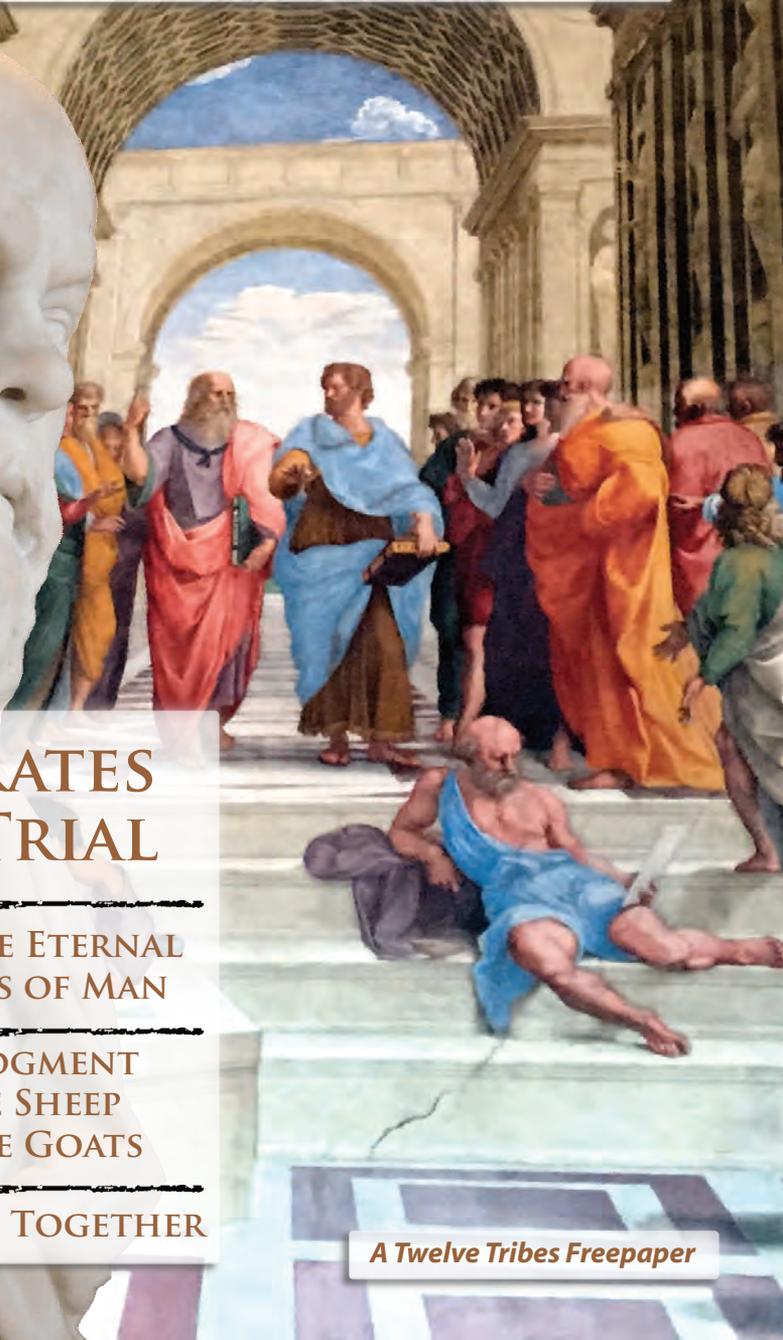


FREE

“THE UNEXAMINED LIFE...
IS NOT WORTH LIVING”



SOCRATES ON TRIAL

THE THREE ETERNAL
DESTINIES OF MAN

THE JUDGMENT
OF THE SHEEP
AND THE GOATS

WE ALL LIVE TOGETHER

A Twelve Tribes Freepaper

SOCRATES ON TRIAL



Greek philosopher Socrates chose to die rather than cease teaching his philosophy, declaring that “no evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death.” In 399 BC Socrates was accused and convicted of impiety and moral corruption of the youth of Athens, Greece. At his trial, he presented a justification of his life. The substance of his speech was recorded by Greek philosopher Plato, a disciple of Socrates, in Plato’s *Apology*.

THE LAST WORDS OF SOCRATES

Thou doest wrong to think that a man of any use at all is to

weigh the risk of life or death, and not to consider one thing only, whether when he acts he does the right thing or the wrong, performs the deeds of a good man or a bad...

If I should be found to be wiser than the multitude, it would be in this, that having no adequate knowledge of the Beyond, I do not presume that I have it. But one thing I do know, and that is that to do injustice or turn my back on the better is alike an evil and a disgrace. And never shall I fear a possible good, rather than avoid a certain evil ... If you say to me, “Socrates, Anytus [one of

Socrates's prosecutors] fails to convince us, we let you go on condition that you no longer spend your life in this search, and that you give up philosophy, but if you are caught at it again you must die” — my reply is “Men of Athens, I honour and love you, but I shall obey God rather than you, and while I breathe, and have the strength, I shall never turn from philosophy, nor from warning and admonishing any of you I come across not to disgrace your citizenship of a great city renowned for its wisdom and strength, by giving your thought to reaping the largest possible harvest of wealth and honour and glory, and giving neither thought nor care that you may reach the best in judgement, truth, and the soul...”

So God bids, and I consider that never has a greater good been done you than through my ministry in the city. For it is my one business to go about to persuade young and old alike not to make their bodies and their riches their first and their engrossing care, but rather to give it to the perfecting of their

soul. Virtue springs not from possessions, but from virtue springs possessions and all other human blessings, whether for the individual or for society. If that is to corrupt the youth, then it is mischievous. But that and nothing else is my offending, and he lies who says else. Further I would say, O Athenians, you can believe Anytus or not, you may acquit or not, but I shall not alter my conduct, no, not if I have to die a score of deaths.

You can assure yourselves of this that, being what I say, if you put me to death, you will not be doing greater injury to me than to yourselves. To do me wrong is beyond the power of a Meletus [*another of Socrates's prosecutors*] or an Anytus. Heaven permits not the better man to be wronged by the worse. Death, exile, disgrace — Anytus and the average man may count these great evils, not I. A far greater evil is to do as he is now doing, trying to do away with a fellow-being unjustly.

O Athenians, I am far from pleading, as one might expect, for myself; it is for you I plead

lest you should err as concerning the gift of God given unto you, by condemning me. If you put me to death you will not easily find another of my sort, who, to use a metaphor that may cause some laughter, am attached by God to the state, as a kind of gadfly to a big generous horse, rather slow because of its very bigness and in need of being waked up. As such and to that end God has attached me to the city, and all day long and everywhere I fasten on you, rousing and persuading and admonishing you...

Be not angry with me for speaking the truth, for no man will escape alive who honourably and sincerely opposes you or any other mob, and puts his foot down before the many unjust and unrighteous things that would otherwise happen in the city. The man who really fights for justice and right, even if he expects but a short career, untouched, must occupy a private not a public station...

Clearly, if I tried to persuade you and overcame you by entreaty, when you have taken

the oath of judge, I should be teaching you not to believe that there are gods, and my very defence would be a conviction that I do not pay them regard. But that is far from being so. I believe in them as no one of my accusers believes. And to you I commit my cause and to God, to judge me as seemeth best for me and for you.

