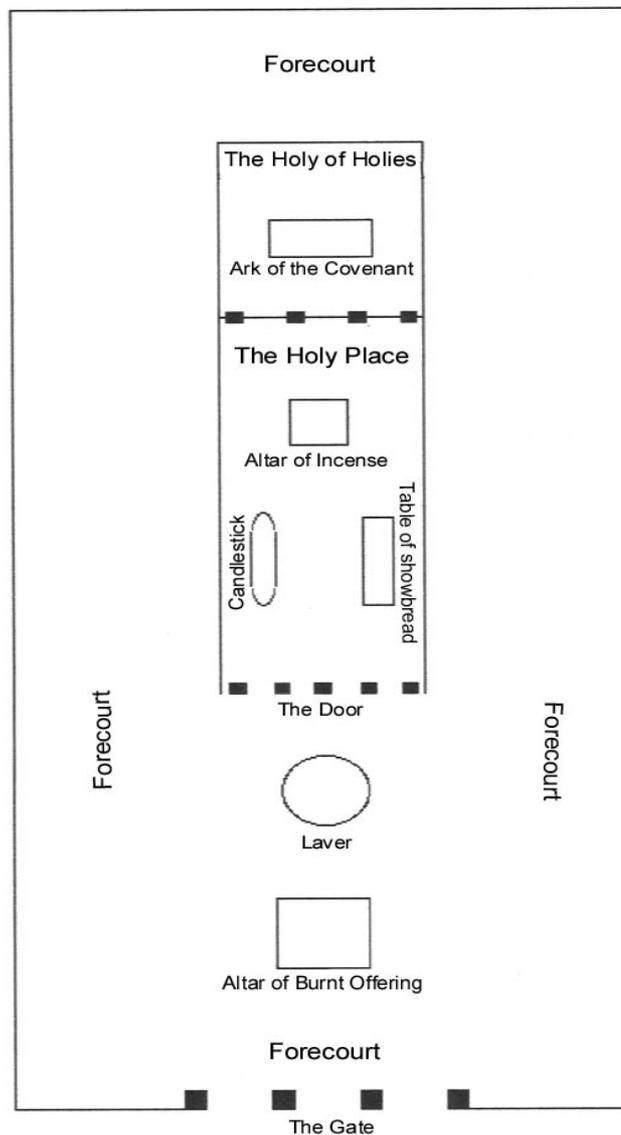


Luke (Chapter 13)

The Book of the NEW MAN in Christ

"Verse by verse" the deeper meaning of this Bible-book, explained in the light of the Israeli Tabernacle.

Plan of the Israeli Tabernacle



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Part II

The life in the holy place of the resurrection person

Chapter 13

The purification of the holy place in order to come to “the end of all flesh”. (Part 2)



The rejection of unrepentant Judaism – until the time of the end.

The majority of the Jews and their leaders in Jesus' time lived an unrepentant life.

13 verse 1-5: "There were present at that season some that told him of the Galileans, whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And Jesus answering said unto them, Suppose ye that these Galileans were sinners above all the (other) Galileans, because they suffered such things? I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent**, ye shall all likewise perish. Or those eighteen, upon whom the tower in Siloam fell, and slew them, think ye that they were sinners above all (other) men that dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, Nay: but, **except ye repent**, ye shall all likewise perish."

Here the Lord reproached the Jews in His days for their un-repentance... Not only the Galileans, that were slain by the sword of Pilate, but **all** Galileans were sinners. Not only were those inhabitants of Jerusalem, who were buried by the fallen tower of Siloam, sinners, but **all** inhabitants were! This does not mean, that the Jews of Jesus' days were not religious. They most certainly were! But their religious practices and actions came from their (sinful) flesh; they did everything by following their self-will. And, even if the works of the flesh seem right in the eyes of men, they are **always** diametrically opposed (and thus contrary) to God's will. For God wants us **to turn to Him** with all our heart (and soul), so that we may be open to His works of grace; that we come to the true purification and sanctification of our life and inner being. If this is a spiritual truth today, in the days when Jesus walked on the earth and lived among men, it was exactly the same! We must therefore be willing to be delivered from our self-will! For this self-will is **always** at war with the will of God; even if sometimes, superficially, it seems to agree with God's will (Romans 8:5-8)!

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A life without sincere repentance is unfruitful for God's Kingdom.

13 verse 6-9: *"He spake also this parable; A certain man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came and sought fruit thereon, and found none. Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down."*

In above text God the Father is pictured as the owner of a vineyard, and that vineyard is the world. And in that world He had planted a fig-tree, and that fig-tree is God's symbol (of the twelve tribes) of Israel. The dresser of the vineyard here is the symbol for the Lord Jesus Christ.

