

The sermon of the Lord Jesus Christ on the mount



The constitution of the Kingdom of heaven on earth.

Part 1:

The ladder of God's blessing bringing grace

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(Mt. 5:1-12; Rev. 19:9)

Part 2 Our earthly Divine calling: "And you shall be My witnesses".

(Mt. 5:13-16)

Part 3 The 10 fulfilled (perfect) laws of the Kingdom of heaven on earth (the Church), given by our Lord Jesus Christ.

(Mt. 5:17-48, Mt. 6 and 7)

General note:

1. We generally have used the Amplified or King James Version of the Bible. One could, of course, when so desired, use any other Bible translation.
2. We have **frequently** added text between brackets in the Bible verses **to clarify the meaning of the Bible verses.**
3. In most cases where **he** or **him** is mentioned to point to **males** it also counts for **females.**
4. It is allowed to copy the study, on which way, when the source is mentioned.
5. If this study is a blessing for you, it's our wish that the message shall be passed on to others. We ask you in the first place to attend other people on our website. But you could also, as far as we are concerned, copy it (many times), and hand it out. A margin for profit is **not** allowed hereby. See note 4, above.

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Part 1

The ladder of God's blessing bringing grace

**“For the grace of God,
that bringeth salvation
hath appeared to all men”.**

Titus 2:11

1.

Introduction

Tit. 2:11-14 For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men, 12 Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; 13 Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; 14 Who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto Himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.

This study tells us about that, what God has given to His covenant children (and wher we have to take consciously part in), by our Lord Jesus Christ, through sharing the redemptive power of His death and resurrection which He has accomplished in the crosspoint of the ages. This study further tells us what He asks from us.

God's purpose with His covenant children.

1 Cor. 2:7-12 But we speak the wisdom of God in a mystery, even the hidden wisdom, which God ordained before the world unto our glory: 8 Which none of the princes of this world knew: for had they known it, they would not have crucified the Lord of glory. 9 But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him. 10 But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God. 11 For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him? even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God. 12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit which is of God; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of God.

*Gen. 1:26 And God said, Let us make man **in our image, after our likeness***

He wants to recreate men, who **at the end** will have **the same glory as His eternal Son.**

Eph. 1:3-10 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ: 4 According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the beloved. 7 In Whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of His grace; 8 Wherein He hath abounded toward us in all wisdom and prudence; 9 Having made known unto us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He hath purposed in Himself: 10 That in the dispensation of the fullness of times (i.e. in the end-time) He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven (the deceased souls), and which are on earth; even in Him

1 Jn. 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

He wants to allot His covenant children – they, who have made a covenant with the Lord God – with His **perfect salvation bringing grace**, which He, **especially in the end-time**, wants to share out in all perfection **here on earth.**

Hab. 2:14 For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.

Rev. 14:6 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, **and to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people***

This great purpose has been remained, even after man has fallen in sin by the temptation of satan¹, by which all offspring of Adam and Eve are born in original sin.

Ps. 51:5 *Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.*

Eph. 2:1-10 *And you [hath He quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and **were by nature the children of wrath**, even as others. 4 But God, Who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: [it is] **the gift of God**: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast. 10 For we are **His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.***

Rom. 8:20-21 *For the creature was made subject to vanity, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected [the same] in hope, 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.*

He will accomplish this salvation bringing grace in His covenant children, till His final purpose is achieved.

Eph. 4:13 *Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ***

2 Cor. 5:17 *Therefore if any man [be] in Christ, [he is] a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, **all things are become new.***

With "in Christ" is meant "living in the perfect Christ nature".

Mt. 13:43 *Then **shall the righteous shine forth as the sun** in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

1 Jn. 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Rev. 21:1-7 *And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. 2 And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven (this is not one action, but a continual communication with the throne of God in heaven) prepared as a bride adorned for her Husband. 3 And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with (in) them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with them, [and be] their God. 4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, either shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. 5 And He that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And He said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful. 6 And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely. 7 He that overcometh shall **inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.***

The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ.

He alone is the by our Father God given Person, Who will bring us up to God's ultimate aim. Here on earth He works in us through His Holy Spirit.

Jn. 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Acts 2:36 *Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.*

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

2 Cor. 3:17-18 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

1 Tim. 2:5 *For [there is] one God, and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus;*

Hebr. 9:11-15 *But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and*

¹ We write the word satan not with a capital, as it is not a name, but a word meaning opponent or adversary, accuser.

calves, but by His own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **eternal redemption** [for us]. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall **the blood of Christ**, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this cause He is the Mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of **eternal inheritance**.

Zech. 4:6 Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This [is] the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Jesus' Divine heritage

By the proclamation of Jesus' Divine Testament – His Gospel. He offers **all men** His Divine heritage, obtained by the death and resurrection of the Lamb of God, our Lord Jesus Christ.

We partake in this Divine heritage by:

1. Our **faith in the redemptive and perfecting power of His shed Blood on Golgotha**,
2. Our **faith in the almighty redemptive power of our Lord Jesus Christ**, Who shares with us His heritage by and through His Holy Spirit,
3. Our **perfect repentance of all sins to God**,
4. Our **confession of our guilt**,
5. Our **daily surrender and opening of our being**, by which He is able to enter our body, soul and spirit to accomplish His salvation bringing grace,
6. **Continually fleeing from the might of sin and sinful circumstances, struggling in the power of the Holy Spirit against the temptations of sin, never leave the first love, the love for God and for our Lord Jesus Christ.**

2.

The statements of the Lord Jesus, forming the (9+1) steps of the ladder of His blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

- **Step 1: The poor in spirit.** Recognition of our lost state without His reconciling grace, being aware of our poverty in Divine life (Mt. 5:3).
- **Step 2: The mourning ones. Confession of sins. Faith in the reconciliation with God, faith in Jesus' redemptive power, looking at the cross of Golgotha** (Mt. 5:4).
- **Step 3: The meek ones. Beginning of the redemption of the might of our sins by His sharing His death on Golgotha. At our side: the meek acceptance of the process of the cross**, the death of the old, sinful old man in us by spiritually eating of His flesh and drinking of His blood, so willingly partaking in the death of God's Lamb. An experience, which Jesus has to let us go through (Mt. 5:5).
- **Step 4: They, who hunger and thirst after righteousness.** Hope, that He shares His resurrection life with us. Hunger and thirst after it. **Being born again out of God** (Mt. 5:6).
- **Step 5: The merciful ones.** This mercifulness is based on the love of God. Here God's love begins to break through. Further sharing in His resurrection life (Mt. 5:7).
- **Step 6: The pure in heart.** The perfect sharing in His redemption of the might of sin. These pure ones in heart live and walk in Divine pureness and holiness already here on earth (Mt. 5:8).
- **Step 7: The peacemakers.** Sharing in His anointed work (Mt. 5:9).
- **Step 8: The ones, which walk in Divine righteousness here on earth.** They are hated by satan and sinful men, and are persecuted by them (Mt. 5:10).
- **Step 9: They who live godly on earth.** They are fully drenched in the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by this bear His Name. They are calumniated and persecuted because of His Name (Mt. 5:11-12, Rev. 3:12).

These are the 9 steps of the spiritual ladder of Jacob, which brings us to the throne of our heavenly Father and of the Lamb of God. They reveal a spiritual growth up to the perfection of the new man in Christ. On earth a growing, negative experience of life among the fellow men is our part by the growing might of satan, the might of darkness, especially in the end-time.

Rev. 22:11 He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.

Mt. 24:12 And **because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold.**

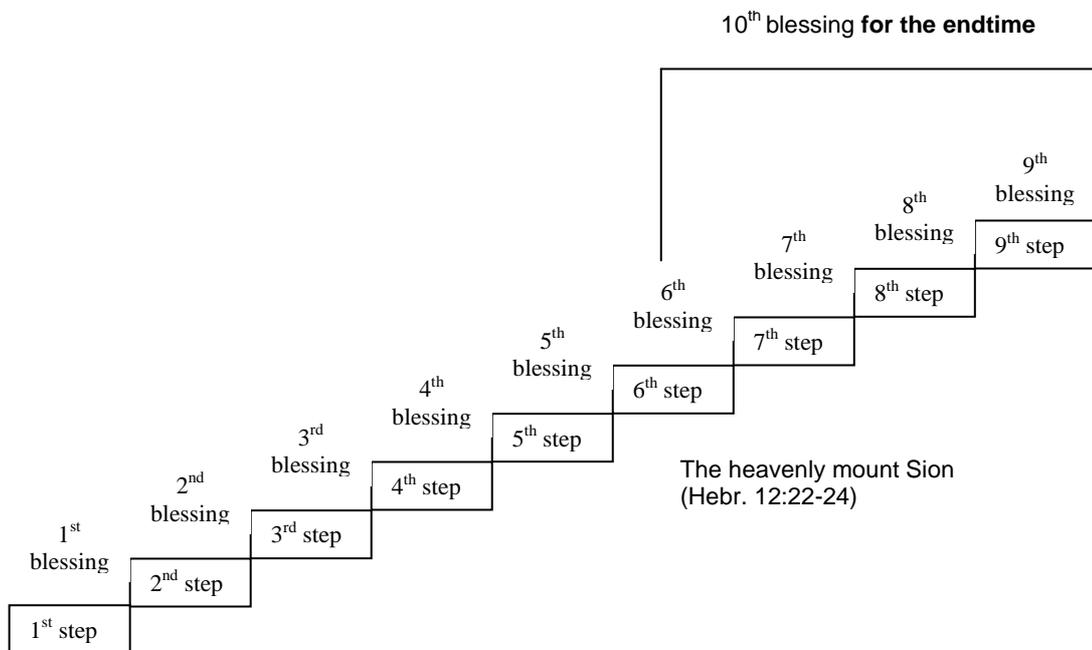
Eze. 21:25 And thou, profane wicked prince of Israel, whose day is come, when iniquity [shall have] an end. (AV)

And you, O slain, wicked prince of Israel, of whom has come his day in the time of iniquity of the end(time). (literally translation)

This utmost iniquity happens in the time of the anti-christ. In this end-time the Lord Jesus Christ, Who Himself is the Living Word of God, in His Word has added a **10th salvation (blessing) bringing step**. This step brings not but a single child of God or a few perfect, sanctified children of God about, but a **whole Church** of perfect sanctified souls, the **Bride Church – in which the 144.000 develop**. This Bride Church consists out of **the halve of all true children of God** – the so-called “wise virgins”, Mt. 25:2. For further study on this subject, see our website: “The wise and foolish virgins” (which can be freely downloaded from our website: www.endtime-messenger.com).

With this Bride Church the Lord Jesus has a Divine instrument for restoration of the Church, world wide, and for bringing about the great world wide revival, which bring countless souls in the Kingdom of God (see Rev. 7:9).

- **Step 10:** the final blessing (salvation) bringing grace, destined for the end-time: **Blessed are they, which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb**. Sharing the membership of the Bride Church. Clothed, inwardly and outwardly, with the glory of God and with His Divine, kingly authority and power already on earth. The glory of the Bride revealed on earth, the manifestation of the sons of God (Rom. 8:19).



Scheme of the 9+1=10 blessing bringing steps of the ladder of Gods’ grace.

3.

The 1st step of God’s blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are the poor in spirit.

The acknowledgement of the own sinful state and poverty of real, spiritual life.

Mt. 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.

The natural, carnal man discovers – being on the first step of this ladder – that he is poor in spiritual, divine life. His spiritual poverty is complete. He discovers, that he lives in the dimension of darkness. He converts himself to God and his Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rom. 7:13-25 Was then that which is good made death unto me? God forbid. But sin, that it might appear sin, working death in me by that which is good; that sin by the commandment might become exceeding sinful. 14 For we know that the law is spiritual: but I am carnal, sold under sin. 15 For that which I do I allow not: for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. 16 If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that [it is] good. 17 Now then it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 18 For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but [how] to perform that which is good I find not. 19 For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do. 20 Now if I do that I would not, it is no more I that do it, but sin that dwelleth in me. 21 I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me. 22 For I delight in the law of God after the inward man: 23 But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. 24 O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death? 25 I thank God through Jesus Christ our Lord. So then with the mind I myself serve the law of God; but with the flesh the law of sin.

Jesus Christ, the only by God given Redeemer and Saviour, given to the whole of mankind.

Acts 4:12 *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*

Mt. 1:21 *And she (Mary) shall bring forth a Son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.*

Jn. 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to **become** the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name:*

When we have accepted Jesus we are not yet children of God, but we will **become** so.

Jn. 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*

Acts 10:43 *To Him give all the prophets witness, that through His Name whosoever believeth in Him shall receive remission of sins.*

1 Cor. 1:30 *But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us **wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption:***

1 Tim. 2:5 *For [there is] **one** God, and **one** Mediator between God and men, **the Man Christ Jesus***

The Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ and His Word are **the only light** on our path of life.

Jn. 1:1-5, 9 *That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life; 2 For the life was manifested, and we have seen [it], and bear witness, and shew unto you that eternal life, which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us;) 3 That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you, that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship [is] with the Father, and with His Son Jesus Christ. 4 And these things write we unto you, that your joy may be full. 5 This then is the message which we have heard of Him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in Him is no darkness at all. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us [our] sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

Jn. 8:12 *Then spake Jesus again unto them, saying, I am the Light of the world: he that followeth Me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.*

1 Jn. 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as He is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanseth us from all sin.*

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the living Word, which lightens us through the labour of the called and anointed preachers.

