

"Christ Presented to the People" by Gustave Doré

# **Behold The Man**

# Witnessing truth, but without understanding

Romans 1: The whole creation reveals the otherwise invisible truth about God. The old creation does this without understanding.

The disciples also witnessed truth about God, and did so without understanding. Based on experience with the old kind of love, it was impossible for them to believe. This is the miracle of faith. We ask, God, "how is this possible?" He responds, "The day I said I love you, I nailed my expectations to the tree." Jesus goes on to say, "If you are going to love the way I do, you too, will have to nail your expectations to the tree:" "... If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, (daily - Luke 9:23) and follow me." While Jesus said this before the cross, He had to reach beyond the cross to say it. At the time that He said this, the disciples were still in denial about the crucifixion, "Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him. 'Never, Lord!' he said. 'this shall never happen to you!"

Jesus, in turn rebuked Peter in a very powerful way, "Get behind me, Satan!...you do not have in mind the things of God, but of men." Peter was still looking at things, including how we know what love is, from a human point of view. Perhaps even a satanic point of view.

The Most important truth about God is the Love of God, which is revealed in the gospel, but the only truth that they knew about love was that: "Greater love than this knoweth no man, but that a man lay down his life for his friends" This kind of love, however, is not the defining love of the Gospel.

Jesus laid down His life for His enemies. This was unheard of,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Matthew 16:24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Matthew 16:22

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Matthew 16:23

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> John 15:13

Isaiah 52:13-15: "Behold, my servant shall deal prudently, he shall be exalted and extolled, and be very high. As many were astonied at thee; his visage was so marred more than any man, and his form more than the sons of men: So shall he sprinkle many nations; the kings shall shut their mouths at him: for that which had not been told them shall they see; and that which they had not heard shall they consider."

Chapter Isa.53:1: "Who hath believed our report? and to whom is the arm of the LORD revealed?"

Clearly a reference, not only to Jesus Christ, but to His crucifixion. When Jesus used the expression, "lifted up," the Bible goes on to explain that, "He said this to show the kind of Death he was going to die."

Jesus lived out what Isaiah saw, "Who has believed our report..."5

It's a principle of sound interpretation that The Old Testament must be understood in light of the Gospels, and The Gospels in light of the Epistles. In light of that principle then, we would make the following observation:

In his letter to the Galatians, Paul was dealing with the problem of adding things to Christ as a requirement for full acceptance and participation. While the particular focus of his concern was circumcision, his argument rings true down through the years to our own day. In support of Paul's case, he reaches back into the Old Testament. Not only does he introduce us to the true mother of liberty, but in doing so answers Isaiah's question as well. "Who has believed our report... O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD."

Paul explains to the Galatians, that this woman is the New Jerusalem, that the New Jerusalem is free, and that the New Jerusalem is our mother. Finally, that as her children, we are, and ought to remain free. Paul was saying in effect, "Don't let men do a number on you." Clearly, in the Book of Revelation, Jesus, through John, is saying the same thing, In the revelation of the Beast of Chapters 13 and 14, the beast is a man backed by Satan, Jesus is warning, don't let man do a number on you!

#### Song of Solomon, chapter 3

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Isaiah 53:1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Galatians 4:26, 27

"Who is this that cometh out of the wilderness like pillars of smoke, perfumed with myrrh and frankincense, with all powders of the merchant? Behold his bed, which is Solomon's; threescore valiant men are about it, of the valiant of Israel. They all hold swords, being expert in war: every man hath his sword upon his thigh because of fear in the night. King Solomon made himself a chariot of the wood of Lebanon. He made the pillars thereof of silver, the bottom thereof of gold, the covering of it of purple, the midst thereof being paved with love, for the daughters of Jerusalem. Go forth, O ye daughters of Zion, and behold king Solomon with the crown wherewith his mother crowned him in the day of his espousals, and in the day of the gladness of his heart."

"Then came Jesus forth, wearing the crown of thorns, and the purple robe. And Pilate saith unto them, Behold the man!"

### Song of Solomon, chapter 8

5: Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved? I raised thee up under the apple tree: there thy mother brought thee forth: there she brought thee forth that bare thee.

