

The Blood of the Lamb

(Go to Meeting)

Lyll Johnston—2021

- What is God doing in the world today?
- What on earth is He doing on our planet, the one that we call Earth?
- Is this God unknown on this planet we call Earth? *Yes, God really is unknown except to those whom He has decided to call and choose at this time to be a part of His Family!*

God rightly calls the rest of the religions of this world, including those who take the name ‘Christian’ to be false. There’s a very good reason for that, and that is because Satan the devil has deceived the whole world!

‘The whole world’—we read as written by the Apostle John—‘lies in the power of the wicked one,’ Satan the devil! So, was John telling the truth, or was he confused?

The answer to that is that if just look at the world the way it is today it’s becoming very much closer to the way the world was in the days of Noah, and many of the prophets and apostles of Jesus Christ.

I have a special message for you today, and I bring it from the Apostle Peter. He says, ‘grace and peace be multiplied to you in the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord.’ *As we know:*

- Jesus our Lord is the Lamb of God
- Jesus Christ is the One Whose blood was shed for us

It’s very interesting that in worshipping the true God, the Apostle Paul said this to the Corinthian people:

I didn’t come to you with superiority of speech or any human information or knowledge. I came to you and I preached *Jesus Christ and Him crucified only!*

You might say that’s a very limiting message, but is it? Let’s have a look at some Scriptures and see what God has to say and set a platform, a background, for the blood of the Lamb of God, which is the most precious possession that any Christian can have access to on the face of the earth.

Those people who do not have access to this are indeed lacking. The time is coming, however, when they will be given the opportunity to accept the blood of the Lamb of God, *in God’s timing!*

So, we have look at Isaiah to learn just a little bit about this God Who to the Athenians on Mars Hill in the days of the Apostle Paul had Him labeled as the “Unknown God.”

Here we have the philosophers of this world back in Paul’s day confessing that the true God—the One Paul said we live, move and have our being—is unknown. How true is that today to the majority of humanity who are walking in the paths and the ways of Satan the devil.

Here’s the God of the Bible speaking, the God Whom Paul was preaching about:

Isaiah 46:3: “Hearken to Me, O house of Jacob, and all the remnant of the house of Israel, who are borne *by Me...*”

Here’s God claiming that He is responsible for the whole house of Israel, the descendants of Jacob.

“...who are borne from the belly, who are lifted from the womb” (v 3).

Verse 5: “To whom will you liken Me...” *There are opinions and to many people today: the unknown God, because they don’t obey His voice!*

It doesn’t matter how much we might claim to know God. It doesn’t matter how much we might claim to know Jesus Christ and use His name over and over again. ***If we do not obey His voice, the simple bottom line here is we can’t know God!***

Without obedience, there is no knowledge of God, and that is a powerful message that we get from the Scriptures.

“...and make *Me* equal, and compare Me, that we may be alike?” (v 5).

Is there anyone, any person, any being or principality, any power that you can compare God to? God is ridiculing the people here. Is He ridiculing the people today? *They think they know God, but they are deceived!* Their time will come when they really will know:

- the God of creation
- the God of the Bible
- the God of Israel

Verse 6: “They pour gold out of the bag, and weigh silver with the balance, ***and hire a goldsmith; and he makes it a god;*** they fall down, yea, they bow down *to it.*”

Right there are the people of Israel who had the commandments, the 1st and 2nd commandments: 'Have no other gods before Me,' and here they are making idols, cutting down trees, getting somebody to pour gold over them into an image and bow down and worship them. These are the religions of today, even those who claim to be Christian.

"...and hire a goldsmith; and he makes it a god..."—*but not a god like our God, the God Who created the heavens and the earth!*

Verse 7: "They carry it upon the shoulder, they carry it and set it in its place, and it stands; it shall not move *itself* from its place. Yea, *one* shall cry unto it, yet, it cannot answer, nor save him out of his trouble."

These false gods cannot save anyone out of their troubles no matter how many prayers they offer, not matter how many wheels they spin, no matter how many hail Marys they offer those false gods, they cannot save him or anyone out of his trouble.

Rev. 13—you're going to see that there's an image to the beast made. It will be given supernatural powers to speak. Anyone who does not worship that beast will be put to death (Rev. 13:15_[transcriber's correction]).

How can we answer that when God says that they cannot answer? It doesn't say that this image of the beast is going to answer. It just says that it's going to speak.