The three years that the owner (i.e. God the Father) waited for the fruit of the fig-tree (i.e. Israel), are an indication of God's offer of grace to Israel. In the Old Covenant time this happened through the shed blood of sacrificial animals; and in the light of the New Testament it is an indication of God's offer of grace (in the first place to the Jews – see Note 1 on page 3) in and through the sacrifice on the cross (and the shed blood) of the Lamb of God. All bloody sacrifices of the Old Testament pointed to the **perfect** Lamb, and thus the **perfect** sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ. After all, He was to spend three days and three nights "in the heart of the earth", when He fulfilled that offering (see Matthew 12:40).

Our conversion and our belief in God's **perfect** sacrifice and in the omnipotence of Jesus, His Son, is a necessity for God, and the **only way** to bring about a NEW LIFE of spiritual fertility within us (and to develop it). His works of grace had to do that for the Jews in those days, and must do it for us also today. However, this is only possible when there is a sincere longing in us to surrender **all** self-will to Jesus Christ; a desire to be completely delivered from our self-will. Just as Jesus Christ was killed on the cross (and had to be killed) for our sins, so too must we covet (and pray for) this process of the cross in our thinking, heart and life, whereby we express the will that we too are prepared to completely die to our old and sinful ego, to our sinful "flesh". When the Lord sees this sincere desire in us, then it shall be done in our life, so that all thoughts and desires, all our actions and walk, etc. which are not according to His will and pleasing, be destroyed, over and over again.

The fig-tree (type of a religious Jew) bore no fruit, but only leaves. And leaves only serve the life of the tree itself; but fruit serves the reproduction, and serves the life of others. A religion according to one's own view therefore is always ego-centric, and will always seek one's own advantage and honor, even if this is often hidden under beautiful show motivations. It is only the love of God, planted in the purified heart of man, which brings forth eternal fruit.

We also see from this parable, that our Savior is **very** patient, and that His sole purpose is to grant us grace (still). That therefore was the reason the dresser of the vineyard (type of the Lord Jesus Christ) requested another year's respite of the owner (type of God the Father). He wanted to give extra care to the tree (type of the religious Jew) by digging around the tree, and fertilizing it. As you can see, we have a wonderful (and very gracious) High Priest, Who prays and intercedes for us with God, and Who **wishes to bring us to repentance** by allowing trials in our life, and Who wishes to put His precious Word in our heart. These trials and this Word of God must convict us of our un-repentance, and of our self-willed attitude; they are to cause us to repent and surrender to Him, that He cleanse us of all dead works, and of all sinful thoughts and desires.

We see the same patience with regard to the Jews of those days in Israel. The judgment of God did not follow immediately after the rejection and crucifixion of the Son of man. God waited approximately another forty years, and during that period the Gospel of His grace was proclaimed among the Jews. It was only around the year 70 B.C. that God's judgment was fulfilled over this nation. Then the city of Jerusalem was burned down by the Roman armies, and many were killed by the sword. The survivors were exiled from their country... and were scattered over the whole earth!

The Pharisee, the false laborer, came into being by the unrepentant life of the Jews at the time.

13 verse 10-17: *"And he was teaching in one of the synagogues on the Sabbath. And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself. And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity. And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God. And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the Sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the Sabbath day. The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the Sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering? And ought not this woman, being a daughter (of the line) of Abraham, whom satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years (already), be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day? And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him."*

We see a woman, who, because of a decrease in the muscles, had become very crooked, and had been bent down for eighteen years already, and was not able to straighten herself. It is the same with sin within us. It can bind us in such a way, that we cannot but sin. The same way the drunkard is driven to his strong liquor; the junkie to his needle; the whore-hopper to the whores; the adulterer (and thus married man) to his mistresses; the gambler to the gambling house! It (sin) then has become such in that life, that one cannot do without it anymore (and often does not want to either). How far a

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person who follows (likes to follow) his own will, in whichever way of life, can be driven away from the (complete) freedom of sin and bondages we (can) have in Jesus Christ, our Savior. Therefore, beloved, it is important that we obey Him in all things! Let us therefore seek Jesus at all times, that He, through our faith in His sacrifice on the cross, make it possible for us to – in and by Him – be completely free from **every** sin and **every** bondage. He will deliver us from all bondages, just as He did that for that woman on that Sabbath. It was Sabbath, when Jesus delivered her. The same way we, too, will be (completely) delivered by Jesus, when we are and remain in that Sabbath of faith – by the which are meant the rest in faith and the subjection wherein we expect **everything** from Him – because by His death on the cross He brought about eternal redemption from all works of darkness for us (Hebrews 9:12).