6: Set me as a seal upon thine heart, as a seal upon thine arm: for love is strong as death; jealousy is cruel as the grave: the coals thereof are coals of fire, which hath a most vehement flame.

7: Many waters cannot quench love, neither can the floods drown it: if a man would give all the substance of his house for love, it would utterly be contemned.

In recent times our concern seems to have been focused on the economic implications of a warning or monetary reform that appears to apply at the end of history, "... that no one could buy or sell unless he had the mark, which is the name of the beast or the number of his name." Paul's focus, however was not to let men do a number on them in the name of religion even back in the days of the New Testament writing. Both Jesus, and Paul were adamant about this. <sup>10</sup>

I will try to explain: The defining love of the Gospel was only revealed by and after the crucifixion. "This is how we know what love is..." As was the case with Paul, in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Song of Songs 3:6-11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> John 19:5 KJV

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Revelation 13:17

Revelation 15.17

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Revelation 14:9-12

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> I John 3:16

relationship to others, we also need to be "resolved to know nothing... except Jesus Christ and him crucified." <sup>12</sup>

The Church is God's new creation. It witnesses truth about God, especially with words. It is not so clear that it has witnessed truth about God in its manifestation of God's Love, "My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth." Could it be that the church has only understood, and depended on the subgospel love that had already been known prior to the crucifixion?

Could it be that we, as God's new creation, also have too little understanding about the invisible things of God? If the church itself is "... marred beyond human, even Biblical recognition," it is not because of our willingness to lay our lives down for our enemies, on the contrary, it is because of our inability to get along with each other. Have we been eating "The Lord's Supper or our own supper"?<sup>14</sup> The manifest division of the body of Christ is not the work of God, it is the work of men, it is human doing, "... the work of man's hands."<sup>15</sup>

Let's take another look. Ultimately, the work of man's hands becomes "the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel." In the end, it is abomination to have man do a number on you. Isaiah provides us with a key insight into the result of man's doing. In the following version of the Isaiah passage, I have taken the liberty of translating it as a Hebrew reader would have read it.

ISA 52:13-15: "See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as there were many who were made desolate at the sight of you, my people--his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness--so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand."

DAN 8:13 "Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, 'How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled--the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes desolation, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?"

Daniel had been given a preview of a coming question, a question asked of Jesus by His disciples. In Matthew 24:3. A key boundary marker for the timing in Jesus answer

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> I Corinthians 2:2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> I John 3:18

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> I Corinthians 11:20-22

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Revelation 9:20

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was "the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel" In the Isaiah reference, cited above the same word for desolation as used in Daniel is also used in connection with the crucifixion of Jesus. Only in Isaiah, it is most often translated, "astonished," "astonied" or "appalled." The sense appears to be that, as many as were made desolate at the sight of God's people, so they will be, at the sight of him who is marred beyond human recognition.

To see Jesus on the cross is to see the end product of human doing, including the doing of God's people. In fact, to both see, and understand Jesus on the cross, is to identify with the barren woman of Isaiah 54:1: "Sing, O Barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the **desolate** (again, the same word as used in 52:14, and Daniel 12:11) woman than of her who has a husband,' says the Lord."

To this "barren" or "desolate" woman is given the comfort of knowing that she will be more fruitful than anything that was ever born of human doing. Man's doing is abomination to God. The result is the desolation of the Body of Christ. The teachings of men are contrary to the revelation of God. The teachings of men are prefigured in the Fiery serpents of Numbers 21:6, 7. God's remedy for mere human wisdom is His wisdom, prefigured in Numbers 21:9. "... Jesus Christ and him crucified" is God's wisdom, and ours as well. <sup>18</sup>

Man's tradition always makes the Word of God of None effect. Man's doing always makes war against the Body of Christ. The Body of Christ is "...marred beyond human recognition--," even in our own day. "So shall he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him." 19

The Spirit of Christ speaking through the prophet Jeremiah asks the question: "Is it nothing to you, all you who pass by? Look around and see. Is any suffering like my suffering that was inflicted on me, that the Lord brought on me in the day of his fierce anger?"<sup>20</sup>

The woman of Isaiah 54:1 provides the emphatic answer. It is desolation for her to see the afflictions of the Christ of Isaiah 52 and 53. She has entered into desolation with Him. She understands that His desolation is her own, that His desolation is the result of

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> Matthew 24:15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>17</sup> Isaiah 52:14

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> 1Corinthians 1:20-25, 2:2-5, John 3:14, Galatians 3:1

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Isaiah 52:14b, 15

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> Lamentations 1:12

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her abomination. The miracle of salvation is that, in her desolation comes the more assuring word, "...sing, burst into song, shout for joy..."

