

THE CANDLE

A Sequel to the *Curse of the Gergesenes*

When one curses the darkness, he is always chided to light a candle as well. *The Candle* is a light to show the way to get out of the Gergesene curse.

The 5-year war/conquest of Canaan by Joshua and the Israelites has a much more profound meaning to it than just another war.

The Hebrews have within their deep history several principles from which they have based their actions and which apply to this topic. One is the *mitzvah*, literally “the reading of scripture,” or “the reading of the commandments.” Our most familiar example is the *bar mitzvah*, which is the passage of a boy into manhood at age 13. The “reading of the commandments” is but an integral act within the overall purpose of the ceremony, and that purpose is to celebrate the *transformation* of a boy into a man, or, from *one state to a completely different state*.

This process of transformation is repeated throughout Hebrew history, the 5-year war in Canaan being no exception. Quoting from the Jewish website, *sichosenglish.org*, “The *mitzvah* of Bakkarim is to be fulfilled, ‘When you come in to the land (Canaan)...take it as an inheritance, and settle within.’ This alludes to the service of the Jewish people in refining the world at large. The epitome of this service in Deuteronomy 7 is the transformation of the land of the seven Canaanite nations into Eretz Yisrael. This service will be completed in the Messianic age.”

Thus the war of Canaan was to metamorphose (transform) a thing from one state to another, (the *mitzvah*); the result was to be Eretz Yisrael. Put another way, what was once under the domain of Satan was to be overthrown and transformed into a land under the domain of God. This process can be simplified by using the phrase, “the Israelitization” of Canaan. In other words, the transformation of the Jewish boy at 12 into a man is no different symbolically than the transformation of a land under Satan to a land under God. The process is a *mitzvah*, the result is an *ervetz*, a completely different state.

So you say, “What does all this Hebrew stuff have to do with me?” Simple; the Word says we Gentiles (read *heathen*, under the domain of Satan), by faith in Jesus, are transformed from a child of darkness into a child of light. It also says we former Gentiles by virtue of our faith are grafted into the tree of Israel. Thus we become an *ervetz* of Israel, part of the tree under the domain of God. The word “transformation” in the Greek is *metamorphoo*, from whence we get our English word “metamorphosis.” This word describes the process of a chrysalis in the cocoon to a butterfly, from one state to an entirely different one. The last *ervetz* will be when we are resurrected into new, incorruptible bodies, from one form into another.

We as believers are somewhat familiar with the process of transformation from one state to another in the two extremes, our salvation experience and our departing this life for an immortal body. Oh, how we acclaim those two events and hang our proverbial religious hats over them both as *the* way to go. “My, my, my, all my problems are solved. Why, I’ve even been baptized in the Spirit to make things even better. Thank goodness that’s over, now I can ‘rest in the LORD.’ I’ve got all of Jesus I need, or am supposed to get. Just let Him do the rest. What, me worry?”

To the contrary, my friend; there are many transformations “twixt the two.”

Most of what we believe, particularly in the realm of Christianity, is bogus. What we are, think, and believe is a summation of essentially the accumulation of untold generations of thought, doctrine, opinions and reasoning peculiar to our individual heritage. But then, there are millions of “heritages”; which one, if any, is correct? Paul labels this stuff “the vain traditions of our fathers.”

Like the tendrils of a vine probing on the ground for something to perpetuate itself, we have latched onto whatever substrate that presented itself, largely indiscriminate as to its source, validity, or nature. By virtue of the phase of history in which we find ourselves, namely Disintegration, the substrate presented to our groping tendrils is for the most part, the traditions of our fathers. Specifically the “Christianity” presented is little more than a cloaked religious version of “Americanism Ease”; comfort, self-worth, and blessings *ad nauseum* are the vanguard expressions of our “Christianity.”

A backdoor proof of these brash statements is not only the manifest powerlessness we exhibit, such as failing to heal the sick, raise the dead, and deliverance of the possessed, but also the curses we permit, endure and adamantly defend. Cruelly stated, our lives and the lives of our oft-decadent seed simply do not corroborate Jesus’ words in describing what we should be, or how we should be living. It really doesn’t matter how genteel, how polite, how well-behaved nor how “kind and gentle” we appear to everyone; our fruit simply does not match up with Jesus’ words. The Body is in terrible shape...

If we adopt without question the traditions and beliefs of our fathers, chances are we will miss the mark of our calling, which is to *know* Christ. By accepting what has always been, we may miss the truth completely. It is easy to follow the thoughts of others, even though they may be inaccurate. Even Satan knows how to quote Scripture.

