

**Welcome to: -
Bible House of Grace.**



God, through His Son Jesus, provides eternal grace for our failures and human limitations.

Ss

Bible Dictionary
And
Various Biblical Meanings.
2017

Teach it, don't demand it.

Although I believe my aim is pure and God's will perfect this document is still the product of a human man. As to such I neither claim special knowledge or perfect understanding.

If you think items presented on this site to be in error, please let me know and I will gladly reconsider the content.

Sabbath Day

The following verses show that it was lawful to do good on the Sabbath Day. Jesus asked the Pharisees: -

- Which one of you who has a sheep, if it falls into a pit on the Sabbath, will not take hold of it and lift it out? (Matt 12:11) (Parallel passage Luke 14:5).
- Ought not this woman, a daughter of Abraham whom Satan bound for eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the Sabbath day? (Luke 13:16).
- Moses gave you circumcision and you circumcise a man on the Sabbath. ²³If on the Sabbath a man receives circumcision, so that the law of Moses may not be broken, are you angry with me because on the Sabbath I made a man's whole body well? (John 7:22-23).

Since the LORD rested on the seventh day and one of the Ten Commandments states: -

- Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. (Exodus 20:8).

Some today believe they must keep the Sabbath Day or they will be out of favour with God. For those who desire to live under the Old Covenant of Law the true Sabbath is Saturday, but this commandment was given to the nation of Israel and came with a death penalty if any Israelite profaned it or did any work on it (Exod. 31:14-15). This means if we embrace the Sabbath Day (Saturday) today as a commanded law we also must embrace the punishment that comes with not keeping it.

Nowhere in the New Covenant of grace does Jesus, the apostles or Paul give a commandment to keep the Sabbath. New converts started meeting on Sunday, because the Jews denied Christ and wouldn't allow them in the Synagogues and it was the day Christ rose, but it is not a command of God, but become the practical and traditional day for Christians to gather together. Today it matters not to God what day Christians gather together to worship since it is not the day that is important to God, but the honesty and integrity of the heart toward Him every day. The apostle Paul wrote: -

- Therefore do not let anyone judge you by what you eat or drink or with regard to a religious festival, a new moon festival or a Sabbath Day. These are a shadow of the things that were to come; the reality, however, is found in Christ. (Col. 2:16-17).

Sacrifices

Sacrifices can refer to the act or the victim. Biblically it carries the idea of offering something to a deity in propitiation or homage (a ceremonial acknowledgment of allegiance, honour and respect), especially the ritual slaughter of an animal or a person. It can refer to the giving up of something valued physically, financially, emotionally or spiritually for a higher cause or purpose.

Sacrilegious

Sacrilegious (*Greek hierosulos*) (Robbers in KJV) biblically refers to a temple-despoiler or a robber of churches.

Saddle

The camels saddle: during ancient times the saddles of camels were not only made in such a way that they could be used as saddles for riding, but also made with saddle bags that would hang on the sides of the camel which were used for storage while travelling and designed so they could be used as seats to sit upon when stopping to camp.

Saffron

See (Plants)

Saints

Saints (*Hebrew qadowsh*) means, sacred (ceremonial or moral) it can refer to an angel, a sanctuary, a holy one, a faithful Jew, or a person who belongs to Christ. Saints (*Greek hagios*) means, an awful thing or sacred, it carries the idea of being physically pure, morally blameless or ceremony consecrated. Consecrated means blessed and sanctified. Sanctified means glorified, divine, dedicated, most holy one or most holy thing. When it carries the meaning of "an awful thing," it carries the idea of terror when standing before the absolute Holiness of God without any covering.

Salem

Salem comes from the Hebrew word (*Shalem*) and means peaceful it is an early name of Jerusalem and carries the idea of friendliness, just, peaceable and perfect.

Saliva

Saliva refers to spittle i.e. to spit.