In Galatians, Paul explains that this woman is the New Jerusalem.<sup>21</sup> From The book of Revelation we know that the New Jerusalem is the Bride of Christ,<sup>22</sup> the one who shares in His sufferings.<sup>23</sup>

In light of Isaiah, then, and looking at the whole of Daniel's speaking, in Chapter Two, we are introduced to the balance of human history through the dream of king Nebuchadnezzar. To summarize for present purposes, King Nebuchadnezzar and Babylon are the first of four kingdoms, which will dominate the rest of human history. As typical of attitude and method, King Nebuchadnezzar, on hearing of all this has an image of himself set up and insists everyone worship his image. So far from being an event unique in history, this is typical of human action, particularly when amplified by power.

Not to miss the point where religion, even "Christianity" is concerned, the "set ups" certainly include places of worship, prefigured in the "high places" of The Old Testament, but more than that, religious organizations and authority structures. God is looking for those who will worship Him in spirit and in truth. We, on the other hand, seem determined to worship him every place but in spirit and in truth. In Isaiah, the body of Christ has no attractiveness, 24 but we keep trying to make it attractive to the world.

As men, we are continually "setting things up," and expecting others to serve our dreams and visions. In the scenario of history presented in Daniel, the succeeding kings become worse, more powerful and more tyrannical. It turns out Nebuchadnezzar is the best of them. The last king of history will "break and smash everything" He too will insist that we invest ourselves in the thing he sets up. The details of his reign can be found in The Book of Revelation, especially Chapter thirteen.

In this same Chapter of Revelation we are told that Jesus is "the lamb slain from the foundation of the world" The price for man's abominations was paid from the beginning. It was the desolation of God's Son. Jesus was crucified in the past, but the abomination that made Him desolate will come to the full in the future.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> Galatians 4:26, 27

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Revelation 21:2

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>23</sup> Philippians 3:10, 11

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>24</sup> Isaiah 53:2, 3

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Daniel 2:40

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Revelation 13:8

Not to take all of the speculation out of the identity of "the man of sin," we should say that, the Bible reveals truth in a number of ways, among them; in principle and in personification. For instance, John tells, "... as you have heard that the antichrist (personification) is coming, even now many antichrists have come." The saints have spent so much time speculating on the identity of the antichrist or "man of sin" that we have missed the principle, which is already at work in the world.

Perhaps we could drive this point home in the following way. The Scripture tells us that, "God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." Jesus hung on the cross as a man. As such He became a man of sin. It was not His sin, however, it was my sin. The most important thing for me to know about His becoming sin is that He became my sin. If I'm ever going to become a great lover, God's kind of lover, I must own up to His desolation, I must see and admit that it is my desolation. It is in that revelation that God "comforts His people." <sup>29</sup>

God, who knew the end from the beginning, covered man's sin at the outset. God is never taken by surprise or caught off guard. He did not have to react to man's doing, in fact God never reacts, He only acts. Out of His great love for us he paid the entire price before the world began. His loving kindness, faithfulness, and provision was a settled matter before He said, "Light be." Faith plugs us into that kind of love.

A close analogy for us is becoming a parent or getting married. While our ability to see the future is not the same as God's, we know, if we think about it, that their will be trouble ahead, but it is a price that we think that we are willing and able to pay for the sake of the relationship.