Just as Jewry by its un-repentance brought forth Pharisees, so you and I will be **hypocrites** in all labor for Jesus if we do not repent to the depth of our heart (and soul) in order to (be able to) receive from Him all the necessary works of grace in our heart and life. The Pharisees occupied themselves, zealously, with useless religious acts, whereby they eventually ruined themselves more and more, because these religious acts had nothing to do with (the service and subjection to) the LIVING God; with the result that they were kept in bondage of (the power of) sin. The Pharisees were, and continued to be, money grabbers and were desirous of the honor (and appreciation) of people! You can see how dangerous a religion can be when one follows (or likes to follow) one's self-will; for one only deceives oneself!

Un-repentance leads us to egocentric views regarding God's Word, and thus to (bringing) a false teaching; it causes us to be workers of iniquity.

We will now have a closer look at a worker of God, who unfortunately, despite his faith, did not have a good conscience all the time; and this was caused by the fact that his heart was not **thoroughly** converted!

13 verse 18-19: *"Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls (birds) of the air (here: symbol for demonic powers) lodged in the branches of it."*

Here is a person who allowed the seed of God's Word into his heart, and who received it with gladness. The seed started to sprout in that heart, and to grow and flower, whereby his life was seized with the LIVING Word of God. The mustard seed became a mighty tree... type of an enthusiastic and diligent worker of and for God! But look, "birds" came and build nests in the foliage of that tree... In Matthew 13 Jesus explained that "birds" are the powers of the evil one (verse 4 in combination with verse 19). In above text it says birds "of the air". The apostle Paul therefore calls devils "spiritual wickedness in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

When a believer, a laborer in Christ, a child of God, is not very particular (anymore) about sin, and allows its works in his heart and life, because he is not faithful (anymore) in his repentance to his Lord and God... then he is to be compared with this mustard tree, which is increasingly infested with nests of birds of (from) the air, namely influenced by the "spiritual wickedness in high places" (these are: the evil powers of the air). Such a laborer, by the works of (the power of) sin, will lose the grace of a pure view on (and thus insight in) God's Word and will. He will fall into false doctrines. Therefore it is very understandable that the Lord followed up this parable with the parable of the yeast, because it describes the type of (the power of) sin.

13 verse 20-21: *"And again he said, Whereunto shall I liken the kingdom of God (i.e. the church of God here on earth)? It is like leaven (i.e. the type of sin and false teachings), which a woman took and hid in three measures of meal, till the whole was leavened."*

The "Kingdom of God" in this world is formed by its followers; they are the believers (namely the followers of Jesus), the (spiritual) children of God who together reveal His Kingdom in this world. This "Kingdom of God" was revealed wonderfully at the time of the apostles (read the book of Acts); the glory of God was clearly present in them. How differently it was with the "Kingdom of God" in the dark Middle Ages, when false teachings and idol worship was the order of the day.

In this second parable the "Kingdom of God" was likened to leaven! Leaven or yeast is a fungus or mould. A spore (a reproductive cell), invisible to the naked eye, settles on food or drink and develops its flake of fungus or mycelium (tissue out of which a flake of fungus develops) in that food or drink: an almost invisible network of fine threads works its way into the food, and develops in that drink. The same way the yeast fungus develops in flour. After some time there is no "common" flour anymore. The yeast has mixed with it, and a (totally) sour dough resulted, called sourdough. In all of Scripture nothing else is meant by leaven but sin, which is **all** rebellion and resistance towards God and His law! The "woman" in above text is the type for the then ruling church; and she mixed this sin, this sinful life, with "three measures of meal". This pure, white flour is the type for the Word of God. The "three measures" indicate the divinity thereof.