THE JURORS FIND SOCRATES GUILTY

Men of Athens, many things keep me from being grieved that you have convicted me. What has happened was not unexpected by me. I am rather surprised at the number of votes on either side. I did not think the majority would be so little. As it is the transference of thirty votes would have acquitted me...

A fine life it would be for one at my age always being driven out from one city and changing to another. For I know that whithersoever I go the young men will listen to my words, just as here. If I drive them away, they themselves will have me cast out, and if I don't drive them away their fathers and

relatives will cast me out for their sakes.

THE JURORS PROCEED TO SENTENCE SOCRATES TO DEATH

O men, hard it is not to avoid death, it is far harder to avoid wrongdoing. It runs faster than death. I being slow and stricken in years am caught by the slower, but my accusers, sharp and clever as they are, by the swifter wickedness. And now I go to pay the debt of death at your hands, but they to pay the debt of crime and unrighteousness at the hand of Truth. I for my part shall abide by the award; let them see to it also. Perhaps somehow these things were to be, and I think it is well...

Wherefore, O Judges, be of good cheer about death, and know of a certainty that no evil can happen to a good man, either in life or after death. He and his are not neglected by the gods, nor has my own approaching end happened by mere chance. But I see clearly that to die and be released was better for me; and therefore the oracle gave no sign. For which

reason, also, I am not angry with my condemners, or with my accusers; they have done me no harm, although they did not mean to do me any good; and for this I may gently blame them.

Still I have a favour to ask of them. When my sons are grown up, I would ask you, O my friends, to punish them, and I would have you trouble them, as I have troubled you, if they seem to care about riches, or anything, more than about virtue; or if they pretend to be something when they are really nothing, then reprove them, as I have reproved you, for not caring about that for which they ought to care, and thinking that they are something when they are really nothing. And if you do this, I and my sons will have received justice at your hands.

THE HOUR OF DEPARTURE HAS ARRIVED, AND WE GO OUR WAYS — I TO DIE, AND YOU TO LIVE. WHICH IS BETTER GOD ONLY KNOWS... 



“THE UNEXAMINED LIFE IS NOT WORTH LIVING”

~ Socrates

The Greek philosopher Socrates had a strong sense of the value of a virtuous life. In his old age, he was tried and judged worthy of death for his deeply held convictions, and for expressing them publicly. Socrates accepted the judgment of the court and willingly drank the cup of deadly hemlock. He believed himself to be a good man, and that a good man would have a good eternal destiny. As the story goes, he received the judgment of those who condemned him, and entrusted himself into the hands of the Almighty.

MAN WILL LIVE FOREVER...

So, why did Socrates think and teach that for a man's life to be worth living it should be examined? Examined by whom? And what does a man do with the examination? Socrates knew that man is more than the short life he has on this earth. Each of us has an eternal soul, and we determine our own eternal

destiny by the choices we make in this life. For our thoughts become our deeds, our deeds form our habits, and our habits result in our fixed character, and it is the character we formed in this life that we bring into eternity.

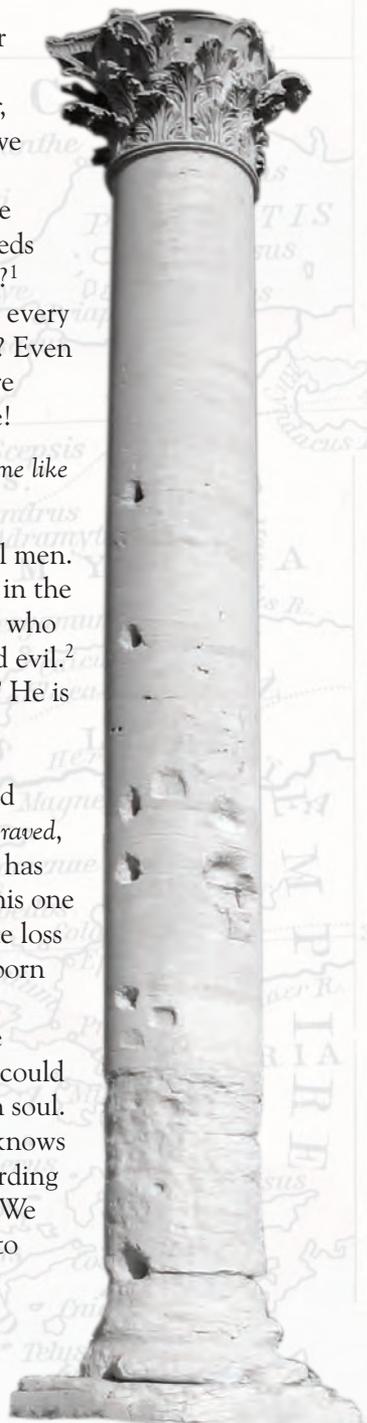
Without the judgment of one's life, without the knowledge you gain by this examination of the deeds you did in this life, what are you living for anyway?¹ Without knowing that there are consequences for every choice you make or deed you do, then what is life? Even the most worthless person actually knows there are consequences, but he goes against that knowledge!

Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, knowing good and evil..." (Genesis 3:22)

The knowledge of good and evil is inborn in all men. It is the way in which men and women are "made in the image of God" and are different from the animals, who have no such awareness in themselves of good and evil.² Only the fool says in his heart, "There is no God." He is deceiving himself when he thinks that he is not accountable for any action he does.³

The one who continues to harden his heart and justify his wrong-doing will eventually become *depraved*, no longer be able to hear from his conscience. He has effectively silenced God's emissary in his heart. This one is "over the waterfall." He cannot recover from the loss of his humanity — the image of God all men are born with. Having lost all human worth, he will spend eternity with all of the other worthless ones in the Second Death, also called the Sea of Fire.⁴ There could be nothing more tragic than the waste of a human soul.

God expects His highest creation (man, who knows right from wrong) to do the good he knows, according to the *natural law*, which is innate in every man.⁵ We humans only have a short lifetime here on earth to



¹ Ecclesiastes 12:14; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 2:14-16; Revelation 20:12-15

² Romans 1:18-20-32; 2:6-11

³ Psalm 14:1-3; 53:1-3

⁴ Revelation 21:8; 22:15

⁵ Romans 2:6-16

choose either to defy God or to obey Him. He is not speaking to us directly with a voice from the sky, but through our conscience, which we all have. The conscience speaks with authority as God's vice-regent. A vice-regent is a person who acts

in the place of a ruler, governor, or sovereign.

Our Creator has said that one hundred and twenty years is enough to determine where a

man will spend eternity,⁶ according to the path he chooses in this life.

So why did Socrates say, "The unexamined life is not worth living"? *Examine* means to inspect closely, to carry out a thorough examination or investigation. Do you have anything to hide? Are you living in guilt and denial? If so, then your life is not worth living because it will end in futility.

WHAT IS DEATH?

Every man is born with an appointment with death. As the Scriptures say, it is appointed for all men to die once, and then face the judgment of our Creator.⁷ Physical dying is when your soul and

spirit depart from your body, going to a place of waiting called *Death*. In *Death* there are no distractions to keep you from considering your life — your motives and choices, your deeds and the consequences of those deeds. You may not have taken the time to consider your deeds while you were alive, but in *Death*, there will be nothing else to do but await the Judgment, when your life will be examined by the One who created you and gave you the knowledge of good and evil.

