

Bible Notes

Volume 2

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51. Cherubim

These are angelic beings placed at the east of the garden of Eden, together with a flaming sword, to stop men entering again after the fall.

Genesis 3:24

So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life.

Images were made of two of them to cover the mercy seat:

Exodus 25:18-22

And thou shalt make two cherubims of gold, of beaten work shalt thou make them, in the two ends of the mercy seat. And make one cherub on the one end, and the other cherub on the other end: even of the mercy seat shall ye make the cherubims on the two ends thereof. And the cherubims shall stretch forth their wings on high, covering the mercy seat with their wings, and their faces shall look one to another; toward the mercy seat shall the faces of the cherubims be. And thou shalt put the mercy seat above upon the ark; and in the ark thou shalt put the testimony that I shall give thee. And there I will meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from above the mercy seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel.

The ark is said to dwell between them (although really it is underneath):

1 Samuel 4:4

So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims: and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God.

2 Samuel 6:2

And David arose, and went with all the people that were with him from Baale of Judah, to bring up from thence the ark of God, whose name is called by the name of the LORD of hosts that dwelleth between the cherubims.

God is said to dwell between them:

Psalm 80:1

O Shepherd of Israel, thou that leadest Joseph like a flock; thou that dwellest between the cherubims, shine forth.

Psalm 99:1

The LORD reigneth; let the people tremble: he sitteth between the cherubims; let the earth be moved.

Isaiah 37:16

O LORD of hosts, God of Israel, that dwellest between the cherubims, thou art the God, even thou alone, of all the kingdoms of the earth: thou hast made heaven and earth.

God is said to ride on a cherub when He comes to help men:

1 Samuel 22:10,11

He bowed the heavens also, and came down; and darkness was under his feet. And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: and he was seen upon the wings of the wind.

Psalm 18:10

And he rode upon a cherub, and did fly: yea, he did fly upon the wings of the wind.

Ezekiel 9:3

*And the glory of the God of Israel was gone up from the cherub, **whereupon he was**, to the threshold of the house....*

They are said to be UNDER the glory of God, as opposed to "Seraphim" which are above (Isaiah 6:2):

Ezekiel 1:26

And above the firmament that was over their heads was the likeness of a throne.

Ezekiel 10:1

Then I looked, and, behold, in the firmament that was above the head of the cherubims there appeared over them as it were a sapphire stone, as the appearance of the likeness of a throne.

Ezekiel 11:22

Then did the cherubims lift up their wings, and the wheels beside them; and the glory of the God of Israel was over them above.

Only four in number are ever spoken of, but images of many were entwined in the coverings of the tabernacle and temple:

Ezekiel 1:5

Also out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures. And this was their appearance; they had the likeness of a man.

Exodus 26:1

Moreover thou shalt make the tabernacle with ten curtains of fine twined linen, and blue, and purple, and scarlet: with cherubims of cunning work shalt thou make them.

1 Kings 6:35

And he carved thereon cherubims and palm trees and open flowers: and covered them with gold fitted upon the carved work.

They are described in detail in Ezekiel's visions in chapters 1 and 10. The creatures seen in chapter 1 are expressly defined as "Cherubim" in 10:15.

They had four wings ("Seraphim" had six) and four faces. In Ezekiel 1 we are told they are the faces of a man, lion, eagle and ox. In Ezekiel 10 we are told they are the faces of a man, lion, eagle, and a cherub (not ox). Does this mean the face of a cherub is like that of an ox? But they had four faces.

Ezekiel 1:10

As for the likeness of their faces, they four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side: and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle.

Ezekiel 10:14

And every one had four faces: the first face was the face of a cherub, and the second face was the face of a man, and the third the face of a lion, and the fourth the face of an eagle.

The King of Tyre (as a type of fallen man) is referred to as "the anointed cherub that covereth":

Ezekiel 28:12-19

Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. I will cast thee as profane out of the mountain of God: and I will destroy thee, O covering cherub, from the midst of the stones of fire.

52. See God Face to Face

No man shall see God (or hear his voice) and live:

Exodus 33:20

And he said, Thou canst not see my face: for there shall no man see me, and live.

Deuteronomy 4:33

Did ever people hear the voice of God speaking out of the midst of the fire, as thou hast heard, and live?

But at sundry times and in divers manners God has revealed Himself in a special way to certain people, but it always instilled fear:

Genesis 32:30

And Jacob called the name of the place Peniel: for I have seen God face to face, and my life is preserved.

Exodus 33:11,17

And the LORD spake unto Moses face to face, as a man speaketh unto his friend. And he turned again into the camp: but his servant Joshua, the son of Nun, a young man, departed not out of the tabernacle.... And the LORD said unto Moses, I will do this thing also that thou hast spoken: for thou hast found grace in my sight, and I know thee by name.

Numbers 12:8

With him will I speak mouth to mouth, even apparently, and not in dark speeches; and the similitude of the LORD shall he behold: wherefore then were ye not afraid to speak against my servant Moses?

Numbers 14:14

And they will tell it to the inhabitants of this land: for they have heard that thou LORD art among this people, that thou LORD art seen face to face, and that thy cloud standeth over them, and that thou goest before them, by day time in a pillar of a cloud, and in a pillar of fire by night.

Deuteronomy 5:4

The LORD talked with you face to face in the mount out of the midst of the fire.

Deuteronomy 34:10

And there arose not a prophet since in Israel like unto Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face.

Judges 6:22

And when Gideon perceived that he was an angel of the LORD, Gideon said, Alas, O Lord GOD! for because I have seen an angel of the LORD face to face.

Judges 13:22

And Manoah said unto his wife, We shall surely die, because we have seen God.

Ezekiel 20:35

And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face.

But, whilst this was the case, Christ hath now declared Him fully:

John 1:18

No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.

But, also, God can dwell in us:

1 John 4:12,13

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us. Hereby know we that we dwell in him, and he in us, because he hath given us of his Spirit.

Not seeing God, therefore, is the opposite of being “of God”:

3 John 11

Beloved, follow not that which is evil, but that which is good. He that doeth good is of God: but he that doeth evil hath not seen God.

Job equates seeing God with not just hearing about Him, but experiencing Him:

Job 42:5

I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

God is unapproachable and invisible to men:

1 Timothy 6:16

Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting. Amen.

But we can still say, in a sense, that we shall one day “see God”:

Job 19:26

And though after my skin worms destroy this body, yet in my flesh shall I see God.

Matthew 5:8

Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.

1 Corinthians 13:12

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

Revelation 22:3,4

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: and they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads.

53. Drinking Alcohol

Drinking alcohol is not forbidden in moderation:

Deuteronomy 14:26

*And thou shalt bestow that money for whatsoever thy soul lusteth after, for oxen, or for sheep, **or for wine, or for strong drink**, or for whatsoever thy soul desireth: and thou shalt eat there before the LORD thy God, and thou shalt rejoice, thou, and thine household.*

Matthew 11:19 (see also Luke 7:34)

*The Son of man came eating and drinking, and they say, Behold a man gluttonous, and a **winebibber**, a friend of publicans and sinners. But wisdom is justified of her children.*

John 2:10

And saith unto him, Every man at the beginning doth set forth good wine; and when men have well drunk, then that which is worse: but thou hast kept the good wine until now.

This last verse was said at the occasion of Christ turning water into wine. If the wine wasn't alcoholic, it would make no sense.

54. Aggressive Evangelism

Aggressive evangelism is not suitable for the Christian. The Christian should display the fruit of the Spirit, not an aggressive nature.

Open Airs:

Matthew 12:19

He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets.

Acts 17:19

And they took him, and brought him unto Areopagus, saying, May we know what this new doctrine, whereof thou speakest, is?

Paul did not get on a soap-box and start preaching to the minions. He was taken to the Areopagus and asked of his new doctrine by the people who took him there - they wanted to hear. This is totally unlike setting up a soap-box and shouting at people who do not want to hear.

Christ was not aggressive in His evangelism:

Isaiah 42:3

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench: he shall bring forth judgment unto truth.

Matthew 12:18-21

Behold my servant, whom I have chosen; my beloved, in whom my soul is well pleased: I will put my spirit upon him, and he shall shew judgment to the Gentiles. He shall not strive, nor cry; neither shall any man hear his voice in the streets. A bruised reed shall he not break, and smoking flax shall he not quench, till he send forth judgment unto victory. And in his name shall the Gentiles trust.

Matthew 27:12-14

And when he was accused of the chief priests and elders, he answered nothing. Then said Pilate unto him, Hearest thou not how many things they witness against thee? And he answered him to never a word; insomuch that the governor marvelled greatly.

Sometimes the prudent must keep silence:

Amos 5:13

Therefore the prudent shall keep silence in that time; for it is an evil time.

Ecclesiastes 3:7

...a time to keep silence, and a time to speak.

Sometimes God stops His people from speaking:

Ezekiel 3:26

And I will make thy tongue cleave to the roof of thy mouth, that thou shalt be dumb, and shalt not be to them a reprover: for they are a rebellious house.

55. Subordination of Christ to the Father

A lot of people cannot accept that Christ subordinates Himself to the Father, as it appears that as a result, the doctrine of the Trinity is in doubt. But the Bible teaches that Christ is equal in power and glory to the Father, but in status He is subordinate:

John 14:28

Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said, I go unto the Father: for my Father is greater than I.

1 Corinthians 11:3

But I would have you know, that the head of every man is Christ; and the head of the woman is the man; and the head of Christ is God.

1 Corinthians 15:28

And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.

Christ knew less than the Father:

Mark 13:32

But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.

He certainly knew less than the Father on earth:

Luke 2:52

And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

56. Respector of Persons / Love Less

Malachi 1:3

I loved Jacob and I hated Esau.

Romans 9:13

Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated.

It has often been said that the above two verses cannot really mean that God hated Esau, because God loves everybody, so it is often believed that the above two verses really mean that God “loved Esau less.” But to “love less” is the same as hatred:

Genesis 29:30,31

And he went in also unto Rachel, and he loved also Rachel more than Leah, and served with him yet seven other years. And when the Lord saw that Leah was hated....

Here we see Jacob loving Rachel more than Leah, supposedly loving both but showing partiality. This God calls hatred in v.31. God NEVER shows partiality like this. He either loves or hates. ALL His children God loves equally (although he treats them all differently as individuals). All the rest God hates equally and casts them quick into hell.

God is no respector of persons:

Acts 10:34,35

God is no respector of persons: but in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him.

Romans 2:11

For there is no respect of persons with God.

Ephesians 6:9

And, ye masters, do the same things unto them, forbearing threatening: knowing that your Master also is in heaven; neither is there respect of persons with him.

Colossians 3:25

But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons.

James 2:1-9

My brethren, have not the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory, with respect of persons. For if there come unto your assembly a man with a gold ring, in goodly apparel, and there come in also a poor man in vile raiment; and ye have respect to him that weareth the gay clothing, and say unto him, Sit thou here in a good place; and say to the poor, Stand thou there, or sit here under my footstool: are ye not then partial in yourselves, and are become judges of evil thoughts? Hearken, my beloved brethren, Hath not God chosen the poor of this world rich in faith, and heirs of the kingdom which he hath promised to them that love him? But ye have despised the poor. Do not rich men oppress you, and draw you before the judgment seats? Do not they blaspheme that worthy name by the which ye are called? If ye fulfil the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself, ye do well: but if ye have respect to persons, ye commit sin, and are convinced of the law as transgressors.

1 Peter 1:17

And if ye call on the Father, who without respect of persons judgeth according to every man's work, pass the time of your sojourning here in fear.

Christ said:

Matthew 10:37

He that loveth father or mother more than me is not worthy of me: and he that loveth son or daughter more than me is not worthy of me.

The equivalent verse in Luke says:

Luke 14:26

*If any man come to me, and **hate** not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple.*

In the end, the bottom line is that we have to choose between Christ or our family. If ever our family tries to force us to sin, we have to make a stand, we can't avoid it. Otherwise we're making them more important in our lives than Christ. And in that case, we won't be worthy of Him.

Mark 10:29-30

There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.

Matthew 6:24

No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other.

57. Christian Love

Love can only be from God. No-one can truly love outside of God:

1 John 4:7

Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God.

1 John 4:12

No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.

Galatians 5:22,23

But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.