Salt

Salt makes food taste good and makes people thirsty so that they want more it symbolises a cleansing agent that makes food taste better and symbolises something that makes people want more of something else. Figuratively salt carries any of the following meanings, prudence, common sense, foresight, forethought, judgement, care, gentle, caring, being merciful and pure in heart or hungering for righteousness and peace.

Have salt in yourself: means let the fruits of the Spirit dwell in you; be merciful, kind, humble, caring, patient forgiving and loving; do not give up your faith or stop doing good and be at peace with each other.

Everyone will be salted with fire: means everyone will be judged.

Salvation

Salvation is from the Jews: salvation is from the Jews in the sense that they are the offspring of Abraham and Israelites to who belongs the adoption the glory and the covenants. To them belong the patriarchs and to them were given the law, the worship and the promises. They were entrusted with the oracles of God (Rom. 3:2) and from their race, according, to the flesh, came the Christ who is Lord over all (Rom. 9:4-5, 7).

Salvation and witnessing: the following is a good introduction that opens the door to witnessing, after introducing yourself, ask the following two questions, "Do you believe you' have done anything wrong, most answers will be "yes," then say, "join the club, everything that is wrong is called sin in the Bible," then ask, "How do you think you are going to take that sin to a Holy Place?" For further information concerning salvation see the title: "Salvation," (ON WEBSITE MENU).

The Jewish name for salvation: is Yeshooaw (similar, to Joshua), it means deliverance, welfare, prosperity, victory and salvation by God.

Sanctify

Sanctify (consecrate in ESV) (*Hebrew qadash*) means, to be made, pronounced dedicated or to observe a thing or person as being ceremonial or morally clean. It carries the idea of dedicating oneself to God by making amends of wrong doing; separating and cleansing externally and internally from sin through repentance from profane things; the renewing of the mind, the thoughts, ambitions and one's view of life and the purifying and making free from the guilt of sin. In the book of Isaiah, it is written: -

- Those who sanctify and purify themselves to go into the gardens (behind one *tree* in the KJV) following one in the midst, eating pig's flesh and the abomination and mice (the mouse in KJV), shall come to an end together, declares the LORD. (Isaiah 66:17).

Those who sanctify and purify themselves is not referring to those who are sanctified by the Spirit God and by the grace of God, but to pagans who attempt to sanctify themselves by their own religious practises and ceremonies and to the people of Israel who have blended their religion with the religion of the pagans.

This was common amongst both Israel and ancient religions; those of pagan faiths would adopt much of Israel's religion, but still hold fast to their own rituals and gods. This was especially true if Israel's armies had great victory over an enemy, that enemy would then credit Israel's God for giving Israel the victory and therefore add Him and the Jewish ceremonies to their gods and their rituals. Likewise, when Israel saw the surrounding nations prospering they credit their gods for their prosperity and therefore added them and their rituals to their faith.

Sanctified

Sanctified (*Greek hagiazō and hagios*) means to make holy and purify, to consecrate venerate, respect, esteem, adore, honour, reverence, worship, bless, dedicate, sacrifice and devote. To make physically, morally or mentally blameless or to be ceremony consecrated, meaning blessed, hallowed and divine. It can also mean a sacred thing or an awful thing. When referred to as an, "awful thing," it carries the idea of terror when standing before the absolute Holiness of God without any covering.

Sanctification

Sanctification (*Greek hagioσmos and hagiazō*) means, purification, it refers to the state of purity or to one who purifies. Sanctification carries the idea of being made holy ceremonially or by one who purifies. It can refer to behaviour or the mental state of the mind.

Satan

Satan in the Old Testament comes from Chaldee origin and in the New Testament comes from Aramaic origin, but the word Satan in both the Old and the New carries the same meaning, which is, the accuser, the devil (diabolos), an opponent, the arch-enemy of good. It is often used as a title that refers to any adversary (human or angelic) that opposes or withstands God and everything that is good.