Though you may hope for oblivion⁸ or annihilation⁹ when you die, there is no escape from this place of agonizing awareness called *Death*. In this agony, if a person can receive the truth of his conscience condemning him, perhaps he will be able to "pay the just wages of his sin."¹⁰ But, in this agony, a worthless

person will only rail against the truth about himself. Both will stand before God on

the day when God will judge the secrets of men's hearts and the deeds in their lives, and determine who is

⁶ Genesis 6:3 ⁷ Hebrews 9:27 ⁸ Oblivion: the state of being unaware or unconscious of what is happening. ⁹ Annihilation: utterly destroyed, obliterated, from a Latin word meaning reduced to nothing. Some religions teach that when you die you simply cease to exist. This goes directly against the inner knowledge we have that there are consequences for our actions. ¹⁰ Romans 6:23

worthy of a second life or a second death, both of which will never end.¹¹

HOW CAN GOD CONDEMN PEOPLE FOR ETERNITY?

Many struggle to understand why God, who is love, could judge someone as worthy of eternal torment in the second death. The fact that the consequences are so dramatic indicates the seriousness of honoring or dishonoring God.¹²

Then He will also say to those on the left hand, "Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels." (Matthew 25:41)

The Sea of Fire was created for Satan and the angels who followed him in his rebellion. He is the author of rebellion, and becomes the father of all the rebellious people on the earth. Rebellion is the act of resisting or opposing authority. Iniquity was found in Satan when he reasoned that he could be like God, desiring to actually be greater than God, thus dishonoring the One who created him.

Being an eternal spirit, Satan will have to spend eternity somewhere. Presently he is loose on the earth, seeking to deceive mankind away from God's righteous standard, just as he did in the beginning with

Adam and Eve. Two thousand years ago, the Apostle John wrote that the whole world lies under the sway of the Evil One.¹³ How much more today? All who are led astray by Satan from following their conscience, and continue to deny God and follow Satan's rebellion, will be with him in that place that was created for his eternal destiny.

In His great kindness, God put a conscience into all people to save them from eternal death and torment. That is the reason eternal consequences are in store for all who refuse the Creator. Those who go against the natural law of conscience are aligning themselves with the Evil One.

But the cowardly and unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death. (Revelation 21:8)

Some will make themselves worthy of the second death by choosing to continually embrace the evil rather than the good. For those judged worthy of a second death, that place of torment will be their eternal dwelling place. This will

¹¹ 1 Corinthians 4:5; Revelation 20:12-15
¹³ 1 John 5:19

¹² Romans 2:6-16; Revelation 20:12-15

apply especially to those who are confronted with the gospel. They are offered the water of life (which is the Holy Spirit),¹⁴ yet they choose not to overcome what keeps them from drinking.¹⁵ They will not receive the grace and faith of the Holy Spirit who is coming to them to set them free.¹⁶ They are the “cowardly and unbelieving” of Revelation 21:8 — the first on the list of those who will go the Sea of Fire.

To be cowardly and unbelieving is to refuse to receive the truth that would save your soul from eternal torment, just as the rich young ruler rejected Yahshua’s offer of eternal life.¹⁷ Those who reject the gospel will have no need to go to the Judgment, since they have already judged themselves as unwilling to live in fellowship with their Creator.¹⁸ They are “judged already.”

So many are heedless and do not consider the consequences of their sins. The consequences one will suffer in the second death are far greater than the loss he may temporarily experience for being honest and upright — doing what he knows is right, and not doing what he knows is wrong. Every man knows in his heart what is right and what is wrong, and is responsible

and accountable for the choices he makes.

GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A DEPRAVED MIND

No one is responsible or held accountable for anything he did not know in his heart to be wrong. The frightening thing is that it is very easy to trust in your own subjective reasoning and increasingly lose touch with the instinctive knowledge of God that is in your heart, especially when you reason away your conscience in order to feel justified in your wrong-doing.¹⁹ Though you may suppress the truth you know, deep inside you still know what you know, and God holds us all accountable for what we know.



Tragically, those who continue to suppress the truth in unrighteousness will eventually cease to hear anything at all from their conscience. They will be turned over to their depraved minds, which do not make a distinction between right and wrong anymore. They have thrown off all internal restraint.

Therefore God gave them over in the lusts of their hearts to impurity, that their bodies might be dishonored

¹⁴ Revelation 21:6; John 7:37-39 ¹⁵ Revelation 21:7; 22:17; John 3:18,36; 7:17
¹⁶ Ephesians 2:8-12; Romans 10:8-17 ¹⁷ Mark 10:17-30 ¹⁸ John 3:18; Acts 13:46 ¹⁹ Romans 1:18,21

among them. And just as they did not see fit to acknowledge God any longer, God gave them over to a depraved mind, to do those things, which are not proper. (Romans 1:24,28)

Sin is lawlessness,²⁰ which is to say that sin is to not pay attention to the restraint of conscience.²¹ Some people are unrestrainable. They do not submit to natural law, the instinctive knowledge of good and evil.

A depraved mind is not quickly formed. One must “kick against the goad”²² of his conscience night and day in order to finally arrive at a depraved mind. But then his name is removed from the Book of Life²³ (where every man’s name is written when he comes into existence) and he is worthy of the second death, since he is no longer worthy of a second life.

It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment. (Hebrews 9:27)

This judgment will bring back every secret thing, the good and the evil.²⁴ Some will be able to pay the just wages of their sin in the first death.²⁵ The judgment will also reveal any sins too terrible for one to pay for in the first death.²⁶ Those

guilty of such sins will go on to the second death, which is eternal.

As Romans 3:23 says, all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God, but not all have sinned to the degree that they have been turned over to a depraved mind and eternal torment in the Sea of Fire.

All men have sinned and have an appointment with the first death.²⁷ The sins that take a person to the second death²⁸ have to do with one’s own consistent irresponsibility to live up to the expected standard. Our loving Creator instilled the natural law in us all from birth. We are all responsible, which means able to respond. Those who are responsible are also then accountable, which means that they will be called to give an account for why they did what they did, to see whether the reason holds any weight before the judgment bar of God, before which all must stand.²⁹ Every person is obligated to answer for his every action, for God will bring every word or deed into judgment, whether it is good or evil.³⁰

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO FEAR GOD?

Hardly anyone realizes the reality that the whole duty of man in this age is to fear God and keep His commandments.³¹ God’s righteous

²⁰ 1 John 3:4 ²¹ James 4:17 ²² Goad: a means of prodding into action.

²³ Revelation 20:15 ²⁴ Romans 2:16; Ecclesiastes 12:14 ²⁵ Romans 6:23

²⁶ Revelation 21:8; 22:15 ²⁷ Hebrews 9:27 ²⁸ Revelation 20:14-15; 21:8;

Matthew 25:41 ²⁹ Revelation 20:11 ³⁰ Ecclesiastes 12:14 ³¹ Romans 2:14-15; Ecclesiastes 12:13

standard is present within every person from birth — the natural law written in his conscience.

They show that what the Law requires is written on their hearts, to which their own conscience also bears witness; and their conflicting thoughts will accuse or perhaps excuse them. (Romans 2:15)

So anyone who goes against this law or inner restraint is a lawless or restraint-less person. He demonstrates his lack of respect and fear of God by being inconsiderate of others and the consequences of his actions. This is sin: knowing the right thing to do, but not doing it. Sin is restraintlessness,³² as one who transgresses the natural law written in his conscience, saying in his heart, “There is no God.”³³ The result of this inner statement is expressed outwardly in evil deeds, even abominable deeds.