Love abounds in knowledge and judgment:

Philippians 1:9

And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment.

Love is keeping the commandments:

John 14:15

If ye love me, keep my commandments.

John 14:23

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

Romans 13:10

Love worketh no ill to his neighbour: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law.

58. Butter, Milk and Honey

These are symbols of the goodness and plenty of the Lord.

Canaan was known as a land “*flowing with milk and honey*”:

Exodus 3:8

And I am come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians, and to bring them up out of that land unto a good land and a large, unto a land flowing with milk and honey;

unto the place of the Canaanites, and the Hittites, and the Amorites, and the Perizzites, and the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

This was a type of the true spiritual Canaan all believers are journeying towards:

Job 20:17

He shall not see the rivers, the floods, the brooks of honey and butter.

Job 29:6

When I washed my steps with butter, and the rock poured me out rivers of oil.

Song 4:11

Thy lips, O my spouse, drop as the honeycomb: honey and milk are under thy tongue; and the smell of thy garments is like the smell of Lebanon.

Song 5:1

I am come into my garden, my sister, my spouse: I have gathered my myrrh with my spice; I have eaten my honeycomb with my honey; I have drunk my wine with my milk: eat, O friends; drink, yea, drink abundantly, O beloved.

Jeremiah 11:5

That I may perform the oath which I have sworn unto your fathers, to give them a land flowing with milk and honey, as it is this day. Then answered I, and said, So be it, O LORD.

These are a type of truth and righteousness:

Isaiah 7:15

Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good.

Isaiah 7:22

And it shall come to pass, for the abundance of milk that they shall give he shall eat butter: for butter and honey shall every one eat that is left in the land.

The word of God is sweet like honey in our mouths, but is bitter in our bellies, knowing the trials and tribulations that we have to go through on this earth to reach the kingdom of heaven:

Ezekiel 3:3

And he said unto me, Son of man, cause thy belly to eat, and fill thy bowels with this roll that I give thee. Then did I eat it; and it was in my mouth as honey for sweetness.

Revelation 10:9,10

And I went unto the angel, and said unto him, Give me the little book. And he said unto me, Take it, and eat it up; and it shall make thy belly bitter, but it shall be in thy mouth sweet as honey. And I took the little book out of the angel's hand, and ate it up; and it was in my mouth sweet as honey: and as soon as I had eaten it, my belly was bitter.

59. Desire on our Enemies

To want to see our “*desire on our enemies*” is not wanting their salvation, it is always wanting their destruction (as long as they are in their natural state, i.e. enemies of God). Of course it is not sin to cry to God to regenerate them, but we must acquiesce with God’s decision about this, not complain that “God got it wrong” by not saving them and throwing them into hell (which is just what all of us deserve anyway):

Psalm 54:7

For he hath delivered me out of all trouble: and mine eye hath seen his desire upon mine enemies.

Psalm 58:10

The God of my mercy shall prevent me: God shall let me see my desire upon mine enemies.

Psalm 92:11

Mine eye also shall see my desire on mine enemies, and mine ears shall hear my desire of the wicked that rise up against me.

Psalm 112:8

His heart is established, he shall not be afraid, until he see his desire upon his enemies.

Psalm 118:7

The LORD taketh my part with them that help me: therefore shall I see my desire upon them that hate me.

We should rejoice over the destruction of our enemies:

Revelation 18:20

Rejoice over her, thou heaven, and ye holy apostles and prophets; for God hath avenged you on her.

60. Spirits in Prison

1 Peter 3:18-20

For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit; by which also he went and preached unto the spirits in prison; which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water.

The phrase “*spirits in prison*” means in bondage to the elements of this evil world. This verse does not teach that God gives the spirits of men a second chance of salvation after they have died:

Psalm 142:7

Bring my soul out of prison, that I may praise thy name: the righteous shall compass me about; for thou shalt deal bountifully with me.

Similarly:

1 Peter 4:6

For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit.

This verse also is not speaking about preaching the gospel to people after they have died, rather it is speaking about the preaching of the gospel to those in past history.

61. Image of God

Man was originally made in the image of God:

Genesis 1:27

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.

Genesis 5:1

This is the book of the generations of Adam. In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him.

Genesis 9:6

Whoso sheddeth man's blood, by man shall his blood be shed: for in the image of God made he man.

1 Corinthians 11:7

For a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the image and glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man.

James 3:9

Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.

Man in his fallen state has lost this image:

Genesis 5:3

*And Adam lived an hundred and thirty years, and begat a son **in his own likeness, after his image**; and called his name Seth.*

2 Corinthians 4:4

In whom the god of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not, lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them.

Ephesians 4:18,19

Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart: who being past feeling have given themselves over unto lasciviousness, to work all uncleanness with greediness.

Christ is the image of God:

Colossians 1:15

Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature.

Hebrews 1:3

Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high.

The image of God is restored in the regenerate:

Romans 8:29

For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren.

1 Corinthians 15:49

And as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

2 Corinthians 3:18

But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

Colossians 1:27

To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Colossians 3:10

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

This image consists in knowledge, righteousness and holiness:

Ephesians 4:24

And that ye put on the new man, which after God is created in righteousness and true holiness.

Ephesians 5:9

For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth.

Colossians 3:10

And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.

However, this is not all that the image of God is, because the angels were also created with these characteristics. Neither is it rationality or responsibility, because the angels had these attributes too. The only thing that we have been given that the angels were not given, is a ruling capacity. In this world we are to have dominion over the creatures:

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth.

Genesis 1:28

And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.

At present we are made a little lower than the angels, but will have a higher place than them in heaven:

Psalms 8:5

For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.

Hebrews 2:7-9

Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: thou hast put all things in subjection under his feet. For in that he put all in subjection under him, he left nothing that is not put under him. But now we see not yet all things put under him. But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

Angels are only ministering spirits to serve us:

Hebrews 1:14

Are they not all ministering spirits, sent forth to minister for them who shall be heirs of salvation?

We shall judge angels:

1 Corinthians 6:3

Know ye not that we shall judge angels? how much more things that pertain to this life?

We shall rule over cities:

Luke 19:11-27

And as they heard these things, he added and spake a parable, because he was nigh to Jerusalem, and because they thought that the kingdom of God should immediately ap-

pear. He said therefore, A certain nobleman went into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. But his citizens hated him, and sent a message after him, saying, We will not have this man to reign over us. And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities. And another came, saying, Lord, behold, here is thy pound, which I have kept laid up in a napkin: for I feared thee, because thou art an austere man: thou takest up that thou layedst not down, and reapest that thou didst not sow. And he saith unto him, Out of thine own mouth will I judge thee, thou wicked servant. Thou knewest that I was an austere man, taking up that I laid not down, and reaping that I did not sow: wherefore then gavest not thou my money into the bank, that at my coming I might have required mine own with usury? And he said unto them that stood by, Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds. (And they said unto him, Lord, he hath ten pounds.) For I say unto you, That unto every one which hath shall be given; and from him that hath not, even that he hath shall be taken away from him. But those mine enemies, which would not that I should reign over them, bring hither, and slay them before me.

62. Sighing over the Visible Church

True believers are those who sigh over the poor state of the outward appearance of the visible church, because it is far from reality, a bad witness to the world and truth is cast to the ground, yet it bears the name of God and of Christ:

Psalm 42:1-4

As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where is thy God? When I remember these things, I pour out my soul in me: for I had gone with the multitude, I went with them to the house of God, with the voice of joy and praise, with a multitude that kept holyday.

Ezekiel 9:4

And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

Zephaniah 3:18

I will gather them that are sorrowful for the solemn assembly, who are of thee, to whom the reproach of it was a burden.

Christ wept over the state of the visible church and the ignorance of the people:

Matthew 23:37

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not.

Luke 19:41,42

And when he was come near, he beheld the city, and wept over it, Saying, If thou hadst known, even thou, at least in this thy day, the things which belong unto thy peace! but now they are hid from thine eyes.

Note Christ was not weeping over the lost here, because He says that these things are deliberately hidden from their eyes (by God); but rather He was weeping over the state of His visible church. He will gather His “*children*” from out of it, i.e. His elect.

John 11:33-38

*When Jesus therefore saw her weeping, and the Jews also weeping which came with her, **he groaned in the spirit, and was troubled, and said, Where have ye laid him? They said unto him, Lord, come and see. Jesus wept.** Then said the Jews, Behold how he loved him! And some of them said, Could not this man, which opened the eyes of the blind, have caused that even this man should not have died? Jesus therefore again **groaning in himself** cometh to the grave. It was a cave, and a stone lay upon it.*

Note that Christ here was not weeping because he loved Lazarus as the Jews thought (although he did love Lazarus), because Christ knew full well that He was going to raise him from the dead. Rather He wept because of their unbelief of the truth.

63. True Repentance

Feigned repentance may bring tears, but they are only in order to try to avoid just punishment:

Exodus 10:16,17

Then Pharaoh called for Moses and Aaron in haste; and he said, I have sinned against the LORD your God, and against you. Now therefore forgive, I pray thee, my sin only this once, and intreat the LORD your God, that he may take away from me this death only.

Numbers 22:34

And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again.

1 Samuel 15:24

And Saul said unto Samuel, I have sinned: for I have transgressed the commandment of the LORD, and thy words: because I feared the people, and obeyed their voice.

1 Samuel 15:30

Then he said, I have sinned: yet honour me now, I pray thee, before the elders of my people, and before Israel, and turn again with me, that I may worship the LORD thy God.

Matthew 27:3-5

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Acts 1:25

Judas by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place.

Genesis 27:38,41

And Esau said unto his father, Hast thou but one blessing, my father? bless me, even me also, O my father. And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept.... And Esau hated Jacob because of the blessing wherewith his father blessed him: and Esau said in his heart, The days of mourning for my father are at hand; then will I slay my brother Jacob.

Hebrews 12:16,17

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

True repentance accepts judgment:

Genesis 42:21

And they said one to another, We are verily guilty concerning our brother, in that we saw the anguish of his soul, when he besought us, and we would not hear; therefore is this distress come upon us.

2 Samuel 24:17

And David spake unto the LORD when he saw the angel that smote the people, and said, Lo, I have sinned, and I have done wickedly: but these sheep, what have they done? let thine hand, I pray thee, be against me, and against my father's house.

Job 33:27

He looketh upon men, and if any say, I have sinned, and perverted that which was right, and it profited me not; he will deliver his soul from going into the pit, and his life shall see the light.

Jonah 1:12

And he said unto them, Take me up, and cast me forth into the sea; so shall the sea be calm unto you: for I know that for my sake this great tempest is upon you.

64. God's Stretched Out Hand / Arm of the Lord

God having a stretched out hand is often mistaken for Him pleading with sinners to come to Him. This is not true. God's stretched out hand is always to do with His mighty deliverances by destroying the enemies of His people. It is always connected with judgment:

Exodus 6:6

Wherefore say unto the children of Israel, I am the LORD, and I will bring you out from under the burdens of the Egyptians, and I will rid you out of their bondage, and I will redeem you with a stretched out arm, and with great judgments.

Deuteronomy 7:19

The great temptations which thine eyes saw, and the signs, and the wonders, and the mighty hand, and the stretched out arm, whereby the LORD thy God brought thee out: so shall the LORD thy God do unto all the people of whom thou art afraid.

Deuteronomy 11:2

And know ye this day: for I speak not with your children which have not known, and which have not seen the chastisement of the LORD your God, his greatness, his mighty hand, and his stretched out arm.

2 Samuel 24:16

And when the angel stretched out his hand upon Jerusalem to destroy it, the LORD repented him of the evil, and said to the angel that destroyed the people, It is enough: stay now thine hand. And the angel of the LORD was by the threshingplace of Araunah the Jebusite.

1 Chronicles 21:16

And David lifted up his eyes, and saw the angel of the LORD stand between the earth and the heaven, having a drawn sword in his hand stretched out over Jerusalem. Then David and the elders of Israel, who were clothed in sackcloth, fell upon their faces.

