressed upon her mind. For a year, her own feeble hand had provided for her helpless family, for she had no supporter. She thought of no friend in all the wide world around.

But that mysterious Providence, the wisdom of whose ways is above human comprehension, had visited her with wasting sickness, and her little means had become exhausted. It was now, too, midwinter, and the snow lay heavy and deep through all the surrounding forests, while storms still seemed

gathering in the heavens, and the driving wind roared amid the neighboring pines, and rocked her puny mansion.

The last herring smoked upon the coals before her; it was the only article of food she possessed, and no wonder her forlorn, desolate state brought up in her lone bosom all the anxieties of a mother when she looked upon her children: and no wonder, forlorn as she was, if she suffered the heart swellings of despair to rise, even though she knew that He, whose promise is to the widow and to the orphan, cannot forget His word. *(The essence of God rationale using omniscience, immutability, and veracity with the promise of Psalm 146:9, "The Lord supports the fatherless and the widow.")*

Providence had many years before taken from her her eldest son, who went from his forest home to try his fortune on the high seas, since which she had heard no tidings of him; and in her latter time had, by the hand of death, deprived her of the companion and staff of her earthly pilgrimage, in the person of her husband. Yet to this hour she had upborne; she had not only been able to provide for her little flock, but had never lost an opportunity of ministering to the wants of the miserable and destitute.

The indolent may well bear with poverty while the ability to gain sustenance remains. The individual who has but his own wants to supply may suffer with fortitude the winter of want; his affections are not wounded, his heart is not wrung. The most desolate in populous cities may hope, for charity has not quite closed her hand and heart, and shut her eyes on misery.

But the industrious mother of helpless and depending children, far from the reach of human charity, has none of these to console her. And such a one was the widow of the Pine Cottage; but as she bent over the fire, and took up the last scanty remnant of food to spread before her children, her spir-

its seemed to brighten up, as by some sudden and mysterious impulse, and (William) Cowper's beautiful lines came uncalled across her mind:

“Judge not the Lord by feeble sense,
But trust Him for His grace;
Behind a frowning Providence
He hides a smiling face.”

(This is testing for blessing. The widow uses the plan of God rationale: He knew of her problem in eternity past and made a provision for her in His perfect plan. Lamentations 3:25, “The Lord is good unto those who wait for Him, to the soul who seeks Him.”)

The smoked herring was scarcely laid upon the table, when a gentle rap at the door, and the loud barking of a dog, attracted the attention of the family. The children flew to open it, and a weary traveler, in tattered garments and in apparently indifferent health, entered, and begged a lodging and a mouthful of food. Said he: “It is now twenty-four hours since I tasted bread.” The widow's heart bled anew, as under a fresh complication of distresses; for her sympathies lingered not around her fireside. She hesitated not even now; rest, and a share of all she had, she proffered to the stranger. “We shall not be forsaken,” said she, “or suffer deeper for an act of charity.”

The traveler drew near the board, but when he saw the scanty fare, he raised his eyes toward heaven with astonishment: “And is this all your store?” said he; “and a share of this do you offer to one you know not? Then never saw I charity before! But, madam,” said he, continuing, “do you not wrong your children by giving a part of your last mouthful to a stranger?”

“Ah,” said the poor widow—and the tear-drops gushed into her eyes as she said it—“I have a boy, a darling son, somewhere on the face of the wide world, unless Heaven has taken

him away, and I only act toward you as I would that others should act toward him. God, who sent manna from heaven, can provide for us as He did for Israel (*Here she uses the Logistical Grace Rationale with the promise of Philippians 4:19, "And my God shall supply all your needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus."*); and how should I this night offend him, if my son should be a wanderer, destitute as you, and He should have provided for him a home, even poor as this, were I to turn you unrelieved away!"