When one continues to go beyond the boundaries of conscience he is eventually turned over to a depraved mind, which can no longer hear from the conscience. There is then no fear of God before his eyes,³⁴ which Ecclesiastes 12:13 says one must have as his prime responsibility. We are all accountable to God for how we carry out our responsibility.

Now all has been heard; here is the conclusion of the matter: Fear God

and keep His commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. (Ecclesiastes 12:13)

We will all stand before our Maker to give an account for how we lived our life. He will ask: “Did you not have a conscience? Then why did you not obey Me through your conscience? It was your God-given conscience. I gave it to you.”

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil...” (Genesis 3:22a)

Genesis 3:22 is both man and God working together to assure a second life for the man. The conscience³⁵ speaks from the common knowledge that God and man share concerning good and evil.

Although they know the ordinance of God, that those who practice such things are worthy of death, they not only do the same, but also give hearty approval to those who practice them. (Romans 1:32)

Death is separation from life.³⁶ But it doesn't have to be *eternal* separation. It is according to how we respond to the instinctive law within us. When Adam sinned, he was immediately separated from God. He could no longer walk with God in the Garden, in the life of hearing and speaking directly with God. But God did not abandon him to a

³² 1 John 3:4 ³³ Psalms 14:1; 53:1 ³⁴ Romans 3:10-18 ³⁵ Con-science = co-knowing ³⁶ Ephesians 2:1 as Genesis 2:17

second death, to be eternally with Satan. He gave Adam a way to indirectly hear His voice through the conscience. This was God's mercy to help him to walk within the restraints of doing good, not feeling free to do evil, and thus not losing the hope of a second life.³⁷



nature would incline us away from the good we know to do, how our sin would lead us to death, and for many, the second death. Yahshua,⁴² the Son of God, paid for our sins by dying and going into death in our place, so that we could receive God's mercy to escape death.⁴³ So why

BEING SAVED FROM DEATH

When one continues to go against the voice of his conscience, he knows deep inside that he is deserving of death,³⁸ and will die, and after the Judgment will go into death a second time. He even knows that the second time is for eternity. At least the first death has an end in sight, and then a judgment follows.³⁹ Some, who suffered greatly to do good in this present lifetime, will be judged worthy of the second life in the nations of the eternal age.⁴⁰ But for most, death will be the terrifying expectation of judgment for the second death which awaits them, and which is eternal.

God knew before the foundation of the world that man would need a Savior.⁴¹ He knew ahead of time how Satan would be determined to corrupt us, and how our selfish

die and go to death for your sins when He has already gone there on your behalf?

The penalty of death for sin⁴⁴ can be removed in this present life, but only if one actually repents and puts his trust in the One who can save him from death. To be saved from death means to be free from having to pay for our own sins in death,⁴⁵ and to be purified from all those things that led us to go against our conscience. For the one who actually puts his trust in Him, entering into an eternal covenant with Him, the penalty of sin is broken. The one who keeps his new "garment" spotlessly white, obeying God's word, will never see death at all⁴⁶ — not even the first death, which even believers who do not keep their conscience clean will experience.⁴⁷

Eternal life in Messiah cannot be earned or paid for. Nothing one can

³⁷ Genesis 3:16-19; Job 14:14 ³⁸ Romans 1:32 ³⁹ Revelation 20:12-15

⁴⁰ Revelation 21:24; 22:2 ⁴¹ Revelation 13:8 ⁴² Yahshua is the Hebrew name of the Savior. See "The Name Above All Names" on page 26. ⁴³ Acts 2:24,27,31

⁴⁴ Romans 5:12; 6:23 ⁴⁵ Romans 5:21 ⁴⁶ John 8:51 ⁴⁷ Galatians 3:27; Revelation 3:4-5; 2:11; 17:14; 1 Thessalonians 5:14-18

do earns the free gift of eternal life, but who does God give this free gift to? One cannot pay for his obstinate rebellion,⁴⁸ which is sin with eternal consequences. But sin which is not rebellion can be paid for by one's own death — the *agonies of death*.⁴⁹

The wages of sin is death.⁵⁰ This refers to both the first death and the second death. Since the fall of man there has been a tendency towards selfishness, which leads to sin. But rebellion⁵¹ is Satan's sin. The Sea of Fire was created for Satan and his angels. Satan was a rebel from the beginning. Those who follow Satan's path will end up where he is going.

REBELLION: THE SIN OF SATAN

All who rebel against the truth they know in their heart will, by their own doings, bring upon themselves the wrath of God eternally — the never-ending torment of the Sea of Fire.⁵² When the great search is made through all the names recorded in the Book of Life,⁵³ all those whose names are not found in it will suffer the same destiny as Satan, because they also are rebels. They rebelled against the restraint that was given to men to keep them from going over the line, to keep them within the boundaries of God's love.

All men were born with their names in the Book of Life. Though all have fallen short of the glory of God,⁵⁴ not all have fallen to the point of being given over to a depraved mind,⁵⁵ and having their names erased from the Book of Life. So, at the judgment of the nations,⁵⁶ there will be some who still have their names in the Book of Life and will be found worthy of a second life in the nations of the eternal age.⁵⁷

One who is not acquainted with the Law of Moses still has his conscience to guide him. Mankind inherited death when Adam transgressed,⁵⁸ yet he is still able to make choices, and according to those choices he is given a second life in the nations or a second death in the Sea of Fire. Which will you choose as you go through your journey in this life? Those who hear the good news and meet the terms of peace are saved from eternal death, and by their obedience have the possibility to never see death.⁵⁹ But those who hear the good news and reject it are judged already and will go straight to the second death, since they have already rejected eternal life.⁶⁰

GOD'S TESTING GROUND

Everything must be tested to prove its worthiness. Man is no

⁴⁸ Romans 2:8-9; John 3:36 ⁴⁹ Luke 16:28; Acts 2:24 ⁵⁰ Romans 6:23

⁵¹ Rebellion: resistance to or defiance of authority. ⁵² 1 Samuel 15:23; Proverbs 17:11; Jeremiah 28:16 ⁵³ The righteous of the nations: Revelation 20:15

⁵⁴ Romans 3:23 ⁵⁵ Romans 1:24,26,28; Psalm 14:1-3 ⁵⁶ Revelation 20:12-15

⁵⁷ Matthew 25:34-40; Revelation 21:24; 22:2 ⁵⁸ Hebrews 9:27; Hosea 6:7; 1 Corinthians 15:22 ⁵⁹ John 8:51 ⁶⁰ John 3:18,36

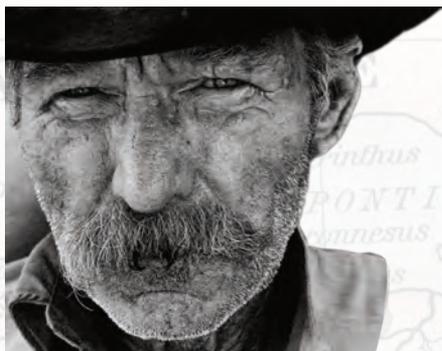
exception. Earth is God's testing ground for man. A man's character is formed in this life through his response to the instinctive knowledge of the Creator that is in him,⁶¹ as he struggles along his path through life.⁶² One lifetime is enough to determine the eternal destiny of a man, for it is in this life that a man's character crystallizes into what he will be for eternity.