Ps. 119:105, 130, 140 *Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path. 130 The entrance of Thy Words giveth light; it giveth understanding unto the simple. 140 Thy Word is very pure: therefore Thy servant loveth it.*

Rom. 10:14-15 *How then shall they call on Him in Whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, except they be sent? as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!*

God's anointed Word reveals the poverty of our inner man. His Word, anointed by the Spirit of God is our eyesalve, which takes away our spiritual blindness.

Jn. 16:8 *And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:*

Rev. 3:18 *I counsel thee to buy of Me gold (picture of the divine life) tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment (picture of divine holiness), that thou mayest be clothed, and [that] the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve (picture of divine knowledge and wisdom), that thou mayest see.*

Eph. 1:17-20 *That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of Him: 18 The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is **the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints, 19 And what [is] the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe,** according to the working of His mighty power, 20 Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set [Him] at His own right hand in the heavenly [places]*

Eph. 2:1-9 *And you [hath He quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins; 2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience: 3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were **by nature the children of wrath**, even as others. 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up*

together, and made [us] sit together **in heavenly [places]** in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in [His] kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **[it is] the gift of God:** 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Rom. 3:10-18 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one: 11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. 12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one. 13 Their throat [is] an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips: 14 Whose mouth [is] full of cursing and bitterness: 15 Their feet [are] swift to shed blood: 16 Destruction and misery [are] in their ways: 17 And the way of peace have they not known: 18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

Here we have the 14-fold accusation of the heavenly Justice, by which man, fallen in sin, is charged with.

Rom. 8:20-21 For the creature was made subject to vanity (to sin), not willingly, but by reason of him (satan) who hath subjected [the same] (by bringing about the original sin in human life. God in His wisdom had admitted this action of satan in hope (that man will repent himself to Him), 21 Because the creature itself also shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption into the glorious liberty of the children of God.

With "vanity" is meant, that human life brings forth no eternal fruit, ever before judgement bringing sin.

Ps. 51:5 Behold, I was shapen in iniquity; and in sin did my mother conceive me.

Jer. 17:9-10 The heart [is] deceitful above all [things], and desperately wicked: who can know it? 10 I the LORD search the heart (picture of our will to love Him), [I] try the reins (letterl. vert. kidneys), even to give every man according to his ways, [and] according to the fruit of his doings.

The kidneys are the catalysts of the human body for secretion of all gifts. Spiritually they points to our good will to be delivered of all sin, our good will to be converted to God.

What we have to do, when God's light comes over us.

1. We have to acknowledge before God the poverty of our spiritual state.

2 Chr. 7:13-14 If I shut up heaven that there be no rain, or if I command the locusts to devour the land, or if I send pestilence among My people; 14 If My people, which are called by My Name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

2. We have to repent and turn to to God and to our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Chr. 16: 9a For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of [them] whose heart [is] perfect toward Him.

Eze. 33:11 Say unto them, [As] I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Acts 17:30 And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent

3. We must have faith in the power of the Lord Jesus Christ to save us.

Jn. 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to **become** the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on His Name:

Jn. 3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Jn. 3:36 The (one) believimg the Son has eternal life, but the (one) disobeying the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (literally transl.)

Jn. 6:47 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on Me hath everlasting life.

Eph. 1:19-20 And what [is] the exceeding greatness of His power to us-ward who believe, according to the working of His mighty power, 20 Which He wrought in Christ, when He raised Him from the dead, and set [Him] at His own right hand in the heavenly [places]

Faith is a gift of God.

Eph. 2:8 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: **[it is] the gift of God**

Rom. 12:3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think [of himself] more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man **the measure of faith.**

Faith has to grow up to maturity, from babes in Christ up to the maturity in Christ.

Eph. 4:13-16 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ:** 14 That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; 15 But speaking the truth in love, may grow up into Him in all things, Which is the Head, [even] Christ: 16 From Whom the whole body fitly joined together and compacted by that which every joint supplieth, according to the effectual working in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in love.

4. **We must be willing to be saved.** God has given us a free will. We have to open our body, soul and spirit for Him, so the King of honour is able to enter and build in His salvation bringing work in our body, soul and spirit.

Ps. 24:7-10 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors (these gates, doors, points to our ears, will and heart, the doors of our body, soul and spirit) ; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who [is] this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift [them] up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, he [is] the King of glory.

Isa. 40:3 The voice of him (the called and anointed laborer of Christ) that crieth in the wilderness (of the sinful human heart), Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert (of your sinful self) a highway for our God.

Rev. 3:20 Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.

5. **We have to come in prayer before Him.**

Mt. 11:28-30 Come unto Me (Jesus), all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke (your cross) upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For My yoke [is] easy, and My burden is light.

Isa 1:18 Come now, and let us reason **together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

6. **We have remain open continually for His grace bringing work.**

2 Cor. 4:10-11 Always bearing about in the body **the dying of the Lord Jesus**, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

7. **We have to confess our sins before Him.**

1 Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

Ps. 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Prov. 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh them shall have mercy.

Isa. 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid [his] face from you, **that he will not hear.**

8. **We have to obey Him in our further life.**

Jn. 3:36 He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

The (one) believing the Son has eternal life, but the (one) disobeying the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains on him. (literally transl.)

4.

The 2nd step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are they that mourn.

We mourn, because sin so often still reigns in our heart and life. Then we confess our sins and have faith in reconciliation with God. Hereby we look in faith on the cross at Golgotha, where Jesus has accomplished our reconciliation with God for ever.

Ps. 119:136 Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not Thy law.

We discover in God's light of Word and Spirit:

1. **That sin still so often reigns in our mind, heart and life**, in spite of our good intentions.

Jn. 16:8 And when He is come, He will reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment:

His Spirit convinces us of our sins.

2. **That we, in own human power** – by doing our very best – **are not able to come forth out of darkness of sin**, and mourn therefore about it.

Rom. 7:13-25 The complete verses are already mentioned in chapter 3 (The 1st step of God's blessing bringing grace) under "Blessed are the poor in spirit"

Mt. 26:41 Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

3. **That we only partially keep our outward man under control by denying our sinful nature**, and by fighting against it. But if the temptation is too strong, we again fall into sin because of our weakness.

Lk. 9:23a And He said to them all, If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself.

4. **That we can be redeemed from our sinful nature, and from our committed sins, by Jesus only. These sins we have to confess.** We, together with Jesus, have to wash them in the Blood of God's Lamb.

Mt. 11:28-29 Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke (your personal cross) upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.

1 Jn. 1:9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

James 5:16 Confess your faults one to another (to the person against whom we have made yourselves guilty), and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

We have to confess our committed sins also towards people, against whom we have trodden in transgression.

Hebr. 12:1-2 Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight (every big sin), and the sin which doth so easily beset us (the small transgressions), and let us run with patience the race (for bringing about the victory over sin by keeping faithfully the cross-way) that is set before us, 2 Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of [our] faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.

Hebr. 10:21-22 And [having] an High Priest over the house of God; 22 Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water.

Acts 24:16 And herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and [toward] men.

Ps. 32:5 I acknowledged my sin unto Thee, and mine iniquity have I not hid. I said, I will confess my transgressions unto the LORD; and Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin.

Ps. 103:12 As far as the east is from the west, so far hath He removed our transgressions from us.

Prov. 28:13 He that covereth his sins shall not prosper: but whoso confesseth and forsaketh [them] shall have mercy.

Isa. 1:18 Come now, and let us **reason together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

Isa. 40:1-2 Comfort ye, comfort ye My people, saith your God. 2 Speak ye comfortably to Jerusalem, and cry unto her, that her warfare is accomplished, that her iniquity is pardoned: for she hath received of the LORD'S hand double for all her sins (forgiveness **and** divine life).

Rev. 7:14 And I said unto him, Sir, thou knowest. And he said to me, These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

1 Petr. 3:21 The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience – purified in the blood of God's Lamb – toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ

A cleansed conscience is needed, when we want to be baptised in water. **If we don't confess our sins, He doesn't hear our prayer!**

Isa. 59:1-2 Behold, the LORD'S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither His ear heavy, that it cannot hear: 2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid [His] face from you, **that he will not hear.**

5. **That He as God's Lamb has completely paid the penalty for our sins on Golgotha.** By this He has reconciled us with the Father, by which we may receive remission of sins.

Isa. 53:4-12 Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. 5 But He [was] wounded **for our transgressions**, He was bruised for our **iniquities**: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. 6 All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the LORD hath laid on Him (on Jesus) the iniquity of us all. 7 He was oppressed, and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth: He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so He openeth not His mouth. 8 He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare His generation? for He was cut off out of the land of the living: **for the transgression of my people** was He stricken. 9 And He made His grave with the wicked (the murderers which were crucified together with Him), and with the rich in His death (He was laid in the grave of Joseph of Arimathea) ; because He had done no violence, neither [was any] deceit in His mouth. 10 **Yet it pleased the LORD (JaHWeH) to bruise him**; He hath put [Him] to grief: when Thou shalt make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see [His] seed (the repented souls, who by His grace are made children of God) , He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. 11 He shall see of the travail of His soul, [and] shall be satisfied: by His knowledge shall My righteous Servant justify many; for He shall bear their iniquities. 12 Therefore will I divide Him [a portion] with the great, and He shall divide the spoil with the strong; because He hath poured out His soul unto death: and He was numbered with the transgressors; and He bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.

Jn. 3:14-21 And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up (crucified): 15 That whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. 16 **For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.** 17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; **but that the world through Him might be saved.** 18 He that believeth on Him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the Name of the only begotten Son of God. 19 And this is the condemnation, that Light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than Light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the Light, neither cometh to the Light, lest his deeds should be reprov'd. 21 But he that doeth truth cometh to the Light, that his deeds may be made manifest, that they are wrought in God.

2 Cor. 5:21 For he hath made Him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made **the righteousness of God** in Him.

Hebr. 4:14-16 Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. 15 For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

5.

The 3rd step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are the meek.

The meek acceptance of God's sharing in the death and resurrection of the Lamb of God. Beginning of the redemption of the might of sin.

Mt. 5:5 *Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.*

Now the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus Christ can really begin in our personal being. Now Jesus, as God's Mediator, shares with us His death and resurrection, accomplished at the cross at Golgotha. Now He really deals with the curse and slavery, which reigns in our old, sinful life. He shares with us **the purifying Fire if His Spirit, conform the law of the Spirit of life.**

Mt. 3:11-12 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and [with] fire: 12 Whose fan [is] in his hand, and he will throughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but he will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

Rom. 8:2 *For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.*

Now He will truly purge the floor of our heart and life from all chaff (old, sinful life).

1 Jn. 3:8b *For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil.*

What we have to do, because we have to co-operate with Him.

His grace doesn't happen **automatically** in us.

1. We have to believe in Him as our Redeemer.

Mt. 9:29 *Then touched He their eyes, saying, according to your faith be it unto you.*

Jn .3:16 For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

2. **We must have faith, that He is able to redeem, purify and sanctify us for 100%, already here on earth,** because He has accomplished a **perfect** redemption for us on Golgotha.

Jn. 8:36 If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall **be free indeed**.

Eph. 5:26-27 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

Hebr. 7:25 Wherefore He is able also to save them **to the uttermost** that come unto God by Him, seeing He ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebr. 9:11-12 Already mentioned under "The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ" in chapter one (incl. notes)

Hebr. 9:14-15 How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this cause **He is the Mediator of the new testament**, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebr. 10:14 For by one offering He hath **perfected for ever** them that are sanctified.

1 Petr. 2:24 Who His own Self bare our sins in His own body on the tree (literally: on the wood, i.e. the cross), that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.

This 100% cleansing, sanctifying, already on earth, is accepted by sincere believers not before the end-time.

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the Word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death (unto their sinful lives are totally mortified).

3. **His faith has to grow up to maturity.**

Col. 1:23 If ye continue in the faith **grounded and settled**, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister

4. **We have to meet Him in prayer.**

Mt. 11:28-30 Come unto Me (Jesus), all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29 Take My yoke (your personal cross) upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30 For My yoke is easy, and My burden is light.

Isa. 1:18 Come now, and **let us reason together**, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool.

5. **We have to wash (purify) ourselves in His Blood, as He likewise has to do so with us.**

Rev. 7:14b These are they which came out of great tribulation, and have **washed their robes, and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.**

Rev. 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, Who is the faithful Witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the Prince of the kings of the earth. Unto Him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in His own blood

6. **We have to put off in His power our old, sinful man, and hunger after our complete redemption.**

Ps. 51:10 Create in me a clean heart, O God; and renew a right spirit within me.

Rom. 6:5 For if we have been **planted together in the likeness of his death**, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection

Rom. 8:15 For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father.

Rom. 12:1-3 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

Verse 1 points to our body, verse 2 on our soul, and verse 3 on our spirit.