Isaiah 5:25

Therefore is the anger of the LORD kindled against his people, and he hath stretched forth his hand against them, and hath smitten them: and the hills did tremble, and their carcasses were torn in the midst of the streets. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:12

The Syrians before, and the Philistines behind; and they shall devour Israel with open mouth. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:17

Therefore the Lord shall have no joy in their young men, neither shall have mercy on their fatherless and widows: for every one is an hypocrite and an evildoer, and every mouth speaketh folly. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 9:21

Manasseh, Ephraim; and Ephraim, Manasseh: and they together shall be against Judah. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 10:4

Without me they shall bow down under the prisoners, and they shall fall under the slain. For all this his anger is not turned away, but his hand is stretched out still.

Isaiah 14:26,27

This is the purpose that is purposed upon the whole earth: and this is the hand that is stretched out upon all the nations. For the LORD of hosts hath purposed, and who shall disannul it? and his hand is stretched out, and who shall turn it back?

Isaiah 23:11

He stretched out his hand over the sea, he shook the kingdoms: the LORD hath given a commandment against the merchant city, to destroy the strong holds thereof.

Isaiah 30:30

And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

Isaiah 31:3

Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the LORD shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together.

Jeremiah 15:6

Thou hast forsaken me, saith the LORD, thou art gone backward: therefore will I stretch out my hand against thee, and destroy thee; I am weary with repenting.

Jeremiah 32:21

And hast brought forth thy people Israel out of the land of Egypt with signs, and with wonders, and with a strong hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with great terror.

Jeremiah 51:25

Behold, I am against thee, O destroying mountain, saith the LORD, which destroyest all the earth: and I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and roll thee down from the rocks, and will make thee a burnt mountain.

Ezekiel 6:14

So will I stretch out my hand upon them, and make the land desolate, yea, more desolate than the wilderness toward Diblath, in all their habitations: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Ezekiel 14:9

And if the prophet be deceived when he hath spoken a thing, I the LORD have deceived that prophet, and I will stretch out my hand upon him, and will destroy him from the midst of my people Israel.

Ezekiel 16:27

Behold, therefore I have stretched out my hand over thee, and have diminished thine ordinary food, and delivered thee unto the will of them that hate thee, the daughters of the Philistines, which are ashamed of thy lewd way.

Ezekiel 20:33,34

As I live, saith the Lord GOD, surely with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you. And I will bring you out from the people, and will

gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered, with a mighty hand, and with a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out.

Ezekiel 25:7,13.16

Behold, therefore I will stretch out mine hand upon thee, and will deliver thee for a spoil to the heathen; and I will cut thee off from the people, and I will cause thee to perish out of the countries: I will destroy thee; and thou shalt know that I am the LORD.... Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; I will also stretch out mine hand upon Edom, and will cut off man and beast from it; and I will make it desolate from Teman; and they of Dedan shall fall by the sword.... Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will stretch out mine hand upon the Philistines, and I will cut off the Cherethims, and destroy the remnant of the sea coast.

Ezekiel 35:3

And say unto it, Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, O mount Seir, I am against thee, and I will stretch out mine hand against thee, and I will make thee most desolate.

Zephaniah 1:4

I will also stretch out mine hand upon Judah, and upon all the inhabitants of Jerusalem; and I will cut off the remnant of Baal from this place, and the name of the Chemarims with the priests.

The "Arm of the LORD" is Christ:

Isaiah 51:9

Awake, awake, put on strength, O arm of the LORD; awake, as in the ancient days, in the generations of old. Art thou not it that hath cut Rahab, and wounded the dragon?

Isaiah 53:1

Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?

John 12:38

That the saying of Esaias the prophet might be fulfilled, which he spake, Lord, who hath believed our report? and to whom hath the arm of the Lord been revealed?

65. Sin Seemingly Rewarded by God

Murder

2 Chronicles 15:12,13

And they entered into a covenant to seek the LORD God of their fathers with all their heart and with all their soul; that whosoever would not seek the LORD God of Israel should be put to death, whether small or great, whether man or woman.

2 Kings 10:30

And the LORD said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel.

But, in both these cases, Asa and Jehu were acting as the civil magistrate, and therefore did have the power of the sword:

Romans 13:4

For he is the minister of God to thee for good. But if thou do that which is evil, be afraid; for he beareth not the sword in vain: for he is the minister of God, a revenger to execute wrath upon him that doeth evil.

Lying

Jeremiah 38:27

Then came all the princes unto Jeremiah, and asked him: and he told them according to all these words that the king had commanded. So they left off speaking with him; for the matter was not perceived.

Exodus 1:19,20

And the midwives said unto Pharaoh, Because the Hebrew women are not as the Egyptian women; for they are lively, and are delivered ere the midwives come in unto them. Therefore God dealt well with the midwives: and the people multiplied, and waxed very mighty.

But in both these cases, maybe these excuses were the truth - but just not the whole truth.

66. Archangel Michael

There are only two references to “*the archangel*” in the Bible:

1 Thessalonians 4:16

For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

Jude 1:9

Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Therefore we see that there is only one archangel, Michael.

Apart from the above verses, Michael is referred to in the following:

Daniel 10:13

But the prince of the kingdom of Persia withstood me one and twenty days: but, lo, Michael, one of the chief princes, came to help me; and I remained there with the kings of Persia.

This shows us that there was more than one archangel, as Michael is only “*ONE of the chief princes.*” But 1 Thessalonians 4:16 and Jude 1:9 clearly states that there is only one archangel. Therefore we can at least suggest that there used to be two, Michael and Satan. Satan subsequently fell and became the arch-demon, in charge of all the fallen angels.

Revelation 12:7

And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels and prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven. And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Michael and his angels fought against Satan and his angels and Satan and his angels were cast out to earth. Satan is here defeated in principle, but this does not imply total defeat yet (casting into the “*Lake of Fire*” at the end of time is that).

Daniel 10:21-11:1

But I will shew thee that which is noted in the scripture of truth: and there is none that holdeth with me in these things, but Michael your prince. Also I in the first year of Darius the Mede, even I, stood to confirm and to strengthen him.

This shows that Michael needed strengthening by this one “*like the similitude of the sons of men*” (v.16). So, whoever he is, Michael cannot be Christ, because Christ would not have needed any help.

Daniel 12:1

And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.

Here we see that Michael is the prince of God’s chosen people, as opposed to Satan, who is the prince of this world (John 12:31, 14:30, 16:11).

67. Gabriel

There are four references to “*Gabriel*” in the Bible. Note that he is not an archangel, there is only one of those, i.e. “*Michael*”:

Daniel 8:16

And I heard a man's voice between the banks of Ulai, which called, and said, Gabriel, make this man to understand the vision.

Daniel 9:21

Yea, whiles I was speaking in prayer, even the man Gabriel, whom I had seen in the vision at the beginning, being caused to fly swiftly, touched me about the time of the evening oblation.

Luke 1:19

And the angel answering said unto him, I am Gabriel, that stand in the presence of God; and am sent to speak unto thee, and to shew thee these glad tidings.

Luke 1:26

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth.

In Daniel 8:16 and 9:21 he is called a man, but in Luke 1:19 and 1:26 he is called an angel. In the Bible, angels are sometimes referred to as men.

In Luke 1:19 he is described as one *“that stand in the presence of God.”* Could he be one of the seven angels that do this? c.f. Revelation 8:1 *“And I saw the seven angels which stood before God; and to them were given seven trumpets.”*

68. Cattle

This is one of the three categories of animals created by God (the others being *“beasts”* and *“creeping things”*):

Genesis 1:24

And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so.

They are the types of animal which are kept by men, as opposed to being wild:

Genesis 4:20

And Adah bare Jabal: he was the father of such as dwell in tents, and of such as have cattle.

Genesis 13:2

And Abram was very rich in cattle, in silver, and in gold.

Genesis 30:43

And the man increased exceedingly, and had much cattle, and maidservants, and menservants, and camels, and asses.

They are the clean animals for use in sacrifices:

Leviticus 1:2

Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them, If any man of you bring an offering unto the LORD, ye shall bring your offering of the cattle, even of the herd, and of the flock.

Acts 10:11-14

*And saw heaven opened, and a certain vessel descending unto him, as it had been a great sheet knit at the four corners, and let down to the earth: wherein were all manner of four-footed **beasts of the earth**, and **wild beasts**, and **creeping things**, and **fowls of the air**. And there came a voice to him, Rise, Peter; kill, and eat. But Peter said, Not so, Lord; for I have never eaten any thing that is common or unclean.*

Notice no cattle, i.e. clean animals.

God takes care of cattle, but only for our benefit:

Genesis 8:1

And God remembered Noah, and every living thing, and all the cattle that was with him in the ark: and God made a wind to pass over the earth, and the waters asswaged.

Deuteronomy 7:14

Thou shalt be blessed above all people: there shall not be male or female barren among you, or among your cattle.

Deuteronomy 11:15

And I will send grass in thy fields for thy cattle, that thou mayest eat and be full.

Deuteronomy 13:15

Thou shalt surely smite the inhabitants of that city with the edge of the sword, destroying it utterly, and all that is therein, and the cattle thereof, with the edge of the sword.

Jonah 4:11

And should not I spare Nineveh, that great city, wherein are more than sixscore thousand persons that cannot discern between their right hand and their left hand; and also much cattle?

69. Rechabites and Extra-Biblical Traditions

Jonadab the son of Rechab was in league with Jehu:

2 Kings 10:15

And when he was departed thence, he lighted on Jehonadab the son of Rechab coming to meet him: and he saluted him, and said to him, Is thine heart right, as my heart is with thy heart? And Jehonadab answered, It is. If it be, give me thine hand. And he gave him his hand; and he took him up to him into the chariot.

2 Kings 10:23

And Jehu went, and Jehonadab the son of Rechab, into the house of Baal, and said unto the worshippers of Baal, Search, and look that there be here with you none of the servants of the LORD, but the worshippers of Baal only.

Jonadab commanded his house not to drink wine - an extra-Biblical commandment:

Jeremiah 35:6

But they said, We will drink no wine: for Jonadab the son of Rechab our father commanded us, saying, Ye shall drink no wine, neither ye, nor your sons for ever.

Jeremiah 35:8

Thus have we obeyed the voice of Jonadab the son of Rechab our father in all that he hath charged us, to drink no wine all our days, we, our wives, our sons, nor our daughters.

Jeremiah 35:14

The words of Jonadab the son of Rechab, that he commanded his sons not to drink wine, are performed; for unto this day they drink none, but obey their father's commandment: notwithstanding I have spoken unto you, rising early and speaking; but ye hearkened not unto me.

God blesses the keeping of such a commandment throughout the generations:

Jeremiah 35:16

Because the sons of Jonadab the son of Rechab have performed the commandment of their father, which he commanded them; but this people hath not hearkened unto me.

Jeremiah 35:19

Therefore thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Jonadab the son of Rechab shall not want a man to stand before me for ever.

But we must note that:

(1.) This was voluntary.

(2.) It was unconnected with worship.

(3.) The contrast was between the Rechabites obeying their father in a voluntary, non-Biblical commandment, and the Israelites who had failed to obey their Father in heaven in Biblical commandments.

70. Peace on Earth

“Peace on earth” is always depicted in the Bible as an evil thing:

Job 12:5

He that is ready to slip with his feet is as a lamp despised in the thought of him that is at ease.

Job 16:12

I was at ease, but he hath broken me asunder: he hath also taken me by my neck, and shaken me to pieces, and set me up for his mark.

Psalms 123:4

Our soul is exceedingly filled with the scorning of those that are at ease, and with the contempt of the proud.

Isaiah 32:9

Rise up, ye women that are at ease; hear my voice, ye careless daughters; give ear unto my speech.

Isaiah 32:11

Tremble, ye women that are at ease; be troubled, ye careless ones: strip you, and make you bare, and gird sackcloth upon your loins.

Isaiah 33:7

Behold, their valiant ones shall cry without: the ambassadors of peace shall weep bitterly.

Jeremiah 25:37

And the peaceable habitations are cut down because of the fierce anger of the LORD.

Jeremiah 48:11

Moab hath been at ease from his youth, and he hath settled on his lees, and hath not been emptied from vessel to vessel, neither hath he gone into captivity: therefore his taste remained in him, and his scent is not changed.

Jeremiah 49:31

Arise, get you up unto the wealthy nation, that dwelleth without care, saith the LORD, which have neither gates nor bars, which dwell alone.

Ezekiel 23:42

And a voice of a multitude being at ease was with her: and with the men of the common sort were brought Sabeans from the wilderness, which put bracelets upon their hands, and beautiful crowns upon their heads.

