



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 1.8.1

This issue of PARABLES BOOKSHELF begins the book *God's Plan of the Ages*.

Are you a Berean? The apostle Paul brought a new message to the Jewish people. The gospel he brought was a new revelation, though it had been taught by the prophets and patriarchs of old.

In many places that Paul went the Jewish people rejected his message. The things Paul was teaching from the Scriptures were strange to those who had been taught the Scriptures in their local synagogues.

Yet, Paul went to one city where the Jewish people had a more noble

attitude. They did not reject his words because they were different. They looked into the Scriptures to see if all that Paul was telling them was actually there. The city in which these Jews lived was called Berea.

Acts 17:10-12

Then the brethren immediately sent Paul and Silas away by night to Berea. When they arrived, they went into the synagogue of the Jews. These were more fair-minded than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness, and searched the Scriptures daily to find out whether these things were so. Therefore many of them

believed...

If we are not "fair-minded" we will never grow in truth. We will be forever stuck in the traditions we have received, and the interpretations of Scripture that were first delivered to us. What we were first taught is not always correct, and God brings greater revelation as we mature spiritually.

Let us not cast off something simply because it is new, or contrary to what we first were taught. Let us examine the Scriptures to see whether these things are true. Ask the Spirit of Christ to guide you as you do and you will be amazed at the progress you make.

Food for Thought

"Look not mournfully into the past. It comes not back again. Wisely improve the present. It is thine. Go forth to meet the shadowy future, without fear."

Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

Scripture Memory

Philippians 3:13-14

Forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

Parables Newsletter

- Series 1.8.1
- *God's Plan of the Ages*
- The Need for Revision
- Then Comes the End
- The Cycle of Creation

God's Plan of the Ages

The Need for Revision

My heavenly Father first directed me to begin a ministry of writing in 1999. In 2000 I published online my first book, *The Remnant Bride*. In 2001 I followed this with the foundational truths contained in the book *Sabbath*. The following year, 2002, ended up being the most productive time I had yet experienced in writing as I completed four separate books. These books, in the order they appeared, were *Sarah's Children*, *The Road from Babylon to Zion*, *Laying Down the Law*, and *God's Plan of the Ages*.

Ten years have passed since that busy season of writing, and eight more books have been completed. Recently, I have found it needful to go back and revise some of those early writings. The reason for the revision is not due to any error contained in what was previously set forth. Rather, the years have given me much opportunity to contemplate the subjects of these books further. The Holy Spirit has added much more to my understanding of Yahweh's kingdom and His work among His creation. I have found that the explanations I would now give to certain important doctrines is much more robust. There are additional, and better, arguments to be set forth. I have found many ways to convey truth to the saints that work better than those early attempts.

Recently I revised the book *Laying Down the Law*. I did not change a single conclusion from the earlier version of the book, but I ended up completely re-writing it. The end result is a book nearly twice the original length, and with an approach to explaining the role and duration of the law that I was incapable of setting forth ten years ago. In a similar manner I now intend to revise this present book, *God's Plan of the Ages*.

In the intervening years I have considered at great length the subject of this book, as well as many corollary teachings. Yahweh has opened my eyes to see many more truths. My understanding is much deeper and broader, as well as more solid, than it

was a decade earlier. As I have corresponded with the saints, taught online through my websites, and spoken in many locations across this nation, I have found better ways to express certain truths. I am persuaded that those who read this book will benefit from this experience as it is incorporated into this work of revision.

Back in 2002 the understanding of certain truths addressed in this book were fairly new to me. I incorporated the quotations from other men who had considered the same subject for a greater period of time. J. Preston Eby's writing "*The Savior of the Word Series*" was quoted extensively in my earlier book. Although I believe it is good and proper to acknowledge those whom our Father has used to bring light and truth to us, in setting forth teachings to the body of Christ I believe it is preferable to write things in my own words. I have felt from the time that *God's Plan of the Ages* was first made available on the Internet that a day would come when I would revise it, replacing the many copied passages from Mr. Eby's writing with my own explanations. That time is now at hand.

A Controversial Topic

I acknowledge that those things set forth in this writing are considered controversial by many Christians today. What passes for orthodox teaching among the churches of this hour is very different from that orthodox teaching of Christ and His apostles. Both Christ and His apostles foretold of the great error that would permeate the majority view of the church in the last days. Let us look at a few scriptures that reveal the understanding that the days preceding Yahshua's return would be days of profound deception and error.

II Timothy 3:1-7

But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come. For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy, unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, bru-

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tal, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God; holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; and avoid such men as these. For among them are those who enter into households and captivate weak women weighed down with sins, led on by various impulses, always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Note very carefully here that Paul identifies the day he is speaking of to Timothy. “But realize this, *in the last days* difficult times will come.” How many ministers today are proclaiming that we live in the

If men are not heeding sound doctrine, what are they listening to?

last days? It seems that many recognize that the hour is late, but they have failed to discern what the Bible foretells the state of Christianity to be at

this late hour. Paul begins this passage by saying, “*in the last days difficult times will come,*” and he concludes by saying that people would be “*always learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth.*” What Paul is speaking of is not the exception, but rather the overriding condition of the majority of Christians in the last days. Multitudes today are attending regularly to various forms of teaching, but they are not arriving at the knowledge of the truth.

Timothy was charged by Paul to preach the word. Things were already difficult in the days Paul wrote to Timothy. Consider then the difficulty of any minister who finds himself proclaiming truth to those in the last days. Indeed, their task will be formidable. Paul is still maintaining the same train of thought when he speaks the following words.