Gal. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

Eph. 4:22 That ye put off concerning the former conversation the old man, which is corrupt according to the deceitful lusts

Col. 3:5 *Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry*

7. We have to open our inner man for Him, and accept Him as our Redeemer and Saviour.

Jn. 1:12 *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on His Name*

Ps. 24:7-10 *Lift up your heads, O ye gates; and be ye lift up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 8 Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. 9 Lift up your heads, O ye gates; even lift [them] up, ye everlasting doors; and the King of glory shall come in. 10 Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He [is] the King of glory.*

He is the King of glory, Who will enter our body, soul and spirit, in order that He may build in His accomplished work at Golgotha and His resurrection.

Isa. 40:3 *The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness: Prepare ye the way of the LORD, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

It is His voice, through His called and anointed servants, which cries in the wilderness of our hearts, to open a highway for Him, so that He is able to build in, redemption and salvation in our sinful heart and life.

Rev. 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart), and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me.*

He comes in us, in and through His Holy Spirit, and cleanses our heart and life in His purifying Fire.

Mt. 3:11-12 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and [with] fire: 12 Whose fan [is] in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor (the treshing-floor of your conversed heart), and gather His wheat (your purified, born again heart) into the garner (picture of His Kingdom); but He will burn up the chaff (your old, sinful life) with unquenchable fire.*

Lk. 11:13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them **that ask Him?***

8. He will make His Holy Spirit to flow in us continually, as long as we keep our heart open for Him.

2 Kings 4:1-6 *Now there cried a certain woman of the wives of the sons of the prophets unto Elisha, saying, Thy servant my husband is dead; and thou knowest that thy servant did fear the LORD: and the creditor is come to take unto him my two sons to be bondmen. 2 And Elisha said unto her, What shall I do for thee? tell me, what hast thou in the house? And she said, Thine handmaid hath not any thing in the house, save a pot of oil (picture of the Holy Spirit). 3 Then he said, Go, borrow thee vessels abroad of all thy neighbours, [even] empty vessels; borrow not a few. 4 And when thou art come in, thou shalt shut the door upon thee and upon thy sons, and shalt pour out into all those vessels, and thou shalt set aside that which is full. 5 So she went from him, and shut the door upon her and upon her sons, who brought [the vessels] to her; and she poured out. 6 And it came to pass, when the vessels were full, that she said unto her son, Bring me yet a vessel. And he said unto her, [There is] not a vessel more. **And the oil stayed.***

9. We have to prefer the way of the cross with a meek heart. This way He has opened for us by His death at Golgotha. This personal way of the cross – we have to take up **our** cross personally – we have to choose this cross-way as our personal way of life. We have to accept this offer of God's grace, so that we are able to partake spiritually in it, independent of the suffering, which we have to bear for it.

Mal. 3:1-3 *Behold, I will send My messenger (a called and anointed servant of the Lord), and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall **suddenly** come to His temple (your body, 1 Cor. 6:19), even the Messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in (the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ): behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He [is] like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' soap: 3 And He shall sit [as] a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi (picture of all called and anointed servants of the Lord), and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.*

Hebr. 12:1-2 *Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight (the big trespasses), and the sin which doth so easily beset [us] (the small trespasses), and let us run with patience the race that is set before us (the way of the cross), 2 Looking unto Jesus the Author and Finisher of [our] faith; Who for the joy that was set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is set down at the right hand of the throne of God.*

On this way of the cross we have to listen to Him and to obey Him.

10. We have to put our old, sinful life on our altar of burnt sacrifice.

Isa. 61:8 *For I the LORD love judgement, I hate robbery for burnt offering (He hates partial sacrifice of the old, sinful man); and I will direct their work in truth, and I will make an everlasting covenant with them.*

Ps. 20:3 *Remember all thy offerings, and accept thy burnt sacrifice*

1 Cor. 5:7-8 *Purge out therefore the old leaven (the old, sinful nature), that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened (sinless). For even Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: 8 Therefore let us keep the feast, not with old leaven, neither with the leaven of malice and wickedness; but with the unleavened [bread] of sincerity and truth.*

2 Cor. 7:1 *Having therefore these promises, dearly beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, **perfecting holiness** in the fear of God.*

We also have to do with the sin of implacability.

Mk. 11:25-26 *And when ye stand praying, forgive, if ye have ought against any: that your Father also which is in heaven may forgive you your trespasses. 26 But if ye do not forgive, neither will your Father Which is in heaven forgive your trespasses.*

Tempting our neighbour to commit sin is sinful too.

Mt. 18:6-7 *But whoso shall offend one of these little ones which believe in Me, it were better for him that a millstone were hanged about his neck, and [that] he were drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 Woe unto the world because of offences! for it must needs be that offences come; but woe to that man by whom the offence cometh!*

11. We have to be spiritually one plant with His death and resurrection.

Rom. 6:5 *For if we have been planted together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also [in the likeness] of [His] resurrection*

12. We have to eat and drink spiritually His flesh and His Blood, so becoming one plant together with His death.

Jn. 6:53-54 *Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, ye have no life in you. 54 Whoso eateth My flesh, and drinketh My blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day.*

13. We spiritually have to bear continually His death in our body.

2 Cor. 4:10-11 *Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

14. We have to be willing to experience this redemption of the might of sin already here on earth.

Rom. 8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your **mortal bodies** by His Spirit that dwelleth in you.*

Gal. 2:20 *I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave Himself for me.*

Col. 1:13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of His dear Son*

Isa. 9:4 *For thou hast broken the yoke of his (satan's) burden, and the staff of his shoulder, the rod of his oppressor, as in the day of Midian (namely on Golgotha).*

Isa. 10:27 *And it shall come to pass in that day, [that] his (satan's) burden shall be taken away from off thy shoulder, and his yoke from off thy neck, and the yoke shall be destroyed because of the anointing (of the manifested power of the Holy Spirit).*

Mal. 3:1-3 *Behold, I will send My messenger (a called and anointed servant of the Lord), and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, whom ye seek, shall **suddenly** come (in and through the Holy Spirit) to His temple (the child of God), even the Messenger of the (Blood)covenant, Whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He [is] like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' (he who cleans the linen) soap: 3 And He shall sit [as] a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi (picture of all true, called and anointed servants of the Lord), and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.*

Rev. 12:11 *And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their old and sinful) lives unto the death (unto they are mortified).*

15. We have to expect this redemption already here on earth.

Isa. 30:18b *blessed are all they that wait for Him.*

Isa. 40:31 *But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.*

Lament. 3:25 *The LORD [is] good unto them that wait for him, to the soul [that] seeketh him.*

Ps. 37:9 For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the LORD, they shall inherit the earth.

Rom. 8:35 Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?

16. We have to persist in this redemption from sin.

Mt. 24:13 But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved.

Jn. 8:31-32 Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on Him, If ye continue in My word, then are ye My disciples indeed; 32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.

Acts 2:42 And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.

17. This redemption from sin is a question of watching and struggling against the evil one.

Gen. 15:9-11, 17 And He said unto him, Take Me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove, and a young pigeon. 10 And he took unto Him all these, and divided them in the midst, and laid each piece one against another: but the birds divided he not. 11 And when the fowls (picture of satan tempting him) came down upon the carcasses, Abram drove them away. 17 And it came to pass, that, when the sun went down, and it was dark, behold a smoking furnace, and a burning lamp that passed between those pieces.

Prov. 4:23-27 Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it [are] the issues of life. 24 Put away from thee a froward mouth, and perverse lips put far from thee. 25 Let thine eyes look right on, and let thine eyelids look straight before thee. 26 Ponder the path of thy feet, and let all thy ways be established. 27 Turn not to the right hand nor to the left: remove thy foot from evil.

Isa. 54:17 No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue (satan's tongue, that inspires the sinner) that shall rise against thee in judgement thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness is of Me, saith the LORD.

Mk. 13:33-37 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. 34 [For the Son of man is] as a man taking a far journey, who left his house (picture of the Church), and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch. 35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the Master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: 36 Lest coming **suddenly** He find you sleeping. 37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

Mt. 12:43-45 When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. 44 Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth [it] empty, swept, and garnished. 45 Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last [state] of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

Mt. 24:43 But know this, that if the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up.

Eph. 6:16 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.

2 Cor. 10:3-5 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ

1 Petr. 5:8-9 Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: 9 Whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Rev. 12:7-11 And there was war in heaven: Michael (the in the Spirit returned Prince of Israel, Jesus, the Messiah) and His angels (picture of His called and anointed servants) fought against the (seven-headed sin)dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven (the Kingdom of heaven on earth, the Church). 9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth (the place outside the true part of the Church), and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the Kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their (sinful, old) lives unto the death (unto it is mortified by the fire of the Spirit).

If we are redeemed from the curse of sin, we will inherit the Kingdom of God as kings and priests.

Mt. 5:5 Blessed [are] the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.

Col. 1:13 *Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son*

1 Petr. 2:9 *But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of Him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvellous light*

Rev. 5:10 *And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.*

18. We have to flee from sinful circumstances.

2 Cor. 6:17 *Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you,*

The perfect redemption of the power of sin is achieved not before we have put our feet on the 6th step of this spiritual ladder (see there).

6.

The 4th step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are they, which do hunger and thirst after righteousness.

Mt. 5:6 *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Now the redemptive work of the Lord Jesus in the life of the repented soul really has been begun, because now He really began to share this soul His **resurrection life**. This is because in the heart of this soul **hunger and thirst** now begin to exist, according to the promise of the Lord, written in His Word

2 Petr. 1:3-4 *According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

1 Cor. 2: 9-10 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared **for them that love Him**. 10 But God hath revealed [them] unto us by His Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.*

1. The Lord Jesus **gives birth** to His 'resurrection life' within us. God's Word calls this being 'born again' out of God. This spiritual birth **has to grow up to maturity and perfection**.

This being born again is threefold.

a) The spiritual rebirth out of God's Word.

1 Petr. 1: 23 *Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the Word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.*

b) The spiritual rebirth out of water by undergoing the water baptism.

1 Petr. 3: 20b-21 *When once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight souls were saved by water. 21 The like figure whereunto [even] baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but **the answer of a good conscience toward God**), by the resurrection of Jesus Christ*

The water and the ark of Noah form an anti-type of the water baptism. One has to receive the water baptism with a pure conscience.

Jn. 3: 5 *Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God.*

c) The spiritual rebirth out of (the Spirit of) God (Jn. 3:5).

Jn. 1: 13 *Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

2. From now on we have to put ourselves under the leadership of His Word and Spirit. We have to follow Him obediently on our way of the cross; the way, which the Lamb of God has prepared for us by His sacrifice at Golgotha.

Rom. 1: 16-17 *For I am not ashamed of the Gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek (the Gentiles). 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.*

Rom. 3: 21-22 *But now the righteousness of God without the law is manifested, being witnessed by the law and the prophets; 22 Even the righteousness of God which is by faith of Jesus Christ unto all and upon all them that believe: for there is no difference*

3. We have to hunger and thirst after this new Divine life out of God.

Ps. 107:9 For he satisfieth the longing soul, and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.

Ps. 42:1-3 As the hart² panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. 2 My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God? 3 My tears have been my meat day and night, while they continually say unto me, Where [is] thy God?

This desire is not without promise.

2 Chr. 16:9a For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew Himself strong in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward Him.

Isa. 44:3 For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour My Spirit upon thy seed, and My blessing upon thine offspring

This desire will be fulfilled, when we accept God's invitation.

Isa. 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price (we have to buy this divine food and drink with our old, sinful life).

Jn. 4:13-14 Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: 14 But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him **a well of water springing up into everlasting life.**

This desire not only will be fulfilled, but He will fill us so abundantly, that His Word, as a result, will spring forth out of our belly as rivers of living water.

Jn. 7:37-38 In the last day, that great [day] of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto Me, and drink. 38 He that believeth on Me, **as the scripture hath said**, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

Rom. 8:18-19 For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time [are] not worthy [to be compared] with the glory which shall be revealed in us. 19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for **the manifestation of the sons of God.**

Rev. 21:6 And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.

This is a steady promise. Also for you! You are invited. You can have part of it!

Rev. 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

4. We have to pursue for the hunt after the growth of this spiritual life.

1 Tim. 6:11 But thou, O man of God, flee these things; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness.

Php. 3:10-14 That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

5. This new life only will be granted by our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God.

Gal. 4:6 And because ye are sons, God hath sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.

6. Therefore the Father gives us the Spirit of His Son.

Jn. 14:15-17 If ye love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you **for ever**; 17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, **and shall be in you.**

Jn. 10: 10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have **it more abundantly.**

1 Cor. 1: 30 But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption

7. He comes to us through His Holy Spirit. Moreover we have to pray for the baptism in His Spirit!

² Hebr.: 'ayal, a stag or male deer. It is ranked among the clean animals (see Deut. 12:15, 14:5, 15:22) and was commonly killed for food (see 1 Kings 4:23). The hart is frequently alluded to in the poetical and prophetic books (see Isa. 35:6; Song. 2:8, 9; Lam. 1:6; Ps. 42:1).

Lk. 11: 13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them **that ask Him?***

We have to put Him upon us as a Seal (a token of being a property of Him); upon our heart (our inward man), and upon our arm (our outward man).