Satan means: the arch-enemy of good; a satan-like man; the accuser; one that withstands; an adversary; one who opposes another in purpose or act and one that stirs up apostasy and encourages to sin. The name Satan can refer to any human that opposes the will and purposes of God and what is good, to a man's political and religious aspirations or to all those in high religious positions that are an adversary or hindrance to the Gospel of Christ.

Straying or going after Satan is: -

- Being idle, lazy and useless and going from house to house gossiping.
- Being a busybody and saying things that should not be said.
- Allowing sensual passions or emotions to draw one away from Christ.
- Being indulgent and wanting to live in excessive luxury.
- Giving up Christ to be with a partner of the opposite sex (1 Tim. 5:15).

Satan's servants of righteousness: Paul in his letter to the Corinthians wrote: -

- Even Satan disguises himself as an angel of light so it is no surprise if his servants, also, disguise themselves as servants of righteousness. (2 Cor 10:14).

The title, "Satan's servants of righteousness," can refer to any of the following: -

- People who accused Paul, Silas and Timothy of being in the flesh (2 Cor. 10:2).
- People who proclaim another Jesus or another gospel.
- People who receive a different spirit (2 Cor. 11:4).
- Super apostles (2 Cor. 11:5).
- Deceitful, cunning, malicious and conniving persons.

- False and deceitful men who disguise themselves as apostles. (2 Cor. 11:13).
- People who disguise themselves as an angel of light. (2 Cor. 11:14).
- Self (disguised as a nice person). (2 Cor. 11:14).

Satan and the devil (diabolos) are often used in the Bible as interchangeable names because they both carry the same meaning. For further information see the title, "Satan," in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Satrap

Satrap was the title for a provincial ruler in the Persian Empire. It was used as an official title during the reign of Cyrus the Great (550-529 B.C.) for governors who represented the king, and had authority over native rulers in newly conquered regions. In some cases, as in Egypt, the former ruler was, allowed to remain on the throne as a satrap, bearing allegiance to Persia.

Darius the Great (521-486 B.C.) organized the empire into twenty provinces, each ruled by a satrap who was responsible for its administration, the collection of annual taxes, the organization of the military and the judicial system, and the province's artistic and social development.

The power of the satrap increased during the time of the Achaemenids in, spite of further regulation by the king's inspectors. Subsequent rulers, including Alexander the Great, the Seleucids, and the Sasanians, retained the title, as did the Seljuks, who advanced through Parthia into northern and western India in the 11th century A.D.

Save

Save (*Greek sozo*) means, safe, save, deliver and protecting (self). To heal, preserve, do well or to be or make whole especially one who is saved for eternal salvation that is guaranteed to those who faithfully trust in Christ.

In the technical biblical sense salvation means: to save from the evils which obstruct the reception of the Messianic deliverance; to deliver from the penalties of the Messianic judgment; to rescue and preserve; to keep safe and sound one who is in danger of destruction or perishing; to make whole a suffering one from disease, by healing and restoring them to health. Some believe that once saved always saved, but this is not true, God will not keep a person against their will.

Saviour

Saviour means, "deliverer and preserver." The name Saviour was given by the ancients to deities, (especially to princes and kings). In general, it is the name given to men who had conferred significant benefits upon their country, and in earlier days was a means of flattering those of great influence (Luke 1:47).

It especially refers to God and the Lord Jesus Christ who are both called the Savior in the Bible. Some teachers in various Christian circles use this fact to support the theory that Jesus is God, but the Bible does not teach this mistaken theory. The following Scriptures and notes show how easily the fact that both God and Jesus are called the Saviour can be harmonized.

Saviour in the Old Testament: the following Old Testament verses show that both God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are referred to as the Saviour and that God's saving power and grace works through the Lord Jesus Christ.

- They forgot God, their Saviour, who had done great things in Egypt (Psalm 106:21).
- I am the LORD (Y^hovah) your God, the Holy One of Israel, your Saviour (Isaiah 43:3).
- I am the LORD (Y^hovah), and besides me there is no saviour (Isaiah 43:11).
- Truly, you are a God who hides yourself, O God of Israel, the Saviour (Isaiah 45:15).
- Was it not I, the LORD (Y^hovah) there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Saviour; there is none besides me (Isaiah 45:21).