What did God say in Gen. 11? We have Nimrod and the Tower of Babel. They were building a tower into heaven. In other words, they were creating their own gods to worship.

Genesis 11:6: "And the LORD said, 'Behold, the people *are* one and they all have one language. And **this is only the beginning of what they will do...**'"

Think about that for today. Think about where we are today:

- with the technology
- with the problems that we're having with the virus and vaccinations
- with artificial intelligence
- with 5G—*the Internet of things*

"...this is only the beginning of what they will do, now nothing, which they have imagined to do, will be restrained from them" (v 6).

We have this image, statue, whatever it's going to be, speaking. In the days of old these images or idols could not speak or say. In fact, this image of the beast is going to be an instrument of

death to those who love God.

BUT what's God's answer to that for you and me? ***The blood of the Lamb of God! We are covered by the blood of the Lamb!***

Just when that very first Passover was held in ancient Israel, remember what they did with the blood of the lambs? Those little lambs that they slaughtered? *The blood was put on the doorposts and across the door on the lintels*, representing for the New Covenant Passover our heart and mind. ***We are protected!***

Our heart and mind is protected by the blood of Jesus Christ! When we come up to the Passover, this is on our mind on a daily basis:

- as we look at ourselves
- as we look at what God has done for us
- as we praise His name
- as we offer Him praise and worship

*For that one great sacrifice that put an end to all the other sacrifices that **were not** able to save! This one sacrifice, the blood of this one Lamb—the **Lamb of God**—covers your sins and my sins. Our heart and mind has been covered and continuously covered by that blood. Whose blood? **The man Jesus of Nazareth!***

That man today is sitting at the right hand of God the Father in heaven with His blood continuously present. ***That sacrifice was eternal, immortal and is going to last into the ages of eternity! After God's present plan on earth, it's going to be there as a remembrance!***

The Passover is going to be celebrated again by Jesus when He will again take the wine and the broken bread to celebrate, to remember what He did! Think about that time when the whole world—on a 24-hour basis—beginning at the International Dateline and returning—going clear around the globe—back to the International Dateline. For a 24-hour period the Passover will be being observed by all nations and all people.

The Passover is such an event that it goes way beyond what we can't even begin to imagine. It is so important and such a vital part of God's plan.

What we want to do is go back to the beginning, because in Isa. 46 God makes a very important statement; the One Who was Jesus Christ of the God Family:

Isaiah 46:9: "Remember the former things of old; **for I am God**, and **there is none else...**"

- Can't we rejoice in that?
- Can't we worship God like David?
✓ singing Psalms

- ✓ dancing
- ✓ shouting
- ✓ praising God for His greatness
- ✓ praising God for the plan He has for us

Because of the blood of the Lamb!

“...**I am God**...” (v 9).

When God makes a statement like this twice in a sentence, we need to really listen and take notice.

“...**and there is none like Me**, declaring the end from the beginning...” (vs 9-10).

God had already declared His plan of salvation from the very beginning!

He didn't reveal everything at the very beginning, but what He did is reveal ***the end from the beginning!*** The rest of the Bible fills in all the details.

“...and from ancient times the things which were not *yet* done, saying, ‘My counsel shall stand...’” (v 10).

So, whatever we read in the Word of God, God says that it will stand, nothing can change it! God's plan is going ahead more perfect than any clock any man can make. In fact, all the heavens is like one gigantic clock, never out one nanosecond of time. Running perfectly, harmoniously according to the will of God! He controls it all by His power and His might! That same power and might is available to you and me and all the people of God! It's that power that can change our lives from the old man to the new man, which is what the Passover represents.

“...and I will do all My pleasure” (v 10).

Let's go back to the beginning and see three or four very important points that God makes. The first one is one that we're all very familiar with, and that's found in Gen. 1:26. Here is God the Father, the On Whom we now know as God the Father, and Jesus Christ in conference, in discussion and planning the future. We all know what They said.

Genesis 1:26: “And God said, ‘Let **Us**... [more than one] ...make man...’” *Later it says He made man male and female*, so this is referring to both men and women

“...in **Our** image...” (v 26).

- Why did God do that?
- What did God look like when He came in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ?
- Did He not look like a man? *Of course!*

So, we know what God looks like when He appears in the flesh!

When we see Jesus Christ and the Father in all Their glory, we're going to see Them in the same shape that we are.

- What are we told? *When we see Jesus, we're going to look exactly as He looks!*
- How is that all accomplished? *By the blood of the Lamb!*

It all goes back to that one critical point in the history of the creation!