Song 8:6a *Set Me as a seal upon thine heart (inner man), as a seal upon thine arm (outward man)*

8. We have to put Him on as a cloth.

Rom. 13:14 *But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*

9. This new life (this being 'born again' out of God) begins very small, as a fruit, as a spark of life. This new life therefore has to grow towards maturity. This growth see the 5th step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Jn. 1:12-13 *But as many as received Him, to them gave He power to **become** the sons of God, [even] to them that believe on His name: 13 Which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God.*

Gal. 5:22,23a *But the fruit of the Spirit³ is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance,*

Tit. 3:4-7 *But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which He shed on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*

This new life in the righteousness of God has to grow towards perfection, which will not be achieved before standing on the 8th step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace. (see there)

7

The 5th step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are the merciful.

Mt. 5:7 *Blessed [are] the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.*

Lk. 6:36 *Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.*

1. Mercifulness is a trait of the character of God and of Jesus Christ, which man experiences, if he has listened to God's call for conversion from his sins, and for sharing the death and resurrection of God's Lamb, in order to have victory over the might of sin in his being.

Mt. 9:13 *But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.*

Mt. 12:7 *But if ye had known what this meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice, ye would not have condemned the guiltless.*

2 Cor. 1:3 *Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort;*

Eph. 2:4-7 *But God, who is rich in mercy, for His great love wherewith He loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come He might shew the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.*

2. Mercifulness is, if God's love has begun to develop in his heart, a trait of the character in the heart of man too. This mercifulness will grow towards maturity, if the convert keeps his body, soul and spirit open for the working of the death and resurrection of God's Lamb. This is the voluntary death of our "old man", our sinful nature, and our resurrection in God's Divine life.

2 Cor. 4:10-11 ***Always** bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. 11 For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.*

Rom. 12:1-3 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this*

³ These 9 fruits of the Spirit are always related to the indwelling nature of God in our heart and life. So it is not a human kind of love which ends when the other hurts us, but a divine (unconditional) love. A kind of love which keeps the eternal salvation of the other in mind. Not human joy or peace which may end because of circumstances, but the always present joy, peace, etc. from God in our heart and life.

world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. 3 For I say, through the grace given unto me, to every man that is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think; but to think soberly, according as God hath dealt to every (converted) man the measure of faith.

Verse 1 points to our body, verse 2 to our soul, and verse 3 to our spirit.

Gal. 5:24 And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.

3. We have to continue to love Jesus too, and not quit this first love.

Lk. 14:26-27 If any man come to Me, and hate not (the sinful life of) his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own (sinful) life also, he cannot be My disciple. 27 And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after Me (on the way of the cross), cannot be My disciple.

Rev. 2:4 Nevertheless I have somewhat against thee, because thou hast left **thy first love** (thy love for Me).

4. Further we have to reach out for this divine life in Christ and be hungry and thirsty for it.

Mt. 5:6 Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled (with divine righteousness).

Phil. 3:10-14 That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

5. Then the Lord no longer finds any resistance in us to build His Divine Nature to its perfection into us.

2 Petr. 1:3-4 According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 Jn. 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, **we shall be like Him**; for we shall see Him as He is.

Tit. 3:4-7 But after that the kindness and love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, 5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost; 6 Which He shed on us **abundantly** through Jesus Christ our Saviour; 7 That being justified by His grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

1 Petr. 2:24 Who His own Self bare our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by Whose stripes ye were healed.

The Divine Nature.

1. God is love and is merciful.

Ex. 34:6b-7 The LORD, The LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, 7 Keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity and transgression and sin, and that will by no means clear [the guilty]; visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children, and upon the children's children, unto the third and to the fourth [generation.]

Jn. 3:16-17 For God so loved the world, that He gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. 17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

1 Jn. 4:7-9; 16-17 Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God, and knoweth God. 8 He that loveth not, knoweth not God; for God is love. 9 In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. 16 And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. 17 Herein is our love made perfect, that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as He is, so are we in this world.

1 Tim. 2:4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.

James 5:11 Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy.

2. We have to grow in His Nature of love and mercifulness.

Mt. 9:12-13 But when Jesus heard that, He said unto them, They that be whole need not a physician, but they that are sick. 13 But go ye and learn what that meaneth, I will have mercy, and not sacrifice: for I am not come to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.

Lk. 6:36-37 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful. 37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven

Eph. 4:32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

3. Mercifulness does not condemn.

Mt. 7:1-5 Judge not, that ye be not judged. 2 For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again. 3 And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother's eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye? 4 Or how wilt thou say to thy brother, Let me pull out the mote out of thine eye; and, behold, a beam is in thine own eye? 5 Thou hypocrite, first cast out the beam out of thine own eye; and then shalt thou see clearly to cast out the mote out of thy brother's eye.

Jn 3:17 For God sent not His Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through Him might be saved.

James 2:13 For He shall have judgment without mercy, that hath shewed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment.

4. Mercilessness is sin against love for one's neighbour.

1 Jn. 2:9-11 He that saith he is in the light, and hateth his brother, is in darkness even until now. 10 He that loveth his brother abideth in the light, and there is none occasion of stumbling in him. 11 But he that hateth his brother is in darkness, and walketh in darkness, and knoweth not whither he goeth, because that darkness hath blinded his eyes.

1 Jn. 3:14-15 We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death. 15 Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.

If we are merciful towards our neighbour, God will be merciful towards us.

Mt. 5:7 Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.

If we are merciless towards our neighbour, God will treat us in a merciless way too.

Mt. 18:23-35 Therefore is the Kingdom of heaven likened unto a certain king, which would take account of his servants. 24 And when he had begun to reckon, one was brought unto him, which owed him ten thousand talents. 25 But for as much as he had not to pay, his lord commanded him to be sold, and his wife, and children, and all that he had, and payment to be made. 26 The servant therefore fell down, and worshipped him, saying, Lord, have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 27 Then the lord of that servant was moved with compassion, and loosed him, and forgave him the debt. 28 But the same servant went out, and found one of his fellowservants, which owed him an hundred pence: and he laid hands on him, and took him by the throat, saying, Pay me that thou owest. 29 And his fellowservant fell down at his feet, and besought him, saying, Have patience with me, and I will pay thee all. 30 And he would not: but went and cast him into prison, till he should pay the debt. 31 So when his fellowservants saw what was done, they were very sorry, and came and told unto their lord all that was done. 32 Then his lord, after that he had called him, said unto him, O thou wicked servant, I forgave thee all that debt, because thou desiredst me: 33 Shouldest not thou also have had compassion on thy fellowservant, even as I had pity on thee? 34 And his lord was wroth, and delivered him to the tormentors, till he should pay all that was due unto him. 35 So likewise shall my heavenly Father do also unto you, if ye from your hearts forgive not every one his brother their trespasses.

5. Jesus pours His Divine Nature in us through His Holy Spirit.

Jn. 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.

Jn. 15:5 I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in Me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without Me ye can do nothing.

Rom. 5:5 And hope maketh not ashamed; because the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost Which is given unto us.

2 Tim. 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

2 Cor. 3:17-18 17 Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same image from glory to glory, even as by the Spirit of the Lord.

6. God's Divine Nature grows in us like a fruit.

Gal. 5:22,23a *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance*

1 Petr. 3:8 *Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous*

If God's Nature grows in us, we spiritually climb on God's mountain, Mount Zion. Its top is formed by God's perfect love, holiness and righteousness. There also is His throne.

Hebr. 12:22-24 *But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels, 23 To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect, 24 And to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

7. **This Nature of love and mercifulness has to grow towards maturity.** (See for this issue step 8)

8.

The 6th step of the ladder of God' blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are the pure in heart

Mt. 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

Heaven's door, closed for the sinful, human heart and life, makes that no sinner is able to see and approach heaven. This closed door has to be opened by **the Spirit of sanctification for the sinner**. Not only has he to be reconciled with God (forgiven by Him), but in fact released from his sinful nature too. He has to be **pure in heart**.

Ps. 24:3-6 *Who shall ascend into the hill of the LORD (into heaven)? or who shall stand in His holy place? 4 He that hath clean hands, and a pure heart; who hath not lifted up his soul unto vanity, nor sworn deceitfully. 5 He shall receive the blessing from the LORD, and righteousness from the God of his salvation. 6 This [is] **the generation of them that seek Him, that seek Thy face**, O Jacob.*

1. The sinner (the believer too) has to clean up his hands, heart, soul and lips – his outward and inward man –, **completely**, in the blood of God's Lamb; redeemed by the Spirit of sanctification, by the Spirit of burning, from **all** the power of sin. Before this, he is **not** able to enter the most holy place of God. The Scripture advises us to look for this perfection already here on earth.

Isa 4:3-4 *And it shall come to pass, [that he that is] left in Zion, and [he that] remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called **holy**, [even] every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: 4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof **by the Spirit of judgment, and by the Spirit of burning.***

Mt. 5:48 *Be ye therefore **perfect**, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*

Col. 1:27-29 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus: 29 Whereunto I also labour, striving according to his working, which worketh in me mightily.*

This happens when the sinner in his prayer asks for the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ, when he comes to meet the Lord Jesus from face to face and opens himself for Him. Then the Lord is able to share His death and resurrection with him. Then the sinner acts as Jacob, how he wrestles with God, and sought Him in prayer (Gen. 32:24-26). Acting so, the sinner is experiencing, more and more, the death of God's Lamb in whole his heart and life.

1 Petr. 2:24 *Who His own Self bare our sins in His own body on the tree (on the cross), that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.*

2. The sinner, hereby, **has to believe**, that the Spirit of sanctification, the Spirit of the Lord Jesus, will grant him this grace already on earth. He also has **pursue** it.

Php. 3:10-14 *That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 **I press toward the mark** for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

3. **This perfect redemption of the power of sin Jesus had achieved for the whole mankind.** But each believer by opening his heart for Jesus personally has to receive this redemption from Him in his heart and life. By doing so, he in fact will experience in his being the death and resurrection of God's Lamb already here on earth. The reason, why man has to do so, is, because he has an own will. The veil in Israel's tabernacle symbolises our sinful flesh, which Jesus, in order to be able to save us, had to put on as Son of David (Rom. 1:3). He had to do so, to make Himself a Member of the human family to represent this human family before God. By doing so He had the right to reconcile this human family with God. So He is able to redeem man from his sins, when one personally comes to Him to receive God's grace.

Rom. 1:3 *Concerning His Son Jesus Christ our Lord, Which was made of the seed (transl. from the Greek word: 'sperma') of David according to the flesh;*

Hebr. 4:14-15 *Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast [our] profession. 15 For we have not an High Priest Which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; **but was in all points tempted like as [we are, yet] without sin.***

Hebr. 10:19-20 *Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, 20 By a new and living way (the way of the cross), which He hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, His flesh*

4. **This perfect pureness, this perfect sanctification, is possible already here on earth.**

1 Jn. 3:9 *Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin; for his seed remaineth in Him: **and he cannot sin**, because he is born of God.*

Read also 1 Petr. 2:24, that speaks of "**being dead to sin**".

5. **Without this pureness in heart, we are not able to see God.**

1 Tim. 6:11-16 *But thou, O man of God, **flee these things**; and follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness. 12 Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses. 13 I give thee charge in the sight of God, who quickeneth all things, and [before] Christ Jesus, Who before Pontius Pilate witnessed a good confession; 14 That thou keep [this] commandment without spot, unrebukeable, until the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ: 15 Which in His times He shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords; 16 Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; Whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to Whom [be] honour and power everlasting. Amen.*

Hebr. 12:14 *Follow **peace with all men, and holiness**, without which no man shall see the Lord*

Mt. 5:8 *Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.*

6. **Studying the 3rd step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace, we already saw, that this sanctification doesn't happen automatically, when one believes in the Lord Jesus. We have to cooperate in this matter with the Spirit of sanctification.** We have to open our heart and life for Him.

Isa. 4:3-4 *And it shall come to pass, [that he that is] left in Zion, and [he that] remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, [even] every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: 4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof **by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning.***

1 Cor. 1:30 *But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, Who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption*

Rev. 3:20 *Behold, I stand at the door (of your heart), and knock: if any man hear My voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with Me (sharing spiritually with him My flesh and My blood).*

He washes us in His **Blood**, He preaches us His **Word**, and sanctifies us by His **Spirit and Fire**. Blood, Word and Spirit have the selfsame working.

1 Jn. 5:7-8 *For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one. 8 And there are three that bear witness in earth, the Spirit, and the water, and the blood: and these three agree in one.*

7. Unfortunately, by the workings of satan, this Word of God, which speaks of perfection by the wise believers, is not believed before the end-time. This happens when the Lord suddenly pours out His latter rain (picture of the Holy Spirit) over all flesh. Then a great Light will come over all men to give total insight in His Word and in their personal conscience. This happens suddenly in the eve of the great world wide revival.