Follow me on this, now. Is it not true that we cherry pick the scriptures which we espouse? Do we not cling like a vine’s tendrils to II Chronicles 7:14, “if My people...etc.”, and few if any of us know the first part of that line? Verse 14 is the *second one-half* of the total sentence. Read the first part and it changes the whole meaning. “When (not if) I shut up the heavens so that there is no rain, or command the locust to devour the land, or send pestilence among **My** people, verse 13), if My people....” (By the way, God is only parroting what Solomon had wisely prayed in the preceding chapter.)

Do we not drool over the scripture in I Corinthians 11:23-26 regarding the taking of the Cup, stopping with verse 26, “For as often as you eat of this bread and drink of this cup....?” Rarely, if ever, do we read verses 27 through 32, “Whoever then, eats of this bread and drinks of this cup in an unworthy manner will be guilty of profaning the body and blood of the LORD.” Paul continues, “That is why many of you are sick, and some have died! ...drinking judgment upon yourselves.”

We choose the blessings and eschew the curses and warnings; we leave out the conditions God sets for our well-being.

We omit the fact that Jesus fully used up 50% of His words in Matthew on warnings, cautions, admonitions, reproofs, rebukes, and judgments. We caress Isaiah 53, but overlook Isaiah 63; the first half of Isaiah 6 is pleasing, but somehow the last half escapes our interest. The images of Jesus that picture Him as meek and mild, Mary’s child, not breaking a bruised reed, have chained us to an incomplete picture of Who He is. We swoon at the thought of the Paschal lamb of God, the soft, cuddly, harmless lamb. Oh, we like that image of Jesus; it’s so, so, so innocent and non-threatening.

We hang our proverbial hats of salvation on Jesus in a manger, His bearing our sorrows, being a Man acquainted with grief, binding up the brokenhearted, and so forth! A visage of Jesus being bludgeoned, bloody and battered, and that image alone, cripples us as to being victorious and destroying the works of the Devil.

Oh, but let us not dwell on Revelation 6:16-17, “...hide us from the **wrath** of the Lamb!” The *wrath* of the Lamb?

Or Isaiah 63, “Who is this who comes from Edom, in crimson garments from Bozrah... trodding them in My **anger**, trampling them in My **wrath.**” *Wrath, anger, treading my people down?* Jesus?

Perish the thought of Psalm 50:22, “Mark this, you (of My people) that forget Me, **lest I tear you to pieces**, and there be none to deliver!” God, *tearing His people to pieces?* Surely not!

That must apply to others...as does Hebrews 10:26, “...for if we sin deliberately after receiving the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins, but a fearful prospect of judgment, and fury of fire which will consume the adversaries.” Oh, but Hebrews wasn’t written to believers, was it? Or **was it?**

Needless to say from the above, the Image of Jesus into which we are to be transformed is not some milksop, nor some spineless mushy, cuddly lamb.

Let's put things in proper perspective: Jesus came to earth as the Paschal Lamb, meek and mild, bearing our grief, sorrows, etc., *so we might have no reason to say He had not done all that could be done to save us!! All that was to live where we have lived, so to speak, so we could always say He related to us, and our weaknesses. That 3 1/2 years was the spot in time that surpasses all spots in time, but it is not the summation of who Jesus is, was, and continues to be!!*

Leonard Ravenhill once observed that over 95% of preaching was concentrated on the 3 1/2 years of His earthly ministry, as it were. Less than 2 % was dedicated to the Jesus of eternity. Thus the hierarchy of even Protestant Christianity has done a marvelous job of obliterating the eternal Jesus. Catholicism is even worse, replacing Him with His mother. With them, the crucifixion is paramount; the resurrection is diminished, and as such, has neutered the power of the Son of God in His so-called followers as to what they should be doing to destroy the works of Satan.

We further cherry pick those scriptures that massage our particular bent, and ones that support our doctrinal "position." In short, we cling to the passages that stroke us or worse yet, to the ones that grant us maces with which to bludgeon others.

So if we cherry-pick scripture, how much of it have we left hanging? If we have left a chunk of scripture in limbo, then what does that say about our total information base? If we are missing information, then how valid is our belief system? Is not our incompleteness self-condemning? If incomplete, then our minds are still pagan, still unregenerate, still dazed, still tied to our formative years, still entrenched in and under how our fathers thought, felt, and believed, still *deceived*. Few of us dare to question the institutions under which we live, fewer still dare to question our peers, or address the standards common to our particular group.

This idea of transformation, being metamorphosed into Jesus' image, changed into His character, losing our former identity, absolving ourselves of any rights to remain who we were and are, is in many minds, heresy and foolishness. We ignore the passage about the death of the grain of wheat and cast off the passage about the denying of ourselves, which means denying we even exist! What we really want is for Jesus to bless who we are, and to transmit us to His realm without any makeover or any removal of our old self. Deny it, if we will. There is a blasphemy out there which states that from the moment of rebirth, we have become all that we are to be, and have all of Jesus that we need to have. That, my friends, is lethal.