“...**after Our likeness**...” (v 26).

- What is that saying?
- Why did God come in the flesh in the person of Jesus Christ?
 - ✓ to perform His ministry
 - ✓ to offer His life as a sacrifice
 - ✓ to be brutally beaten
 - ✓ to be crucified, nailed to the cross
 - ✓ to be pierced with a spear
 - ✓ died
 - ✓ put in a tomb

and rose again on the third day!

What Christ did His whole life is sacrificial life and one major sacrifice with His death shows us how God is making us in His likeness.

Jesus Christ is the image, the likeness, that we are to follow! We can read about that way of life in every page of the Bible. It's all there! God unfolds it for us a little bit at a time, a little now, a little bit here and little bit there. We put it all together and we see the tremendous plan that God has for us.

“...and **let them have dominion** over the fish of the sea and over the fowl of heaven and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that crawls upon the earth” (v 26).

Satan was one of those creatures crawling on the earth, and God wants us to have dominion over Satan ***by rejecting his way, by claiming the blood of Christ!*** That is the most precious possession we have: ***access to that blood!***

There is something in Isa. 1 that is powerful, and it's good to read this at this time as we approach Passover. At this time next Friday evening, the people/the saints of God will be taking the broken bread, which is the broken body of Christ that was broken for us. And drinking of the wine representing His blood, which initiates the New Covenant and when we were baptized.

We were baptized under the baptismal covenant death of Christ Jesus in that watery grave for the forgiveness of our sins. In that water baptism we were put under the water, and from that point on the old man stayed buried under the water. When we

came up out of the water; that was the *new man*, and immediately we had hands laid on us so we receive God's Spirit. ***But when we're placed under the water, our sins were forgiven by the blood of the lamb!***

We know the weaknesses of the human flesh. We know the sin that lies within. The old man keeps wanting to pop his head up out of the water, to rise up again. But we go before the Throne of God, cry out for help, we claim for God the Father to apply that eternal sacrifice, *the blood of Lamb*, on our behalf to blot out any sins that we may have committed:

- the lust of the flesh
- the lust of the eyes
- the pride of life

We confess that, and God continually keeps us in that place of sanctification by *the blood*.

In God's sight, in God's eyes, ***we are under the blood of the Lamb continuously!*** But it's important to remember what Jesus said. Every day we are to be praying for the application of that blood in our lives:

Father, forgive us our trespasses that we have trespassed against You and let us forgive those who trespass against us.

That's all done and accomplished by that one sacrifice of Jesus Christ; the shedding of His blood!

In Isa. 1 God is again condemning the people of ancient Israel. This is applicable to us in the Church because we are *spiritual Israel!* It's all part of our examining ourselves and the cleansing of ourselves before the Throne of God in the presence of the Father with our High Priest, Intercessor and Mediator Jesus Christ sitting there telling the Father what it's like for us to struggle against the wretchedness of the flesh and the wretchedness of Satan and his demons as they try to trip us up and try to drag us down. ***God rescues us every time by that blood!***

Isaiah 1:15—*talking to the people of Israel, God says:* "And when you spread forth your hands, I will hide My eyes from you..."—*because they were lacking something!*

God doesn't do that to us, because He purchased us with... Paul wrote to the Corinthians:

Don't you understand that you don't belong to yourselves; you belong to God the Father and Jesus Christ! You were purchased by that blood!

Any decisions you make or what you're going to do

with your body, what you're going to put in your mind and heart, you need to find out what's there. So, that's our task!

"...yea, when you make many prayers, I will not hear; your hands are full of blood" (v 15). *That's not the blood of Christ!* It's the blood of their fellow human beings. ***You shall not murder!***

So, we have that one major crime today of the murder through *abortion!* How many young people have been sacrificed and their blood shed in satanic worship services.

God's calling the people of Israel, and we can take this person, because He's calling us as we come up to Passover. We are to look at ourselves, look into our lives and continue to see what there may still be within us that we need to root out:

- What thoughts are still there that are alien to God?
- What strongholds are still in my mind and heart?

Confess them before the Throne of God and He'll cover them!

Verse 16: "Wash yourselves, make yourselves clean..."

We know how we do that; we've been talking about it!

"...put away the evil of your doings from before My eyes..."(v 16)—*because our bodies belong to God the Father;* He purchased us by the death of His Son; we belong to Him!