Ezekiel 39:6

And I will send a fire on Magog, and among them that dwell carelessly in the isles: and they shall know that I am the LORD.

Daniel 11:21

And in his estate shall stand up a vile person, to whom they shall not give the honour of the kingdom: but he shall come in peaceably, and obtain the kingdom by flatteries.

Amos 6:1

Woe to them that are at ease in Zion, and trust in the mountain of Samaria, which are named chief of the nations, to whom the house of Israel came.

Nahum 1:12

Thus saith the LORD; Though they be quiet, and likewise many, yet thus shall they be cut down, when he shall pass through. Though I have afflicted thee, I will afflict thee no more.

Zephaniah 1:12

And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil.

Zechariah 1:11,15

And they answered the angel of the LORD that stood among the myrtle trees, and said, We have walked to and fro through the earth, and, behold, all the earth sitteth still, and is at rest.... And I am very sore displeased with the heathen that are at ease: for I was but a little displeased, and they helped forward the affliction.

Luke 12:19

And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.

1 Thessalonians 5:3

For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape.

Peace on earth is proclaimed by the false prophets:

Jeremiah 6:14

They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Jeremiah 8:11

For they have healed the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace.

Micah 3:5

Thus saith the LORD concerning the prophets that make my people err, that bite with their teeth, and cry, Peace; and he that putteth not into their mouths, they even prepare war against him.

Christ did NOT come to give peace on earth:

Matthew 10:34

Think not that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword.

Luke 12:51

Suppose ye that I am come to give peace on earth? I tell you, Nay; but rather division.

Peace on earth without God is no peace:

Isaiah 57:19-21

I create the fruit of the lips; Peace, peace to him that is far off, and to him that is near, saith the LORD; and I will heal him. But the wicked are like the troubled sea, when it can-

not rest, whose waters cast up mire and dirt. There is no peace, saith my God, to the wicked.

Only God can give true spiritual peace, and this is not earthly peace, but spiritual:

Psalm 25:13

His soul shall dwell at ease; and his seed shall inherit the earth.

Jeremiah 46:27

But fear not thou, O my servant Jacob, and be not dismayed, O Israel: for, behold, I will save thee from afar off, and thy seed from the land of their captivity; and Jacob shall return, and be in rest and at ease, and none shall make him afraid.

Philippians 4:7

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus.

71. Law Written in the Heart

God put His law in Adam's heart:

Genesis 1:26

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness.

Genesis 2:16,17

And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

Ecclesiastes 7:29

Lo, this only have I found, that God hath made man upright; but they have sought out many inventions.

Since the fall, the law is only ever written again in the hearts of true believers in all ages:

Jeremiah 31:31-34

Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the LORD: but this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; After those days, saith the LORD, I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the LORD: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the LORD: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more.

This is the image of God put back within man upon regeneration:

Isaiah 51:7

Hearken unto me, ye that know righteousness, the people in whose heart is my law; fear ye not the reproach of men, neither be ye afraid of their revilings.

Romans 2:13-15 therefore only speaks of regenerate Gentiles, not the conscience of all men:

Romans 2:13-15

For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the law shall be justified. For when the Gentiles, which have not the law, do by nature the things contained in the law, these, having not the law, are a law unto themselves: which shew the work of the law written in their hearts, their conscience also bearing witness, and their thoughts the mean while accusing or else excusing one another.

The only way people “do by nature the things contained in the law” is by having been regenerated, i.e. having “the law written in their hearts.” NO man in his unregenerate, natural state has this.

72. God Rejoices in His Judgments

Deuteronomy 28:63

And it shall come to pass, that as the LORD rejoiced over you to do you good, and to multiply you; so the LORD will rejoice over you to destroy you, and to bring you to nought; and ye shall be plucked from off the land whither thou goest to possess it.

Psalms 35:8,9

Let destruction come upon him at unawares; and let his net that he hath hid catch himself: into that very destruction let him fall. And my soul shall be joyful in the LORD: it shall rejoice in his salvation.

Jeremiah 25:33

And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth: they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground.

Jeremiah 52:48

Then the heaven and the earth, and all that is therein, shall sing for Babylon: for the spoilers shall come unto her from the north, saith the LORD.

Ezekiel 7:11

Violence is risen up into a rod of wickedness: none of them shall remain, nor of their multitude, nor of any of theirs: neither shall there be wailing for them.

God's judgments will be a comfort to His people:

Ezekiel 14:22,23

Yet, behold, therein shall be left a remnant that shall be brought forth, both sons and daughters: behold, they shall come forth unto you, and ye shall see their way and their doings: and ye shall be comforted concerning the evil that I have brought upon Jerusalem, even concerning all that I have brought upon it. And they shall comfort you, when ye see their ways and their doings: and ye shall know that I have not done without cause all that I have done in it, saith the Lord GOD.

God's judgments are glorious:

Isaiah 30:30

And the LORD shall cause his glorious voice to be heard, and shall shew the lighting down of his arm, with the indignation of his anger, and with the flame of a devouring fire, with scattering, and tempest, and hailstones.

73. God Will Not Help All Who Call On Him

Deuteronomy 1:45

And ye returned and wept before the LORD; but the LORD would not hearken to your voice, nor give ear unto you.

1 Samuel 3:14

And therefore I have sworn unto the house of Eli, that the iniquity of Eli's house shall not be purged with sacrifice nor offering for ever.

Psalms 18:41

They cried, but there was none to save them: even unto the LORD, but he answered them not.

Proverbs 1:28

Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me.

Isaiah 1:15

And when ye spread forth your hands, I will hide mine eyes from you: yea, when ye make many prayers, I will not hear: your hands are full of blood.

Isaiah 27:11

When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour.

Isaiah 59:1,2

Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.

Jeremiah 11:11

Therefore thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will bring evil upon them, which they shall not be able to escape; and though they shall cry unto me, I will not hearken unto them.

Jeremiah 14:12

When they fast, I will not hear their cry; and when they offer burnt offering and an oblation, I will not accept them: but I will consume them by the sword, and by the famine, and by the pestilence.

Ezekiel 8:18

Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them.

Hosea 5:6

They shall go with their flocks and with their herds to seek the LORD; but they shall not find him; he hath withdrawn himself from them.

Amos 8:12

And they shall wander from sea to sea, and from the north even to the east, they shall run to and fro to seek the word of the LORD, and shall not find it.

Micah 3:4

Then shall they cry unto the LORD, but he will not hear them: he will even hide his face from them at that time, as they have behaved themselves ill in their doings.

Zechariah 7:13

Therefore it is come to pass, that as he cried, and they would not hear; so they cried, and I would not hear, saith the LORD of hosts.

Matthew 27:3-5

Then Judas, which had betrayed him, when he saw that he was condemned, repented himself, and brought again the thirty pieces of silver to the chief priests and elders, saying, I have sinned in that I have betrayed the innocent blood. And they said, What is that to us? see thou to that. And he cast down the pieces of silver in the temple, and departed, and went and hanged himself.

Luke 13:24

Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

John 8:21

Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.

Hebrews 12:17

For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

The prerogative in salvation is always with God, not men. The following “maybe God will save” verses are useful to counteract carnal presumption and easy-believism:

Zephaniah 2:3

Seek ye the LORD, all ye meek of the earth, which have wrought his judgment; seek righteousness, seek meekness: it may be ye shall be hid in the day of the LORD'S anger.

Amos 5:15

Hate the evil, and love the good, and establish judgment in the gate: it may be that the LORD God of hosts will be gracious unto the remnant of Joseph.

Jonah 3:9

Who can tell if God will turn and repent, and turn away from his fierce anger, that we perish not?

74. Let Them Alone

Sometimes God tells us to just let the wicked alone:

Jeremiah 23:28

The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the Lord.

Hosea 4:17

Ephraim is joined to idols: let him alone.

Matthew 15:13,14

But he answered and said, Every plant, which my heavenly Father hath not planted, shall be rooted up. Let them alone: they be blind leaders of the blind. And if the blind lead the blind, both shall fall into the ditch.

1 Corinthians 14:38

But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.

1 Timothy 6:5

Perverse disputings of men of corrupt minds, and destitute of the truth, supposing that gain is godliness: from such withdraw thyself.

Revelation 22:11

He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

God rebukes those who weep for the lost:

Exodus 32:32,33

Yet now, if thou wilt forgive their sin--; and if not, blot me, I pray thee, out of thy book which thou hast written. And the LORD said unto Moses, Whosoever hath sinned against me, him will I blot out of my book.

Ezekiel 9:8-10

And it came to pass, while they were slaying them, and I was left, that I fell upon my face, and cried, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou destroy all the residue of Israel in thy pouring out of thy fury upon Jerusalem? Then said he unto me, The iniquity of the house of Israel and Judah is exceeding great, and the land is full of blood, and the city full of perverseness: for they say, The LORD hath forsaken the earth, and the LORD seeth not. And as for me also, mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity, but I will recompense their way upon their head.

Ezekiel 11:13-15,21

And it came to pass, when I prophesied, that Pelatiah the son of Benaiah died. Then fell I down upon my face, and cried with a loud voice, and said, Ah Lord GOD! wilt thou make a full end of the remnant of Israel? Again the word of the LORD came unto me, saying, Son of man, thy brethren, even thy brethren, the men of thy kindred, and all the house of Israel wholly, are they unto whom the inhabitants of Jerusalem have said, Get you far from the LORD: unto us is this land given in possession.... But as for them whose heart walketh after the heart of their detestable things and their abominations, I will recompense their way upon their own heads, saith the Lord GOD.

We are commanded not to pray for them:

Numbers 16:22,26

And they fell upon their faces, and said, O God, the God of the spirits of all flesh, shall one man sin, and wilt thou be wroth with all the congregation?.... And he spake unto the congregation, saying, Depart, I pray you, from the tents of these wicked men, and touch nothing of theirs, lest ye be consumed in all their sins.

Jeremiah 7:16

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up cry nor prayer for them, neither make intercession to me: for I will not hear thee.

Jeremiah 11:14

Therefore pray not thou for this people, neither lift up a cry or prayer for them: for I will not hear them in the time that they cry unto me for their trouble.

Jeremiah 14:11

Then said the LORD unto me, Pray not for this people for their good.

75. Holy Seed / Holy Flesh

Holy seed

The phrase “*holy seed*” is the proof text that we should baptise infants where one or both parents profess faith. We are called ideally to marry fellow believers to produce covenant children, who are denoted “*holy*”:

Ezra 9:2

For they have taken of their daughters for themselves, and for their sons: so that the holy seed have mingled themselves with the people of those lands: yea, the hand of the princes and rulers hath been chief in this trespass.

Isaiah 6:13

But yet in it shall be a tenth, and it shall return, and shall be eaten: as a teil tree, and as an oak, whose substance is in them, when they cast their leaves: so the holy seed shall be the substance thereof.

Jeremiah 11:15

What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest.

Malachi 2:15

And did not he make one? Yet had he the residue of the spirit. And wherefore one? That he might seek a godly seed. Therefore take heed to your spirit, and let none deal treacherously against the wife of his youth.

Even if only one parent is a true believer, the unbelieving partner is denoted as “*sanctified*,” i.e. set apart, and the children are denoted as “*holy*”:

1 Corinthians 7:14

For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy.

Holy flesh

But if both partners are unbelievers, even if they have grown up in the church, this holiness is removed from the family line:

Jeremiah 11:15

What hath my beloved to do in mine house, seeing she hath wrought lewdness with many, and the holy flesh is passed from thee? when thou doest evil, then thou rejoicest.

In a completely different context, the term “*holy flesh*” can be used to denote the meat that has been set apart from a common to a holy use for the sacrifices:

Haggai 2:12

If one bear holy flesh in the skirt of his garment, and with his skirt do touch bread, or pottage, or wine, or oil, or any meat, shall it be holy? And the priests answered and said, No.

76. Sabbath Day's Journey

This phrase only appears once in the Bible, and gives the precise distance that it involves:

Acts 1:12

Then returned they unto Jerusalem from the mount called Olivet, which is from Jerusalem a sabbath day's journey.

Bethany is on the Mount of Olives, and we're told:

John 11:18

Now Bethany was nigh unto Jerusalem, about fifteen furlongs off.