It can be proven by empirical data and hard actual facts that in nearly every field of endeavor, whether it be oil/gas exploration, economics, politics, electronics, space theory, etc., no less than 80% of conventional, current knowledge within that field is **wrong**. In fact, the half-life of knowledge used to be in the tens of years back in the early 1900s. It has been shortening hyperbolically ever since. Now, the half-life in some fields is in the single digits of years. It is only the 10%-20% (usually 10%) residuum of what went before, that continues on as a basis for the next generation of discovery.

So is it any different that among many so called “Christian” beliefs, there exists only a shred of truth and much of the pomp and style of religious practice, has no basis other than what some man thought would be “good” to do.

Gideon’s army of alert, non-fearing men wound up being 300 out of 32, 000 or roughly 1 in 100. Joshua and Caleb were 2 of 12 spies, and only these 2 of 600,000 were in alignment with God.

Only 1 in 10 commodity traders make money, the rest lose. Bernard Beruch made money because he did just the opposite of what was in the morning papers each day. In the oil and gas exploration business most activity is based on the sheep syndrome, doing what everyone else is doing. Most of the information therein is bogus, out-of-date, obsolete, misconstrued. Facts bear all this out as being true. I find the same to be true of most of what is called Christianity. The following is a case in point.

Jesus was not playing games, being cruel, or referring to “someone else,” in Matthew 7:21-23, when He said, “Not every one who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of Heaven, but he who does the will of my Father who is in Heaven. Many will say to me on that day, ‘Did we not prophesy in your name? - and in your name did not we cast out devils? - and in your name did many wonderful works?’ And then will I profess unto them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you that work iniquity.’” Now the parallel scripture in Luke says, “Depart from me...you evildoers.”

From Strong’s concordance, numbers 94 and 462, respectively, are the “strongest use of words denoting *presumption and self-assertion*. “ ‘Evildoer’ and/or ‘worker of iniquity,’ is predicated of the sinner in order to describe his sin as being *in opposition to, and in contempt of, the will of God.*”¹

In other words, whatever I do that is not the precise will of God is rebellion and contempt; it is as simple as that. If He did not tell me clearly what to do or say, then I have asserted myself, pure and simple. My words are “careless,” and “unemployed,” without His direction. That’s pretty strong language.

Thus Jesus “knowing” us, thereby allowing us to be with Him (assuming we want this in the first place) requires us to be “like Him.” Remember, for us to “know” each other, we must have the same:

- desires
 - feelings
 - motivations
 - purposes
 - character
 - soul and spirit
 - wisdom
 - knowledge
 - obedience
-as Jesus !!

Jesus being the Son of God, the Logos (word), the Warrior, the Lamb, the Potentate, the Shepherd, the Light, *ad infinitum*, how do we come into His likeness? Scripture tells us clearly, that the process of our being “like” Him, so that He will “know” us, is that of **transformation**. *Trans* means changing; *formation* means form; “changing form” in other words. The concept and process of transformation began with the creation itself. **What did not exist** was formed into **something** by the Word of God (remember this). Every single thing, from light/darkness, day/night, earth/planets, space/universe, worms, eagles and man were created by the Word of God from things which did not pre-exist.

From the passage in Matthew 25 regarding the ten virgins, we see the phrase, “I never knew you,” once again. This was spoken to the 5 foolish (presumptuous) virgins who came unprepared to meet the bridegroom. So this thought is repeated; repetition means to set up and take notice, serious notice. How do we connect the dots between Jesus “knowing” us and this concept of transformation? “Knowing” someone, specifically Jesus in this case, is to be on the same song sheet; to be in harmony, to be after the same goals, to be in agreement, having a pleasurable relationship with one another, sharing the deepest thoughts, desires and feelings.

Now in order to “know” Jesus in this context, and for Jesus to “know” us in the same, we must of necessity be alike in our thoughts, ideas, motives, purposes, character, etc. This does not mean we are to be mind-numbed robots, nor to physically look alike. But then to be alike with Jesus per the above would necessitate that Jesus be the standard, the model, the epitome to follow. We humans certainly would never be the standard.

Now the spoken word of God is the *logos*, which means, “word.” Jesus has the same title; He is the *Logos* of God but with a capital ‘L’. So in order to be like Jesus, all we have to do is to absorb, take in, be changed by the logos, or word of God; *Logos* unto *logos*.

We were transformed at the moment of rebirth by virtue of our salvation experience as Jesus was transformed (transfigured=metamorphosed) on the Mount of Transfiguration. We became a new creature, with a new **spirit**. In God’s mind, we are already a new creature and have been seated in Heaven, etc. But in the reality of the here and now, our **souls** consisting of our minds, thoughts, opinions, biases, judgments of situations, and analytical processes, are still in their infancy of growth into the mind of Christ.