Joel 2:23 *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain (picture of the Spirit) in the first (just as in the beginning, in apostolic times).*

Joel 2:28 *And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out (the light of) My Spirit **upon all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions*

Mal. 3:1-3 Behold, I will send My messenger (a called and anointed servant of the Lord), and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord, Whom ye seek, shall **suddenly** come to His temple (picture of all wise children of God), even the Messenger of the (blood)covenant, Whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of his coming? and who shall stand when he appeareth? for he is like a refiner's (picture of the Spirit) fire, and like fullers' (picture of the Spirit) soap: 3 And He shall sit [as] a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi (picture of all called and wise servants of the Lord), and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Acts 2:17 And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out (the light) of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams

The first perfectly cleansed soul will in this world come to manifestation not before the end-time, namely in the time, when the 10 kings (political leaders) of Europe come to manifestation. In Daniel 2:34-35 and 44-45 this first perfectly cleansed soul is pictured as a stone, which without (human) hands is hewn off from the mountain (of sin), and so liberated will roll down. This single stone then will be multiplied up to a big mountain of liberated stones (picture of the Bride of God's Lamb), which will fill the whole world.

Dan. 2:34-35 Thou sawest till that a stone was cut out without hands, which smote the image upon his feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces. 35 Then (in the heart of that perfectly cleansed soul) was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshing-floors; and the wind (picture of God's Spirit) carried them away, that no place was found for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain (picture of the Bride of God's Lamb), and filled the whole earth.

Dan. 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings (the 10 last political leaders of Europe) shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom (God's Kingdom on earth), which shall never be destroyed: and the (Divine) Kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold (the people of this Divine Kingdom, Israel, shall only acknowledge the Lord God as their sovereign King); the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Read the 10th salvation bringing grace in chapter 12.

This perfect pureness is necessary.

1. For the formation of the Bride of God's Lamb.

Eph. 5:26-27 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the word, 27 That He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, **not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.**

Rev. 12:11 And they overcame him (satan) by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their (sinful) lives unto the death (being mortified by the purging fire of the Spirit).

2. For being a holy sanctuary, in which the Father, through His Spirit, is able to live and labour in all His glory.

Eph. 3:19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled **with all the fulness of God.**

2 Cor. 6:16-18 And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell **in** them, and walk **in** them; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. 17 Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, 18 And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be My sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty.

3. So that the Holy Spirit is able to labour through the Bride in all His power.

Rev. 6:2 And I saw, and behold a white horse (picture of the righteous power of the Spirit); and he (all called and anointed servants, warriors of the Lord) that sat on him had a bow (picture of God's everlasting Word); and a (victor's) crown (i.e. crown for the victor) was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer.

4. For bringing the Church to victory over the power of sin, and to the world wide revival in the end-time, and to the harvest of countless souls.

Joel 2:28 And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out (the light of) My Spirit **upon all flesh**; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions

Mal. 3:1-3 Already quoted above

All flesh, all men, then will be drenched **in the light** of the Holy Spirit in order that all men will come to complete insight in God's Word and in the state of sin in their hart and life, which will bring forth the world wide revival.

Rev. 7:9 *After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, **which no man could number**, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands*

9.

The 7th step of the ladder of blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are the peacemakers.

Mt. 5:9 *Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.*

Isa. 52:7 *How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith unto Zion, Thy God reigneth!*

Nah. 1:15 *Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace! O Judah, keep thy solemn feasts, perform thy vows: for the wicked shall no more pass through thee; he is utterly cut off.*

1. **Peacemakers are they, who, as living instruments of the Holy Spirit, bring the Gospel conform their Divine calling and anointing to their fellow men.** Doing so, sinful men will be redeemed from sin and made pure and holy, **by the labor of the peacemakers, who have brought them in peace with and before God almighty**, already here on earth. They are in their lives and sermons **witnesses** of God's blessing bringing grace and power. They, themselves are brought in this holy position by God's grace sharing them the death and resurrection of God's Lamb, after they had opened their hearts and lives for Him.

There are 5 types of peacemakers.

Ef. 4:11-13 *And He gave some, **apostles**; and some, **prophets**; and some, **evangelists**; and some, **pastors** and **teachers**; 12 For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ (the true part of the Church): 13 Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, **unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ***

- **Apostles**, they, who as missionaries founded Churches in regions, in which were not yet labored in. After they have founded a Church, they carry the new Church over to a spiritual servant, which the Lord has called and anointed as pastor to that local church. The apostle then begins anew in another region.
- **Prophets**, they, who receive God's Word directly from Him and pass that Word through to the souls of the Church they labour in or visit.
- **Evangelists**, travelling preachers, who, if they have won new souls, handle them over to a spiritual pastor of a local Church.
- **Pastors**, they who care and feed a local Church.
- **Teachers**, they who teach God's Word thoroughly when they serve or visit a local Church.

These are 5 sorts of called and anointed servants of the Lord. Who precede the Church, 5 kinds of spiritual leaders, who conform their special anointing:

- Lead the souls in their formation and perfection,
- Train them in their personal service and labor,
- Build the Body of Christ, the Church out of the world.

2. **An adequate witness gives satisfaction to the following:**

Mk. 16:17-20 *And these signs shall follow **them that believe**; In My Name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; 18 They shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands on the sick, and they shall recover. 19 So then after the Lord Had spoken unto them, He was received up into heaven, and sat on the right hand of God. 20 And they went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with [them], and confirming the word with signs following.*

3. **Jesus shares His personal, Divine anointing with His spiritual servants according to their personal calling.**

The personal anointing of Jesus Himself.

Isa. 61:1-3 *The Spirit of the Lord GOD [is] upon Me; because the LORD hath anointed Me to preach good tidings unto the meek; He hath sent Me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison (of sin) to them that are bound; 2 To proclaim the acceptable year of the LORD, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all that mourn; 3 To appoint unto them that mourn in Zion, to*

give unto them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they might be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the LORD, that He might be glorified.

His servants whom He has shared His personal anointing.

Jn. 17:18 *As Thou hast sent Me into the world, even so have I also sent them into the world.*

Jn. 20:21 *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace [be] unto you: as [My] Father hath sent Me, even so send I you.*

Isa. 61:4-6 *And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations. 5 And strangers shall stand and feed your flocks, and the sons of the alien shall be your plowmen and your vinedressers. 6 But ye shall be named the priests of the LORD: men shall call you the ministers of our God: ye shall eat the riches of the Gentiles, and in their glory shall ye boast yourselves.*

4. Their calling and preparing for their spiritual service is a question of Divine predestination.

Gal. 1:15-16 *But when it pleased God, who separated me from my mother's womb, and called me by his grace, 16 To reveal His Son in me, that I might preach Him among the heathen; immediately I conferred not with flesh and blood*

5. Their anointing has 5 phases.

a) God calls them personally for their spiritual labor.

Mark. 3:13 *And He goeth up into a mountain, and calleth [unto Him] whom He would: and they came unto Him.*

b) If they agree with His calling, He affirms their calling, and prepares their labor for them.

Eph. 2:10 *For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.*

c) He gives them the necessary gifts, knowledge and wisdom. So they are able to do their spiritual work.

Lk. 24:45-49 *Then opened He their understanding, that they might understand the scriptures, 46 And said unto them, Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: 47 And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. 48 And ye are witnesses of these things. 49 And, behold, I send the promise of My Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, **until ye be endued with power from on high.***

1 Cor. 12:4-11 *Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit. 5 And there are differences of administrations, but the same Lord. 6 And there are diversities of operations, but it is the same God which worketh all in all. 7 But the manifestation of the Spirit is given to every man to profit withal. 8 For to one is given by the Spirit **the word of wisdom**; to another **the word of knowledge** by the same Spirit; 9 To another **faith** by the same Spirit; to another **the gifts of healing** by the same Spirit; 10 To another **the working of miracles**; to another **prophecy**; to another **discerning of spirits**; to another **[divers] kinds of tongues**; to another the **interpretation of tongues**: 11 But all these worketh that one and the selfsame Spirit, dividing to every man severally as he will.*

d) He girds them on with power and might in and through the Holy Spirit, **their anointing for their spiritual labour (their baptism in the Holy Spirit).**

Mark. 3:14-15 *And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach, 15 And to have power to heal sicknesses, and to cast out devils*

Lk. 10:19 *Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and **over all the power of the enemy**: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.*

e) He sends them out to the region of their labor, and opens for them doors, which before were closed.

Mark. 3:14 *And He ordained twelve, that they should be with Him, and that He might send them forth to preach*

Rev. 3:8 *I know thy works: behold, I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it: for thou hast a little strength, and hast kept My Word, and hast not denied My Name.*

Isa. 61:4 *And they shall build the old wastes, they shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities, the desolations of many generations.*

6. Jesus Christ is the Head of these peacemakers, and the Head of the Church, which they have founded.

So, He is also the Head of the spiritual harvest and of all spiritual labour. He is the Head of the spiritual Body, which His servants in the whole world have won. They are but living, spiritual instruments in the almighty hand of Jesus Christ. They are but spiritual **service hatches** of God's salvation bringing grace!

Lk. 17:10 *So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do.*

Mt. 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock (this faith of you in Me) I will build My Church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*

Peter and all other servants of the Lord have to build the Church through their faith in Him and in His Word, firm as a rock, and by the power of the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Cor. 3:9-10 *For we are labourers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, [ye are] God's building. 10 According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.*

Ps. 127:1-2 *Except the LORD build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the LORD keep the city, the watchman waketh [but] in vain. 2 [It is] vain for you to rise up early, to sit up late, to eat the bread of sorrows: [for] so He giveth His beloved sleep.*

7. This Body of Christ, which they have to build in and through the power of the Holy Spirit, has to grow till whole the world has been evangelised, and so the Church by the grace of God has been founded.

Mt. 24:14 *And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come.*

8. Jesus is gone to heaven, and labours, in the time being, as God's High Priest in and through His Holy Spirit on earth, namely through His called and anointed servants.

Hebr. 9:11-15 *But Christ being come an High Priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say, not of this building; 12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by His own blood He entered in once into the holy place, having obtained **eternal redemption** [for us]. 13 For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh: 14 How much more shall the blood of Christ, Who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? 15 And for this cause He is the Mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions [that were] under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

2 Cor. 3:17 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty (freedom of sin).*

Mt. 3:11-12 *I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and [with] fire: 12 Whose fan [is] in his hand, and He will throughly purge His floor, and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire.*

Jn. 14:15-17 *If ye love Me, keep My commandments. 16 And I will pray the Father, and He shall give you another Comforter, that He may abide with you **for ever**; 17 [Even] the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth Him not, neither knoweth Him: but ye know Him; for He dwelleth with you, **and shall be in you.***

Acts 1:8 *But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.*

Acts 2:17-18 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will **pour out** (the light of) My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams: 18 And on My servants and on My handmaidens I will pour out in those days of My Spirit; and they shall prophesy*

9. This Spirit will dwell in God's servants and strengthen them to the sanctification and salvation of other believers.

Eph. 3:16 *That He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit **in the inner man***

10. We, as God's servants, have to pray for this indwelling Divine Power. This baptism in the Holy Spirit doesn't happen automatically.

Lk. 11:13 *If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit **to them that ask Him?***

11. This Spirit of God strengthens and leads God's servants to the honour and glory of God and Jesus Christ only, and for the salvation of the world. They render God's salvation bringing Gospel to the sinner.

Isa. 42:8 *I [am] the LORD (literally: YaHWeH): that [is] My Name: and My glory will I not give to another, neither My praise to graven images.*

Isa. 48:11 *For Mine own sake, [even] for Mine own sake, will I do [it]: for how should [My name] be polluted? and I will not give My glory unto another.*

Rev 7:11-12 *And all the angels stood round about the throne, and about the elders and the four beasts (literally: living creatures), and fell before the throne on their faces, and worshipped God, 12 Saying, Amen:*

Blessing, and glory, and wisdom, and thanksgiving, and honour, and power, and might, [be] unto our God for ever and ever. Amen.

Rom. 10:14-15 How then shall they call on Him in whom they have not believed? and how shall they believe in Him of Whom they have not heard? and how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach, **except they be sent?** as it is written, How beautiful are the feet of them that preach the Gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things!

12. **He girds and clothes His peacemakers inwardly and outwardly with the whole armour of God, and they, themselves, in faith do so likewise.** Doing so they become filled with His righteousness and power, ready for the war against satan and his power.

Eph. 6:10-18 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. 11 Put on the **whole** armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. 12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but **against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].** 13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. 14 Stand therefore, having your loins (of your mind: see 1 Petr. 1:13) girt about with (the Word of) truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness (the inward armour); 15 And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; 16 Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. 17 And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God (together with the above mentioned the outward armour): 18 Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication **for all saints;**

2 Cor. 10:3-6 For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war after the flesh: 4 (For the weapons of our warfare [are] not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds;) 5 Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ; 6 And having in a readiness to revenge all disobedience, **when your obedience is fulfilled.**

He brings in His servant the fruit of God's righteousness to maturity.

Gal. 5:22,23a But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance

His divine power and might has to grow up to their perfection.

Mt. 25:14-17 For [the kingdom of heaven is] as a man travelling into a far country, [who] called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods. 15 And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey. 16 Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made [them] other five talents. 17 And likewise he that [had received] two, he also gained other two.

This inward dwelling and increasing divine power and might is here pictured by "talents".

13. **His servants themselves are only living instruments** in His almighty, laboring hand, and therefore they have to **wait patiently** till **He** comes in action.

Ps. 37:5 Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring [it] to pass.