77. Symbols for Lofty Men

Cedars, oaks, mountains, hills, towers, walls, ships

Isaiah 2:11-16

*The lofty looks of man shall be humbled, and the haughtiness of men shall be bowed down, and the LORD alone shall be exalted in that day. For the day of the LORD of hosts shall be upon every one that is proud and lofty, and upon every one that is lifted up; and he shall be brought low: and upon all the **cedars** of Lebanon, that are high and lifted up, and upon all the **oaks** of Bashan, and upon all the high **mountains**, and upon all the **hills** that are lifted up, and upon every high **tower**, and upon every fenced **wall**, and upon all the **ships** of Tarshish, and upon all pleasant pictures.*

The above passage is very useful in the interpretation of other passages of Scripture. e.g.:

Psalms 29:5

The voice of the LORD breaketh the cedars; yea, the LORD breaketh the cedars of Lebanon.

Isaiah 43:14

Thus saith the LORD, your redeemer, the Holy One of Israel; For your sake I have sent to Babylon, and have brought down all their nobles, and the Chaldeans, whose cry is in the ships.

Isaiah 54:10

For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the LORD that hath mercy on thee.

Nahum 1:5

The mountains quake at him, and the hills melt, and the earth is burned at his presence, yea, the world, and all that dwell therein.

Zephaniah 1:16,17

A day of the trumpet and alarm against the fenced cities, and against the high towers. And I will bring distress upon men, that they shall walk like blind men, because they have sinned against the LORD: and their blood shall be poured out as dust, and their flesh as the dung.

Zechariah 11:2

Howl, fir tree; for the cedar is fallen; because the mighty are spoiled: howl, O ye oaks of Bashan; for the forest of the vintage is come down.

Sun, moon, stars

The sun, moon and stars not giving their light is often used in passages regarding the last things. They primarily refer to powerful men:

Genesis 37:9,10

And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me. And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?

Psalms 147:3,4

Praise ye him, sun and moon: praise him, all ye stars of light. Praise him, ye heavens of heavens, and ye waters that be above the heavens.

Isaiah 13:9-11,13

Behold, the day of the LORD cometh, cruel both with wrath and fierce anger, to lay the land desolate: and he shall destroy the sinners thereof out of it. For the stars of heaven and the constellations thereof shall not give their light: the sun shall be darkened in his going forth, and the moon shall not cause her light to shine. And I will punish the world for their evil, and the wicked for their iniquity; and I will cause the arrogancy of the proud to cease, and will lay low the haughtiness of the terrible.... Therefore I will shake the heavens, and the earth shall remove out of her place, in the wrath of the LORD of hosts, and in the day of his fierce anger.

Isaiah 14:12,13

How art thou fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! how art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations! For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north.

Isaiah 40:26

Lift up your eyes on high, and behold who hath created these things, that bringeth out their host by number: he calleth them all by names by the greatness of his might, for that he is strong in power; not one faileth.

Isaiah 45:4

And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll: and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree.

Ezekiel 32:7

And when I shall put thee out, I will cover the heaven, and make the stars thereof dark; I will cover the sun with a cloud, and the moon shall not give her light.

Obadiah 4

Though thou exalt thyself as the eagle, and though thou set thy nest among the stars, thence will I bring thee down, saith the LORD.

Matthew 24:29

Immediately after the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken.

Mark 13:25

And the stars of heaven shall fall, and the powers that are in heaven shall be shaken.

Luke 21:25,26

And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth distress of nations, with perplexity; the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth: for the powers of heaven shall be shaken.

78. Husband of one Wife

To be the “*husband of one wife*” is one of the qualifications needed to become an elder or deacon in a visible church:

1 Timothy 3:2

A bishop then must be blameless, the husband of one wife, vigilant, sober, of good behaviour, given to hospitality, apt to teach.

Titus 1:6

If any be blameless, the husband of one wife, having faithful children not accused of riot or unruly.

1 Timothy 3:12

Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.

I have for a long time just thought that this phrase meant “not a polygamist,” so single people and people who have married again after death or lawful divorce would be eligible for these offices. However, I see now that this cannot be the case. This is because polygamy is wrong for anyone, not just an elder or deacon. One might as well say “not a sodomite” - *no-one* should be a sodomite, not just elders and deacons.

The reason for this restriction is given in the passage in 1 Timothy 3:

1 Timothy 3:4,5

One that ruleth well his own house, having his children in subjection with all gravity; (for if a man know not how to rule his own house, how shall he take care of the church of God?)

To qualify for the eldership or as a deacon, one must either be married or have been married to one wife and one wife only. This therefore includes widowers, but not single people. The reason given is that they must be able to prove that they can rule a household well. This restriction also immediately excludes:

(1.) women;

(2.) men who cannot rule their own household well;

(3.) men who have never had a household to rule over to either prove or disprove that they can run one well (maybe the Lord in His providence has stopped them from having a household because they cannot rule one well). Single people fall into this category.

With regards men who have married again after death or lawful divorce, they should not ordinarily be eligible for office because they would now have been the husband of two (or more) wives in their lives. Whilst this is normally lawful in the general church population, the remarriage of an elder or deacon shows too great an attachment to this world, and an unpreparedness for heaven. If they wish to remarry, they ordinarily ought to have to relinquish their office in the church. However, a blanket ban on all remarriers is not completely necessary, and each case should be viewed individually. Such examples where someone would not be barred from office if they are remarried would be: e.g. in the case of a first wife dying soon after marriage, in which case the person did not have opportunity to show whether he can rule his house well at that time, or e.g. in cases of the first marriage having been undertaken before conversion, the first wife being an unbeliever.

79. Growth in Grace and Knowledge

2 Peter 3:18

But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

This is our sanctification. True believers really grow in both these things. It is impossible for true believers to have one but not the other.

“*Grace*” is equivalent to experimental religion, the practical outworking of our faith, and “*Knowledge*” is equivalent to our knowledge of doctrine in our minds.

It is possible to know all the truth there is to know in this world, because it is all contained in the Holy Bible. Man is biased against it by nature, so most men in their natural estate will be irrational in their logic somewhere along the line, but technically, by the use of the premises in the Bible and the good and necessary consequences of logical deduction from those premises, it is theoretically possible to know all the truth (that there is to know)

with unaided reason. This renders men who have the Scriptures more without excuse than men who just have Creation to go by.

But even if we only knew the truth in this way, without experimental religion (i.e. “*grace*”), one would still be unregenerate:

1 Corinthians 13:2

And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing.

1 Corinthians 8:1

Knowledge puffeth up, but charity edifieth.

On the other hand, some men throw doctrine (“*knowledge*”) out of the window and think that one’s supposed “*experience of Christ*” is the *only* mark of being a true believer. This is also wrong, because they end up believing in a Christ of their own imagination, not the Christ of Scripture (which they do not bother to find out about). These people are also still unregenerate, because a new heart would give us a love for the Word of God, and a desire to submit ourselves to it, which these people clearly have not got.

Therefore we need knowledge of the truth:

John 17:17

Sanctify them through thy truth: thy word is truth.

But we ALSO need experimental religion:

Romans 5:5

....the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us.

80. Eternal Fire in the Old Testament

It is common to think that the Old Testament does not mention eternal hell fire (as Christ does), but it is most certainly there:

Deuteronomy 32:22

For a fire is kindled in mine anger, and shall burn unto the lowest hell, and shall consume the earth with her increase, and set on fire the foundations of the mountains.

2 Samuel 23:7

But the sons of Belial shall be all of them as thorns thrust away, because they cannot be taken with hands: but the man that shall touch them must be fenced with iron and the staff of a spear; and they shall be utterly burned with fire in the same place.

Psalms 21:9

Thou shalt make them as a fiery oven in the time of thine anger: the LORD shall swallow them up in his wrath, and the fire shall devour them.

Psalm 140:10

Let burning coals fall upon them: let them be cast into the fire; into deep pits, that they rise not up again.

Isaiah 1:31

And the strong shall be as tow, and the maker of it as a spark, and they shall both burn together, and none shall quench them.

Isaiah 33:14

The sinners in Zion are afraid; fearfulness hath surprised the hypocrites. Who among us shall dwell with the devouring fire? who among us shall dwell with everlasting burnings?

Isaiah 34:9,10

And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch. It shall not be quenched night nor day; the smoke thereof shall go up for ever: from generation to generation it shall lie waste; none shall pass through it for ever and ever.

Isaiah 54:16

Behold, I have created the smith that bloweth the coals in the fire, and that bringeth forth an instrument for his work; and I have created the waster to destroy.

Isaiah 66:24

And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Jeremiah 4:4

Circumcise yourselves to the LORD, and take away the foreskins of your heart, ye men of Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem: lest my fury come forth like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Jeremiah 7:20

Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, mine anger and my fury shall be poured out upon this place, upon man, and upon beast, and upon the trees of the field, and upon the fruit of the ground; and it shall burn, and shall not be quenched.

Jeremiah 17:4

And thou, even thyself, shalt discontinue from thine heritage that I gave thee; and I will cause thee to serve thine enemies in the land which thou knowest not: for ye have kindled a fire in mine anger, which shall burn for ever.

Jeremiah 17:27

But if ye will not hearken unto me to hallow the sabbath day, and not to bear a burden, even entering in at the gates of Jerusalem on the sabbath day; then will I kindle a fire in the gates thereof, and it shall devour the palaces of Jerusalem, and it shall not be quenched.

Jeremiah 21:12

O house of David, thus saith the LORD; Execute judgment in the morning, and deliver him that is spoiled out of the hand of the oppressor, lest my fury go out like fire, and burn that none can quench it, because of the evil of your doings.

Ezekiel 20:47,48

And say to the forest of the south, Hear the word of the LORD; Thus saith the Lord GOD; Behold, I will kindle a fire in thee, and it shall devour every green tree in thee, and every dry tree: the flaming flame shall not be quenched, and all faces from the south to the north shall be burned therein. And all flesh shall see that I the LORD have kindled it: it shall not be quenched.

Malachi 4:1

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.

81. Verses which seem to imply Christ was Created

Revelation 3:14

*And unto the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write; These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, **the beginning of the creation of God....***

The Word “*beginning*” in Greek is better translated “origin”.

Note NIV: *The ruler of God’s creation.*

Colossians 1:15

*Who is the image of the invisible God, **the firstborn of every creature.***

But the next two verses clearly show He is God:

Colossians 1:16,17

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist.

What is meant is that He was the “*firstborn from the dead*”:

Colossians 1:18

And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence.

82. That Hath Bought Thee

2 Peter 2:1

But there were false prophets also among the people, even as there shall be false teachers among you, who privily shall bring in damnable heresies, even denying the Lord that bought them, and bring upon themselves swift destruction.

This verse almost seems to say that the Lord “bought” people who were not His elect. But this is not so. It can either be translated as “denying that the Lord bought them” or c.f.:

Deuteronomy 32:6

Do ye thus requite the LORD, O foolish people and unwise? is not he thy father that hath bought thee? hath he not made thee, and established thee?

Here we see that the people of Israel in general are called the people whom God hath “bought” but many of them went to hell. It is just a collective way of describing them. God’s chosen people, collectively and outwardly, are the visible church, but many will not be truly saved inwardly. Only these who have been changed inwardly are the true people of God, whom God has truly “bought with a price”:

1 Corinthians 6:20

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God’s.

1 Corinthians 7:23

Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.

83. Taste

To have “tasted” the Lord is not the same as salvation:

Hebrews 6:4-6,9

For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, and have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, if they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame.... But, beloved, we are persuaded better things of you, and things that accompany salvation, though we thus speak.

1 Corinthians 10:2-5

And were all baptised unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; and did all eat the same spiritual meat; and did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ. But with many of them God was not well pleased: for they were overthrown in the wilderness.

2 Peter 2:20,21

For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have

known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them.

It is the duty of all men to “taste” that the Lord is gracious:

1 Peter 2:1-3

Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings, as newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: if so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

Psalm 34:8

O taste and see that the LORD is good: blessed is the man that trusteth in him.

True believers will not “taste of death” (that is the “Second Death”):

Matthew 16:28

Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.

Mark 9:1

And he said unto them, Verily I say unto you, That there be some of them that stand here, which shall not taste of death, till they have seen the kingdom of God come with power.

Luke 9:27

But I tell you of a truth, there be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the kingdom of God.