The widow ended, and the stranger, springing from his seat, clasped her in his arms. "God indeed has provided your son a home, and has given him wealth to reward the goodness of his benefactress: my mother! Oh, my mother!" It was her long lost son, returned to her bosom from the Indies. He had chosen that disguise that he might the more completely surprise his family; and never was surprise more perfect, or followed by a sweeter cup of joy. (*Doctrinal Conclusion: Psalm 37:25, "I have been young, and now I am old; yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken, or his descendants begging bread."*)

Scripture Index

OLD TESTAMENT

GENESIS

Genesis 2:7	21
Genesis 2:22-25	22
Genesis 3:6	21, 22
Genesis 3:16	22
Genesis 6:1-4	22
Genesis 6:5	22
Genesis 8:14	22
Genesis 8:15	22
Genesis 10:32	22
Genesis 11:1-8	22
Genesis 12:1	22
Genesis 12:2	152
Genesis 13:14-15	52
Genesis 13:16	152
Genesis 15:5	52
Genesis 15:18	52
Genesis 17	116
Genesis 17:16	116
Genesis 17:17	123
Genesis 17:18	123
Genesis 17:19a	124
Genesis 21:12	52
Genesis 25:12-16	23
Genesis 26:3	52
Genesis 35:12	52

EXODUS

Exodus 6:2-5	52
Exodus 7	75
Exodus 7:12	75
Exodus 7:20	83
Exodus 8	52
Exodus 13	22
Exodus 14	23
Exodus 14	75
Exodus 14:13	96, 101
Exodus 15	76
Exodus 16	76
Exodus 17	75, 78
Exodus 17:1	78
Exodus 17:1-7	75
Exodus 17:2	80
Exodus 17:3	81
Exodus 17:4	82
Exodus 17:5	83
Exodus 17:6	83
Exodus 17:7	84
Exodus 20:4	42
Exodus 20:5	42

NUMBERS

Numbers 20	84
------------	----

Numbers 20:2	85
Numbers 20:2-13	75
Numbers 20:3	85
Numbers 20:4	85
Numbers 20:5	85
Numbers 20:6	87
Numbers 20:7	87
Numbers 20:8	87
Numbers 20:9	87
Numbers 20:10	87
Numbers 20:11	87
Numbers 20:11b	88
Numbers 20:13	89

DEUTERONOMY

Deuteronomy 6:7	86
Deuteronomy 31:6	101
Deuteronomy 31:8	101
Deuteronomy 32:4	104
Deuteronomy 33:27	101

1 SAMUEL

1 Samuel 17:47	80, 103
----------------	---------

2 SAMUEL

2 Samuel 7:11	26
2 Samuel 7:12	26
2 Samuel 7:16	27, 52

1 CHRONICLES

1 Chronicles 2:1	23
1 Chronicles 2:2	23

JOB

Job 32:8	69
----------	----

PSALMS

Psalms 4:8	103
Psalms 18:30	100
Psalms 22:10	25
Psalms 23:1	103
Psalms 33:12	103
Psalms 36:25	102
Psalms 37:4	104
Psalms 37:5	104
Psalms 37:25	102, 130
Psalms 37:28	102
Psalms 46:7	103
Psalms 46:9	54
Psalms 55:22	102
Psalms 56:3	103
Psalms 56:11	103
Psalms 100:5	105
Psalms 108:13	103
Psalms 119:89	100

Scripture Index

Psalms 138:2	3
Psalms 145:18	104
Psalms 146:5	103
Psalms 146:9	128

PROVERBS

Proverbs 3:5	104
Proverbs 3:6	104
Proverbs 8:33	3
Proverbs 8:34	3
Proverbs 8:35	3
Proverbs 8:36	3
Proverbs 13:20	121
Proverbs 22:8	118

ISAIAH

Isaiah 2:4	54
Isaiah 5:26-30	54
Isaiah 10:19-23	54
Isaiah 11:1-2	55
Isaiah 11:2	28
Isaiah 11:3-4	55
Isaiah 11:6-9	55
Isaiah 11:9	55
Isaiah 11:11-16	54
Isaiah 26:3	104
Isaiah 26:4	104
Isaiah 40:29	101
Isaiah 40:31	102
Isaiah 41:10	102
Isaiah 42:1	28, 29
Isaiah 55:8	91
Isaiah 55:9	91
Isaiah 61:1-2	29
Isaiah 65:19	54
Isaiah 65:20	55
Isaiah 65:24	105
Isaiah 65:25	55