Ps. 37:34 Wait on the LORD, and keep His way, and He shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see [it].

Eph. 2:10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.

14. **In the end-time His anointing will be great and wonderful.** For this subject read the 10th salvation bringing grace in chapter 12.

10.

The 8th step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed are they, which are persecuted for righteousness' sake.

Mt. 5:10 Blessed are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

1. **Righteousness is as love a Divine trait of God's character, which by grace also develops in a soul, who searches for righteousness as a Divine fruit of the new man in Christ, by gracefully building of God's Being in him.**

Eze. 18:9 Hath walked in my statutes, and hath kept my judgments, to deal truly; he is just, he shall surely live, saith the Lord GOD.

On this step the Divine righteousness comes to maturity in the righteousness searching souls and the divine promise, given in 2 Cor. 5:21, is then coming to manifestation.

2 Cor. 5:21 *For He (the Father) hath made Him (the Son)[to be] sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made **the righteousness of God** in Him.*

Again: righteousness is a trait of God's character.

Ps. 11:7 *For the righteous LORD loveth righteousness; His countenance doth behold the upright.*

When the Son of God revealed Himself as Man on earth in the time of Abraham, He called Himself Melchizedek, which means King of righteousness. Jesus **is** the King of righteousness.

Hebr. 7:1-2 *For this Melchisedec, King of Salem, Priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings, and blessed him; 2 To Whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all; first being by interpretation King of righteousness, and after that also King of Salem, which is, King of peace*

The Holy Spirit is the Teacher, Who teaches us righteousness, and leads us up to God's righteousness.

Joel 2:23 *Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain (picture of the outpoured Spirit) in the first (as in the beginning, the apostolic times).*

Ps. 23:3 *He restoreth my soul: He leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for His Name's sake.*

2. God's eternal plan with man is leading him up to His own righteousness, His Divine Nature, performing him up to His selfsame Image, so that man who is made perfect may reveal God's Being, just as the eternal Son does so. This eternal plan of God became not disturbed by human sin.

Gen. 1:26a *And God said, Let Us make man in Our Image, after Our Likeness (revealing all the glory of God , 1 John 3:2, Rev. 20:11)*

Ps. 37:6 *And He shall bring forth thy righteousness as the light, and thy judgment as the noonday.*

Isa. 61:10-11 *I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh [himself] with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth [herself] with her jewels. 11 For as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and as the garden causeth the things that are sown in it to spring forth; so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all the nations.*

Mal. 4:2 *But unto you that fear My Name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in His wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.*

Rom. 8:29-30 *For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate [to be] conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren. 30 Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called: and whom He called, them He also justified: and whom He justified, them He also glorified.*

2 Cor. 3:17-18 *Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord [is], there [is] liberty (of sin). 18 But we all, with open face beholding as in a glass the glory of the Lord, are changed into the same limage from glory to glory, [even] as by the Spirit of the Lord.*

Eph. 1:3-6 *Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ: 4 According as He hath chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: 5 Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, 6 To the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He hath made us accepted in the Beloved.*

Eph. 3:17-19 *That Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, 18 May be able to comprehend with all saints what [is] the breadth, and length, and depth, and height (all the dimensions of God's love); 19 And to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with **all the fulness of God**.*

Eph. 4:11-13 *And He gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; 12 For **the perfecting of the saints**, for **the work of the ministry**, for **the edifying of the body of Christ**: 13 Till we all come **in the unity of the faith**, and of **the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ***

Eph. 4:23-24 *And be renewed in the spirit of your mind; 24 And that ye put on the new man, which **after God** is created in righteousness and true holiness.*

Col. 1:12-13 *Giving thanks unto the Father, Which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the Kingdom of his dear Son*

2 Petr. 1:3-4 *According as His divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature**, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

1 Jn. 3:1-3 *Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. 2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, **we shall be like Him**; for we shall see Him as He is. 3 And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure.*

Rev. 21:3 *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and He will dwell with (in – see 2 Cor. 6:16) them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with (in) them, [and be] their God.*

Rev. 21:6-7 *And He said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life (picture of the Holy Spirit) freely. 7 He that overcometh shall inherit **all things**; and I will be his God, and he shall be My son.*

3. This growth in Divine righteousness does not happen automatically.

a) We have to pursue it.

Eph. 6:14 *Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness*

It is the loins of our mind, which we have to gird on with the truth of His Word.

Php. 3:10-14 *That I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; 11 If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. 12 Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. 13 Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but [this] one thing [I do], forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, 14 **I press toward the mark for the prize** of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

b) Just as God we have to love divine righteousness.

Ps. 45:6-7 *Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of Thy kingdom [is] a right sceptre. 7 Thou lovest righteousness, and hatest wickedness: therefore God (the Son), thy God (the Father), hath anointed Thee with the Oil of gladness (picture of God's Spirit) above Thy fellows.*

Then He will rain His righteousness in us.

Hos. 10:12 *Sow to yourselves in righteousness, reap in mercy; break up your fallow ground: for it is time to seek the LORD, till He come and rain righteousness upon you.*

4. This righteousness Jesus will build in us.

1 Cor. 1:30 *But of Him are ye in Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us **wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption***

2 Cor. 5:21 *For He (the Father) hath made Him (the Son) to be sin for us, Who knew no sin; that we might be made the **righteousness of God** in Him.*

5. This righteousness grows in us like a fruit. She is like God's love implied in our being born again out of God.

Gal. 5:22,23a *But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, 23 Meekness, temperance*

Hebr. 12:11 *Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby.*

6. This righteousness is, as we remain in Christ, eternal.

Dan. 9:24 *Seventy weeks (being years) are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in **everlasting righteousness**, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy.*

7. By this sharing of His righteousness, we, together with Jesus Christ as the Head, form the eternal sanctuary of our almighty God.

Col. 2:9 *For in Him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily.*

Eph. 2:19-22 *Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God; 20 And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the chief corner Stone; 21 In Whom all the building fitly framed together groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: 22 In Whom ye also are builded together for an habitation of God through the Spirit.*

Eph. 3:19b *that ye might be filled with **all the fulness of God**.*

2 Cor. 6:16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell **in** them, and walk **in** [them]; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.*

Rev. 21:3 *And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God [is] with men, and he will dwell with (in) them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be with (in) them, [and be] their God.*

By the Bible verse 2 Cor. 6:16, mentioned here above, we learn, that God want to **inhabit** His people. Read also Eph. 2:19-22 mentioned here above.

8. They, who are grown in this Divine righteousness up to maturity are hated by satan and by the unconverted world, and are persecuted by them.

Mt. 5:10 *Blessed [are] they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the Kingdom of heaven.*

Lk. 6:22-23 *Blessed are ye, when men shall hate you, and when they shall separate you [from their company], and shall reproach [you], and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of man's sake. 23 Rejoice ye in that day, and leap for joy: for, behold, your reward [is] great in heaven: for in the like manner did their fathers unto the prophets.*

Lk. 6: 26 *Woe unto you, when all men shall speak well of you! for so did their fathers to the false prophets.*

Jn. 15:18-25 *If the world hate you, ye know that it hated Me before [it hated] you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you. 20 Remember the word that I said unto you, The servant is not greater than his Lord. If they have persecuted Me, they will also persecute you; if they have kept My saying, they will keep yours also. 21 But all these things will they do unto you for My Name's sake, because they know not Him that sent Me. 22 If I had not come and spoken unto them, they had not had sin: but now they have no cloke for their sin. 23 He that hateth Me hateth My Father also. 24 If I had not done among them the works which none other man did, they had not had sin: but now have they both seen and hated both Me and My Father. 25 But [this cometh to pass], that the Word might be fulfilled that is written in their law, They hated Me without a cause.*

Jn. 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in Me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; **I have overcome** the world.*

1 Petr. 4:12-16 *Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: 13 But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy. 14 If ye be reproached for the Name of Christ, happy are ye; for the Spirit of glory and of God resteth upon you: on their part He is evil spoken of, but on your part He is glorified. 15 But let none of you suffer as a murderer, or as a thief, or as an evildoer, or as a busybody in other men's matters. 16 Yet if [any man suffer] as a Christian, let him not be ashamed; but let him glorify God on this behalf.*

1 Jn. 3:13 *Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you.*

9. Nevertheless, God gives us the divine power to destroy the satanic power of the opponents.

Isa. 54:17 *No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every (inspiring, devilish) tongue [that] shall rise against thee in judgment thou shalt condemn. This [is] the heritage of the servants of the LORD, and their righteousness [is] of Me, saith the LORD.*

The **power of satan** regarding the tongue of evil men with which he brings hatred, violence and persecution we have to **condemn**, in order that evil men, as satan's instrument don't come to execution of their evil plans.

James 4:7 *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

We only have the power to resist the powers of satan, if we are in pureness with God.

1 Jn. 4:4-6 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world. 5 They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them. 6 We are of God: he that knoweth God heareth us; he that is not of God heareth not us. Hereby know we the Spirit of truth, and the spirit of error.*

Rom. 8:31-33 *What shall we then say to these things? If God be for us, who can be against us? 32 He that spared not His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? 33 Who shall lay any thing to the charge of God's elect? It is God that justifieth.*

10. The growth of the Divine Nature, up to maturity, given by the salvation bringing grace of God, remains in a hidden state of the inner man, and comes to revelation in the flesh, not before the end-time; namely, in the life of the Bride of God's Lamb. The reason of this is, that the Lord then already has girded her with great power and might. The Word of God speaks then of **the revelation of the sons of God**. Read for this the 10th salvation bringing grace of God in chapter 12.

Isa. 60:2-3 *For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and His glory **shall be seen upon thee**. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.*

11.

The 9th step of the ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace.

Blessed they, when men shall revile them, and persecute them, and shall say all manner of evil against them, for the Lord's sake.

Mt.5:11-12 Blessed are ye, when [men] shall revile you, and persecute [you], and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for My sake. 12 Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

These Christians are the true Body of Christ on earth. They live very closely to their Head, the Lord Jesus Christ, and bear His Name.

Rev. 3:12 Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of My God, and the name of the city of My God, [which is] new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from My God: and [I will write upon him] My new name.

They have the Name of their God (YaHWeH) and the new Name of the Lord, written on their foreheads and in their being. Satan hates this Name and hates therefore them too. He reviles and persecutes them by means of evil men, and by worldly-minded Christians.

When you endorse a photo with your name, you acknowledge, that that photo has exactly your countenance. If God writes on us His Name and the new Name of His Son, this is exactly the same. These Christians live on the 9th step of the Ladder of God's blessing (salvation) bringing grace, and have the likeness of God and His Christ. They form, just as Jesus the revelation of the almighty God.

1 Jn. 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.

Gen. 1:26a And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness

They have the same likeness as Jesus by their perfect communication (inward and outward) with the Spirit of the Lord Jesus Christ. **They are totally drenched in His Spirit!**

1 Cor. 12:13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.

They swim in truth in the Spirit of God.

Eze. 47:5 Afterward he measured a thousand; [and it was] a river that I could not pass over: for the waters were risen, waters to swim in, a river that could not be passed over.

Spiritually they then have the position of the 4 living creatures (the King James version speaks of "beasts"; literally translated it says "living creatures"), which are round and above the throne of God. They are full of eyes, before and behind (picture of God's Spirit).

Rev. 4:6 And before the throne [there was] a sea of glass like unto crystal: and in the midst of the throne, and round about the throne, [were] four beasts (living creatures) full of eyes before and behind (they are drowned in the Spirit of God).

Rev. 6:6 And I heard a voice in the midst of the four beasts (living creatures) say, A measure of wheat for a penny, and three measures of barley for a penny; and see thou hurt not the oil and the wine (picture of the true children of God).

On earth their spiritual glory, their godliness, is **not distinguished** and **put hidden**, for their own protection against the powers of evil in this world.

1 Cor. 2:14-15 But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know [them], because they are spiritually discerned. 15 But he that is spiritual judgeth all things, yet he himself is judged of no man.

But in the end-time this previously hidden godliness is **revealed in the flesh**. It is then seen by anyone, because they, who have this godliness then already, have God's authority (crown), God's almighty power!

*Rom. 8:19 For the earnest expectation of the creature waiteth for **the manifestation of the sons of God**.*

*1 Tim. 3:16 And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was **manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*

Isa. 60:2-3 For, behold, the darkness shall cover the earth, and gross darkness the people: but the LORD shall arise upon thee, and his glory shall be seen upon thee. 3 And the Gentiles shall come to thy light, and kings to the brightness of thy rising.

Rev. 12:1 And there appeared a great wonder in heaven; a woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars

The Bible verse 1 Tim. 3:16 is by many wrongly taught, and ascribed to Jesus. This is **not true!** Jesus was not justified in the Spirit, He **was just**. This godliness pictures the completely sanctified Church. This part of the Scripture also forms, in its context, the description, of how the Church, in its perfect status, should be. This part of the Scripture forms a breach-block, which the show-world calls an “apotheoses”, a splendid closing scene. It is the revelation in the flesh of what before was hidden.

Hag. 2:9a *And the glory of this latter house (the Church of the end-time) shall be greater than the former (the Church out of the apostolic age).*

In my opinion this last step is achieved, not before the end-time. So now we can continue to the last step, the 12th chapter, dealing about the 10th blessing (salvation) bringing grace of God.