John 8:51-53

Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death. Then said the Jews unto him, Now we know that thou hast a devil. Abraham is dead, and the prophets; and thou sayest, If a man keep my saying, he shall never taste of death. Art thou greater than our father Abraham, which is dead? and the prophets are dead: whom makest thou thyself?

Christ “tasted death” for every man, in bringing many sons unto glory:

Hebrews 2:9,10

But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are all things, and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings.

So, to “taste” means to experience. People can experience the heavenly gift and the good word of God (Hebrews 6:4,5) without coming to salvation, but to experience death means to actually go through it.

84. Visitation

The word “*visitation*” in the Bible is always the visitation of God in judgment, not salvation:

Isaiah 10:3

And what will ye do in the day of visitation, and in the desolation which shall come from far? to whom will ye flee for help? and where will ye leave your glory?

Jeremiah 6:6

For thus hath the LORD of hosts said, Hew ye down trees, and cast a mount against Jerusalem: this is the city to be visited; she is wholly oppression in the midst of her.

Jeremiah 6:15

Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 8:12

Were they ashamed when they had committed abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore shall they fall among them that fall: in the time of their visitation they shall be cast down, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 10:15

They are vanity, and the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

Jeremiah 11:23

And there shall be no remnant of them: for I will bring evil upon the men of Anathoth, even the year of their visitation.

Jeremiah 23:2,12

Therefore thus saith the LORD God of Israel against the pastors that feed my people; Ye have scattered my flock, and driven them away, and have not visited them: behold, I will visit upon you the evil of your doings, saith the LORD... Wherefore their way shall be unto them as slippery ways in the darkness: they shall be driven on, and fall therein: for I will bring evil upon them, even the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 46:21

Also her hired men are in the midst of her like fatted bullocks; for they also are turned back, and are fled away together: they did not stand, because the day of their calamity was come upon them, and the time of their visitation.

Jeremiah 48:44

He that fleeth from the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that getteth up out of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for I will bring upon it, even upon Moab, the year of their visitation, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 49:8

Flee ye, turn back, dwell deep, O inhabitants of Dedan; for I will bring the calamity of Esau upon him, the time that I will visit him.

Jeremiah 50:21

Go up against the land of Merathaim, even against it, and against the inhabitants of Pekod: waste and utterly destroy after them, saith the LORD, and do according to all that I have commanded thee.

Jeremiah 50:27

Slay all her bullocks; let them go down to the slaughter: woe unto them! for their day is come, the time of their visitation.

Jeremiah 51:18

They are vanity, the work of errors: in the time of their visitation they shall perish.

Hosea 9:7

The days of visitation are come, the days of recompence are come; Israel shall know it: the prophet is a fool, the spiritual man is mad, for the multitude of thine iniquity, and the great hatred.

Micah 7:4

The best of them is as a brier: the most upright is sharper than a thorn hedge: the day of thy watchmen and thy visitation cometh; now shall be their perplexity.

Luke 19:44

And shall lay thee even with the ground, and thy children within thee; and they shall not leave in thee one stone upon another; because thou knewest not the time of thy visitation.

1 Peter 2:12

Having your conversation honest among the Gentiles: that, whereas they speak against you as evildoers, they may by your good works, which they shall behold, glorify God in the day of visitation.

i.e. by being cast quick into hell.

85. Compassion

God's "*compassion*" in the Bible is not a will in God to save all men. Rather it is mercy to men by:

- (1.) Turning His anger away for a time (every second out of hell is a mercy to us all).
- (2.) General care for men in this world (which leaves them even more without excuse).
- (3.) Particular care for the visible church for the sake of the elect.

Deuteronomy 13:17

And there shall cleave nought of the cursed thing to thine hand: that the LORD may turn from the fierceness of his anger, and shew thee mercy, and have compassion upon thee, and multiply thee, as he hath sworn unto thy fathers.

Deuteronomy 30:3

That then the LORD thy God will turn thy captivity, and have compassion upon thee, and will return and gather thee from all the nations, whither the LORD thy God hath scattered thee.

2 Kings 13:23

And the LORD was gracious unto them, and had compassion on them, and had respect unto them, because of his covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and would not destroy them, neither cast he them from his presence as yet.

2 Chronicles 36:15

And the LORD God of their fathers sent to them by his messengers, rising up betimes, and sending; because he had compassion on his people, and on his dwelling place.

Psalms 78:38

But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Psalms 86:15

But thou, O Lord, art a God full of compassion, and gracious, longsuffering, and plenteous in mercy and truth.

Psalms 111:4

He hath made his wonderful works to be remembered: the LORD is gracious and full of compassion.

Psalms 145:8

The LORD is gracious, and full of compassion; slow to anger, and of great mercy.

Isaiah 78:38

But he, being full of compassion, forgave their iniquity, and destroyed them not: yea, many a time turned he his anger away, and did not stir up all his wrath.

Jeremiah 12:15

And it shall come to pass, after that I have plucked them out I will return, and have compassion on them, and will bring them again, every man to his heritage, and every man to his land.

Lamentations 3:32

But though he cause grief, yet will he have compassion according to the multitude of his mercies.

Micah 7:19

He will turn again, he will have compassion upon us; he will subdue our iniquities; and thou wilt cast all their sins into the depths of the sea.

Matthew 9:36

But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with compassion on them, because they fainted, and were scattered abroad, as sheep having no shepherd.

Matthew 14:14

And Jesus went forth, and saw a great multitude, and was moved with compassion toward them, and he healed their sick.

Matthew 15:32

Then Jesus called his disciples unto him, and said, I have compassion on the multitude, because they continue with me now three days, and have nothing to eat: and I will not send them away fasting, lest they faint in the way.

Matthew 20:34

So Jesus had compassion on them, and touched their eyes: and immediately their eyes received sight, and they followed him.

Mark 1:41

And Jesus, moved with compassion, put forth his hand, and touched him, and saith unto him, I will; be thou clean.

Mark 5:19

Howbeit Jesus suffered him not, but saith unto him, Go home to thy friends, and tell them how great things the Lord hath done for thee, and hath had compassion on thee.

Mark 6:34

And Jesus, when he came out, saw much people, and was moved with compassion toward them, because they were as sheep not having a shepherd: and he began to teach them many things.

Mark 8:2

I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now been with me three days, and have nothing to eat.

Mark 9:22

And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but if thou canst do any thing, have compassion on us, and help us.

Luke 7:13

And when the Lord saw her, he had compassion on her, and said unto her, Weep not.

Luke 10:33

But a certain Samaritan, as he journeyed, came where he was: and when he saw him, he had compassion on him.

Romans 9:15

For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion.

Hebrews 5:2

Who can have compassion on the ignorant, and on them that are out of the way; for that he himself also is compassed with infirmity.

For us to have “*compassion*,” is for us to help and show mercy to everyone the Lord brings across our path:

Exodus 2:6

And when she had opened it, she saw the child: and, behold, the babe wept. And she had compassion on him, and said, This is one of the Hebrews' children.

1 Samuel 23:21

And Saul said, Blessed be ye of the LORD; for ye have compassion on me.

1 Kings 8:50

And forgive thy people that have sinned against thee, and all their transgressions wherein they have transgressed against thee, and give them compassion before them who carried them captive, that they may have compassion on them.

2 Chronicles 30:9

For if ye turn again unto the LORD, your brethren and your children shall find compassion before them that lead them captive, so that they shall come again into this land: for the LORD your God is gracious and merciful, and will not turn away his face from you, if ye return unto him.

2 Chronicles 36:17

Therefore he brought upon them the king of the Chaldees, who slew their young men with the sword in the house of their sanctuary, and had no compassion upon young man or maiden, old man, or him that stooped for age: he gave them all into his hand.

Psalms 112:4

Unto the upright there ariseth light in the darkness: he is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

Isaiah 49:15

Can a woman forget her sucking child, that she should not have compassion on the son of her womb? yea, they may forget, yet will I not forget thee.

Ezekiel 16:5

None eye pitied thee, to do any of these unto thee, to have compassion upon thee; but thou wast cast out in the open field, to the loathing of thy person, in the day that thou wast born.

Matthew 18:27

Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt.

Matthew 18:33

Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee?

Luke 15:20

And he arose, and came to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.

Hebrews 10:34

For ye had compassion of me in my bonds, and took joyfully the spoiling of your goods, knowing in yourselves that ye have in heaven a better and an enduring substance.

1 Peter 3:8

Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous.

1 John 3:17

But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

Jude 22

And of some have compassion, making a difference.

86. God "Blessing" the Non-elect

"Blessings" in the Bible are not just for believers, but they can also be temporary benefits in this life only, which God can give to all men (which leaves them more without excuse).

The nations of the earth shall be "*blessed*":

Genesis 12:3

And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 18:18

Seeing that Abraham shall surely become a great and mighty nation, and all the nations of the earth shall be blessed in him?

Ishmael was "*blessed*":

Genesis 17:20

And as for Ishmael, I have heard thee: Behold, I have blessed him, and will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly; twelve princes shall he beget, and I will make him a great nation.

Genesis 21:20

And God was with the lad; and he grew, and dwelt in the wilderness, and became an archer.

But Isaac was the "*only*" son, the one in the Covenant:

Genesis 22:12,16

And he said, Lay not thine hand upon the lad, neither do thou any thing unto him: for now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me.... And said, By myself have I sworn, saith the LORD, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son.

Genesis 26:4

And I will make thy seed to multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed.

Genesis 28:14

And thy seed shall be as the dust of the earth, and thou shalt spread abroad to the west, and to the east, and to the north, and to the south: and in thee and in thy seed shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

Isaac “blessed” Esau:

Hebrews 11:20

By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come.

But Esau did not inherit the “blessing”:

Hebrews 12:16,17

Lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of meat sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears.

Jehu was rewarded by God for destroying the house of Ahab, but it appears he was never a true believer:

2 Kings 10:30-31

And the Lord said unto Jehu, Because thou hast done well in executing that which is right in mine eyes, and hast done unto the house of Ahab according to all that was in mine heart, thy children of the fourth generation shall sit on the throne of Israel. But Jehu took no heed to walk in the law of the Lord God of Israel with all his heart: for he departed not from the sins of Jeroboam, which made Israel to sin.

Sparing the non-elect for the sake of the elect is a temporal “blessing” to the non-elect:

Genesis 18:25

That be far from thee to do after this manner, to slay the righteous with the wicked: and that the righteous should be as the wicked, that be far from thee: Shall not the Judge of all the earth do right?

Matthew 5:44,45

But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you; that ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven: for he maketh his sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth rain on the just and on the unjust.

Note here that the wicked and unjust are still wicked and unjust, the “blessing” is the temporary benefit given to them in this life.

If the wicked do not turn to God as a result of the “*blessings*” He showers upon them, they will be cursed:

Malachi 2:2

If ye will not hear, and if ye will not lay it to heart, to give glory unto my name, saith the LORD of hosts, I will even send a curse upon you, and I will curse your blessings: yea, I have cursed them already, because ye do not lay it to heart.

Romans 1:21

Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened.

It is not sin to pray for the non-elect, because we do not know whether they are non-elect or not, but we must warn them:

1 Samuel 12:23,24

Moreover as for me, God forbid that I should sin against the LORD in ceasing to pray for you: but I will teach you the good and the right way: only fear the LORD, and serve him in truth with all your heart: for consider how great things he hath done for you.

87. Of God, By Christ, Through the Spirit

Of God

1 Corinthians 8:6

But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him.

1 Peter 1:2,3

Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ: Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied. Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead.

By Christ

2 Corinthians 1:5

For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also aboundeth by Christ.

Galatians 2:17

But if, while we seek to be justified by Christ, we ourselves also are found sinners, is therefore Christ the minister of sin? God forbid.

Ephesians 3:21

Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen.

Philippians 4:19

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus.

Colossians 1:16

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him.

Hebrews 11:3

Through faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that things which are seen were not made of things which do appear.

1 Peter 5:10

But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you.

Through the Spirit

Romans 8:13

For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.

Galatians 5:5

For we through the Spirit wait for the hope of righteousness by faith.

Ephesians 2:22

In whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.

1 Peter 1:22

Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently.

c.f. Of the man, by the woman:

1 Corinthians 11:12

For as the woman is of the man, even so is the man also by the woman; but all things of God.