JEREMIAH

Jeremiah 31:31-34	52
-------------------------	----

LAMENTATIONS

Lamentations 3:22	105, 109
Lamentations 3:23	105, 109
Lamentations 3:25	129

DANIEL

Daniel 9:24	54
-------------------	----

HOSEA

Hosea 2:18	54
Hosea 8:7	118

JOEL

Joel 2:16	54
-----------------	----

AMOS

Amos 9:13-15	54
--------------------	----

MICAHA

Micah 4:3	54
-----------------	----

ZECHARIAH

Zechariah 2:5	103
Zechariah 8:20-23	54
Zechariah 10:6-12	54
Zechariah 14:9	52, 55
Zechariah 14:10	54

NEW TESTAMENT

MATTHEW

Matthew 1	27
Matthew 3:17	43
Matthew 5-7	27
Matthew 6	28
Matthew 6:33	109
Matthew 7	28
Matthew 11:27	42
Matthew 11:28	100
Matthew 12:18	29
Matthew 12:28	29
Matthew 12:22	100
Matthew 22:29	7, 73, 91, 110
Matthew 26:39	31

LUKE

Luke 1:32-33	52
Luke 1:37	100
Luke 2:40	32
Luke 2:46	31
Luke 2:47	31
Luke 2:51	31
Luke 2:52	31
Luke 3	27
Luke 4:1	37
Luke 4:2	37
Luke 4:14	29
Luke 4:15	29
Luke 4:16	29
Luke 4:17	29
Luke 4:18	29
Luke 4:19	30
Luke 14:11	31

JOHN

John 1:1	10
John 1:14	10
John 2:3	39
John 2:4	40
John 3:1-18	66
John 3:6-7	66
John 3:10	66
John 3:34	30
John 3:36	v
John 4:13	84
John 4:14	84
John 4:24	v

Scripture Index

John 5:23	42
John 5:37	43
John 5:38	43
John 7:3	40
John 7:4	40
John 7:5	40
John 7:6	40
John 7:15	32
John 7:16	32
John 7:17	32
John 7:30	41
John 7:37	44
John 8:12	41, 44
John 8:18	42
John 8:19	43
John 8:20	44
John 8:28	32
John 8:31	73, 104
John 8:32	73, 104
John 8:42	42
John 8:43	43
John 8:44	43
John 8:45	43
John 8:46	43
John 8:47	43
John 8:54	32
John 8:55	33
John 8:56	22
John 8:57	23
John 8:58	23
John 10:28	105
John 12:20	46
John 12:21	46
John 12:22	46
John 12:23	46
John 13:1	47
John 14	28
John 14:17	28, 48
John 14:15	73
John 14:21	34
John 14:26	70, 106
John 14:31	33
John 15	29
John 15:9	33
John 15:10	37
John 15:11	37
John 15:18	36
John 15:25	37
John 16	28
John 17	28
John 17:4	38

ACTS

Acts 1	48
Acts 1:11	25
Acts 2	23
Acts 2:29	27
Acts 2:30	27
Acts 20:38	38

ROMANS

Romans 1:3	38
Romans 1:4	38
Romans 1:17	100
Romans 1:22	71
Romans 4	116
Romans 4:19	124
Romans 4:20	124, 126
Romans 4:20 <i>b</i>	126
Romans 4:21	124, 125
Romans 5:10	77
Romans 8:16	70
Romans 8:19-22	55
Romans 8:21	54
Romans 8:28	80, 105
Romans 8:29	108
Romans 8:30	108
Romans 8:31	17, 103
Romans 8:35	34
Romans 8:38	34, 110
Romans 8:39	34, 110
Romans 12:2	4
Romans 12:3	6
Romans 16:25	58
Romans 16:26	58