- I am the LORD (Y^ehovah) your Saviour, the Mighty One of Jacob" (Isaiah 49:26).
- I, the LORD (Y^ehovah), am your Saviour and your Redeemer (Isaiah 60:16).
- I am the LORD (Y^ehovah) your God and besides me there is no saviour (Hosea 13:4).
- Paul an apostle by command of God our Saviour and Christ Jesus our hope (1 Tim. 1:1).
- I (Paul) have been entrusted by the command of God our Saviour (Titus 1:3).
- To Titus, Grace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour (Titus 1:4).
- To the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord (Jude 1:25).

Saviour in the New Testament: the following New Testament verses show that both God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ are referred to as the Saviour and that God's saving power and grace works through the Lord Jesus Christ.

- Unto you is born in the city of David a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord (Luke 2:11).
- God exalted Christ at his right hand as Leader and Saviour, to give repentance and forgiveness of sins (Acts 5:31).
- God has brought to Israel a Saviour, Jesus, as he (God) promised (Acts 13:23).
- Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour (Ephes. 5:23).
- From heaven we await a Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ (Philip. 3:20).
- Which now has been manifested (God's purpose and grace) through the appearing of our Saviour Christ Jesus (2 Tim. 1:10).
- An entrance into the kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 1:11).
- Grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ (2 Peter 3:18).
- We testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Saviour of the world (1 John 4:14).
- I (Paul) have been entrusted by the command of God our Saviour (Titus 1:3).
- To Titus, Grace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Saviour (Titus 1:4).
- To the only God, our Saviour, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory (Jude 1:25).

God the father and Jesus Christ are both the Saviours. God the Father is the saviour in the sense that before the foundation of the world He planned and purposed salvation to be through His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the saviour, because God the Fathers eternal purposed plan of salvation works through the Lord Jesus Christ God's Son.

Without God's plan of salvation there is no salvation therefore in this sense God is the Saviour, but without the death and resurrection of Christ God's plan fails so in this sense Christ is the Saviour. The fact the Scriptures refer to God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ as Saviour does not mean that Jesus is God as many believe.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son. The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has, to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states: -

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information, see the title: "Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity)," in Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Scattered

Scattered (dispersion in ESV) (Greek diaspora) means, dispersion, biblically it refers to the (converted) Israelite residents that had been scattered abroad into foreign lands and were living in Gentile countries.

Sceptre

Sceptre (*Hebrew shebet*) means to branch off and can refer to a staff, stick or rod for punishing, correcting, writing, fighting, ruling and walking, etc. Figuratively it can refer to a clan or tribe or to one who has rules. Sceptre (*Greek rhabdos*) refers to a stick, cane, rod, wand, a staff as a cudgel or a baton of royalty.

The history of the scepter: the word scepter comes from an unused root probably meaning a shoot that branches off. Literally it was a rod of wood that was called a sceptre (or staff) because it was adorned with carvings relevant to the tribe and their faith, that was handed down from father to son and in this way, it soon became an emblem of authority. It signifies both tribal headship, authority and power and the authority of royal kingship as with David and Solomon.

Each tribe had a staff (or sceptre) which became an ensign (i.e., a banner, flag, badge) that signified the tribes' authority. In some contexts, the staff of Judah signifies all the tribes being united under one staff (or sceptre) meaning all tribes are united under one government.

Depending upon the context the sceptre can signify any of the following: the might of armies; a symbol of righteousness; the power of the law to crush the wicked; the strength of a strong leader or ruler; God's power being with His people; the dominion and royal power of a nation and the dominion and authority of a king and his government. (Num. 24:17) (Ps. 45:6) (Isaiah 14:5) (Ezek. 19:14) (Amos 1:5, 8) (Zech. 10:11).