But note, with regards access to the Father, it is through Christ (and His work), by the Spirit:

Ephesians 2:18

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father.

88. Sanctification By The Truth

Sanctification is a being more and more set apart from the world. It is NOT me “every day in every way getting better and better.” This is proved by Christ saying that He sanctifies Himself:

John 17:19

And for their sakes I sanctify myself, that they also might be sanctified through the truth.

Christ here sets Himself apart from the world unto the task He has been given to do. He cannot grow better, as He is already perfect.

We are sanctified as we grow in knowledge of the truth, which consequently sets us more and more apart from the world:

John 17:17

*Sanctify them through **thy truth**: thy word is truth.*

Acts 20:32

*And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to **the word of his grace**, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*

Colossians 3:10,16

*And have put on the new man, which is renewed in **knowledge** after the image of him that created him.... Let **the word of Christ** dwell in you richly.*

2 Peter 1:3

*According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the **knowledge** of him that hath called us to glory and virtue.*

Truth can only act on the mind. Those without true religion are said to have “no understanding”:

Psalms 32:9

Be ye not as the horse, or as the mule, which have no understanding: whose mouth must be held in with bit and bridle, lest they come near unto thee.

Isaiah 27:11

When the boughs thereof are withered, they shall be broken off: the women come, and set them on fire: for it is a people of no understanding: therefore he that made them will not have mercy on them, and he that formed them will shew them no favour.

Isaiah 29:16

Surely your turning of things upside down shall be esteemed as the potter's clay: for shall the work say of him that made it, He made me not? or shall the thing framed say of him that framed it, He had no understanding?

Knowledge of the truth is vital to our sanctification:

Jeremiah 23:28,29

The prophet that hath a dream, let him tell a dream; and he that hath my word, let him speak my word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat? saith the LORD. Is not my word like as a fire? saith the LORD; and like a hammer that breaketh the rock in pieces?

Hosea 4:6

My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee, that thou shalt be no priest to me: seeing thou hast forgotten the law of thy God, I will also forget thy children.

Hosea 6:6

For I desired mercy, and not sacrifice; and the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings.

Acts 13:12

Then the deputy, when he saw what was done, believed, being astonished at the doctrine of the Lord.

89. Ask And Ye Shall Receive

Matthew 7:7

Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Matthew 21:22

And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

Luke 11:9

And I say unto you, Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

Promises such as these are NOT *carte blanche* to ask for what we like from God.

We often do not get what we ask for:

James 1:5-7

*If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraide-
th not; and it shall be given him. But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that
wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. For let not that man
think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord.*

James 4:3

Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

1 John 5:16

If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it.

These promises are only given to the regenerate elect, who will only want what the Lord wills anyway:

Jeremiah 29:12,13

Then shall ye call upon me, and ye shall go and pray unto me, and I will hearken unto you. And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart.

John 15:7

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

John 15:16

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

John 16:24

Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

1 John 3:22

And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

1 John 5:14,15

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Prayer is a conforming of our wills to God, not the other way around:

James 5:17,18

Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit.

90. Beseech

2 Corinthians 5:20

Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

For God to “beseech” men, is NOT God pleading with sinners to come to Him.

“Beseech” is less strong than “enjoin”:

Philemon 8,9

Wherefore, though I might be much bold in Christ to enjoin thee that which is convenient, yet for love's sake I rather beseech thee, being such an one as Paul the aged, and now also a prisoner of Jesus Christ.

Not of necessity but willingly:

Philemon 14

But without thy mind would I do nothing; that thy benefit should not be as it were of necessity, but willingly.

Of course in salvation, God gives the faith and repentance required, but the call of the gospel is still to repent and believe.

“Beseech” is a command:

Exodus 3:18

And they shall hearken to thy voice: and thou shalt come, thou and the elders of Israel, unto the king of Egypt, and ye shall say unto him, The LORD God of the Hebrews hath met with us: and now let us go, we beseech thee, three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.

1 Corinthians 4:16

Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me.

2 Corinthians 6:1

We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

With regards our beseeching God, it means pray to, or request earnestly:

Malachi 1:9

And now, I pray you, beseech God that he will be gracious unto us: this hath been by your means: will he regard your persons? saith the LORD of hosts.

91. Plead

For God to “plead” with men, is NOT God or Christ on His knees begging sinners to come to Him. It means "judge," as in a courtroom.

Judges 6:31,32

And Joash said unto all that stood against him, Will ye plead for Baal? will ye save him? he that will plead for him, let him be put to death whilst it is yet morning: if he be a god, let him plead for himself, because one hath cast down his altar. Therefore on that day he called him Jerubbaal, saying, Let Baal plead against him, because he hath thrown down his altar.

1 Samuel 24:15

The LORD therefore be judge, and judge between me and thee, and see, and plead my cause, and deliver me out of thine hand.

Job 9:19

If I speak of strength, lo, he is strong: and if of judgment, who shall set me a time to plead?

Job 13:19

Who is he that will plead with me? for now, if I hold my tongue, I shall give up the ghost.

Job 16:21

O that one might plead for a man with God, as a man pleadeth for his neighbour.

Job 19:5

If indeed ye will magnify yourselves against me, and plead against me my reproach.

Job 23:6

Will he plead against me with his great power? No; but he would put strength in me.

Psalms 35:1

Plead my cause, O LORD, with them that strive with me: fight against them that fight against me.

Psalms 43:1

Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man.

Psalms 74:22

Arise, O God, plead thine own cause: remember how the foolish man reproacheth thee daily.

Psalms 119:154

Plead my cause, and deliver me: quicken me according to thy word.

Proverbs 22:23

For the LORD will plead their cause, and spoil the soul of those that spoiled them.

Proverbs 23:11

For their redeemer is mighty; he shall plead their cause with thee.

Proverbs 31:9

Open thy mouth, judge righteously, and plead the cause of the poor and needy.

Isaiah 1:17

Learn to do well; seek judgment, relieve the oppressed, judge the fatherless, plead for the widow.

Isaiah 3:13

The LORD standeth up to plead, and standeth to judge the people.

Isaiah 43:26

Put me in remembrance: let us plead together: declare thou, that thou mayest be justified.

Isaiah 66:16

For by fire and by his sword will the LORD plead with all flesh: and the slain of the LORD shall be many.

Jeremiah 2:9

Wherefore I will yet plead with you, saith the LORD, and with your children's children will I plead.

Jeremiah 2:29

Wherefore will ye plead with me? ye all have transgressed against me, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 2:35

Yet thou sayest, Because I am innocent, surely his anger shall turn from me. Behold, I will plead with thee, because thou sayest, I have not sinned.

Jeremiah 12:1

Righteous art thou, O LORD, when I plead with thee: yet let me talk with thee of thy judgments: Wherefore doth the way of the wicked prosper? wherefore are all they happy that deal very treacherously?

Jeremiah 25:31

A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth; for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, he will plead with all flesh; he will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD.

Jeremiah 30:13

There is none to plead thy cause, that thou mayest be bound up: thou hast no healing medicines.

Jeremiah 50:34

Their Redeemer is strong; the LORD of hosts is his name: he shall thoroughly plead their cause, that he may give rest to the land, and disquiet the inhabitants of Babylon.

Jeremiah 50:44

Behold, he shall come up like a lion from the swelling of Jordan unto the habitation of the strong: but I will make them suddenly run away from her: and who is a chosen man, that I may appoint over her? for who is like me? and who will appoint me the time? and who is that shepherd that will stand before me?

Jeremiah 51:36

Therefore thus saith the LORD; Behold, I will plead thy cause, and take vengeance for thee; and I will dry up her sea, and make her springs dry.

Ezekiel 17:20

And I will spread my net upon him, and he shall be taken in my snare, and I will bring him to Babylon, and will plead with him there for his trespass that he hath trespassed against me.

Ezekiel 20:4

Wilt thou judge them, son of man, wilt thou judge them? cause them to know the abominations of their fathers.

Ezekiel 20:35,36

And I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you face to face. Like as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the land of Egypt, so will I plead with you, saith the Lord GOD.

Ezekiel 22:2

Now, thou son of man, wilt thou judge, wilt thou judge the bloody city? yea, thou shalt shew her all her abominations.

Ezekiel 23:36

The LORD said moreover unto me; Son of man, wilt thou judge Aholah and Aholibah? yea, declare unto them their abominations.

Ezekiel 38:22

And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone.

Hosea 2:2

Plead with your mother, plead: for she is not my wife, neither am I her husband: let her therefore put away her whoredoms out of her sight, and her adulteries from between her breasts.

Hosea 5:13

When Ephraim saw his sickness, and Judah saw his wound, then went Ephraim to the Assyrian, and sent to king Jareb: yet could he not heal you, nor cure you of your wound.

Joel 3:2

I will also gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat, and will plead with them there for my people and for my heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations, and parted my land.

Micah 6:2

Hear ye, O mountains, the LORD'S controversy, and ye strong foundations of the earth: for the LORD hath a controversy with his people, and he will plead with Israel.

Micah 7:9

I will bear the indignation of the LORD, because I have sinned against him, until he plead my cause, and execute judgment for me: he will bring me forth to the light, and I shall behold his righteousness.

92. Persuade

For God to ask us to “*persuade*” men, is not God or Christ asking us to get on our knees and beg sinners to come to Him, or to try to twist their arm to believe. It means to “con-vince.”

1 Kings 22:20-22

And the LORD said, Who shall persuade Ahab, that he may go up and fall at Ramoth-gilead? And one said on this manner, and another said on that manner. And there came forth a spirit, and stood before the LORD, and said, I will persuade him. And the LORD said unto him, Wherewith? And he said, I will go forth, and I will be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And he said, Thou shalt persuade him, and prevail also: go forth, and do so.

2 Chronicles 32:11

Doth not Hezekiah persuade you to give over yourselves to die by famine and by thirst, saying, The LORD our God shall deliver us out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

2 Chronicles 32:15

Now therefore let not Hezekiah deceive you, nor persuade you on this manner, neither yet believe him: for no god of any nation or kingdom was able to deliver his people out of mine hand, and out of the hand of my fathers: how much less shall your God deliver you out of mine hand?

Isaiah 36:18

Beware lest Hezekiah persuade you, saying, The LORD will deliver us. Hath any of the gods of the nations delivered his land out of the hand of the king of Assyria?

Matthew 28:14

And if this come to the governor's ears, we will persuade him, and secure you.

Acts 26:28

Then Agrippa said unto Paul, Almost thou persuadest me to be a Christian.

2 Corinthians 5:11

Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

Galatians 1:10

For do I now persuade men, or God? or do I seek to please men? for if I yet pleased men, I should not be the servant of Christ.

1 John 3:19

And hereby we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him.

Westminster Standards Epistle to the Reader:

*“We should scarce imagine it any better than an impertinency, in this noon-day of the gospel, either to **inform or persuade** in a duty so expressly commanded....”*

93. Sieve of Vanity

All men are on this earth to be sifted through the “*sieve of vanity.*” Only the elect shall be saved. God will cause the rest to err:

Isaiah 30:28

And his breath, as an overflowing stream, shall reach to the midst of the neck, to sift the nations with the sieve of vanity: and there shall be a bridle in the jaws of the people, causing them to err.

Amos 9:9

For, lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth.

Luke 22:31

And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat.

94. Fear of God

Having the “*fear of God*” is a characteristic of the believer:

Deuteronomy 8:6

Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Deuteronomy 13:4

Ye shall walk after the LORD your God, and fear him, and keep his commandments, and obey his voice, and ye shall serve him, and cleave unto him.

Psalms 22:23,25

Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel.... My praise shall be of thee in the great congregation: I will pay my vows before them that fear him.

Psalms 25:14

The secret of the LORD is with them that fear him; and he will shew them his covenant.

Psalms 33:18

Behold, the eye of the LORD is upon them that fear him, upon them that hope in his mercy.

Psalm 34:7

The angel of the LORD encampeth round about them that fear him, and delivereth them.

Psalm 34:9

O fear the LORD, ye his saints: for there is no want to them that fear him.

Psalm 67:7

God shall bless us; and all the ends of the earth shall fear him.

Psalm 85:9

Surely his salvation is nigh them that fear him; that glory may dwell in our land.