Here servants of God **in name** are mentioned, therefore they are **name-Christians** (Christians in name only), **hypocrites**. For, deep in their heart they are workers of iniquity, but... they hide this deep within their heart. These "servants", by their sinful life, give a wrong picture (and example) of God and His Word. The reason is that the Spirit of God, Who alone is the **right** interpreter of God's Word, has deserted them; wherefore such "servants" (and because of their wrong teachings, many believers) arrive at human, and thus wrong, insights and explanations of the Word of God! By such "servants" the bible is "explained" and deformed into a "(church)doctrine" with nothing of God anymore! One could not possibly find the

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way to salvation in such a wrong "doctrine". How little it is **emphasized** by such people, that Jesus is the **only** and **true way** to ETERNAL LIFE; the **only** Gate and Door (and thus the only entrance way) to (the obtaining of) God's salvation; and that one only receives redemption from sin and curse through faith in the finished work of the Lamb of God (Hebrews 9:12 and 14). In their "doctrine" one sometimes finds very bad idolatrous and differing teachings, whereby believers stray from God. Is it any wonder that satan is all too willing to use such workers to bring confusion in the pure teachings of God? The same way the scribes and Pharisees twisted and explained the divine scriptures after their human insights and ideas, whereby they, also by their sinful life, rejected the only Gate, which gives access to the LIFE: namely our Lord Jesus Christ. While He was the only One, Who, if they had wanted to at all, would have been able to deliver them from all their sins and errors!

13 verse 22-24a: "And he went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? and he said unto them, Strive to enter in at the strait (narrow) gate..."

In this life we have to choose between a life of pleasures and amusement – with as a result a terribly sobering hang-over thereafter (which will always be the sign of a life wherein one follows his own will in every respect) – or a life, wherein we allow God, by His excellent grace, to plant in our heart and life His holy standards. Once we have made the choice for God (and His law), we must show it through our lifestyle every day anew. This (conscious) choice for Jesus **and** a life after His standards often brings struggles with it, a struggle with self. Sometimes the temptation – which, by satan, come across our path through sinful people or through tempting things; and which could be experienced as very desirable or good by our despicable and sinful flesh – is so great, that the choice for Jesus, and the pure life He offers, becomes very difficult because of this. Let us learn to flee to Him in prayer, when we are (or will be) engaged in such a struggle, whereby satan, right from the start, will be shown up very soon as a liar and a murderer!

We must see that we, fighting our own sinful "flesh", enter in through the narrow gate, by the which is meant the spiritual experience of rebirth. The rebirth is the beginning of a change (namely the re-creation) of a sinner unto a child of God, by the spiritual contact with Him, Who has accepted us by our conversion to Him and by our faith in Him and in His atoning blood. We, fighting against **everything** that is not according to His will and pleasing, must try to stay on the narrow path, on the (only) way which leads us to that spiritual fullness in Him, whereto He has called us. And that path, that way, is our Lord Jesus Christ, Who said: "I am **the way, the truth, and the life**" (John 14:6). If we don't, we will fall prey to the temptations and deceits of satan, who has no other intention than to draw the Christian away from the **only and right way**, which Christ truly is – and of which the bible shows us that we (in faith) should walk this path – and that would be the end of us, as is written up in the following verses. We shall then fall under God's judgment.

13 verse 24b-28: "...for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able. When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are: Then shall ye begin to say, We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our street, But he shall say, I tell you, I know you not whence ye are; depart from me, all ye workers of iniquity. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall see Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and you yourselves thrust out."

Beloved, one day the door of God's mercy for the unbelievers and unrepentant shall be closed; namely when the Great Tribulation begins. Only for the Jews there will be another three-and-a-half years' time of grace under the ministry of the "two witnesses of God"... (see Revelation 11:1-13). During the Great Tribulation new conversions among the so-called gentile nations will **not** take place anymore; namely after that the Bride(church) will have gone to her place in the desert, where she shall be kept safe for the terrors of the antichrist during the 3½ years of the Great Tribulation (Revelation 12:6, 14; 2 Thessalonians 2:7).

All other (sincere) believers, who did truly repent, but whom the Lord Jesus had to leave behind because they had not been considered perfect by Him (see Matthew 25:10-12; Luke 17:34-37; Revelation 12:17), He will strengthen through His Spirit during this Great Tribulation, that they testify of their faith in Jesus Christ, in spite of the anti-Christian time, that they, in so doing, still enter God's Kingdom; even if they might pay for it with their martyr's blood. For they will have to give their lives for (their faith in) Jesus (Revelation 7:9-17).

However, all those who are (and remain) unrepentant in heart, all the workers of iniquity, will always stay outside the door of grace, and fall under God's judgments; even if they think and maintain the opposite, and even if they performed miracles in the name of Jesus, as is mentioned clearly in Matthew 7:21-23: "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but **he that doeth the will of my Father** which is in heaven. **Many** will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, **ye that work iniquity.**" (Compare these verses with Luke 13:25-27)

13 verse 29-30: "And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God. And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last."