1 CORINTHIANS

1 Corinthians 2	8, 9, 60, 63, 111
1 Corinthians 2:4	9, 12, 64
1 Corinthians 2:5	14, 64, 104
1 Corinthians 2:6	15, 64
1 Corinthians 2:7	18, 64
1 Corinthians 2:8	64
1 Corinthians 2:9	64, 100
1 Corinthians 2:10	65
1 Corinthians 2:10 <i>a</i>	67
1 Corinthians 2:10 <i>b</i>	67
1 Corinthians 2:11	67
1 Corinthians 2:12	68
1 Corinthians 2:13	68
1 Corinthians 2:14	9, 70
1 Corinthians 2:16	5
1 Corinthians 4:1	59
1 Corinthians 5:7 <i>b</i>	76
1 Corinthians 10:13	16, 101
1 Corinthians 11:30	120
1 Corinthians 11:31	120
1 Corinthians 15:33	121
1 Corinthians 15:35-39	50
1 Corinthians 15:42-57	50

2 CORINTHIANS

2 Corinthians 5:7	100
2 Corinthians 5:10	35
2 Corinthians 5:20	63
2 Corinthians 10:4	4, 121
2 Corinthians 10:5	4, 121
2 Corinthians 12:7	120

Scripture Index

EPHESIANS	
Ephesians 3:2	58
Ephesians 3:3	58
Ephesians 3:4	58
Ephesians 3:5	58
Ephesians 3:6	59
Ephesians 3:20	105
Ephesians 4:11	110
Ephesians 4:12	111
Ephesians 5:2	33
PHILIPPIANS	
Philippians 2:1	5
Philippians 2:2	5
Philippians 3:10	7
Philippians 3:13b	86
Philippians 3:14	86
Philippians 3:20	63
Philippians 3:20-21	50
Philippians 4:6	101
Philippians 4:7	101
Philippians 4:11	102
Philippians 4:12	102
Philippians 4:13	103
Philippians 4:19	105, 130
COLOSSIANS	
Colossians 1:25	4, 59
Colossians 1:26	4, 59
Colossians 1:27	59
Colossians 3:23	122
Colossians 3:24	122
1 THESSALONIANS	
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	50
1 Thessalonians 5:18	80, 102
2 THESSALONIANS	
2 Thessalonians 2:1-14	53
1 TIMOTHY	
1 Timothy 3:9	59
2 TIMOTHY	
2 Timothy 2:13	114
2 Timothy 2:15	73
2 Timothy 3:16	73
2 Timothy 3:17	73
TITUS	
Titus 3:5	65
HEBREWS	
Hebrews 3	89, 96
Hebrews 3:7	75, 89
Hebrews 3:8	89
Hebrews 3:9	90
Hebrews 3:10	90
Hebrews 3:11	91
Hebrews 3:12	92
Hebrews 3:13	93
Hebrews 3:14	93
Hebrews 3:15	93
Hebrews 3:16	94
Hebrews 3:17	94
Hebrews 3:18	94
Hebrews 3:19	94, 96
Hebrews 3-4	89
Hebrews 4	96
Hebrews 4:1	94
Hebrews 4:2	75, 94
Hebrews 4:3	96
Hebrews 4:7	119
Hebrews 4:9	97
Hebrews 4:10	97
Hebrews 4:11	97
Hebrews 4:12	5, 69, 97
Hebrews 4:13	97
Hebrews 4:14	97
Hebrews 4:15	97
Hebrews 4:16	98, 106
Hebrews 4:25	62
Hebrews 5:1	62
Hebrews 6:4	119
Hebrews 6:6a	119
Hebrews 9:13	30
Hebrews 9:14	30
Hebrews 10:5	26
Hebrews 10:25	110
Hebrews 10:31	119
Hebrews 10:35	4
Hebrews 11:1	100
Hebrews 12:2	37
Hebrews 12:5	111
Hebrews 12:6	113
Hebrews 12:7	113
Hebrews 12:8	114
Hebrews 12:8	113, 118
Hebrews 12:9	113
Hebrews 12:10	114
Hebrews 12:11	114
Hebrews 13:8	105
JAMES	
James 1:2	17
James 1:3	17
James 1:4	17
James 1:5	17
James 1:7	18
1 PETER	
1 Peter 1:6	18, 78
1 Peter 1:7	18, 78, 122
1 Peter 5:7	80
2 PETER	
2 Peter 1:3	88, 109
2 Peter 1:4	100