II Timothy 4:1-4

I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: preach the word; be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort, with great patience and in-

struction. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires; and will turn away their ears from the truth, and will turn aside to myths.

When should one expect this time to come when men will not endure sound doctrine? Paul already has informed us that he is speaking of the last days, the days in which we now live. If men are not heeding sound doctrine, what are they listening to? They are listening to great accumulations of teachers that are speaking the things their wayward hearts want to hear. They are turning aside unto myths and fables.

There is virtually no area of truth that has remained unaffected due to the difficulty of the days we live. In the book of II Thessalonians, Paul described the dire state of these days with the word “apostasy.”

II Thessalonians 2:1-3

Now we request you, brethren, with regard to the coming of our Lord Yahshua the Messiah, and our gathering together to Him, that you may not be quickly shaken from your composure or be disturbed either by a spirit or a message or a letter as if from us, to the effect that the day of the Lord has come. Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first...

Once more Paul is writing about the days that precede the return of Yahshua. He is writing of the days we live in. Paul states that Yahshua will not return unless the apostasy occurs first. Strong’s Dictionary of Greek words defines apostasy in the following manner.

646 apostasia (ap-os-tas-ee'-ah);

feminine of the same as 647; *defection from truth*

God's Plan of the Ages

As one looks further into the meaning of this Greek word, it is seen that it shares a similar root with the

*Truth is not widely
preached and
received...*

Greek word meaning *divorce*. The apostasy of which Paul speaks is literally a *divorcement from truth*. Taken in relationship with Paul's other statements we can

discern that the last days will be a time when those who claim to be followers of Yahshua will divorce themselves from truth, and they will in turn be wed to myths and fables. They will figuratively heap up for themselves teachers that will proclaim error and falsehood unto them.

This is the perilous circumstance that we find ourselves in today. It is not the masses that are proclaiming truth, but the remnant. Truth is not widely preached and received, rather it is largely rejected, having been replaced with falsehood. How did this circumstance come about? Again the apostle Paul informs us of the reason.

II Thessalonians 2:10-12

Because they did not receive the love of the truth so as to be saved... for this reason God will send upon them a deluding influence so that they might believe what is false, in order that they all may be judged who did not believe the truth, but took pleasure in wickedness.

Because men have preferred lies over truth, the Father has sent a deluding influence upon them. This passage, and the others we have looked at, are not talking about the world, but those who claim to be followers of God. Those who read this book, and other writings that are proclaiming truth in this hour, must realize that what is written here is out of synch with the masses of Christendom because the masses of Christendom are themselves out of synch with God. Yahshua said He was the truth, yet the truth is not loved in the last days before Yahshua's return. As a result the Father has sent delusion upon mankind so that they might believe what is false, which is what they prefer.

In the Gospels we find Christ uttering the following lamentation.

Luke 18:8

"However, when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on the earth?"

Yahshua is speaking in reference to His second coming. At His first appearing there was a whole nation of people who claimed to be followers of His Father. There was a well used religious system centered around the Temple and the synagogues. People were studying the scriptures continuously, and they claimed to be waiting for the appearing of Messiah.

Do we not have a similar scenario today? There is a body of people, huge in number that claim to be followers of Yahshua (Jesus). There is a religious system that is utilized regularly. In place of synagogues there are church buildings on every street corner and at every crossroads. This great body of believers also claims to be awaiting the return of their Messiah.

With all of this teaching and religious structure in place, those who claimed to be waiting for Messiah did not recognize the day of their visitation when He appeared 2,000 years ago. Yahshua was despised and rejected. Certainly the Jews and their leaders would never have admitted to having a wrong understanding of Messiah and what His appearing would be like, anymore than would those in Christianity today. Yet Yahshua asks whether He will find faith on the Earth when He returns. Incredibly, Yahshua describes the last days prior to His return, unto His disciples in the following manner.

Matthew 24:10-13

"And at that time many will fall away and will deliver up one another and hate one another. And many false prophets will arise, and will misled many. And because lawlessness is increased, most

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people's love will grow cold. But the one who endures to the end, he shall be saved.”

Let us consider the sum of all of these testimonies that speak of the last days of the church. Taken altogether we have the following witness.

Many will fall away; many will be misled; most people's love will grow cold; men will be lovers of self, lovers of money; men will not endure sound doctrine; men will turn aside to myths and fables; Yahshua will in no way return unless the apostasy occurs first; will He find faith on the Earth?

Understanding the condition of the church prophesied for the hour preceding the return of Christ should sober any sincere follower of Yahshua. I urge the reader to keep these things in mind as you proceed to read the pages of this book. Great deception has fallen upon the church in this hour. It was foretold over and over that this would be the situation on the Earth prior to Yahshua's return. Do not be surprised that so much that is written here is in contradiction to what is being preached in thousands of pulpits throughout the world today. One should expect no less when the scriptures are properly discerned and the descriptions of the days we live in are rightly perceived.

This book covers some extremely important subjects. I would not feel that my writing was complete apart from setting forth the truths contained herein. It is my earnest expectation that this present revision of this writing will help introduce a remnant of God's people to a vision of Yahweh's plan of the ages that is hidden to the masses. May you be blessed with peace and understanding as you read.