Scoff

Scoff comes from the Hebrew word (*qalac*) and means to ridicule, mock, belittle, demean, laugh at and sneer and pour scorn upon.

Scoffer

Scoffer (scorner in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*luwts*) and means to make mouths it carries the idea of ridiculing and showing others disrespect by mocking and scorning (i.e., belittling and degrading). Scorer comes from the Hebrew word (*luwts*) and carries the same idea as scoffer.

A scoffer will display the following attitudes: they will have a haughty attitude and believe (often unjustifiably) that he or she is better than others, and will often not mix with those they consider their social inferiors. They are arrogant and exalt themselves above others and even God, and will treat people they look down to and believes are inferior to them with disdain and at their worst with cruelty and destruction.

They cause quarrels, strife, arguments, fights and even wars. The name of a scoffer is encompassed in the words pride, mocker, arrogant and haughty (Proverbs 21:14).

Scorner

See scoffer above.

Scorpion

Scorpion (*Greek skorpios*) means, to pierce, it is the name of a little animal, somewhat resembling a lobster, but with a poisonous sting in its tail and which in warm regions lurks (especially in stone walls) while scorpion (*Greek skopos*) means, to peer about, and carries the idea of concealment, an observer, a watchman, the distant mark looked at, the goal or the end one has in view.

Scorpions

See Serpents and Scorpions below.

Scoundrel

The character of a scoundrel (churl in KJV) (Isaiah 32:7) the word churl comes from the Hebrew word (*kiylay*) it carries the idea of withholding and primarily applies to those who have, the ability to help the less fortunate, but instead of being generous with what they have they are stingy and very reluctant to give or spend anything to help another.

They are people who have, the ability to help the poor or a person suffering hardship, but refuse to do so. They have no concern for others, because their sole focus in life is upon self-gratification.

Scourge

Scourge has the idea of contact and can refer to a whip used by man for punishment or to calamity, plague and misfortune sent by God or to discipline, correction and punishment.

Scribes

The Jewish scribes studied and interpreted the law, but sadly added to it because they believed that their diligent search of the Old Testament meanings was virtuous and entitled them to eternal life (John 5:39). They were a class of learned men who made the systematic study of the law and its exposition their professional occupation.

Prior to the seventy-year captivity in Babylon the scribes were public writers, governmental secretaries and copiers of the law and other documents (2 Sam. 8:17) (2 Sam. 20:25) (1 Kings 4:3) (2 Kings 12:10) (Jer. 8:8) (Jer. 36:18) (Prov. 25:1) which at first this naturally fell to the priests (Neh. 8), but as time progressed through history there arose a separate group of professional students who devoted themselves to the preservation, transcription and exposition of the law.

Scribes in the New Testament: are also called lawyers (meaning legal experts) (Matt. 22:35) (Luke 7:30) (Luke 10:25) (Luke 11:45) (Luke 14:3) (Acts 5:34) and were also called doctors of the law (Luke 5:17) (Acts 5:34). The, majority of the scribes belonged to the Pharisees party because they recognised the legal interpretations of the scribes, some verses seem to imply that the Sadducees also had their scribes (Mark 2:16) (Luke 5:30) (Acts 23:9).

The scribes and power: scribes had a powerful position in the New Testament which was the result of gradual development over a long period, of time. They held undisputed sway as the recognised exponents of the law and the revered representatives of Judaism and proudly claimed the positions of first rank. The scribes were often called upon to serve as judges in Jewish courts because of their legal knowledge.

The scribes and the people: the common people in their desire to know the law readily turned to the legal experts as teachers and because of this the scribes received the deep respect of the people, as indicated in the honourable term rabbi, meaning my master or teacher, but they loaded the people with burdens grievous to be born (Luke 11:46) (Matt. 23:4) and sought public acclaim of the masses and demanded utmost reverence from their disciple's.