12.

The 10th and last blessing (salvation) bringing grace of God, meant for the end-time.

Blessed are they, which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.

Rev. 19: 9 *And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.*

1. **God's end-time creation: the Bride of the Lamb of God – the New Jerusalem – who is created “in the last days” here on earth.**

God wants to establish in the end-time a special, wonderful, divine creation **on earth, which never before** was brought about: the Bride of the Lamb of God, the initial establishment of the New Jerusalem.

Rev. 21:9-10 *And there came unto me one of the seven angels which had the seven vials full of the seven last plagues, and talked with me, saying, Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. 10 And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God*

This is God's end-time creation of men, who truly bear the image of God, which was His intention, when He wanted to create men after His likeness

Gen. 1:26a *And God said, Let us make man **in our image, after our likeness***

To accomplish this end-time creation God's people first have to come to faith in His Word, which not only will bring salvation to sinners, but **also perfection**, already on earth. He wants to clean the believing, totally surrendered sinner, in such a perfect way, that He is able to render him His Divine Nature of mature righteousness and love. Such a man He is able to create up to a perfect image of Himself, already on earth. Such a faith is only possible in the end-time, after **God's everlasting Gospel is preached, and the light of the Holy Spirit has been poured out on all flesh**.

Rev. 14:6 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having **the everlasting Gospel** to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and **to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people***

Acts 2:17 *And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of My Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams*

To achieve this end-time creation, He calls the wise believers to the marriage supper of the Lamb (Rev. 19:9). With all who comply with this call of God's Spirit – the wise ones do so – He shares **in a perfect way** His death and resurrection by their eating and drinking spiritually of His flesh and His Blood. Then the Lord God is able to recreate such a believer into a member of the Bride of the Lamb, into perfect “stones”, to build with them the initial establishment of the New Jerusalem.

This New Jerusalem doesn't yet exist in the old heaven. It has to be created in the end-time – stone after stone – here on earth. These stones have to be perfect and purified in the Blood of the Lamb, and in the Fire of God's Word and Spirit.

What the apostle John saw on Patmos (Rev. 21) **is the profetic counterpart** of the new Jerusalem in her perfect state, that now still is kept in heaven (1 Petr. 1:4), to be created in the end-time.

The **first “stone”**, with which the new Jerusalem will be build, will be created in the time of the “10 kings” (political leaders) of Europe.

Dan. 2:34-35 *Thou sawest till that a stone was cut **out without hands** (without human help), which smote (in his heart) the image upon his feet [that were] of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces (all forms of human kingdoms, administrations). 35 Then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together, and became like the chaff of the summer threshingfloors; and the wind (picture of the Holy Spirit) carried them away, that no place was found (in the heart of this perfect Christian; he acknowledge only*

the Kingship of King Jesus) for them: and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain, and filled the whole earth (picture of the Bride of God's Lamb).

Dan. 2:44-45 And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a Kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the Kingdom (of God) shall not be left to other people, (but to the people of Israel), [but] it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms (these sorts of human kingdoms or administrations), and it shall stand for ever. 45 Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain (of sin) without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream [is] certain, and the interpretation thereof sure.

Some believers think wrongly, that this "stone" is the Lord Jesus Christ. This is impossible, because this is a happening of the end-time, of the time of the 10 kings of Europe. Moreover, our Lord was never bound on this mountain of sin as this stone before was. Our Lord was, living on earth, always perfectly free of any sin.

When this stone, as a first is freed without (human) hands from this mountain of sin, rapidly the mountain of pure stones (**the Bride of the Lamb**) will be formed.

2. The preparation of the Bride of the Lamb (the New Jerusalem), which in the end-time has to be build on earth.

a) **The call of the Spirit resounds then in the hearts of the believers of the end-time, to partake in the total death on earth from all powers of sin, a redemption achieved by the Lamb of God at Golgotha.** This sharing in the perfect death of God's Lamb is **necessary** to be formed up to a member of the Bride of God's Lamb on earth, in order that this member can be **without spot or wrinkle**.

Rev. 19:9 And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed are they which are called unto the **marriage supper of the Lamb**. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God.

Eph. 5:26-27 That He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word, 27 that He might present it to Himself a glorious Church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish.

I have already mentioned, that this perfect death from all might of sin will be accepted and believed, not before the end-time. The half of the true believers will do so; namely the **wise part of them**.

Mt. 25:1-4 Then shall the Kingdom of heaven (on earth, the Church) be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the Bridegroom (this is thus an end-time happening). 2 And five of them were wise, and five [were] foolish. 3 They that [were] foolish took their lamps (picture of their witness-life), and took no oil (picture of the Holy Spirit) with them: 4 But the wise took oil in their vessels (picture of their hearts, which above all have to be sanctified by the Spirit) with their lamps.

The foolish part of the true Church – the halve of it, 5 of the 10 virgins – rejects this and is content with forgiveness of their committed sins, by the washing in the Blood of the Lamb of God, and doesn't surrender themselves to **the Spirit of sanctification**, here pictured by the **Oil in their vessels** (picture of their hearts). They also are named "virgins", because they also wash their sins in the Blood of the Lamb of God. They only have their eyes fixed on the witness-power of the inward working Holy Spirit to bring other souls to conversion.

We see these foolish ones also pictured in Lk. 14:16-24.

Lk. 14:16-24 Then said He unto him, A certain man made a great supper, and bade many: 17 And sent his servant (picture of all called and anointed servants of the Lord) at supper time to say to them that were bidden, Come; for all things are now ready. 18 And they all with one [consent] began to make excuse. The first said unto him, I have bought a piece of ground (picture of money and wealth), and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused. 19 And another said, I have bought five yoke of oxen (picture of the five senses and lusts, which pull him like oxen-power away from the love of Christ), and I go to prove them: I pray thee have me excused. 20 And another said, I have married a wife (he who gives priority to human will above this lovely offer of Christ), and therefore I cannot come. 21 So that servant came, and shewed his lord these things. Then the master of the house being angry said to his servant, Go out quickly into the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in hither the poor, and the maimed, and the halt, and the blind (believers who are spiritually in such a circumstance) 22 And the servant said, Lord, it is done as thou hast commanded, and yet there is room. 23 And the lord said unto the servant, Go out into the highways and hedges, and compel [them] to come in (believers who are just converted), that my house may be filled. 24 For I say unto you, **that none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper (all of them shall be rejected and not become members of the Bride of God's Lamb)**.

A part of these foolish ones apologises, because they prefer material possessions above spiritual perfection and the acceptance of God's offer to share the marriage supper of God's Lamb (verse 18). An other part prefer the enjoying of the 5 senses of the flesh, which pull them like ox-power away from this Divine mercy (verse 19). Again another part of the foolish ones denies God's call, because they prefer to listen to the will and words of their wife, or for instance of their pastor, who has an other vision on God's Word (verse 20). None of these foolish ones is ever accepted as future member of the Bride of the Lamb on earth (verse 24). Others (verses 21-23) will take their stead to make full the number of the Bride of God's Lamb on earth.

b) The preparation of those, who listen to the call of the Spirit of God to share the marriage supper of God's Lamb.

b1) They will be personally accepted as future members of the Bride of God's Lamb.

Mt. 24:40-41 Then shall two⁴ be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 41 Two [women shall be]⁵ grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left.

Lk. 17:34-37 I tell you, in that night there shall be two [men]⁶ (= persons) in one bed; the one shall be taken, and the other shall be left. 35 Two [women]⁷ shall be grinding together; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 36 Two [men]⁸ shall be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. 37 And they answered and said unto him, Where, Lord? And He said unto them, Wheresoever the body (of the Bride's children) [is], thither will the eagles (picture of the Bride's children) be gathered together.

This acceptance as future members of the Bride of God's Lamb is **personal**. After their acceptance the Holy Spirit of God adds them to the spiritual Body of the Bride of God's Lamb, which He has to create.

b2) The sudden, total redemption of the old sinful life by the purgative Fire of the Spirit of God.

Isa. 4:3-4 And it shall come to pass, [that he that is] left in Zion, and [he that] remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, [even] every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: 4 When the Lord shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof **by the Spirit of judgment, and by the Spirit of burning.**

Mal. 3:1-3 Behold, I will send my messenger (picture of all called and anointed servants of the Lord), and he shall prepare the way before Me: and the Lord (invisible in and through the Holy Spirit), Whom ye seek, shall **suddenly** come to His temple, even the Messenger of the (Blood)covenant, Whom ye delight in: behold, He shall come, saith the LORD of hosts. 2 But who may abide the day of His coming? and who shall stand when He appeareth? for He is like a refiner's fire, and like fullers' (picture of Him Who purges the linen clothe) soap: 3 And He shall sit as a refiner and purifier of silver: and He shall purify the sons of Levi (picture of all wise servants of the Lord), and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness.

Mt. 3:11-12 I indeed baptize you with water unto repentance: but He that cometh after me is mightier than I, Whose shoes I am not worthy to bear: He shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost, and [with] Fire: 12 Whose fan is in His hand, and He will thoroughly purge His floor (picture of the human heart), and gather His wheat into the garner; but He will burn up the chaff (picture of the sinful old man) with unquenchable fire.

b3) The justification of the Bride of God's Lamb. The still increasing divine Nature.

Isa. 61:10 I will greatly rejoice in the LORD, my soul shall be joyful in my God; for He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation, He hath covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decketh [himself] with ornaments, and as a bride adorneth [herself] with her jewels.

1 Petr. 1:3-5 Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Which according to His abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, **reserved in heaven for you,** 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation **ready to be revealed in the last time.**

2 Petr. 1:3-4 According as His Divine power hath given unto us all things that [pertain] unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be **partakers of the divine nature,** having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, **we shall be like Him;** for we shall see Him as He is.

Rev. 19:8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.

c) The outpouring of the Latter Rain (of abundant divine Life). The end-time baptism in the Holy Spirit.

Joel 2:23 Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the LORD your God: for He hath given you the former rain moderately, and He will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain (picture of the outpoured Spirit of God) in the first (outpoured as in the first, which is the apostolic time)

Jn. 10:10 The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have [it] **more abundantly.**

⁴ In the original texts it does not speak of man or woman. It reads: *there shall be two*, of which one shall be taken and the other left (behind in their un-blessed position).

⁵ See note 4.

⁶ See note 4.

⁷ See note 4.

⁸ See note 4.

d) The glorifying of the Bride of God's Lamb.

Rev. 12:1 *And there appeared a great wonder in heaven (the Kingdom of heaven on earth, which is the Church) a woman (the Bride of God's Lamb) clothed with the sun (picture of the Father), and the moon (picture of the Son) under her feet, and upon her head a crown of twelve stars (picture of the Holy Spirit):*

The Bride of God's Lamb is then clothed with the glory of the Father (the sun), that of the Lamb (the moon), and crowned with the authority and power of the Holy Spirit (the 12 stars).

Mt. 13:43 *Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father. Who hath ears to hear, let him hear.*

Rev. 22:14 *Blessed [are] they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life (picture of Jesus), and may enter in through the gates into the city.*

Ps. 45:10-15 *Hearken, O daughter, and consider, and incline thine ear; forget also thine own people, and thy father's house (thy sinful human life); 11 So shall the king greatly desire thy beauty: for He is thy Lord; and worship thou Him. 12 And the daughter of Tyre [shall be there] with a gift; [even] the rich among the people shall intreat thy favour. 13 The king's daughter (the Bride of the Lamb) [is] all glorious within (her inward glory): her clothing is of wrought gold (her outward glory). 14 She shall be brought unto the King in raiment of needlework: the virgins her companions (the part of the Bride which is not yet come up to the total sanctification, the remnant of her seed, Rev. 12:17) that follow her shall be brought unto thee. 15 With gladness and rejoicing shall they be brought: they shall enter into the King's palace.*

Rev. 22:11 *He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: and he which is filthy, let him be filthy still: and he that is righteous, let him be righteous still: and he that is holy, let him be holy still.*

She is **inwardly** and **outwardly** glorified. She is glorified with the glory of God Himself.

e) The preceding glorifying of the Bride happens together with the sudden, invisible return of the Bride-groom in and through the Holy Spirit.

3. The wedding festival of the Lamb of God. The spiritual unity of the Bride and God's Lamb, of the Body of Christ (the Bride-Church with its spiritual Head).

Rev. 19:6-8 *And I heard as it were the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of mighty thunderings, saying, Alleluia: for the Lord God omnipotent reigneth. 7 Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to Him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and His wife (the Bride of God's Lamb) hath made herself ready. 8 And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.*

After the wedding festival or unification of the Bride with God's Lamb, in and through the Holy Spirit, she sits with Him and with the Father **in the throne of heaven**.