*The end of Yahweh's
works contain no
loose ends.*

Then Comes the End

It may seem odd to *begin* a book with a chapter that focuses on the *end*, but there is a good purpose in doing so. When Yahweh set forth to form the creation He had the end and culmination of all His works in mind. He had determined from the beginning of the creation what the conclusion of all things would be. What Yahweh planned will be fulfilled. The end of Yahweh's works contain no loose ends. Nothing that has been conceived in God's mind will remain partially fulfilled. It is important to grasp this aspect of Yahweh's plan of the ages, for it differs substantially from the experience of man.

When men set forth to accomplish some goal they often fall short of seeing the fulfillment of everything they had envisioned. Man learns to make peace with partial successes and partial failures. A man may be satisfied to have accomplished many of the things he set forth to do, conceding that he gave a good effort and progressed far along the path he had chosen. Man is finite both in wisdom and power. Man does not control all circumstances, nor rule in absolute sovereignty over the creation. Therefore, it is unrealistic for men to anticipate that they will be able to fulfill every detail of the goals, dreams, and visions that originate in the Adamic soul.

In contrast, Yahweh is all powerful. He possesses all wisdom. He knows all things. Yahweh sees the end from the beginning. There is no power in existence that can hinder Him in the fulfillment of the things He has planned. All things have come from God, and all things lie in His power. When Yahweh establishes a plan, He is assured that it will be absolutely, completely, and perfectly fulfilled at the precise moment that He has determined.

Isaiah 46:9-11

“I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is no one like Me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times things which

God's Plan of the Ages

have not been done, Saying, 'My purpose will be established, and I will accomplish all My good pleasure'; Calling a bird of prey from the east, the man of My purpose from a far country. Truly I have spoken; truly I will bring it to pass. I have planned it, surely I will do it."

The church has embraced many false doctrines about the ages to come. These doctrines are riddled with error that has arisen by failing to reckon on Yahweh's determinate will to bring a full, complete and perfect end to the entire creation, and by not

The church has embraced many false doctrines ...

considering that He possesses all power and wisdom to accomplish what He has planned. The church teaches that the creation will continue on into eternity with rebel-

lion, judgment, and torment. The church teaches that the vast majority of the men who have ever lived, and one third of the angels, will never be reconciled to God, but will continue on for eternity without end in separation and unending punishment.

Such concepts are unworthy of the One who possesses all power to subject the entire creation to Himself.

Philippians 3:20-21

For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Yahshua Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, **by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**

If Christ were to confront the false doctrines relating to the ages to come and to eternity, doctrines that leave a great portion of the creation in a state of estrangement to His Father, He would surely reply as He did to those who reckoned errantly in the days of His earthly ministry.

Matthew 22:29

But Yahshua answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God."

Even the righteous who have some knowledge and experience of God often fail to reckon accurately concerning those things Yahweh has planned and will surely accomplish.

Genesis 18:13-14

And Yahweh said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh, saying, 'Shall I indeed bear a child, when I am so old?' **Is anything too difficult for Yahweh?**"

The church's beliefs and doctrines concerning the coming ages are the product of "not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God." Christ has been given ALL authority and power. Yahweh has determined to reconcile ALL THINGS to Himself. His work will not be completed until His desires have been fully and perfectly accomplished. In a myriad of places throughout the Scriptures, the Creator has declared His intent to bring the entire creation back into a place of peace with Himself. The church has failed in her understanding of Yahweh's determined purpose to restore all things to a perfect state of unity. The apostle Paul understood the plan of God, and he declared it openly to the saints.

I Corinthians 15:24-28

Then comes **the end**, when He (Christ) delivers the kingdom to God the Father, when He puts an end to all rule and all authority and power. For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may

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be all in all.

Is the apostle not speaking about “the end” of Yahweh’s work among the creation in these verses? Does the apostle declare that all things will end with billions of men and angels in the bonds of eternal torment? Does the apostle declare that the creation will continue on eternally without a reconciliation of all things to the Father? Absolutely not! Paul understood both the Scriptures and the power of God. He proclaimed the truth of Yahweh’s plan of the ages. Paul tells us exactly what the end of all things will encompass.

Christ must reign, but not eternally! Does this statement offend? Christ must reign UNTIL He has accomplished all things which the Father has determined must be brought to completion under the rule of His Son. What has the Father determined? He has declared that all enemies must be vanquished. All rebellion must come to an end. Every creature on earth and in heaven must be reconciled back to the Father. All creation must be summed up in the Son of God, coming under a perfect submission to Yahshua. The ONLY being left out of this is the Father. The Son is in a state of perfect submission to the Father. Once all things are brought under submission to Christ, then all things subjected to the Son will also be under subjection to the Father. Yahweh will then be “all in all.”

This declaration of the perfect reconciliation of the entire creation to Yahweh is not found in only in this one passage. This is not an obscure and isolated Biblical doctrine. The plan of God to subdue all things on earth and in heaven to Himself is widely declared throughout both the Old Testament and the New. The prophet Isaiah wrote the following:

Isaiah 45:22-24

"Look to Me, and be saved, **all** you ends of the earth! For I am God, and there is no other. I have sworn by Myself; the word has gone out of My mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that

to Me **every knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear allegiance.** They shall say, ‘Surely in Yahweh I have righteousness and strength.’ To Him men shall come, and **all shall be ashamed who are incensed against Him.**”

There is no greater assurance offered anywhere in Scriptures than when Yahweh swears something by Himself. What He declares, must be accomplished. The will of God cannot be thwarted, hindered, or delayed. Yahweh has testified that He will bring every enemy into a perfect allegiance to Himself. This is not a mere forced obeisance. It is not a coerced confession that occurs while rebellion and enmity still exists in the heart. Look at what Isaiah testifies. “All shall be ashamed who were incensed” at God. Shame reveals that a change of heart has occurred. Rebellion has ended. Regret, and repentance have arisen. Those who were formerly enemies, reviling the character and power of Yahweh, are now freely testifying, “Surely in Yahweh **I HAVE** righteousness and strength.”