In answering the questions of His disciples about His return and the end of the world, Jesus' first concern was that they not be deceived. The focus of His concern was this one who would appear prior to His own return, the one who would "fool if possible the very elect." It is in this context that he refers to this one as "the abomination of desolation spoken of by the prophet Daniel." As one who would counterfeit the second coming of Christ he is the antichrist.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> I John 2:18

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> I Corinthians 5:21

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Isaiah 49:8-52:12, 66:13, Zechariah 1:14-2:13

<sup>30</sup> Matthew 24:24

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> Matthew 24:15

Referring to this antichrist, John says, "...as you have heard that antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour. They went out from us but they did not really belong to us." 32

The council at Jerusalem had written, "We have heard that some went out from us without our authorization and disturbed you, troubling your minds by what they said." We note this here to make the point that it is not just irreligious men who set things up as objects for our submission, but religious men as well, even nominally Christian religious men.

#### **GLORY - SHAME**

#### **Glorious Desolation**

John 12:23-28 "Jesus replied, 'the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. The man who loves his life will lose it, while the man who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life. Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor the one who serves me. Now my heart is troubled, and what shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour?' No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour. Father, glorify your name!' Then a voice came from heaven, 'I have glorified it, and will glorify it again."

John 13:30-32 "As soon as Judas had taken the bread, he went out. And it was night. When he was gone, Jesus said, 'Now is the Son of Man glorified and God is glorified in him. If God is glorified in him, God will glorify the Son in himself, and will glorify him at once."

John17:1 "After Jesus said this, he looked toward heaven and prayed: 'Father, the time has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you."

John 17:5 "And now, Father, glorify me in your presence with the glory I had with you before the world began."

John 21:18-19 "I tell you the truth, when you were younger you dressed yourself and went where you wanted; but when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will dress you and lead you where you do not want to go.' Jesus said

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> 1John 2:18,19

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Acts 15:24

this to indicate the kind of death by which Peter would glorify God. Then he said to him, 'Follow me!"

### Lifted up

John 3:14-16 "Just as Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be **lifted up**, that everyone who believes in him may have eternal life. 'For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life."

John 8:28 "So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am the one I claim to be and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me."

John 12:30-34 "Jesus said, 'this voice was for your benefit, not mine. Now is the time for judgment on this world; now the prince of this world will be driven out. But I, when I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all men to myself.' He said this to show the kind of death he was going to die. The crowd spoke up, 'We have heard from the Law that the Christ will remain forever, so how can you say, 'The Son of Man must be lifted up?' Who is this 'Son of Man?"

Isaiah 52:13-15 "See, my servant will act wisely; he will be raised and lifted up and highly exalted. Just as, (the sight of you left many desolate) there were many who were appalled at him--his appearance was so disfigured beyond that of any man and his form marred beyond human likeness--so will he sprinkle many nations, and kings will shut their mouths because of him. For what they were not told, they will see, and what they have not heard, they will understand."

Daniel 8:13 "Then I heard a holy one speaking, and another holy one said to him, 'How long will it take for the vision to be fulfilled--the vision concerning the daily sacrifice, the rebellion that causes **desolation**, and the surrender of the sanctuary and of the host that will be trampled underfoot?"

Daniel 9:27 "He will confirm a covenant with many for one 'seven.' In the middle of the 'seven' he will put an end to sacrifice and offering. And on a wing of the temple he will set up an abomination that causes **desolation**, until the end that is decreed is poured out on him."

Before leaving the subject of being "lifted up," we would like to share a brief word about identity, or identification. We know well enough another sense of what it means to be "lifted up," for instance, "He was high and lifted up and His train filled the

temple." This has the sense of victory, triumph or dominion. Then there is the sense of being "**lifted up**" in the sense of being "puffed up" a matter of pride. We would like to identify with victory or dominion, but we are not very interested in being identified with desolation.

Jesus said, "Many will come to me on that day, saying Lord, Lord, didn't we do..." In the parable of the talents in Matthew 24, we read another "that day" response on the part of those who never knew Him – "We knew you were a harsh master reaping where you did not sew." But, Jesus replied, 'the hour has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds."<sup>34</sup>

Seed, or rather a seed was sewn, that brought forth much fruit, the many seeds. It was sewn by submission to the "*lifting up*" The church, our mother, as well as our identification is the one who identifies with the desolation of Christ's sewing. Those who make no such identification, see God as reaping where He did not sew. As such they have missed it all.