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The highest and most wonderful promises are made by the Lord to the Church of the last days, "the Church at Laodicea", as it is called in Revelation 3:14-22. It is a lukewarm church, fallen deeply into sin, but its victors, by their perfect union with Christ, will be able **to sit in His throne with Him** as a part of the Bride(church).

Unrepentant laborers will develop into persecutors of the true children of God.

13 verse 31-35: "The same day there came certain of the Pharisees, saying unto him, Get thee out, and depart hence: for Herod will kill thee. And he said unto them, Go ye, and tell that fox, Behold, I cast out devils, and I do cures to day and to morrow, and the third day I shall be perfected (am I ready [to die]). Nevertheless I must walk to day, and to morrow, and the day following: for it cannot be that a prophet perish out of Jerusalem. O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, which killest the prophets, and stonest them that are sent unto thee; how often would I have gathered thy children together, as a hen doth gather her brood under her wings, and ye would not! Behold, your house is left unto you desolate: and verily I say unto you, Ye shall not see me (anymore), until the time come when ye shall say, Blessed is he that cometh in the name of the Lord."

In these verses the enmity towards all of God's prophets, which, in the course of history has existed among the majority of the leaders of Israel and among Jewry, is expressed. Jerusalem, the religious center of all Israelites, had killed and stoned the prophets sent by God, in its rebellion against God.

Herod Antipas, who was tetrarch of Galilee and Perea (prince over one fourth part of the Roman province of Palestine), wanted to kill Jesus (the Prophet among prophets) too. This Herod was also the murderer of the prophet John the Baptist. But Jesus, the Son of God, was not afraid of him and his threatening language at all. For Jesus knew exactly how much time was given Him by God the Father, before He was to fulfill His sacrifice on the cross; hence the sure answer, which we read in verses 32-33.

But the Pharisees and scribes, the religious leaders of the Jews in those days, were also very hostile to Jesus, so much so that they eventually had Him killed. It was they, who, with God's intentional permission (see Isaiah 53:10), had Jesus crucified. You see that unrepentant religious laborers are instruments of the evil one. It is these hypocritical laborers who lay violent hands to the lives of true children of God, throughout all of history!

When the period of grace wherein we (now) still live, is coming to an end, one will see the same thing happen. The false church – in Revelation 17 called "the great whore", by the which that satanic and great Babylon is meant – will then be drunk with the blood of the saints (verse 6)!

Because of this unrepentant attitude of the Jews then, which reached its peak when the Son of man was murdered, God's judgment fell on them, and God definitely withdrew His offer of grace from this nation! None of this nation that turned away from God, would see the Savior with his eye of faith (verse 35). And this is to remain so until the time nears of the end of the present world! This explains the stubborn unbelief of the Jews, up to this present day, concerning Jesus Messiah.

We now near the day of the end: the Jews as a nation have returned to the land of Palestine. And still one is blind to Jesus Messiah, leaving out of consideration the few, personal conversions. But one day this nation, driven by their anxiety, wherein it will be led, **and** by the preaching of the two witnesses of God (see Revelation 11:1-13), will come to see Him Whom they had pierced, and crucified, because they had rejected Him then, in their (fore)fathers. Then, at the return, with great power and glory, of Jesus on the clouds, this nation (one third part of them – see Zechariah 13:8-9) will have already been so prepared spiritually, that it, with one accord, will say to the coming Lord: "Blessed is He, Who comes in the name of the Lord." To God be all glory for this!

With the Jewish nation as a cautioning example the Church of the Lord Jesus Christ is shown here, that it is to watch out for an unrepentant heart, for all forms of un-repentance, because they otherwise would miss the so needed, and thus indispensable, works of the Spirit of God – based on their faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ – unto redemption, renewal and confirmation; something it will absolutely need, especially in the end-time, in order to reach its purpose of perfection.

In the previous chapter we showed you that the Church must also be cleansed of the seven "Christian" demons, because these will otherwise lead them to a religion, useless to God and to themselves, if these (demons) should come to rule in the hearts of Christians. Moreover, the number 7 (the number of God's holiness) tells us that these "Christian" demons, working in and through Christians, imitate (copy) God, even unto His wonders and signs! This number also tells us that their acting with wonders and signs (which originate from satan), will strongly increase at the end of the period of grace (Matthew 24:11).

The end of Chapter 13 (from Part 2)

By E. van den Worm
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P.S.:

For Chapter 1 till 12, see our Blog at 2009-11-10, 12-10 and 2010-1-10, 2-10, 3-10, 4-10, 5-10, 6-10, 8-10, 9-10, 10-10 and 11-10.