Rev. 3:21 *To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in My throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with My Father in His throne.*

4. Now the time of labour is there, for which the wedding (unification) on earth has to be achieved.

Lk. 12:35-37 *Let your loins be girded about, and [your] lights burning; 36 And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their Lord, when He will return from the wedding; that when He cometh and knocketh, they may open unto Him immediately. 37 Blessed [are] those servants, whom the Lord when He cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that He shall gird Himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them (sharing with them His anointing and His end-time labor).*

Eph. 6:14 *Stand therefore, having your loins (the loins of your mind, 1 Petr. 1:13) girt about with (the Word of) truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness (the inward armour of God).*

1 Petr. 1:13 *Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ;*

Here is referred to the **"loins of your mind"**, which have to be girded up with the wisdom of God's Word (the Word of truth), so that we are able to serve the Bridegroom.

This spiritual labour contains:

a) **The warfare against sins in the Church and the leading of her to total victory over her sins in the full power of the Holy Spirit. Moreover the leading of her in all the knowledge of God's everlasting Gospel.**

Rev. 12:7 *And there was war in heaven (in the Kingdom of heaven on earth, which is the Church): Michael (our Lord Jesus as Lord of hosts) and His angels (His called and anointed servants and warriors) fought against the dragon (satan); and the dragon fought and his angels (the workers of darkness),*

This war in the 7 Churches contains:

a1) The destruction of the 7-headed dragon, which does its destructive work in the Church.

Rev. 12:3-4 *And there appeared another wonder in heaven (the Kingdom of heaven on earth, which is the Church); and behold a great red (sin)dragon, having seven heads and ten horns, and seven crowns upon his heads. 4 And his tail (picture of the false prophets, Isa. 9:14) drew the third part of the stars of heaven (the apostate Christians, 2 Th. 2:3), and did cast them to the earth: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born.*

Rev. 12:8-11 *And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven (in the Kingdom of heaven, the true part of the Church). 9 And the great (sin)dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the devil, and satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth (out of the true Church), and his angels were cast out with him. 10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven (in the true part of the Church), Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their (sinful) lives unto the death (until it is mortified by the purifying fire of the Spirit).*

a2) The cleansing of the 7 Churches, and the leading of them to full victory over sin.

Read Rev. chapters 2 and 3

Rev. 6:1-2 *And I saw when the Lamb opened one of the seals, and I heard, as it were the noise of thunder, one of the four beasts (literally transl.: living creatures) saying, Come and see. 2 And I saw, and behold a white horse (picture of the power of righteousness of the Holy Spirit): and he (picture of all called and anointed servants of the Lord) that sat on him had a bow (picture of the Word of God); and a (victor's) crown was given unto him: and he went forth conquering, and to conquer (till the victory is complete).*

a3) The preaching of the perfect, everlasting Gospel.

Rev. 14:6 *And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and **to every nation, and kindred, and tongue, and people,***

Hab. 2:14 *For the earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

b) The performing of the great worldwide revival.

Joel 2:28-29 *And it shall come to pass afterward, [that] I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions: 29 And also upon the servants and upon the handmaids in those days will I pour out my spirit.*

Rev. 14:14-16 *And I looked, and behold a white cloud, and upon the cloud one sat like unto the Son of man, having on his head a golden crown, and in his hand a sharp sickle. 15 And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to him that sat on the cloud, Thrust in thy sickle, and reap: for the time is come for thee to reap; for the harvest of the earth is ripe. 16 And he that sat on the cloud thrust in his sickle on the earth; and **the earth was reaped.***

This matter is extensively dealt with in the Bible study: "There is soon a divine Bridal festival here on earth".

5. Israel's role in the great worldwide revival.

In the spiritual Body of the Bride is a large and special place fallen to Israel's lot. This is God's promise to Abram, which is here come to expectation. His promise by Scripture is 5 times repeated; namely, that Abram's offspring would be a blessing **for all nations**.

Gen. 22:18 *And in thy seed shall **all the nations of the earth be blessed**; because thou hast obeyed My voice.*

In the end-time the 10, in human eyes "lost tribes" of the House of Israel will regain their lost identity. Then together with the Jews (the tribes Judah, Benjamin and Levy) they will return to Canaan, when this territory has been liberated from the nations, which have taken it in possession, after the exile of the Jews by the Romans. Then the whole of Israel will take Canaan in possession again. This liberation of whole Canaan happens during the war of Gog and Magog (Eze. 38, 39).

When this war is over, this land – from the beech of Egypt up to the Euphrates – which God had promised to Abram, will be given to **the whole** of Israel (all 12 tribes). Then, a great exodus, out of the whole world, towards Canaan will happen.

Eze. 39:25-29 *Therefore thus saith the Lord GOD; **Now** (after the Gog and Magog war is over) will I bring again the captivity of Jacob, and have mercy upon **the whole house of Israel**, and will be jealous for My holy Name; 26 After that they have borne their shame, and all their trespasses whereby they have trespassed against Me, when they dwelt safely in their land, and none made [them] afraid. 27 When I have brought them again from the people, and gathered them out of their enemies' lands, and am sanctified in them in the sight of many nations; 28 Then shall they know that I [am] the LORD their God, which caused them to be led into captivity among the heathen: but I have gathered them unto their own land, and **have left none of them any more there.** 29 Neither will I hide my face any more from them: for I have poured out My Spirit upon the house of Israel, saith the Lord GOD.*

Eze. 36:22-28 Therefore say unto the house of Israel, Thus saith the Lord GOD; I do not this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went. 23 And I will sanctify My great Name, which was profaned among the heathen, which ye have profaned in the midst of them; and the heathen shall know that I [am] the LORD, saith the Lord GOD, when I shall be sanctified in you before their eyes. 24 For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land. 25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. 26 A new heart (a new life) also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you (so: born-again followers of God): and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. 27 And I will put My spirit within you (baptism in the Spirit), and cause you to walk in My statutes, and ye shall keep My judgments, and do [them]. 28 And ye shall dwell in the land that I gave to your fathers; and ye shall be My people, and I will be your God.

This return of whole Israel happens simultaneously with the great worldwide revival.

Isa. 11:10-11 And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse, which shall stand for an ensign of the people; **to it shall the Gentiles seek: and his rest shall be glorious.**

In the end-time many of the in human eyes lost 10 tribes already will be Christianised and will share the great world-wide revival.

Hos. 3:4-5 For the children of Israel shall abide many days without a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod⁹, and [without] teraphim¹⁰ (without an own king and without religion) 5 Afterward shall the children of Israel return, and seek the LORD their God, and David their king (picture of Jesus); and shall fear the LORD and His goodness **in the latter days** (in the end-time).

This Christianising of the whole of Israel happens in such a wonderful way, that **144.000 Christians out of the people of Israel, and out of the Jews, will belong to these "first-fruits" unto God and unto the Lamb** (Rev. 14:4).

Rev. 7:1-8 And after these things I saw four angels standing on the four corners of the earth, holding the four winds of the earth, that the wind should not blow on the earth, nor on the sea, nor on any tree. 2 And I saw another angel ascending from the east, having the seal of the living God: and he cried with a loud voice to the four angels, to whom it was given to hurt the earth and the sea, 3 Saying, Hurt not the earth, neither the sea, nor the trees, till we have sealed the servants of our God in their foreheads (this calling and sealing of these predestined firstborns happens before the judgements begin) . 4 And I heard the number of them which were sealed: [and there were] sealed an hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand of **all** the tribes of the children of Israel. 5 Of the tribe of **Juda** [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Reuben** [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Gad** [were] sealed twelve thousand. 6 Of the tribe of **Aser** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Nephtalim** [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Manasses** [were] sealed twelve thousand. 7 Of the tribe of **Simeon** were sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Levi** [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Issachar** [were] sealed twelve thousand. 8 Of the tribe of **Zabulon** [were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Joseph** (Ephraim)[were] sealed twelve thousand. Of the tribe of **Benjamin** [were] sealed twelve thousand.

Rev. 14:1-5 And I looked, and, lo, a Lamb stood on the mount Sion (picture of the true Church), and with Him an hundred forty [and] four thousand, having his Father's Name (JHWH) written in their foreheads. 2 And I heard a voice from heaven, as the voice of many waters, and as the voice of a great thunder: and I heard the voice of harpers harping with their harps: 3 And they sung as it were a new song before the throne, and before the four beasts (living creatures), and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred [and] forty [and] four thousand, which were **redeemed from the earth** (they were as every man sinners before their perfect sanctification). 4 These are they which were not defiled with women; for they are virgins (they are

⁹ Ephod = Something girt, a sacred vestment worn originally by the high priest (Exod. 28:4) afterwards by the ordinary priest (1 Sam. 22:18) and characteristic of his office (1 Sam. 2:18, 28, 14:3) It was worn by Samuel, and also by David (2 Sam. 6:14) It was made of fine linen, and consisted of two pieces, which hung from the neck, and covered both the back and front, above the tunic and outer garment (Exod. 28:31) That of the high priest was embroidered with divers colours. The two pieces were joined together over the shoulders (hence in Latin called superhumerales) by clasps or buckles of gold or precious stones, and fastened round the waist by a "curious girdle of gold, blue, purple, and fine twined linen" (Exod. 28:6-12). The breastplate, with the Urim and Thummim, was attached to the ephod.

¹⁰ Teraphim = Givers of prosperity, idols in human shape, large or small, analogous to the images of ancestors which were revered by the Romans. In order to deceive the guards sent by Saul to seize David, Michal his wife prepared one of the household teraphim, putting on it the goat's-hair cap worn by sleepers and invalids, and laid it in a bed, covering it with a mantle. She pointed it out to the soldiers, and alleged that David was confined to his bed by a sudden illness (1 Sam. 19:13-16). Thus she gained time for David's escape. It seems strange to read of teraphim, images of ancestors, preserved for superstitious purposes, being in the house of David. Probably they had been stealthily brought by Michal from her father's house. "Perhaps," says Bishop Wordsworth, "Saul, forsaken by God and possessed by the evil spirit, had resorted to teraphim (as he afterwards resorted to witchcraft); and God overruled evil for good, and made his very teraphim (by the hand of his own daughter) to be an instrument for David's escape.", Deane's David, p. 32 Josiah attempted to suppress this form of idolatry (2 Kings 23:24) The ephod and teraphim are mentioned together in (Hos 3:4) It has been supposed by some (Cheyne's Hosea) that the "ephod" here mentioned, and also in (Jud. 8:24-27) was not the part of the sacerdotal dress so called (Exod. 28:6-14) but an image of JaHWeh overlaid with gold or silver (comp.) (Jud. 17:1-18:1ff; 1 Sam. 21:9, 23:6 and 9; 30:7,8) and is thus associated with the teraphim.

perfectly pure of any sex feeling. Sex namely may tend to idolatry). These are they which follow the Lamb whithersoever He goeth. These were **redeemed** from among men, [being] the firstfruits unto God and to the Lamb. 5 And in their mouth was found no guile: **for they are without fault before the throne of God.**

After the wedding festival of God's Lamb these 144.000 will, as the "man-child", spiritually grow up to the height of perfection within the spiritual body of the Bride, and will be spiritually born out of her.

Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron (he will take part in the judgement of the anti-christ nations with the Lord Jesus, Rev. 19:15, Rev. 3:27): and her child was caught up unto God, and to His throne.*

Isa. 66:7-11 *Before she travailed, she brought forth; before her pain came, she was delivered of a man child.*

These in Canaan returned Israelites, under which the "firstborns unto God and unto the Lamb", being hidden in the spiritual body of the Bride, will organise in Jerusalem great worldwide outreaches.

Isa. 2:2-3 *And it shall come to pass **in the last days**, [that] the mountain of the LORD'S house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it (the great world-wide revival). 3 And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the LORD from Jerusalem.*

Isa. 4:2 *In that day (the end-time) shall the branch of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth [shall be] excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.*

When their task on earth is fulfilled the 144.000 (the man-child) by the Spirit of God will be caught unto God and His throne in heaven.

Rev. 12:5 *And she brought forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron: and her child was caught up unto God, and [to] his throne.*

6. When the great tribulation begins, the Bride, herself, in the power of the Spirit, will flee to the desert. The Bride is then still in an unchanged body, and like Philip (Acts 8:39-40) she will be transported up to her shelter place in the wilderness, where she will be kept hidden for the terror of the anti-christ during 3½ year.

Rev. 12:6 *And the woman (the Bride of God's Lamb) fled into the wilderness, where she hath a place prepared of God, that they should feed her there a thousand two hundred [and] threescore days (3 ½ year of the great tribulation).*

Rev. 12:14-16 *And to the woman were given two wings of a great eagle (picture of the Holy Spirit), that she might fly into the wilderness, into her place, where she is nourished for a time, and times, and half a time, from the face of the serpent. 15 And the serpent cast out of his mouth water as a flood (the anti-christ nations which search to mortify her, Rev 17:15) after the woman, that he might cause her to be carried away of the flood. 16 And the earth helped the woman, and the earth opened her mouth (a great earthquake, and swallowed up the flood which the dragon cast out of his mouth.*

7. The bodily return of the Lord Jesus Christ on the clouds of heaven.

Then in a twinkling of an eye, at the last trump, the Bride will put on a spiritual, resurrected body, and with the out of the death resurrected, righteous souls, she will meet the Lord and the 144.000 in the clouds. Then they, with the Lord Jesus Christ and the 144.000, return to the earth to establish God's Kingdom of 1000 years.

1 Cor. 15:51-57 *Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, **at the last trump**: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. 53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. 54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.*

1 Th. 4:13-18 *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

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