Scripture Index

2 Peter 3:10	54
2 Peter 3:12-13	54
2 Peter 3:18	5, 72, 111

1 JOHN

1 John 1:9	v, 62, 100
1 John 5:3	73
1 John 5:3	80
1 John 5:4	105
1 John 5:16	120

JUDE

Jude 19	70
---------------	----

REVELATION

Revelation 2	35
Revelation 2:7	35
Revelation 2:17	35
Revelation 2:26	35
Revelation 2:28	36
Revelation 3	35
Revelation 3:5	36
Revelation 3:12	36
Revelation 3:19	34
Revelation 3:20	119
Revelation 3:21	36
Revelation 6-19	51
Revelation 19	54
Revelation 20:7-10	55
Revelation 21:4	106

Subject Index

- 1 Corinthians 2, 8, 9
- 1 Corinthians 2:5, 14
- 1 Corinthians 2:6, 15
- 1 Corinthians 2:7, 18
- Abrahamic Covenant, 52
- Angelic Conflict, 51
- Angelic Infiltration of the Human Race, 22
- Animation, 12
- Anthropopathism, 91
- Anti-semitic, 53
- Bad Judgment, 117
- Baptism of the Holy Spirit, 62
- BAS-23, 3
- BAS-24, 5
- BAS-25, 10
- BAS-26, 15
- BAS-27, 21
- BAS-28, 26
- BAS-29, 33
- BAS-30, 39
- BAS-31, 49
- BAS-32, 54
- BAS-33, 61
- BAS-34, 69
- BAS-35, 78
- BAS-36, 84
- BAS-37, 92
- BAS-38, 98
- BAS-39, 102
- BAS-40, 106
- BAS-41, 111
- BAS-42, 114
- BAS-43, 116
- BAS-44, 123
- Bible Doctrine, 3
- Bottom Circle, 57, 74
- Christ's Shift of Theology, 39
- Christian Way of Life, 15, 50, 65, 71, 72, 76, 98
- Christocentric Dispensations, 24
- Church Age, 47, 49, 50, 57, 58, 59, 60, 61, 68, 71, 82, 97
- Citizens of Heaven, 63
- Claiming Promises, 99
- Codex 1: Decalogue, 23
- Codex 2: Spiritual Code, 23
- Codex3: The Judgements, 23
- Communication, 12
- Cosmic System, 6, 74, 120
- Cosmos Diabolicus, 48, 110
- CTL 1 Corinthians 2:4, 12
(CTL - *Corrected Translation*)
- Davidic Covenant, 52
- Deity of Christ, 25
- Desert of Sin, 78
- Direct Instruction by Theophany, 22
- Disaster Testing, 122
- Dispensation of Israel or the Jews, 23
- Dispensation of the Church, 49
- Dispensation of the Gentiles, 21
- Dispensation of the Incarnation, 24
- Dispensation of the Tribulation, 51
- Dispensations, 20
- Dispensations of the Millenium, 54
- Dispensations of the Tribulation, 53
- Divine Communications Network, 12
- Divine Discipline, 91, 111, 117, 118, 120
- Divine Institution
 - of Marriage, 22
 - of Nationalism, 22
 - of the Family, 22
- Divine Power System, 21, 28, 33, 37, 38, 48, 50, 57, 65, 98, 120,
- Doctrinal Conclusion, 75, 92, 114, 125, 126, 130
- Doctrinal Rationales, 106
- Doctrine of Dispensations, 19, 20
- Doctrine of the Faith-Rest Drill, 75
- Doctrine of the Mystery, 19, 58
- Dreams, 22
- Dying, 119, 120
- '89 *Basics Series*, 1
- Election, 109
- Emotion, 117
- Epicureanism, 11
- Epistemology, 8, 9
- Epistles, 49, 61
- Era of the Patriarchs, 22
- Eschatological Dispensations, 50
- Eschatology, 50
- Essence of God, 99
 - Rationale, 107, 125
- Eternal Life, 107
- Eternal State, 72, 77
- Eucharist, 120
- Evidence Testing, 122
- Evil, 117
- Existentialism, 67
- Faith, 8
- Faith-Rest, 95
 - Mechanics of, 98
- Faith-Rest Drill, 74, 75, 99
- Faith-Rest Technique, 98, 115, 116, 123, 127
- False Teaching, 117
- Feast of Tabernacles, 40, 44
- Filling of the Holy Spirit, 73
- Financial Policy, 2
- Foreknowledge, 108
- GAP, 8, 68
- Genuine Humility, 31