That is why Revelation 22:11 says:

"Unjust still... filthy still... righteous still... holy still..."

Still means forever and ever.

What benefit is 70, 80, or even 100 years of living selfishly in comparison to eternal torment for the unjust and filthy? Or what can be compared to the never-ending reward for the righteous? They paid the price in this life in a great struggle to overcome temptation, and they chose to do the good they knew to do. Sin is knowing the right thing to do and not doing it. It is not that the righteous do not sin, but they do not sin the kinds of sins that the unjust or filthy commit, to the destruction of others, leading them to their own destiny. If they were to live forever, the unjust and filthy would continue to lead others astray eternally, still, just as Satan and his angels for whom the Sea of Fire was created.⁶³



WHAT WILL BECOME OF THE FOOL?

The fool has said in his heart, "There is no God." They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none [not one fool] who does good. (Psalm 14:1)

Psalm 14 speaks of the fool who says in his heart that there is no God — no responsibility or accountability, nor consequences for his abominable deeds. They have corrupted themselves who defy the truth of God they know in their conscience. They have rejected their Creator and will ultimately be away from His presence eternally, with Satan and his angels in the Sea of Fire, which is the second unending death.⁶⁴ All mankind could be blessed eternally, as the righteous will be. As a man sows, he shall reap. Every man will "lie in the bed he made" in this life... still...⁶⁵ ☠

⁶¹ Genesis 3:22 ⁶² Job 14:14 ⁶³ Matthew 25:41 ⁶⁴ Matthew 25:41; Revelation 21:8; 22:15 ⁶⁵ Revelation 22:11

THE JUDGMENT OF THE

The scene opens before us in Matthew 25, the last judgment.

But when the Son of Man comes in His glory, and all the angels with Him, then He will sit on His glorious throne. (Matthew 25:31)

Before Him are all the people of all the nations of the earth separated into two groups. This is in preparation to pronouncing judgment upon them.

And all the nations will be gathered before Him; and He will separate them from one another, as the shepherd separates the sheep from the goats; and He will put the sheep on His right, and the goats on the left. (Matthew 25:32-33)

Here the judgment begins, as the Son of Man praises those on His right for their kindness shown to Him — kindness that He took very personally.

Then the King will say to those on His right, "Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world. For I was hungry, and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me drink; I was a stranger, and you invited Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; I was sick, and you visited Me; I was in prison, and you came to Me." (Matthew 25:34-36)



SHEEP AND THE GOATS

Amazingly, they do not understand this. They feel as though there must have some kind of mistake.

Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, "Lord, when did we see You hungry, and feed You, or thirsty, and give You drink? And when did we see You a stranger, and invite You in, or naked, and clothe You? And when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You?" (Matthew 25:37-39)

So He explains that it is how they treated these brothers of His — His very own disciples. He is rewarding them, the righteous, for the kindness they showed even the least of His brothers.

And the king will answer and say to them, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did it to one of these brothers of Mine, even the least of them, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25:40)

There is an exactly parallel discussion with those on His left, which culminates in their condemnation. They will go to "the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels" (verse 41) for not showing kindness to one of the least of these, His very own disciples.



Then He will answer them, saying, "Truly I say to you, to the extent that you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to Me." (Matthew 25:45)

Separate, distinct from the nations gathered before Him, are "these brothers of Mine." Gathered neither to the right with the

sheep nor to the left with the goats, no words are addressed to them in this judgment of the nations, but only about them. They are with Him. Based on their deeds, the righteous and the wicked, the sheep and the goats, go to the eternal destinies they deserve.

And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life. (Matthew 25:46)

But “these brothers of Mine,” called from every nation and people, ransomed by the blood of the lamb, so weighty are their lives and their place as the “apple of His eye” that the eternal destiny of all who come into contact with them depends on how they treat His brothers. Because, as He makes it clear, that was exactly how they treated Him.

So it is obvious that there are *three* eternal destinies of man — the wicked, the righteous, and the holy:

He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still. (Revelation 22:11)

Here the *wicked* are called by the two most common ways they act: *unjust* and *filthy*. The *unjust* are those who take advantage of others, and the *filthy* are those who are sexually immoral. All three kinds of people — the wicked, the righteous, and the holy — will be the way they are forever and ever, *still...* which is the basis and the necessity of their eternal destinies. 



The THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES of MAN

This is written in the hope that it will liberate people to know the true character of the Creator of mankind. Almost everyone has heard of “heaven and hell,” but the good news we have come to know is that there are not just two, but three eternal destinies for mankind.

Even the terms “heaven” and “hell” (as eternal destinies) are misleading. It has been a stumbling block to many people that no matter what kind of person you are, no matter what good you have done, or how sincere or conscientious you may be, “if you don’t believe in Jesus, you are automatically doomed to go to a place of torment called the Lake of Fire.”

This man-made doctrine of there being only heaven and hell has caused countless people to be repulsed by the God proclaimed by Christians for almost two thousand years. The Creator of the human race has been misrepresented, accused, blamed, and His name maligned – most often by those who claim to know Him.

We want to “re-present” Him to the world in hope that His true nature and heart could be revealed. The revelation of *The Three Eternal Destinies of Man* justifies God’s heart toward mankind.

Every person must choose what his or her eternal destiny will be.

Revelation 22:11 declares...

THE THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MAN

The Filthy and Unjust still...

The Righteous still...

And the Holy still...

*These are the final destinations for all mankind.
The Creator of heaven and earth leaves this choice
up to each individual.*

What are

THE THREE ETERNAL DESTINIES OF MAN?

THE FILTHY give themselves over to degrading acts of immorality. They use and abuse others in order to fulfill their own base appetites for pleasure and indulgence.



THE UNJUST practice lying, deceit, greed, laziness, dishonesty, and slander. They pursue their own comfort and advantage at the expense of the suffering of others. Like a dishonest lawyer who makes a living defending the guilty, and an unrighteous judge who condemns the innocent, or a journalist who makes a career out of lying... Although there are differences between the two, the unjust and filthy both love and practice deeds that violate the law of conscience. Their eternal destiny is the Lake of Fire.

THE RIGHTEOUS are those whose lives are characterized by faithfulness in their relationships, diligence in their work, and kindness toward the those whose lives they touch. Although they are not perfect in it, they suffer to do the good they know in their conscience, even when it cost them discomfort or rejection.



The pull of evil is like the current of a river that a person must exert himself to swim against. Going against the current of evil in society is truly a struggle, but the righteous use their will to overcome the pull of their fallen nature. Their eternal destiny is a second and unending life in the nations of the eternal age.

THE HOLY are a people set apart. By His death, Yahshua, the Messiah, opened the way to the tree of life so that a people could walk in the same way that He did.

Those who are weary of their own sin and the death sentence it merits, and who see the Savior as worthy of their whole life, will leave everything behind to follow Him – not just their sin, but *everything*, including family, career, and possessions. They will become a set-apart people, wholly devoted to Him, for that is what *holy* means. They become His visible, tangible Body on earth, living together and loving one another just as the Messiah loved them. Their eternal destiny is to rule and reign with their Master Yahshua, the Messiah, as His Bride, in the Holy City.