Paul says in Rom. 12 that we are a *living sacrifice*, living our lives more and more each day by the Word of God.

"...cease to do evil" (v 16).

Yes, He's talking to physical Israel, but He's also talking to us.

Verse 17: "Learn to do good; seek judgment, reprove the oppressor. Judge the orphan; plead for the widow."

God says that if you do these things... We can go to the New Testament and we can read what instruction we have there. We can read about the 'fruits of the Spirit' And in 2-Peter 1:5-11 Peter gives the application of the 'fruits of the Spirit,' what we need to be doing.

Verse 18: "'Come now... [God, the person of Christ, is talking to us] ...and let us reason together,' says the LORD..."—***think!***

We know what He's saying, but what is our response to the Word of God? This is God's point in

the Passover and our repentance of sin.

“...‘Though your sins are as scarlet... [a very, very deep sick color] ...they shall be as white as snow...’ (v 18).

This is what the blood of the Lamb does for our sins!

If you’re discourage or feeling that your sins are so great that God could never forgive you. *That’s not God’s approach!* This is God’s approach:

“...Though your sins are as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow...”—not one spot of scarlet left!

God blots it out, and you can read about God blotting out sin. I read once in ancient manuscripts that what could do is take the skin and ink that they would write on the skin, that if they made a mistake they could actually wipe the mistake and blot it out so there was one single point or iota of the error that was there.

What did God say? *That He was going to remove our sins that we have repented of as far from the East is from the West.* In other words, totally in the opposite direction that they’re going to meet. As far as God is concerned, He blotted them out of His mind. He simply says that He’s not going to remember them.

“...though they are red like crimson...” (v 18).

The point being made here through Isaiah is that no matter how bad *you think* your sins are, no matter if *you think* that God cannot forgive you for any sin, He makes the point twice—just so we will get the message—so that we will know that the *blood of the Lamb* is just that powerful!

“...they shall be like wool... [pure and white] ...If you are willing and obedient, you shall eat the good of the land” (vs 18-19).

This is a promise for repenting of our sins and for obeying the Word of God.

Verse 20: “‘But if you refuse and rebel, you shall be devoured *with* the sword’; for the mouth of the LORD has spoken *it*.”

- none of us want that
- none of us are planning that
- none of us—with the help and power of God—are going to take that direction

Then we have the next step. We had God made man in His own image. Let’s go back to Genesis again and look at something else that is very important, where God *declared the end from the beginning*.

This is another very important point, because God in the beginning declared the end for us so we would know where we are at:

Genesis 2:1: “Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And by *the beginning* of the seventh day God finished His work, which He had made. And He rested on the seventh day from all His work, which He had made. And God blessed the seventh day...” (vs 1-3)—*no other day!*

He didn’t bless the first day of the week—Sunday—the day of the sun, the way that Satan is worshipped. We have come out of that if we were in it. ***We keep the day that God blessed! That God sanctified!***

“...and sanctified it, because on it He rested from all His work, which God had created and made” (v 3).

That’s stated there, and when we go to Lev. 23, what do we find? *God unpacks the seventh day of the week and shows that it also includes the seven annual Holy Days, which represent the way in which the blood of the Lamb—the Lamb of God—is applied to the rest of humanity!* Right through to the very end of the Last Great Day when the blood of the Lamb is still being applied to human lives.

What we find in Gen. 2 is just the main statement, the details follow later.

There’s one other thing we need to look at, and that is in Gen. 3: along comes Satan, and he deceived Eve and both Adam and Eve sinned. How was God going to deal with that?

Gen. 3—here is the statement that we know, and this is all that God revealed to us in the beginning. Taking to Satan for what he had done by his deception, by bringing his evil upon mankind, this is when we find out that the Lamb of God Jesus Christ was already prepared to be sacrificed right from the very beginning.

It’s explained a little more in Exo. 12 with the Passover service and blood on the doorposts. Then in Matt. 26—Jesus’ last Passover—the events that followed when He initiated the New Covenant Passover. But here’s what God said to Satan:

Genesis 3:15: “And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between **your seed...**”—*Satan and all his demons*, and all the human beings that he has taken hold of and is controlling and leading in his way of life.

“...and **her Seed...** [Jesus Christ] ...He will bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel” (v 15). ***There is the reference to the crucifixion of***

Jesus Christ!

Satan finally thought he had won, but far from it, because Christ rose from the grave.

- Was Satan aware of that?
- Did he know about this?

I don't know! But anyway, that's the story!