Psalm 103:11,13,17

For as the heaven is high above the earth, so great is his mercy toward them that fear him.... Like as a father pitieth his children, so the LORD pitieth them that fear him.... But the mercy of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting upon them that fear him, and his righteousness unto children's children.

Psalm 111:5

He hath given meat unto them that fear him: he will ever be mindful of his covenant.

Psalm 112:1

Praise ye the LORD. Blessed is the man that feareth the LORD, that delighteth greatly in his commandments.

Psalm 119:120

My flesh trembleth for fear of thee; and I am afraid of thy judgments.

Psalm 145:19

He will fulfil the desire of them that fear him: he also will hear their cry, and will save them.

Psalm 147:11

The LORD taketh pleasure in them that fear him, in those that hope in his mercy.

Proverbs 8:13

The fear of the LORD is to hate evil: pride, and arrogancy, and the evil way, and the froward mouth, do I hate.

Proverbs 16:6

By mercy and truth iniquity is purged: and by the fear of the LORD men depart from evil.

Proverbs 23:17

Let not thine heart envy sinners: but be thou in the fear of the LORD all the day long.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.

Isaiah 8:13

Sanctify the LORD of hosts himself; and let him be your fear, and let him be your dread.

Jeremiah 32:40

And I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me.

Jeremiah 33:9

And it shall be to me a name of joy, a praise and an honour before all the nations of the earth, which shall hear all the good that I do unto them: and they shall fear and tremble for all the goodness and for all the prosperity that I procure unto it.

Matthew 10:28

And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 1:50

And his mercy is on them that fear him from generation to generation.

Luke 12:5

But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.

Luke 23:40

But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?

Philippians 2:12

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.

Hebrews 12:28

Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear.

Revelation 19:5

And a voice came out of the throne, saying, Praise our God, all ye his servants, and ye that fear him, both small and great.

It is the unbeliever who does NOT fear God:

Deuteronomy 5:29

O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever.

Deuteronomy 25:18

How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God.

Psalms 9:20

Put them in fear, O LORD: that the nations may know themselves to be but men. Selah.

Psalms 36:1

The transgression of the wicked saith within my heart, that there is no fear of God before his eyes.

Jeremiah 2:19

Thine own wickedness shall correct thee, and thy backslidings shall reprove thee: know therefore and see that it is an evil thing and bitter, that thou hast forsaken the LORD thy God, and that my fear is not in thee, saith the Lord GOD of hosts.

Jeremiah 5:22-24

Fear ye not me? saith the LORD: will ye not tremble at my presence, which have placed the sand for the bound of the sea by a perpetual decree, that it cannot pass it: and though the waves thereof toss themselves, yet can they not prevail; though they roar, yet can they not pass over it? But this people hath a revolting and a rebellious heart; they are revolted and gone. Neither say they in their heart, Let us now fear the LORD our God, that giveth rain, both the former and the latter, in his season: he reserveth unto us the appointed weeks of the harvest.

Jeremiah 36:24

Yet they were not afraid, nor rent their garments, neither the king, nor any of his servants that heard all these words.

Romans 3:18

There is no fear of God before their eyes.

But there is a sense in which the believer does not fear (i.e. fear in the same sense as fear of his enemies on this earth):

Exodus 20:20

And Moses said unto the people, Fear not: for God is come to prove you, and that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not.

Note the two types of fear are both mentioned in this verse.

Luke 1:74

That he would grant unto us, that we being delivered out of the hand of our enemies might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him, all the days of our life.

Romans 8:15

For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

2 Timothy 1:7

For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

The devils believe, and tremble (because they know their latter end):

James 2:19

Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

When Christ returns, the wicked will fear (because their latter end will be made plain to them):

Job 15:21

A dreadful sound is in his ears: in prosperity the destroyer shall come upon him.

Psalms 73:19

How are they brought into desolation, as in a moment! they are utterly consumed with terrors.

Isaiah 2:10,19

Enter into the rock, and hide thee in the dust, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty.... And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the LORD, and for the glory of his majesty, when he ariseth to shake terribly the earth.

Hosea 10:8

The high places also of Aven, the sin of Israel, shall be destroyed: the thorn and the thistle shall come up on their altars; and they shall say to the mountains, Cover us; and to the hills, Fall on us.

Luke 23:30

Then shall they begin to say to the mountains, Fall on us; and to the hills, Cover us.

Revelation 9:6

And in those days shall men seek death, and shall not find it; and shall desire to die, and death shall flee from them.

95. Man's Goings Are Of The Lord

Psalms 37:23

The steps of a good man are ordered by the LORD: and he delighteth in his way.

Proverbs 16:1

The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.

Proverbs 16:9

A man's heart deviseth his way: but the LORD directeth his steps.

Proverbs 19:21

There are many devices in a man's heart; nevertheless the counsel of the LORD, that shall stand.

Proverbs 20:24

Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?

Isaiah 10:5-7

O Assyrian, the rod of mine anger, and the staff in their hand is mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of my wrath will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets. Howbeit he meaneth not so, neither doth his heart think so; but it is in his heart to destroy and cut off nations not a few.

Jeremiah 10:23

O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Daniel 5:23

But hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven; and they have brought the vessels of his house before thee, and thou, and thy lords, thy wives, and thy concubines, have drunk wine in them; and thou hast praised the gods of silver, and gold, of brass, iron, wood, and stone, which see not, nor hear, nor know: and the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified.

Acts 17:28

For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.

96. Temptations are Trials

Acts 20:19

Serving the Lord with all humility of mind, and with many tears, and temptations, which befell me by the lying in wait of the Jews.

Galatians 4:14

And my temptation which was in my flesh ye despised not, nor rejected; but received me as an angel of God, even as Christ Jesus.

Hebrews 2:18

For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

Hebrews 4:15

For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

1 Peter 1:6,7

Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ.

James 1:2,3,12

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations; knowing this, that the trying of your faith worketh patience.... Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for

when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him.

God tempts us (i.e. tries us):

Genesis 22:1

And it came to pass after these things, that God did tempt Abraham, and said unto him, Abraham: and he said, Behold, here I am.

Hebrews 11:17

By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac: and he that had received the promises offered up his only begotten son.

But He never tempts us with evil:

James 1:13,14

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: but every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

97. Duty Faith and Duty Repentance

It is the duty of all men everywhere to repent and believe in Christ, even though no man has the ability to do either of these things. God will give these abilities as a free gift, only to the elect.

Psalms 19:13

Keep back thy servant also from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me: then shall I be upright, and I shall be innocent from the great transgression.

Psalms 97:7

Confounded be all they that serve graven images, that boast themselves of idols: worship him, all ye gods.

Psalms 98:4

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Psalms 100:1,2

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all ye lands. Serve the LORD with gladness: come before his presence with singing.

Ezekiel 13:22

Because with lies ye have made the heart of the righteous sad, whom I have not made sad; and strengthened the hands of the wicked, that he should not return from his wicked way, by promising him life.

Mark 1:15

And saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.

John 3:18,19

He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

John 5:22,23

For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son: that all men should honour the Son, even as they honour the Father.

John 8:24

I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.

John 12:48

He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

Acts 8:22

Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee.

Acts 17:26,27,30

*And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; **that they should seek the Lord**, if haply they might feel after him, and find him, though he be not far from every one of us.... And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but **now commandeth all men every where to repent.***

Acts 20:21

Testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ.

Acts 26:20

But shewed first unto them of Damascus, and at Jerusalem, and throughout all the coasts of Judaea, and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent and turn to God, and do works meet for repentance.

Romans 16:26

But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith.

2 Thessalonians 1:8

In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 John 3:23

And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment.

Revelation 14:7

Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and worship him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountains of waters.

98. Forgiveness

Christianity is not about forgiving everyone everything unconditionally. We can only forgive if we receive a credible outward profession of repentance from the other party.

Matthew 18:21,22

Then came Peter to him, and said, Lord, how oft shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? till seven times? Jesus saith unto him, I say not unto thee, Until seven times: but, Until seventy times seven.

This verse seems to imply unconditional forgiveness, but vv.15-18:

"Moreover if thy brother shall trespass against thee, go and tell him his fault between thee and him alone: if he shall hear thee, thou hast gained thy brother. But if he will not hear thee, then take with thee one or two more, that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. And if he shall neglect to hear them, tell it unto the church: but if he neglect to hear the church, let him be unto thee as an heathen man and a publican. Verily I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever ye shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

The context is that your brother has wronged you and you are disciplining him. If he remains unrepentant, then you do not forgive him but instead get him excommunicated from the visible church.

Also, the parable following has the debtor bowing down and worshipping the king (v.26) in a credible outward profession of repentance (which, it turns out, was not genuine), which rightly elicits our forgiveness.

We must only forgive "if he repents" (i.e. a credible outward profession of repentance):

Luke 17:3,4

*Take heed to yourselves: If thy brother trespass against thee, rebuke him; and **if he repent**, forgive him. And if he trespass against thee seven times in a day, **and seven times in a day turn again to thee, saying, I repent**; thou shalt forgive him.*

We must confess our sins AND forsake them in order to obtain mercy:

Proverbs 28:13

He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

But we must forgive “if we have ought against any” **unjustly**, i.e. if the problem is within ourselves and not in the other person:

Mark 11:25,26

And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.

99. Servant in Isaiah

Sometimes the “servant” in Isaiah is Israel or the elect:

Isaiah 41:8,9

But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen, the seed of Abraham my friend. Thou whom I have taken from the ends of the earth, and called thee from the chief men thereof, and said unto thee, Thou art my servant; I have chosen thee, and not cast thee away.

Isaiah 42:19

Who is blind, but my servant? or deaf, as my messenger that I sent? who is blind as he that is perfect, and blind as the LORD’S servant?

Isaiah 43:10

Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me.

Isaiah 44:1,2

Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

Isaiah 44:21

Remember these, O Jacob and Israel; for thou art my servant: I have formed thee; thou art my servant: O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of me.

Isaiah 44:26

That confirmeth the word of his servant, and performeth the counsel of his messengers; that saith to Jerusalem, Thou shalt be inhabited; and to the cities of Judah, Ye shall be built, and I will raise up the decayed places thereof.

Isaiah 45:4

For Jacob my servant's sake, and Israel mine elect, I have even called thee by thy name: I have surnamed thee, though thou hast not known me.

Isaiah 48:20

Go ye forth of Babylon, flee ye from the Chaldeans, with a voice of singing declare ye, tell this, utter it even to the end of the earth; say ye, The LORD hath redeemed his servant Jacob.

At other times it can only be one Person, i.e. Christ:

Isaiah 42:1

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighteth; I have put my spirit upon him: he shall bring forth judgment to the Gentiles.

Isaiah 49:1-7

Listen, O isles, unto me; and hearken, ye people, from far; The LORD hath called me from the womb; from the bowels of my mother hath he made mention of my name. And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand hath he hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me; and said unto me, Thou art my servant, O Israel, in whom I will be glorified. Then I said, I have laboured in vain, I have spent my strength for nought, and in vain: yet surely my judgment is with the LORD, and my work with my God. And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength. And he said, It is a light thing that thou shouldest be my servant to raise up the tribes of Jacob, and to restore the preserved of Israel: I will also give thee for a light to the Gentiles, that thou mayest be my salvation unto the end of the earth. Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

Note that the “servant” here must be Christ, but in v.3 it is said to be Israel.

Isaiah 50:10

Who is among you that feareth the LORD, that obeyeth the voice of his servant, that walketh in darkness, and hath no light? let him trust in the name of the LORD, and stay upon his God.

Isaiah 52:13

Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high.

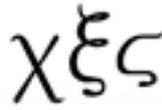
Isaiah 53:11

He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many; for he shall bear their iniquities.

This is the number of the beast. It is the “*number of a man*” (i.e. men in general):

Revelation 13:18

Here is wisdom. Let him that hath understanding count the number of the beast: for it is the number of a man; and his number is Six hundred threescore and six.



In the original Greek, “666” is actually three letters:

Just as a matter of interest, the number appears twice more in Scripture:

1 Kings 10:14

Now the weight of gold that came to Solomon in one year was six hundred threescore and six talents of gold.

and

Ezra 2:13

The children of Adonikam, six hundred sixty and six.

Interestingly, the parallel passage to this in Nehemiah has the number as 667:

Nehemiah 7:18

The children of Adonikam, six hundred threescore and seven.