*The will of God
cannot be thwarted...*

The apostle Paul, writing to the saints in Philippi, declares again the understanding of the entire creation yielding in worshipful subservience to Christ. Paul taught much on the end of all things. He proclaimed openly that the end would not come UNTIL all things had first been reconciled back to the Father through the Son.

Colossians 1:19-20

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and **through Him to reconcile ALL things to Himself**, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say **whether things on EARTH or things in HEAVEN.**

The church, not understanding the Scriptures or the power of God, have adopted many spurious

God's Plan of the Ages

doctrines. God is effectually depicted either as powerless to reconcile all things to Himself, or unwilling to do so. Both thoughts are unworthy of Yahweh. Satan is the architect of these lies, and the church has readily believed them. Satan ever seeks to cast Yahweh and His Son in an unflattering light. He would have God appear as exceedingly harsh, being too difficult to deal with. Satan has convinced myriads of Christians that God will cast men and angels into a fiery lake whose torments are exceptional in their intensity and duration. Satan has persuaded the church that this torment is eternal, never to come to an end.

I could argue against such false doctrines based upon the revelation of the nature of God, His love, mercy, and propensity to forgive. Yet, there would

*The Father has given
His Son all authority
and power.*

be those who would accuse me of sentimentalism, and of forming doctrines based upon feelings. I have therefore chosen to avoid such arguments in favor of pre-

senting the consistent testimony of Scripture. Let the word of God speak. Let us rightly divide the word of truth. What have we read thus far? It is the Father's good will and pleasure to reconcile ALL THINGS in heaven and on earth to Himself through Christ, having made peace through the blood of His cross.

The Father has given His Son all authority and power. After His resurrection from the grave Christ appeared to His disciples. Matthew recorded what He said.

Matthew 28:18

Yahshua came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."

David wrote prophetically of the power to be entrusted to Christ.

Psalms 110:1-2

Yahweh says to my Lord: "Sit at My right hand until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet." Yahweh will stretch forth Your strong scepter from Zion, saying, "Rule in the midst of Your enemies."

Isaiah also prophesied of the coming Messiah.

Isaiah 9:6-7

For a child will be born to us, a son will be given to us; And the government will rest on His shoulders; And His name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace...

What truth is contained in the words, "There will be no end to the increase of His government or of peace"? Do we not find in these words the promise that Christ will reign until everything in creation is brought into full submission to His rule? Is it not promised that peace will increase until in the end all things are reconciled to God and there exists no more rebellion? Yes! This is what is declared.

Of the power and authority of Christ, the apostle Paul writes with adulation and praise.

Colossians 1:16-18

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through Him and for Him. He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together. He is also head of the body, the church; and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

In the very next sentences the apostle declares what the rule of Christ will accomplish.

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Colossians 1:19-20

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him, and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross; through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

Christ is given ruling authority for the purpose of bringing peace to the entire creation. Yahshua is called "the Prince of Peace." He has been given the power to subject all things to Himself. He will rule until He accomplishes the purposes of the Father. The end will come only when the Father is "all in all." Every former enemy will be ashamed. They will confess that they have found in God both righteousness and strength.

Christ has the power to reconcile ALL THINGS to Himself. Will He not employ this power to its full extent? Most certainly He will. Christ "must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet." What then of the church's doctrine that the enemies of God will be put into a fiery lake of eternal torment? Such doctrines are a product of not understanding the Scriptures, nor the power of God.

In the book of Revelation we read that "Death and Hell (Hades) are cast into the Lake of Fire." Christians have been taught that the duration of the souls of men and angels in the Lake of Fire is eternal. This is not what the Scriptures teach. The Lake of Fire is synonymous with "the second death."

Revelation 20:14

Then death and Hades were thrown into the Lake of Fire. This is the second death, the Lake of Fire.

The apostle Paul has written that death must come to an end **before** Yahweh's plan of the ages has been concluded. Let us look at Paul's words once more, highlighting the pertinent section.

I Corinthians 15:25-28

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. ***The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*** For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

Death, even the Lake of Fire which is "the second death," cannot continue on eternally. The work of death among the creation will be brought to an end when all things are reconciled back to the Father. The Lake of Fire, death itself, exist to serve a purpose in the fulfillment of Yahweh's plan. They are to bring an end to sin and rebellion. When all things are subjected to the Father then death will be no more. The wages of sin is death. Where there is no longer any sin there is no longer any death.

*Death... cannot
continue on eternally.*

Isaiah 25:8

He will swallow up death for all time, and Yahweh God will wipe tears away from all faces...

One of the greatest declarations found in the Bible is that mercy ultimately triumphs over judgment.

James 2:13

For judgment will be merciless to one who has shown no mercy; mercy triumphs over judgment.

If Yahweh requires His sons and daughters to show mercy and demonstrate forgiveness to their enemies, will He not also do the same? Yahweh's wrath endures for a moment.