The scribes work: the scribes studied and interpreted the law that God gave to Moses, but sadly, where they thought there was a lack of details in Moses Law they added to its actual requirements. The vast and complicated mass of scribal teaching was known as the tradition of the elders (Matt. 15:2-6) (Mark 7:1-13) it was orally transmitted and required prolonged study to master. Most of the scribes like Paul (Acts 18:3) followed some trade even though their activity as scribe was primary.

The Scribes used their trade so they could supply their judicial affairs without charging a fee so they could profess to be offering their instruction gratuitously (given freely), but Jesus denunciation of the scribe's greed makes it obvious they had indirect ways of securing their fees (Mark 12:40) (Luke 20:47).

It appears that the scribes charged a fee for their instructional activities, but not their judicial affairs. They dressed in long robes and liked the nobility (Matt. 23:5-7) (Mark 12:38-39) (Luke 11:43) (Luke 20:46) and because of their zealous intention to safeguard and defend the sanctity of Moses Law the common people believed them to be the true teachers of it.

The scribes and Jesus: Jesus refused to be bound by the scribal additions to the law (John 5:10-18) (Mark 7:1-13) and their hypocrisy and unrelenting hatred drew forth Christ's devastating denunciation of them as recorded in (Matt. 23). The scribes were Jesus most watchful and determined opponents and fiercely opposed him throughout his ministry (Mark 2:16) (Luke 5:30) (Luke 14:2).

They played an important part in the death of Jesus (Matt. 26:57) (Matt. 27:41) (Mark 15:1, 31) (Luke 22:66) (Luke 23:10) and in the persecution of the early church (Acts 4:5) (Acts 6:12).

Nevertheless, not all scribes were wholly bad both Nicodemus and Gamaliel were scribes and no doubt there were others that are not mentioned, but as a whole the scribes were marked by spiritual corruption and were the very quintessence of Pharisaism.

The pride of the scribes is expressed in the following list, they loved: -

- Walking around in long robes to appear holy
- People greeting them in the marketplaces and esteeming them as important
- The best seats in the synagogues and the places of honour at feasts
- Praying long and eloquent prayers to look good
- Being exalted above the common people
- Money, they even took it from widows, the defenceless and the poor
- Looking spiritually superior (Mark 12:38-40)

Jesus was extremely offended at their religious hypocrisy and pretence and said, they will receive the greater condemnation (Luke 20:46-47)

Scriptures

Scriptures (*Greek graphe and grapho*) means a document and to describe in writing. It refers to a holy book or its contents or a statement in it.

Nine tips to help understand the Bible, always: -

1. Look to see who is talking, because they may not be saying a truth or correct thing.
2. Look for the sequence of thought in the chapter.
3. Be consciously aware of wider meanings and the hidden undesigned patterns that are deeper than what is superficially being said.

4. Keep in mind that the Scriptures contain the words of the greatest mind in the universe.
5. Single verses have, to be interpreted in the light of the Bible's core truth.
6. God talks to Israel, but the application can often apply to the reader personally.
7. Look for the power or meaning behind the message the words contain.
8. Words do not always carry the same meaning, often it is the context that gives the word its meaning.
9. Behind many passages and chapters in the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ while lying in others verses is a future age.

All Scripture is breathed out by God: applies to the messages spoken by the prophets and apostles, it does not mean that every individual word of the Bible is inspired, but that it is the messages the individual words collectively teach that are inspired.

The Bible is to be used for: teaching and reproof, correction and training in righteousness so that the man or woman of God may be competent and equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

A principal of Bible writers and authors: a common principal of Bible writers is to hide themselves in the letter they are writing. The writers very rarely use the word I, they will often say, "that disciple with them" or "him" when they are referring to themselves. It is a style of writing that avoids boasting and contrasts the natural prideful spirit of the world which desires to feel important, biblical writers deliberately avoid this by hiding themselves in their writings.

The Bible and Jesus: a lot of what the Bible or Jesus says, pre-supposes some things while other things are clearly explained and detailed.

Bible translations: translate the thought the words carry or translate it word for word.