# **Spiritual Adultery**

James 4:4-6 "You adulterous people, don't you know that friendship with the world is hatred toward God? Anyone who chooses to be a friend of the world becomes an enemy of God. Or do you think Scripture says without reason that the spirit he caused to live in us envies intensely? But he gives us more grace. That is why Scripture says: 'God opposes the proud but gives grace to the humble."

James 4:7-10 "Submit yourselves, then, to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded. Grieve, mourn and wail. Change your laughter to mourning and your joy to gloom. Humble yourselves before the Lord, and he will lift you up."

#### Glorified weakness

Hebrews 11:37-40 "They were stoned; they were sawed in two; they were put to death by the sword. They went about in sheepskins and goatskins, destitute, persecuted and mistreated--the world was not worthy of them. They wandered in deserts and mountains, and in caves and holes in the ground. These were all commended for their

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>34</sup> John 12:23-24

faith, yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better for us so that only together with us would they be made perfect."

# Glory to God - Shame to the world

Hebrews 12:1-3 "Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us. Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart."

1Corinthians 1:27 "But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong."

1Corinthians 7:29-31 "What I mean, brothers, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they had none; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away."

# The Fellowship of sufferings

Philippians 3:10, 11 "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead."

Philippians 3:12-17 "Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already been made perfect, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus. All of us who are mature should take such a view of things. And if on some point you think differently, that too God will make clear to you. Only let us live up to what we have already attained. Join with others in following my example, brothers, and take note of those who live according to the pattern we gave you."

# Glory to the world - Shame to God

Philippians 3:18-4:1 "For, as I have often told you before and now say again even with tears, many live as enemies of the cross of Christ. Their destiny is destruction, their god is their stomach, and their glory is in their shame. Their mind is on earthly things. But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body. Therefore, my brothers, you whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, that is how you should stand firm in the Lord, dear friends!"

Galatians 3:1 "You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified."

Isaiah 54:1 "Sing, O barren woman, you who never bore a child; burst into song, shout for joy, you who were never in labor; because more are the children of the desolate woman than of her who has a husband,' says the Lord."

We spoke earlier about those who make the wrong identification – "Didn't we do..." These are those whose glory is their shame. If they had identified with the shame of the cross, they might have known the Lord's glory. "For we are convinced that this light and momentary affliction is not to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us." Jesus Christ, our hope, our only hope of glory.

## The ways of the world

2 Peter 1:3, 4 "His divine power has given us everything we need for life and godliness through our knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness. Through these he has given us his very great and precious promises, so that through them you may participate in the divine nature and escape the corruption in the world caused by evil desires."

1John 2:15-17 "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world--the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does--comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever."

1John 5:3-5 "This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome, for everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God."

John 16:33 "I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

# **Boasting**

Jude 1:12-16 "These men are blemishes at your love feasts, eating with you without the slightest qualm--shepherds who feed only themselves. They are clouds without rain, blown along by the wind; autumn trees, without fruit and uprooted--twice dead. They are wild waves of the sea, foaming up their shame; wandering stars, for whom blackest darkness has been reserved forever. Enoch, the seventh from Adam, prophesied about these men: 'See, the Lord is coming with thousands upon thousands of his holy ones to judge everyone, and to convict all the ungodly of all the ungodly acts they have done in the ungodly way, and of all the harsh words ungodly sinners have spoken against him.' These men are grumblers and faultfinders; they follow their own evil desires; they boast about themselves and flatter others for their own advantage."

2Corinthians 11:16-18 "I repeat: Let no one take me for a fool. But if you do, then receive me just as you would a fool, so that I may do a little boasting. In this self-confident boasting I am not talking as the Lord would, but as a fool. Since many are boasting in the way the world does, I too will boast."

Galatians 6:14 "May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world."

Jay Ferris - March 1999

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>35</sup> The quotation is either taken from a lost book or from some oral tradition. In either case, we have taken the liberty, we trust in the Spirit of making an application relevant to our present concern, The New Jerusalem. Isaiah 66:1-24