God's Plan of the Ages

Micah 7:18

Who is a God like You, who pardons iniquity and passes over the rebellious act of the remnant of His possession? He does not retain His anger forever, because He delights in unchanging love.

The church in declaring a doctrine of eternal torment is doing the work of Satan by declaring God to be angry forever. The testimony of Scripture is that Yahweh "does not retain His anger forever." Yahweh does not delight in endless punishment. He seeks the reconciliation of His creation.

Ezekiel 33:11

"Say to them, 'As I live!' declares Yahweh God, 'I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn back, turn back from your evil ways!'"

Yahweh is abundantly rich in mercy. He will not hold the sinner guiltless, but neither will His wrath endure forever.

Ephesians 2:4-5

But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved)...

The grace and mercy of God will reign supreme, accomplishing reconciliation of the entire creation before the time of the end.

The truth of Yahweh's merciful reconciliation of the entire creation back to Himself is offensive to a great many people. Is God unjust to forgive all His enemies? You and I were at one time numbered among the enemies of God. He showed mercy and forgiveness to us. Will we account it an evil thing for God to show mercy and forgiveness to **all** before the conclusion of His plan of the ages? We should rejoice that Yahweh is merciful. Apart from His mercy we would all be consumed.

Isaiah 54:7-8

"For a brief moment I forsook you, but with great compassion I will gather you. In an outburst of anger I hid My face from you for a moment, but with everlasting lovingkindness I will have compassion on you," Says Yahweh your Redeemer.

We have not looked at all of the testimonies found in Scriptures that speak of the work of Christ to reconcile all things back to His Father. The Bible is rife with statements of the plan and purpose of God. To the church in Ephesus, the apostle Paul writes:

Ephesians 1:9-10

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to a stewardship suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, ***the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth in Him.***

This present chapter is seeking to convey one foundational truth. It is a point we cannot neglect. There is an **end** to the work of Christ. In stating that there is an end, I mean to convey that there is both a goal and a conclusion to Christ's work. He has come to reconcile all things to God the Father. The rule of Christ is granted to Him UNTIL He accomplishes the reconciliation of all things to the Father. "For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be abolished is death (including the second death, the Lake of Fire)." When Yahshua has accomplished the goal of His reign, then will come the end of the ages.

There are ages yet to come. We do not see the reconciliation of all things in this present age. This book will look at the ages that preceded this present time, as well as those that follow. We will examine the role and duration of the Lake of Fire even as we examined the role and duration of the Law in the previous book *Laying Down the Law*.

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I entreat those who have read this far to remain patient in examining this subject. Every question and objection cannot be answered in a single chapter. The author is striving to present the matter in a way that will lead to understanding. Precept is laid upon precept. Those who remain patient will be rewarded. I exhort you to test all that is written. Examine the many Scriptures cited. Keep your Bible and your heart open that you might discover truth.

The Cycle of Creation

Ecclesiastes 1:5-7

The sun rises and the sun sets; And hastening to its place it rises there again. Blowing toward the south, then turning toward the north, the wind continues swirling along; And on its circular courses the wind returns. All the rivers flow into the sea, yet the sea is not full. To the place where the rivers flow, there they flow again.

The wise king Solomon began his great book of wisdom by speaking of the circularity of creation. Solomon referred to the circuit of the Sun, the courses of the wind, and the cycle of water on the earth. These are things the wise man contemplated as he sought to understand life, and his place in the creation. Solomon perceived that the creation functions in cycles.

I want to make mention of the grandest of all cycles in the creation. All things originated in God, and when the creation has run its course, all things must return unto God. You and I are part of the creation. We are bound by this cycle. Man became a living soul when God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. One day, at the end of the ages, God will gather His breath back to Himself.

Job 34:14-15

If He should determine to do so, if He should gather to Himself His spirit and His breath, all flesh would perish together, and man would return

to dust.

When Yahweh conceived the creation He set limits to its endurance. Yahweh created a plan that encompasses many ages, concluding in one final age that is at times referred to as “the age of the ages.”

Daniel 7:18

And receive the kingdom do the saints of the Most High, and they strengthen the kingdom unto the age, even unto the age of the ages.

[Young’s Literal Translation]

Yahweh framed the creation with a master plan where each age was determined. I have referred to this as “God’s plan of the ages.” Following are two translations of a passage from Paul’s letter to the Ephesians that bring forth a literal rendering of the original Greek.

Solomon perceived that the creation functions in cycles.

Ephesians 3:8-11

To me the far inferior of all holy ones; was given the favor this, among the nations to announce glad tidings the unsearchable wealth of the Anointed, and to enlighten all, what the administration of the secret of that having been hidden from the AGES in the God in that the all things having created; so that might be made known now to the governments and to the authorities in the heavenlies, through the congregation, the manifold wisdom of the God; According to **a plan of the ages**, which He formed for the Anointed Jesus our Lord.

(Diaglott)

Ephesians 3:8-11

Unto me—the less than least of all saints, was given this favour, unto the nations, to announce the glad-message of the untraceable riches of the Christ, and

God's Plan of the Ages

to bring to light—what is the administration of the sacred secret which had been hidden away from the AGES in God, who did all things create: In order that now, unto the principalities and the authorities in the heavenlies, might be made known, through means of the assembly, the manifold wisdom of God,— According to **a plan of the ages** which He made in the anointed Jesus our Lord.