That's how God chose us right at the very beginning (Gen. 3:15); how God was going to deal with the sin of mankind. We can read in other places where that sacrifice was laid down from the foundation of the earth. Let see that!

Revelation 13:8 *talking about beast, the image of the beast*: "And all who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names **have not been written** in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

We see here that Jesus is telling us through the Apostle John that—

- because we are called by God the Father
- because we accepted that call
- because we saw that we were sinners before the very face of God in heaven, in God's sight

—we repented and the blood of Christ was applied to us because of that and our names have been written in the Book of the Life of the Lamb!

The Lamb's part here, Christ's part here, is our names being written in the Book of Life because of His sacrifice. *He died for us so that we could:*

- repent
- receive the Spirit of God
- receive the Holy Spirit of the Father and the Son
- build the mind of Jesus Christ
- live the way of God

and our names are written in the Book of Life! That's "...the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world."

That's sacrifice was so great that it will eventually have an effect on the entire creation. Yes, the man Jesus Who was placed on that tree or cross. That event has had an will have an impact on not only our lives, but the entirety of the creation. We can see that in Rom. 8. All the chapters in the Bible are incredible, but this one is amazing; there is so much in it.

Romans 8:17: "Now, if *we are* children, *we are* also heirs—truly, **heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ...**"

Where is Christ today? *Sitting at the right*

hand of God the Father! He was given His glory back again. We are inheritors of the very glory of Christ and the Father.

I can't explain that to you! But we all know that that is something that is so powerful and great that it's going cause us:

- to move
- to be diligent
- to study the Word of God
- to build that relationship with the Father and the Son

because that's what it's all about!

The blood was shed to bring us into the Family relationship with our Father in heaven and Jesus our High Priest sitting at the Father's right hand telling the Father all about our weaknesses and how we struggle with those weaknesses; so that the Father will forgive us when we repent of our sins!

"...if indeed we suffer together with Him..." (v 17).

We're going to be facing suffering, and there are so many terrible things happening on planet Earth today, but it's only just beginning. It's all beginning to converge as we come into more and more of the end-times.

Verse 18: "For I reckon that the sufferings of the present time **are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.**"

The glory of God is going to be revealed in us! We need to keep that picture in mind when we're going through trials and tribulations and sufferings.

So many of us right now are suffering health problems and difficulties. We have a constant stream of prayer requests for people who are suffering some terrible things. But if we keep this in mind, it's only momentary; it's only for the present. God is going to remove all of those when we share that glory with Him.

Verse 19: "For the earnest expectation of the creation..."

This is why I said earlier that the blood of Jesus Christ—His one sacrifice—the blood of that Lamb is eventually to impact not just this planet...

What God is doing on planet Earth, we're looking at that, is cleansing His people through the blood of the Lamb. This is the work of God today. Nothing else really comes into the equation.

Verse 19: "For the earnest expectation of **the creation itself is awaiting the manifestation of the sons of God.**"

How did we become the sons of God? *Because of Christ's sacrifice! Because of that blood sacrifice, "...the creation itself is awaiting..."—for us!*

Verse 20: "Because **the creation was subjected to vanity...**"

How did that happen? *Isa. 14, the morning star, the son of the morning, the one who became Satan created havoc throughout the universe and throughout God's creation!*

We're being told by Paul, "...not willingly..." (v 20). *You and I have been subjected to Satan, not willingly, but:*

- How else are we going to build the mind of Christ? *By resisting Satan!*
- How else are we going to build the character of God if we haven't got some pressure to fight against?

Satan and his demons are the pressure that we're fighting against, *trying to trip us up, trying to push us into sin!*

"...but by reason of Him who subjected it in hope" (v 20). What is that hope? *That you and I can be delivered from the bondage of corruption as the universe is to be!*

Verse 21: "In order that the creation itself... [as well as your and me] ...**might be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.** For we know that all the creation is groaning together and travailing together until now" (vs 21-22).

See how Christ's sacrifice is so incredibly (I can't think of a word) huge, large, gigantic, enormous, beyond our ability to describe.

Verse 21: "**In order that the creation itself might be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**"

This is what the Passover means for us! When Jesus said, 'This is the blood of the New Covenant.' As we take of the broken unleavened bread, we're actually eating the body of Christ meaning that:

- we're eating the Word of God
He is the Word of God
- we're studying the Word of God
- we're praying to the Word of God
- we're praying to the Father
Who gives us the words through the Son

Then we drink that little glass of wine, which represents the blood of Christ. We renew

that covenant for another year. We need that every year. He said:

This do in remembrance of Me. I am the Lamb of God! I was crucified, My blood was shed, because I wanted the Father to be able to *purchase you* for Himself! I was the only sacrifice that was able to do that.