Paul says repeatedly to believers;

..be renewed in the spirit of our minds	Ephesians 4:23
..until Christ be formed in you	Galatians 4:19
..until we reach the fullness of Christ	Ephesians 3:19, 4:13
..be changed into His image from glory unto glory	Romans 8:29, II Cor 3:18
..be transformed by the renewing of your minds	Romans 12:2

So from the scriptures it is clear that our minds must still be much as they were before the rebirth. Christ is still not formed in us, nor have we reached the fullness of Christ, nor have we been changed into His image, practically speaking. Our minds still function as before, or else Paul would not have said for us to have our minds renewed.

If they need to be renewed, then they are still old. Our thoughts, analyses, etc., are as they were of old, still set in the vain traditions of our fathers. He even says some of us are still children, babes; some of us are still on milk. Peter admonishes us not to remain in the “futile ways inherited from our fathers,” I Peter 1:18.

So what is the *Candle* that I hold out to you to deal with the curses of the Gergesenes? Very simply, it is summed up in what is called *The Seven Spirits of Christ* or *The Seven Spirits of God*. Jesus’ image, Jesus’ spirit, Jesus’ character, Jesus’ being is seen throughout scripture, and is most often characterized by these terms. The Seven candlesticks in the Mosaic tabernacle speak of Jesus’ Seven Spirits. **It is these into which we are to be transformed; study them!** The following are some of these virtues of Christ’s that are to be ours.

Isaiah 11:2-3

1. the **Spirit of the LORD** shall be upon Him
the Divine anointing, the power of persuasion, of conviction
the Word says we are *in* Him; therefore we have access to His anointing,
provided the conditions of the heart are met.
2. the spirit of **Wisdom**
the meaning of life, and positive experiences
3. the spirit of **understanding**
insight
4. the spirit of **counsel**
the basis and foundation of decisions
5. the spirit of **might**
power, warrior, victor over darkness (the antidote to abdication)
6. the spirit of **knowledge**
cunning, “know-how”
7. the spirit of the **fear of the LORD**
the beginning, middle and end of all wisdom

“His delight shall be the fear of the LORD.” This is repeated to incite serious notice.

The characteristics of Christ that continue in the New Testament are;

II Peter 1:5-7

Faith
Virtue
Knowledge
Self-control

Steadfastness
Godliness
Brotherly Affection
Love

Galatians 5:22-24

Love
Joy
Peace
Patience

Kindness
Goodness
Faithfulness
Gentleness
Self-control

Rev: 1:12-16

White hair -honor
Eyes of Fire -burning, judgment
Feet of Bronze -strength
Voice of Many -authority
Waters
Right Hand -7 stars
Mouth w/Sword -cutting, dividing
Face Like Sun -illuminating

As we study by the leading of the Holy Spirit, the LORD will quicken our desires. First we will have a piqued interest, then a greater desire for study, then deep understanding with personal application, conviction, repentance, asking of forgiveness, then the deliverance and transformation from one state of mind to a completely different state. This continues as long as one desires it, and is willing to respond, I should say, to the Spirit's drawings. There is a point, I need to caution, beyond which the Spirit will no longer draw. I fear many of us are already numb.

In summation, being metamorphosed, transformed and transfigured into the image of Jesus is to choose for the Spirit to do so in and through the Word. There must be regularity in the Word being stored and studied, so that our mind, ways, and thoughts can be changed into His mind, ways, and thoughts. This process involves deliverance in the weightier areas of family strongholds and generational spirits. Some of these are: lust, matriarchal spirits, pride, anger, a male thinking like a female and vice versa, gluttony, sedition, Satanism, controlling spirits, rebellion, etc. Pure and simple, transformation requires a Divine, supernatural deliverance from our former ways. You either want it or you do not, you either are willing to pay the price or you are not.

To borrow J.R. Nyquist's words again, "The outrage of the comfortable is curious," referring to his denunciation of the carelessness of the American male, his naïveté. The outrage to which he refers is the same as that when a stronghold is uncovered in another brother. What seems so simple to the one discerning is anathema, fury and wrath to the one being destroyed by the stronghold.

There is no difference in the deliverance of a saint from lust than there is from an effeminate spirit. There is no difference in the deliverance of a saint from gluttony than there is from the spirit of abdication. There is no difference in the deliverance of a saint from a matriarchal spirit than from pornography; from pride than from a spirit of acquiescence, from a spirit of unbelief than from naïveté. **The great lie is that there is no need for deliverance in the first place.** The numbed state which says there is no need for the renewing of our minds is deadly in the main, and renders the Body fruitless in the least. The denial of the curses of our fathers, the clinging to their unscriptural positions, and their tall tales are the death-rattles of our very souls and families.

One of the Tribe of Issachar

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¹ James Strong, The New Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible (Thomas Nelson: Nashville, Tennessee, 1990).