(Rotherham's Emphasized Bible)

The present creation was never intended to exist for eternity. The creation is marked by finite

The creation is marked by finite bounds.

bounds. This truth is contained in a passage that we examined in the preceding chapter. The apostle Paul wrote of the end of the reign of sonship. A time must come when all things must be

summed up into Christ in order that all things might return unto the Father.

I Corinthians 15:25-28

For He must reign till He has put all enemies under His feet. The last enemy that will be destroyed is death. For "He has put all things under His feet." But when He says "all things are put under Him," it is evident that He who put all things under Him is excepted. Now when all things are made subject to Him, then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him who put all things under Him, that God may be all in all.

The entire creation is headed toward a time when all must return unto the Father. Some Christians have received errant notions concerning the Son of God. They do not recognize that He is also part of the creation. Although He holds a preeminent position, being the firstborn and the instrument through which Yahweh created all other things, Yahshua is Himself a created being.

Colossians 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, **the first-**

born of all creation.

In the book of Proverbs Solomon writes of Wisdom as if it were a person. The description of Wisdom is the description of the firstborn Son of God.

Proverbs 8:24-30

When there were no depths I was brought forth, when there were no springs abounding with water. Before the mountains were settled, before the hills I was brought forth; While He had not yet made the earth and the fields, nor the first dust of the world. When He established the heavens, I was there, when He inscribed a circle on the face of the deep, when He made firm the skies above, when the springs of the deep became fixed, when He set for the sea its boundary so that the water would not transgress His command, when He marked out the foundations of the earth; Then I was beside Him, as a master workman...

The apostle Paul describes Christ as "the wisdom of God."

I Corinthians 1:23-24

But we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness, but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, **Christ** the power of God and **the wisdom of God.**

What Solomon speaks metaphorically of Wisdom is true of Christ. Christ was present with the Father at the beginning of the creation. Christ was the first creation of God. Yahshua is the embodiment of the Wisdom of God. He was "beside Him, as a master workman" when Yahweh created all things.

Colossians 1:15-16

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation. For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities - all things have been created through

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Him and for Him.

Christ is the firstborn of all creation. He was the first to arise out of God, and we find that in Yahweh's plan of the ages that all things must return back to Christ. Even as through Yahshua all things were created, including the angels and mankind, so must all things become subject once more to the Son. All things must be summed up in the Son. Then the Son may return, along with all created things, to the Father from whom all things came.

Ephesians 1:9-10

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to a stewardship suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth in Him.

There are mysteries revealed in the things of which Paul writes. Paul declared that he had been chosen to be a steward of the mysteries of God. Paul had much to say about Yahweh's mysteries, but the church has remained largely babes, able to drink only milk. The body of Christ has remained immature, unable to eat solid food, seldom dining on the meat of the mysteries of God.

Hebrews 5:12-6:3

For though by this time you ought to be teachers, you have need again for someone to teach you the elementary principles of the oracles of God, and you have come to need milk and not solid food. For everyone who partakes only of milk is not accustomed to the word of righteousness, for he is an infant. But solid food is for the mature, who because of practice have their senses trained to discern good and evil. Therefore leaving the elementary teaching about the Christ, let us press on to maturity, not laying again a foundation of repentance from dead works and of faith toward God, of instruction about washings and laying on of hands, and the resurrection of the dead and age lasting (aeonian) judgment. And this we will do, if God

permits.

Those things Paul names as elementary teachings are what the church considers higher learning today. The church has seldom reached beyond elementary things to delve into the mysteries of God. Yet, the Father has entrusted the mysteries of His kingdom and His creation unto His people. Yahweh has set a table for the mature in Christ to feed upon. Paul wrote of his calling in the following manner:

I Corinthians 4:1

Let a man regard us in this manner, as servants of Christ and **stewards of the mysteries of God.**

The reason that many have been offended at the message of this book is that it contains meat for the mature. Some who are accustomed only to milk have balked at what is set before them. They have thought the message here to be too weighty, too difficult, and have wanted only to focus upon that which is simple. Those who will receive only simple thoughts and concepts must remain simple-minded. We are called to attain to the fulness of the stature that belongs to Christ (Ephesians 4:13). Christ is the embodiment of the Wisdom of God the Father.

Christ is the
embodiment of the
Wisdom of God the
Father.

Let us take a look at the very beginning of the cycle of creation that we might understand what its end must be. Some years back I was meditating upon the doctrine of the Trinity. I wanted to understand the nature and relationship of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Yahweh, as He often does, brought understanding through means of a parable.

As I was sitting before the Father He asked me, "If you want to see the soul of a man, how would you view it?" I knew the soul to be invisible. It will not

God's Plan of the Ages

show up on an x-ray, or a CAT scan or MRI. A person cannot take a picture of the soul of man. Nonetheless, the soul can be seen. Yahshua said,

Matthew 12:35-37

"The good man brings out of his good treasure what is good; and the evil man brings out of his evil treasure what is evil. But I tell you that every careless word that people speak, they shall give an accounting for it in the day of judgment. For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."

A man's soul can be seen in His words. Do you want to know if a soul is evil, listen to the words that come from a man's mouth. One can discern if

A man's soul can be seen in His words.

a man is lustful by listening to his words. If the man is ruled by anger in his soul, his words will reveal it. Rebellion, covetousness, jealousy, pride, envy, and every

evil characteristic of the soul of a man is exhibited in a man's speech.