Destiny is like destination. It is the place where you arrive at the end of your journey. Each step takes you closer to where you are going, just as every choice you make takes you closer to your eternal destiny.

Every person will go to one of three eternal destinies based on how he lives and conducts his life. God, your Creator, does not decide for you, as though it were a matter of fate. No! You choose your own eternal destiny. Your actions reflect the choices you make and reveal your inner motives and true character.

Fate or Destiny?

There is a difference between fate and destiny. It is mankind's fate to die once. Fate, like death, is unavoidable. It is an appointment which every person must keep. You can't change fate, but you can change your destiny...

Your eternal destiny is set in direct relation to how you obey or disobey your conscience. Every person has a conscience which tells him instinctively what is right and what is wrong. That is why we are without excuse for the choices we make.



Your deeds, your words, the things you think, and even your hidden motives, are what you will have to give account for at the Judgment.

It is so wonderful that our Creator has left us the freedom to choose for ourselves what our ultimate eternal destiny will be. ☛

"He who is unjust, let him be unjust still; he who is filthy, let him be filthy still; he who is righteous, let him be righteous still; he who is holy, let him be holy still." ~Revelation 22:11

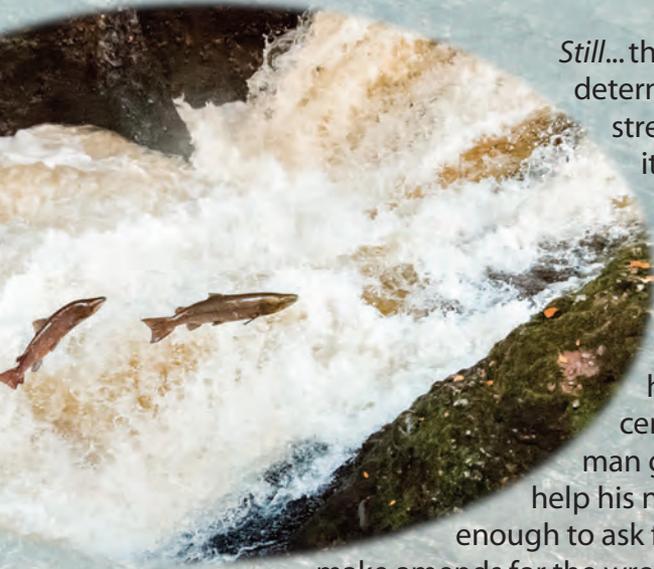
For as long as the sun has risen and the rivers have flowed to the sea, so has creation remained faithful. Her character has remained the same, constant, set, unchanging... *still*. For thousands of years the apple has fallen, the spider has spun, the salmon has fought, and the butterfly has expressed new life. So will man, the highest creation, continue to express his character.

Still... the apple rots as it falls from its branch. Decaying every moment as it lies at the foot of the tree, disconnected from its source. So is the man who is filthy, who rejects the truth in exchange for a lie, giving himself over to his own lusts and desires, living a life of self-indulgence. On the outside only the hint of a bruise, but inwardly eaten away with rot and decay.

Still... the spider weaves her web. Dew drops glisten off her intricate threads in the morning light — a beautiful demonstration of her work, but an invisible death trap for the unsuspecting insect that lies struggling within. Just like the unjust businessman who builds up his own small empire, making a tempting offer to the unsuspecting buyer, knowing full well that his product is not worth the price.



Still...



Still... the salmon fights determinedly, rushing upstream, with zeal leaping its way up the river to spawn. So is the man who desires to do what is right, struggling to overcome the obstacles that stand in his way in a self-centered society. This man goes out of his way to help his neighbor. He is humble enough to ask for forgiveness and

make amends for the wrongs he has done. He works hard and honestly to meet the needs of his family. He is determined to live by what he knows is right, and turn away from what he knows is wrong.



Still... the chrysalis breaks forth with new life — old things are gone and new things come... The wings of the butterfly stretch to full glory, lifting her to freedom, transformed into a new creation, totally distinct from the old self. So are the Holy, who, giving up their unjust, filthy, or even righteous lives, are now set apart to express their new-found freedom. Living together in unity, they form a new social order, demonstrating the Creator's character through His love working in them.



All four will remain eternally... The Unjust, the Filthy, the Righteous, the Holy... on and on, unchanging... forever and ever... all set...

throughout eternity... *Still...*



From time to time, radical men and their radical thoughts have swept across the stage of history. When these men appear, they disturb the comfortable and self-satisfied among us. But there is one man who deserves our special recognition. His career was like the path of a comet — in both its briefness and intensity. Who was this man? He was everything His name describes. He still is. His name is *Healer*.

Though His years were short, His extraordinary life established a new race among the afflicted, broken-hearted, and strife-torn peoples of the earth. There has never been a light like the light that shone forth from this man. His words broke into the unexplored areas of the human heart, bringing men's motives out of their dark burrows and into plain view. Even those who followed Him found the ancient foundations of their lives quaking in devastation.

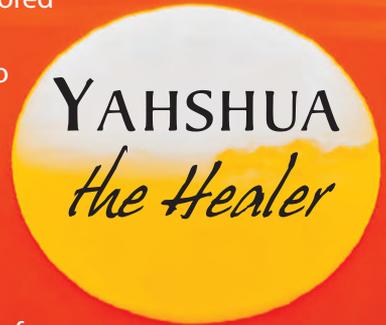
The words He spoke had an amazing effect on people. When He spoke, some people totally abandoned their homes, families, jobs, and properties to follow Him from town to town, doing whatever He told them to do. Others heard His words and turned their backs on Him, or called Him a devil, or plotted to kill Him.

What did this man talk about that caused such a stir? What was it that polarized all of humanity, causing some to adore Him and others to grind their teeth at Him? It was something so wonderful that if you heard it, you could hardly believe it.

The good news He proclaimed was this:

Deny yourself. Turn away from your self-centered life. Let your old impulses and desires die inside of you. Follow Me in the way I am going and you will find yourself caring for others and having all your needs met.

Is it any wonder that the society of His day cried out against Him? Whatever else the deafness and blindness of His hearers might have missed, it's clear that they saw this: He was the seed of a whole new order of things. The greatest enemy to this man's message was the fossilized human heart.



Yet, what this man accomplished was enduring. That's why His name is important. His name shines in all that He has accomplished. His name is *Deliverer*.

The same world that He came into has made Him the victim of a great campaign, a campaign to distort His true image. His shocking message and what it brings us all to has been intellectualized by a million hollow words. We've lost sight of Him in the dust of a stampede to enshrine Him and institutionalize Him. Although He poured out His life in the dusty, sun-bit villages of Judea, artists have insisted on presenting Him clean, combed and sleek, in spotless clothing, and with an expression that the average child would think strange and repelling.

These, among a million other impressions, have made Him unreal to so many of us. This distortion of His image has also distorted His name. If we view Him in an unreal way, we truly cannot know Him or be connected to Him. His name is *Restorer*.

The traditional groups that have a supposed devotion to His memory largely ignore the matter that was closest to His heart — the message of His kingdom, the call of deliverance from the decaying society in which we live. He was the most passionate and determined man who ever lived. The blazing quality of His life was so pure that even death has bowed down before Him. His endurance and single-mindedness have established a beachhead in this hostile world. He accomplished the mission He was given to do. He is God's Anointed Son, sent by His Father to set all creation free.