Subject Index

- Gnostic, 14
- Gnosticism, 11, 67
- Gog Revolution, 55
- Grace Apparatus for Perception, 8, 68, 70, 111
- Human Good, 117
- Human Government, 22
- Humanism, 67
- Hypostatic Union, 26, 38
- Illumination, 12
- Immutability, 16, 108, 126, 128
- Impersonal Love, 7, 34
- Incarnation, 38
- Inspiration, 12
- Integrity, 16, 90, 93, 99, 126, 127
- Intensive, 119, 120
- Interpretation, 12
- Justice, 107
- KJV (King James Version), 14, 35, 66, 89
- Law of Divine Discipline, 117, 118
- Law of Volitional Responsibility, 117
- Light of the World, 44
- Logistical Grace of God, 99
- Logistical Grace Rationale, 109
- Love, 107
- Lust Pattern, 117
- McGuffey, William H., 127, 130
- McGuffey's Fifth Eclectic Reader*, 127, 130
- Millenium, 54, 55
- Momentum Testing, 121
- Mosaic Covenant, 52
- Mosaic Law, 23, 24
- Mystery Doctrine(s), 19, 48, 49, 56, 59, 60, 61, 62, 67, 71
- Negative Volition, 22
- New Covenant, 52
- New Spiritual Species, 47
- New Testament Epistles, 49
- NIV (New International Version), 14, 53, 66, 89
- Occupation with Christ, 5
- Omnipotence, 9, 13, 16, 38, 83, 93, 107, 109, 125
- Omnipresence, 107
- Omniscience, 107
- Palestinian Covenant, 52
- Pentecost, 49
- People Testing, 121
- Personal Love, 7, 33, 34, 35
- Plan of God, 7, 21, 24, 33, 34, 38, 47, 56, 57, 72, 77, 99, 108, 119, 129
- Plan of God Rationale, 108
- Positive Volition, 21
- Post-Canon, 49
- Power Plan of God, 21, 47, 57, 62
- Pre-Canon, 49
- Predestination, 108
- Promised Land, 52, 91
- Pro-semitism, 53
- Prototype Divine Power System, 28, 38, 48
- Providential Preventive Suffering, 120
- Rapture, 34, 49, 50, 51, 53
- Rebirth, 66
- Rebound, 15, 44, 65, 71, 73, 120
- Regeneration, 65, 66
- Rephidim, 79
- Revelation, 12
- Righteous Never Forsaken, The, 127, 130
- Righteousness, 107
- Ritual Plan of God, 21, 24, 56, 57
- Rock, 83, 84, 87, 88, 104
- Royal Ambassador, 63
- Royal Aristocracy, 63
- Royal Priesthood, 62
- Salvation, 33, 38, 50, 55, 57, 65, 70, 71, 72, 96, 109, 113
- Salvation Plan of God, 33, 38
- Second Advent, 52, 53, 54
- Second Advent of Christ, 51
- Self-Imposed Misery, 117
- Self-Induced Misery, 117
- Self-Indulged Misery, 117
- Sermon on the Mount, 27, 48
- Sin, 117
- Soulish Man, 70
- Sovereignty, 107
- Stoicism, 11
- Suffering, 117
 - for blessing(s), 117, 120, 123
 - for discipline, 118, 123
- System Testing, 122
- Teaching Angels, 22
- Ten Plagues, 75, 83
- Textual Criticism, 9
- Theocentric Dispensations, 21
- Thought Testing, 121
- Torah, 52
- Tribulation, 53
- Unconditional Covenants, 51
- Universal Flood, 22
- Upper Room Discourse, 28
- Veracity, 108
- Virgin Birth, 24
- Visions, 22
- Volitional Responsibility, 117, 118
- Warning, 118, 120
- Wilderness of Shur, 76
- Wilderness of Sin, 76
- Wisdom, 10, 15
- Word, 10
- Word of God, 8, 20, 116
- Worship, 3