The righteous man is also known by his words. You can discern whether a man is pure in heart, whether he is loving, merciful, patient, longsuffering, humble, and selfless by observing his conversation. Surely a man's soul is revealed through his words.

As the Father directed me to contemplate these things, He revealed to me the relationship of the Spirit and the Son to Himself through the parable of speech. Every created thing was crafted with masterful design to show forth hidden mysteries of the kingdom of God. Yahweh has revealed the Trinity through the miracle of speech.

Every word begins with a thought in the mind of man. The thought is made visible as a man exhales air from his lungs and shapes identifiable sounds

as the air passes over the vocal chords. These sounds exit the man as words, and the words reveal the hidden things inside the soul of man.

Yahweh the Father is Spirit. No one has seen the Father at any time. The apostle John shared the following words of inspiration with the saints.

John 1:18

No man has ever seen God at any time; the only unique Son, or the only begotten God, Who is in the bosom [in the intimate presence] of the Father, He has declared Him [He has revealed Him and brought Him out where He can be seen; He has interpreted Him and He has made Him known].

[Amplified Bible]

When God wanted to form the creation it was necessary to make Himself known to the creation. Yet a physical creation cannot see that which exists in Spirit alone. Yahweh had to do something to reveal Himself even as a man must do something to make the thoughts of his mind known to others. Yahweh formed a Word.

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Yahweh exhaled His Spirit and formed a Word. It was a perfect Word that fully revealed Himself. This Word became flesh so that mankind could perceive it. The Word is the Son of God. The Son has perfectly declared, manifested, and made known the Father.

John 14:9

Yahshua said to him, "Have I been so long with you, and yet you have not come to know Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father..."

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When the Father wanted to reveal Himself to creation He formed the Word. As the Father showed this to me He showed me the process by which a word is formed. We utter forth speech as we breathe out. Yahweh designed speech to be accomplished in this manner. Speech is accompanied by the exhalation of man's breath.

Throughout the Bible the word for Spirit is always related to the word for breath, air, or wind. In the Old Testament the word is "ruach." The first occurrence is found in the second verse of the Bible.

Genesis 1:2

The earth was formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the **Spirit** [ruach] of God was moving over the surface of the waters.

This same word is used in the following verses.

Genesis 7:22

All in whose nostrils was the **breath** [ruach] of life, of all that was in the dry land, died.

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** [ruach] to pass over the earth, and the waters assuaged...

When man breathes out his exhalation is breath. When Yahweh breathes out, His exhalation is Spirit. Even as man's breath is used to form words, so was the exhalation of the Spirit of God used to form Christ, "the living Word."

Luke 1:35

The angel answered and said to (Mary), "**The Holy Spirit will come upon you**, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; and for that reason the holy Child shall be called the

Son of God."

The Spirit was sent forth from the Father to form His Word. This Word existed from the beginning of the creation. The very first exhalation of the Father formed the Son of God. Yahshua is *before* all things, yet He is a creation of the Father. The Father is Spirit, and He is the eternal One. Yahweh exists before the creation, and supersedes the creation. Out of God all things have come, and back to God all things must return.

People of God, what the Bible testifies to occur at the end of the ages is not the annihilation of mankind, of Christ, or of the creation. One cannot annihilate that which came forth from the Father. When Yahweh has accomplished all things He has planned for this present creation, then His Spirit, exhaled from His being for the creation of all things, beginning with the Word, must return to Him.

One day as I reflected upon what this must mean the Father gave me an image of a vast ocean. The ocean was limitless. Out of this infinite sea were taken droplets of water. For a time these droplets of water existed separate from the sea. They could be identified individually, even as raindrops that fall from the sky. God showed me that mankind is like unto these drops of water. We came from Yahweh, and for a time we can be identified as individuals. At the end of the ages all must return to the Father. It will be like unto drops of water being returned to the ocean. The drops of water do not cease to exist. Rather, they become one with the ocean. Once returned to the sea it is no longer possible to separate them. The drops of water have become one with that source from which they first originated. They are present, but no one can any longer say, "Here is this individual droplet." All has become merged into one entity.

The very first exhalation of the Father formed the Son of God.

God's Plan of the Ages

To become one with the Father is not tragedy. To be lost in God is not the loss of man. Rather, it is the fulfillment of that which is most glorious, highest and good. It is the fulfillment of perfect unity with Yahweh. It is this unity for which Christ prayed in His high priestly prayer.

John 17:20-23

“I do not ask on behalf of these alone, but for those also who believe in Me through their word; that they may all be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. The glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, just as We are one; I in them and You in Me, that they may be perfected in unity, so that the world may know that You sent Me, and loved them, even as You have loved Me.”

The end of the ages will be the perfection of unity. When we are no longer separable from the Father then our union will be perfect. John the Baptist declared the essential work that must be brought to fruition among the creation before the end can come.

John 3:30

“He must increase, but I must decrease.”

The work of this present creation is to see Christ formed in every one of the sons of God.

Galatians 4:19

My children, with whom I am again in labor until Christ is formed in you...

Romans 8:29

For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son, so that He would be the firstborn among many brethren...

God is at work in us to form a perfect revelation of Himself, even as He has revealed Himself perfectly in His firstborn Son.

Ephesians 4:13

Until we all attain to the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a mature man, to the measure of the stature which belongs to the fullness of Christ.

Yahweh will not rest; His work will not be complete, until everything in creation resembles the firstborn Son, who is the perfect expression of the Father. There can be nothing left of sin in the world. All lust, envy, malice, pride, self-seeking, covetousness and every other evil thing must be expunged from the creation. All that remains must be holy and righteous and true. Christ will reign until He subdues the entire creation, bringing all into conformity to the Father.