To the complex reasoning of the resisting heart, He is a tyrant, demanding total obedience. But to the yielding heart, He is a King who offers total care. To take Him seriously is to enter upon a challenging and radical new path. Of those who find themselves stirred by His word, He said, "These are My sheep. They will hear My voice." He is the perfect Shepherd.

The life He established is unending, and one day it is going to fill the whole earth, and then the whole universe. Despite what we may have been told, we now know that His name is *Salvation*. This is the name He is known by among the people He is gathering. His name is true because it says what He is. His name is *Yahshua*.¹ Does His name stir your heart? 

¹ See also "The Name Above All Names" on the next page.

THE NAME ABOVE ALL NAMES

In the days of John the Baptist and the Son of God, the preserved language of the devout Jews was Hebrew. So, when the angel Gabriel brought the good news to the Hebrew virgin, Miriam (or *Mary* in English), that she would give birth to the Savior of the world, and told her what His name would be, what language do you suppose he spoke? Hebrew, of course! And certainly Miriam and Yoceph (or *Joseph* in English) named the child just as the angel had commanded them — *Yahshua*.

In Matthew 1:21, your Bible probably reads, "...and you shall call His name *Jesus*, for He will save His people from their sins." But the name *Jesus* is a modern English adaptation of the Greek name, *lesous*, which is itself a corruption of the original Hebrew name *Yahshua*. The name *Jesus* or *lesous* has no meaning of its own, but the Hebrew name *Yahshua* literally means *YHWH's Salvation*,¹ which makes sense out of what the angel said in Matthew 1:21, "...you shall call His name *Yahshua* [*Yahweh's Salvation*], for He shall save His people from their sins."

יהושע

If you look in a pre-1769 King James Bible, you will find the name

Jesus in these two passages:

*Which also our fathers that came after brought in with **Jesus** into the possession of the Gentiles, whom God drave out before the face of our fathers, unto the days of David... (Acts 7:45, 1611 KJV)*

*For if **Jesus** had given them rest, then would he not afterward have spoken of another day. (Hebrews 4:8, 1611 KJV)*

However, if you look in any modern translation of the Bible, including the New King James, you will find that in place of the name *Jesus* they use the name *Joshua*, for in the context it is clear that it is speaking there of Moses' successor and not the Son of God. But in the Greek manuscript the name in both of these verses is *lesous*.

You see, *Joshua* is the popular English transliteration of the Hebrew name of Moses' successor, which meant, "He will save." This name looks forward to the name of the Son of God, for *Joshua* was the prophetic forerunner of the Messiah, bringing Israel into the Promised Land and

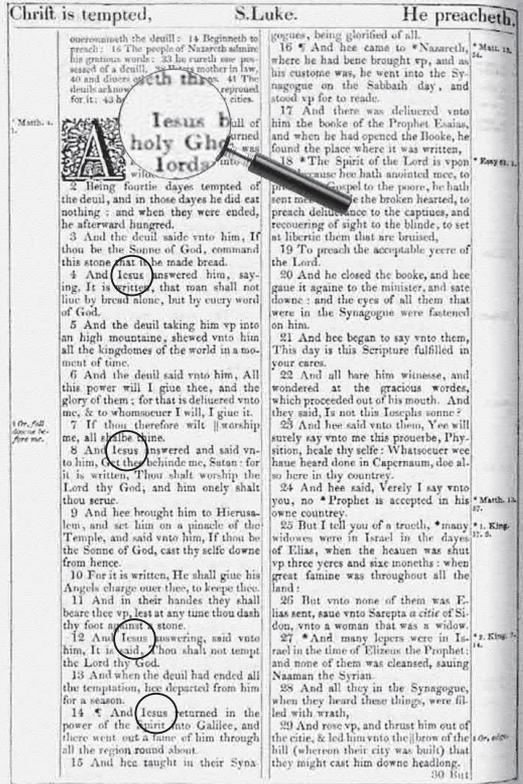
¹ *Yah* is the personal name of God, and *shua* is from a Hebrew root word that means "to save." God identified Himself to Moses as *YAH* (meaning "I AM") in Exodus 3:14, as in Psalm 68:4 ("whose name is *Yah*"), and as most familiar in the word *Halleluyah* ("Praise *Yah*"). And in John 5:43 and 17:11, *Yahshua* says that He came in His Father's name, "the name which You have given Me" (NASB), so it is

leading them to victory over their enemies. But since the translators obviously know this fact, why do they only translate *lesous* as *Joshua* in these two verses, and as *Jesus* everywhere else?

The NIV New Testament even has a footnote supporting this fact under Matthew 1:21: "*Jesus* is the Greek form of *Joshua*."

But the fact is, the name of God's Son was not even written or pronounced as "*Jesus*" in English until the 1600s, simply because there was no "*J*" sound or letter in English before then.² The modern letter "*J*" evolved from the letter "*I*" which began to be written with a "*tail*" when it appeared as the first letter in a word. So in old English the name now written as *Jesus* was actually written and pronounced much like the original Greek *lesous*. Eventually the hard "*J*" sound crept into the English language to accompany the different way of writing the initial "*I*" in the name.

You may also find it interesting that in Acts 26:14-15, it says that the apostle Paul heard the name of the



A page from the 1611 Authorized Version (King James Bible). Note the lack of a "*J*" in the Savior's name.

Son of God pronounced "in the Hebrew tongue" by the Son of God Himself, so he certainly didn't hear the Greek name *lesous* or the English name *Jesus*, but rather the Hebrew name, the name above all names, *Yahshua*.³

not surprising that the Father's name would be incorporated into the Son's name, *Yahshua*.² *Compact Edition of the Oxford English Dictionary* (Oxford University Press, 1971), pp. 1496, 1507³ *Philippians 2:9; Acts 4:12*

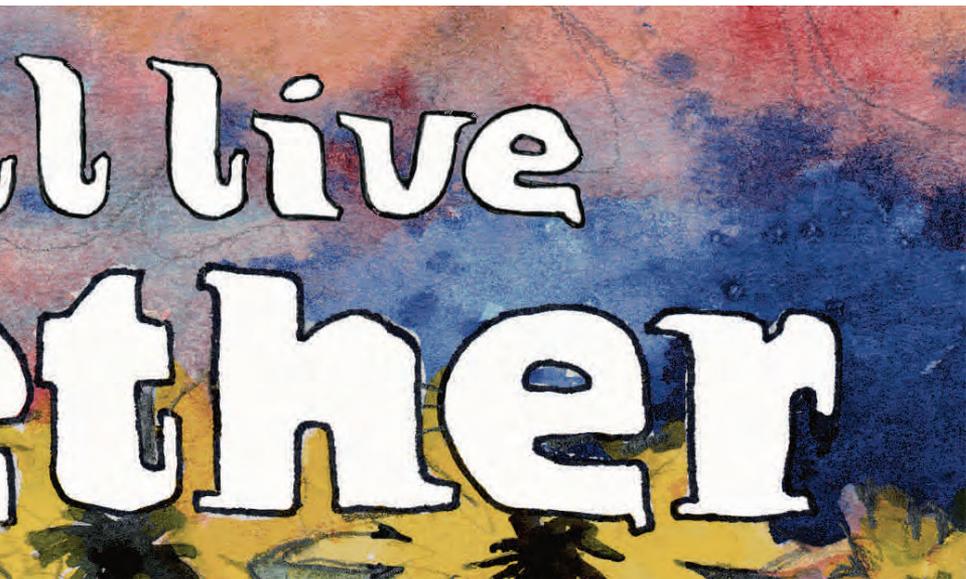


We who wrote this paper actually live together like an extended family, sharing all things in common, just as the first disciples did in the first century. The Bible plainly says regarding the first church, “All who believed were together and shared all things in common.”¹ It goes on to describe how they were of one heart and soul, and that there was not a needy person among them, for they gave up all their possessions to meet the needs of their spiritual brothers and sisters.² Some people say this was only for back then, but we’ve been living this way for over 40 years. You can come and see for yourself at any of our addresses, which are printed in the back of this paper and on our web site, www.twelvetribes.org.