Yes, He did that for you and me, for all of God's people!

Verse 22: "**For we know that all the creation is groaning together and travailing together until now.**"

We all are, because we're struggling with this bondage of corruption wanting to overtake us! We have to fight against it every day on our knees studying God's Word, filling our mind with those things that God wants us to fill our mind with.

Verse 23: "And not only *that*, but even we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit..."

What made that possible? *The blood of the Lamb!* It means that it was made possible for us to have the 'fruits of the Spirit.'

"...also groan within ourselves, **awaiting the sonship...**" (v 23).

This is what the Passover means for us, and this is what it means for the entirety of God's creation. This is what it means for God the Father. Through the Passover He has purchased you for Himself!

Never feel bad about that! It doesn't matter how wretched and miserable you feel at times, you can have hope and trust in the Word of God, because God said in Isa. 46: what He has planned will not fail, but He will accomplish what He set His hand to do. He set His hand to work in your life, and He's working in your life every day.

We "...also groan within ourselves, awaiting the sonship— the redemption of our bodies" (v 23).

I would just like to close by mentioning something to you that I want to cover at a later time. We talk about examining ourselves, being prepared for the Passover. Paul gives us the 'fruits of the Spirit' (Galatians), and what Peter does...

We have faith at the beginning of our calling:

- our own faith
- the faith that we have in the doctrines and teachings of the Bible
- the faith of Jesus Christ

which He gives to us when we're baptized and receive His Spirit. In fact, it comes even before then, because when God calls us He places His Spirit *with* us.

What Peter is saying here is that we are to *add* to our faith. He's talking about the fact that we have

2-Peter 1:4: "...**become partakers of the Divine nature...**" *—because God is wanting us to have that full knowledge of Himself!* Not the knowledge of this world, but the full knowledge of Him that comes from His Word.

Not human knowledge, that so much of it is evil and wrong. We do need knowledge, of course, to live and to have a job and provide for our families. But there is also a lot of worldly wisdom and worldly knowledge, which contra the Word of God.

Verse 5: "And for this very reason also, having applied all diligence besides."

Because of these promises, God's Divine power that is offered to us, because He wants us to "...**become partakers of the Divine nature...**" (v 4)—*which we are!*

"...**add to your faith...**" (v 5).

Peter then goes through these eight various aspects of the character and traits of Jesus Christ, or the 'fruits of the Spirit' placed within us. When they're first placed within us, they're just seeds that have been planted. We have to water those seeds through prayer, study and fasting. We're all familiar with that.

Then he goes through these traits. One way in which we can continue to examine ourselves for the Passover is to look at each of these traits:

"...add to your faith, virtue; and to virtue, knowledge; and to knowledge, self-control; and to self-control, endurance; and to endurance, Godliness... [to be like God] ...and to Godliness, brotherly love... [that is ultimate to the last one] ...and to brotherly love, the love *of God*" (vs 5-7).

If we love our brothers/sisters—brotherly love—then we can also have the love of God. If we don't love our brother, then how can we love God? If our brother has the Spirit of God in him/her and we don't love them and reject them, how can we possibly love God? That's the question that we're given, and the problem that we have to solve. ***We have to love our brother so that we can love God!***

Verse 8: "For *if* these things exist and abound in you, they *will* cause *you to be* neither lacking effort nor lacking fruit in the knowledge of

our Lord Jesus Christ."

Take some time and think about that as we come up to the Passover! ***May the grace of God and peace be with you as we approach the Passover!*** We pray that the Passover this year will be one that will be remembered.

Scriptural References:

- 1) Isaiah 46:3, 5-7
- 2) Genesis 11:6
- 3) Isaiah 46-9-10
- 4) Genesis 1:26
- 5) Isaiah 1:15-20
- 6) Genesis 2:1-3
- 7) Genesis 3:15
- 8) Revelation 13:8
- 9) Romans 8:17-22, 21-23
- 10) 2 Peter 1:4-5, 4-8

Scriptures referenced, not quoted:

- Revelation 13:8
- Romans 12
- 2 Peter 1:5-11
- Leviticus 23
- Exodus 12
- Mark 26
- Isaiah 14

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