In the book of Ephesians the apostle Paul describes the gathering of all things into Christ.

Ephesians 1:9-10

He made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Him with a view to a stewardship suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the **summing up** of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth in Him.

When the Romans performed addition, they added up individual amounts and wrote the sum at the top of the list of numbers. This is the opposite of the manner in which we do things today, for we always write the sum at the bottom of a list of numbers. It was the Roman practice of putting the total at the top that led to the expression “to sum up.” It is fitting to describe the work of Christ in subjecting all things to Himself as a summing up.

One day Christ will stand as the Sum of all crea-

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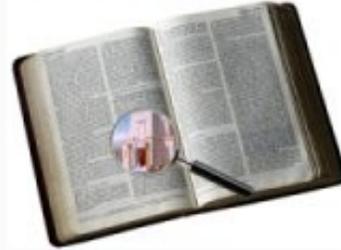
tion. Everything will be brought into subjection to Him. Everything will be beneath Him. There will be nothing left in creation that is not fully contained in Him. Since Yahshua is light, there will be no darkness left in the creation. Because Christ is righteous and holy, there will exist no more sin. Christ is humble, therefore no pride can remain to be summed up in Him. Everything that remains must be a pure representation of some part of the whole. Only then can everything be brought back into the Father so that He is “all in all.”

To many such thoughts appear difficult, and may be perceived as mysteries that are too deep to plumb. However, it must be established that God will one day reconcile the entire creation back to Himself. Seeing this truth will reveal the error of those doctrines that declare sin, rebellion, and torment to be eternal. Neither sin, nor judgment; neither rebellion, nor death, can continue on in perpetuity. Christ must reign UNTIL He has subjected all things to Himself. The day will come when the last enemy will be destroyed. Peace will reign absolute, and the rule of Christ will be uncontested. Every created being will declare, “Surely in Yahweh I have righteousness and strength.” Yahweh has sworn by His own self that this will be the end of all things. Nothing can stay His hand.

When all things in heaven and on earth have been reconciled to the Father through the Son, then the cycle of creation will be complete. That which came forth from the Father can then return to the Father. The breath of Yahweh will return to that source from which it came. As an ocean encompassing a myriad of droplets in its vast and limitless expanse, Yahweh will be all in all.

*Yahweh will be
all in all.*

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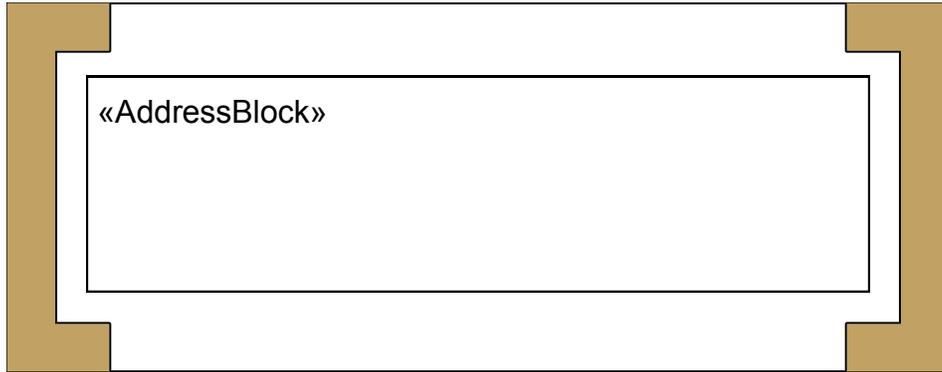
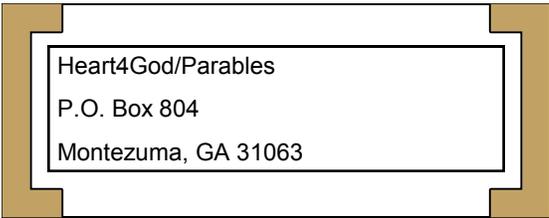
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PARABLES PRECEPT— The Bible



Mankind has been very ingenious in creating suitable writing material for thousands of years. The original paper was called papyrus. You can easily see the relationship between the two words.

Papyrus was used in ancient Egypt for a writing medium as far back as

the third millennium B.C.. It was formed from the plant that bears the same name. Papyrus is a reed like plant that grows in marshy areas, and was common along the Nile River.

To create paper from this plant the outer rind was stripped away revealing an inner sticky substance of straight grain. This was cut lengthwise into thin strips about 18 inches long. They were then laid side by side, slightly overlapping.

Once one layer had been laid down, a second layer would be laid across it at right angles. These two layers of sticky fiber would then be hammered together and dried under pressure. Once they were dried they would then be polished with a smooth stone.

Because the papyrus sheets were formed of strips laid together, they

would produce lines on the sheets. One side would have vertical lines and the other horizontal lines. Scribes would normally write on the sides with the horizontal lines in the same way that we write on lined paper today.

Papyrus was very stable and long lasting in a dry climate like that of Egypt, but would mildew and decompose in wetter climates. Papyrus continued to be used as a writing medium until about 1100 A.D., though other writing surfaces had been in use for over a thousand years by then.

Rather than binding the papyrus sheets into books, they were typically made into long rolls which we call scrolls. About 100 B.C. people began transitioning from scrolls to book form which were called codices.