In each of our communities, there are one or more houses in a cluster, some in cities and some on farms. Several families and single people live together in each house, according to the size of the house. We like large houses because we like to live together. Married couples have their own rooms, plus as many adjacent rooms as needed for their children. The single men share one or more rooms, as do the single women. We all share a common kitchen and dining room, where we take our meals together “with gladness and sincerity of heart.”³

In at least one house in the cluster we have a large gathering room where we gather together every morning and evening to worship our Creator in song and dance as in Psalm 150, using the prescribed musical instruments that we are learning to build and play. We are all free to speak from our hearts the things we are learning, as our heavenly Father teaches us through one another, according to the gifting and grace given to each person.⁴ As a spiritual priesthood, we pray

¹Acts 2:44 ²Acts 4:32-35 ³Acts 2:46 ⁴1 Corinthians 14:26; 1 Peter 4:11; Romans 12:6



together for the pressing needs of our people and for our Father's will to be done on earth.

After our morning gathering we have breakfast together and then go to work in our various places, doing the deeds prepared for each one of us.⁵ We work together in our own cafés, farms, cottage industries, and trades, not as independent contractors or employees of outside companies. All income from our various endeavors goes into a common purse from which all of our needs are met equitably. We don't have our own independent income or debts to carry by ourselves, except for the debt of love we owe to our Savior, which we repay by loving and caring for one another.

We love and cherish our children. We teach them at home, using a curriculum we are developing ourselves, to give them the basic skills they need to read, write, and speak effectively, to live together in peace, and to fulfill their created purpose. Our children's training goes far beyond the classroom, however, as they are fully integrated into every aspect of our socially and spiritually rich tribal life. They learn to cook and sew, build and farm, care for animals, sing and dance, play musical instruments, and most importantly, extend hospitality to the constant flow of guests who are drawn to the light of our life of love.

Together we are experiencing and demonstrating the restoration of all things spoken of by the prophets of old,⁶ and by our Master Yahshua,⁷ whose life, death, and resurrection make this life possible. ✨

⁵Ephesians 2:10 ⁶Isaiah 49:6; Jeremiah 30:20; 31:1,4,13,14; Malachi 4:5-6 ⁷Matthew 5:17-19; 17:10-11; 22:37-40; Luke 1:17; 24:44 (*Yahshua* is the original Hebrew name of the one called *Jesus* in most English translations of the Bible. See page 26 for more about this name.)

CON+SCIENCE

If you don't know that there are consequences for every decision you make, every word you speak, every deed you do, then what is life?

If what you do now doesn't make any difference one way or another, if eternity is not affected by today, then life is meaningless now, too. You might as well be an insect and wander on your way.

CO+KNOWING

But even the person who feels that his life is worth nothing actually knows inside that there are consequences to what he does, but he goes against that knowledge. He denies it, but he knows deep down that it is true: there is a God up there somewhere who watches, and it matters what we do.

We've heard it said that there is no God, no one in charge of the universe, no judgment to come, no one looking down on us, no recompense for our deeds...

WITH+KNOWLEDGE

Others say that there is a wrathful God who judged you before you were born, who has already condemned you, no matter what you do.

We live our lives believing what we will, but when death comes, as it does to each one, then our eyes will see what we have become. Will we say, "Oh, no! Why didn't someone tell me where my deeds were taking me?"

KNOWING WITH GOD

Why are there such dramatic consequences for being human?

Why can't we be like a little bird, make our nest, and not think about eternity? Or why can't we be like water, flowing like a river into timeless time?

What would heaven be like if you went there the way you are now? Would just being there change your character?

Or would your hurtful ways just make heaven into hell?

CONSCIENCE

Continued from back cover...

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GEORGIA

Community in Savannah 403 East Hall St, Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ 912-232-1165

Maté Factor 401 East Hall Street, Savannah, GA 31401 ☎ 912-235-2906

Community in Brunswick 927 Union St, Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ 912-264-2279

Yellow Deli Bakery 801 Egmont Street, Brunswick, GA 31520 ☎ 912-264-1069

KANSAS

Community in Lawrence 805 Ohio Street, Lawrence, KS 66044 ☎ 785-304-5110

Fieldstone Orchard & Farm 7049 E 149th St, Overbrook, KS 66524 ☎ 785-665-7643

MASSACHUSETTS

Community in Boston 152 Robbins Street, Milton, MA 02186 ☎ 617-282-9876

Community in Plymouth 35 Warren Avenue, Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ 508-747-5338

Blue Blinds Bakery 7 North Street, Plymouth, MA 02360 ☎ 508-747-0462

Community in Hyannis 14 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ 508-790-0555

Common Ground Café 420 Main Street, Hyannis, MA 02601 ☎ 508-778-8390

Pleasant Street Farm 1128 Pleasant Street, Raynham, MA 02767 ☎ 508-884-8834

MICHIGAN

Community in Marshall 15230 C Drive N, Marshall, MI 49068 ☎ 269-558-8152

MISSOURI

Community in Warsaw 1130 Lay Avenue, Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ 660-438-2541

Yellow Deli 145 W. Main Street, Warsaw, MO 65355 ☎ 660-438-2581

NEW HAMPSHIRE

Community in Lancaster 12 High Street, Lancaster, NH 03584 ☎ 603-788-4376

NEW YORK

Common Sense Farm 41 North Union Street, Cambridge, NY 12816 ☎ 518-677-5880

Community in Oneonta 81 Chestnut Street, Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ 607-353-1620

Yellow Deli 134 Main Street, Oneonta, NY 13820 ☎ 607-431-1155

Community in Ithaca 119 Third Street, Ithaca, NY 14850 ☎ 607-272-6915

Journey's End Farm 7871 State Route 81, Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ 518-239-8148

Yellow Deli 7771 State Route 81, Oak Hill, NY 12460 ☎ 518-239-4240

Continued on previous page...

THERE IS A PEOPLE who woke up this morning with one thing on their minds: to love their Creator with all their heart, soul, and strength, and to love one another just as He loved them. Being ordinary human beings, we are far from perfect in our love, yet, in hope, we persevere. Our goal? That the Kingdom of God would come on earth as it is in heaven, so that love and justice can rule on the earth. Sound impossible? It would be, were it not that Yahshua, the Messiah, came to redeem mankind, to set us free from the curse of sin, and to enable us to love. Because we have come to see His worth and our own desperate need, we have surrendered everything in order to follow Him. Our hearts and our homes are open night and day to any who are interested in our life or are weary of their sin and want to know the purpose for which they were created. ✨