Darby's Bible: uses the words, "congregation" or "assembly" instead of church some say the Darby Bible is a good literal translation, because the author had a big mind.

A danger in Biblical interpretation: it is all too easy to lift single verses out of their context and build a theological superstructure upon them that they were never designed to bear.

Bible books: The Bible records history revealing how God works through world events and acts in history and is telling a spiritual story from God's perspective, but even though it records snippets of history it is not a real historical book, rather it records accounts expressing a faith that says God is just, if there is punishment there is a reason for it. The stories also contain another message of forgiveness for those who turn to God with all their heart and soul and obey His voice accept their guilt and change their ways. Throughout its pages it proclaims to mankind there is hope.

Biblical writers may expand the story to develop the meaning or leave out much of the detail so that the core focus of the story is in focus. The central focus or primary purpose of the Bible is not the historical account or the exact detail of the story, but the eternal lessons that the story communicates to the reader, it is about God's relationship with man and the good and evil in the human heart.

The Scriptures are written of David and of Christ: in the book of Psalms David said: -

- Behold, I have come; in the scroll of the book it is written of me. (Psalm 40:7-10).

When the author of the book of Hebrews was talking about Christ, he wrote: -

- Behold, I have come to do your will, O God, as it is written of me in the scroll of the book. (Hebrews 10:5-7).

Both David and Christ had the LORDS word written in their heart and their desire was to do His will. They both told of the Good News of the LORD and spoke of God's love faithfulness and salvation and the LORD did not restrain His faithfulness, His mercy or His steadfast love from Christ or from David. These verses are a great example of the wonder, splendour and beauty of the language of the Scriptures. The Bible is full of many verses that transcend the immediate story or person in focus to an ultimate future event or person (almost always Christ).

Keys to reading the Bible: no reader should be surprised that large chunks of history or unimportant details the story are not mentioned, as it is common for Scripture to leave matters not important to the story to the intelligence, reasoning and logic of the reader. Had the original writers of the Bible manuscripts not taken this approach the Bible would be so thick it would take a lifetime to read it. When these gaps occur, it is left to the intelligence and common sense of the reader to fill them in.

A letter written to a loved one will be different in style to one that is written to a university. Who a person is that writes will determine the style and intellect and the emotion of that letter. It is always important to take this principal into account when interpreting the Bible and to be aware of the danger of being beguiled by individual verses into building a theological superstructure upon them, which the verses were never designed to bear, many false doctrines are built this way.

Biblical language: the main message of the Bible is man's way back to God and the proclamation of the Kingdom and the resurrection. The miracles and healings are only to authenticate the message and for a Jew and Bible writers if a thing or event is declared by God that it will happen, it can be spoken of or written about as though it has already happened, this is because it is sure to come to pass.

Sea

In various Scriptures, the sea is used to signify people as the following verse shows, Daniel declared, "I saw in my vision by night, and behold, the four winds of heaven were stirring up the great sea and four great beasts came up out of the sea, different from one another. (Daniel 7:2-3). In this verse the four winds signify four kings; the great sea signifies multitudes of people and the four great beasts signify four kingdoms coming up out of the multitudes of people (i.e., the sea). For further information concerning the sea, see the title: "Rivers and Seas," in, Map Locations and People of the Bible (ON WEBSITE MENU).

A seal was stamped on a written document to prove, confirm, and authenticate that the document was the testimony of the person sending it or to prove beyond doubt that what was written was the senders instruction.

Sealed

Sealed (*Greek sphragizo and sphragis*) means to stamp with a signet or private mark for privacy, genuineness, security, preservation or to keep a thing secret or protect from misappropriation. When something was purchased a seal was put on it to show ownership, the word sealed carries the following idea, a thing has been legally purchased and now has a new owner. Kings did the same thing to protect their family and friends and believers are sealed by the promise of God, as He cannot lie. Sealed carries with it the meaning of ownership and protection by the one who put the seal on.

The words of a book are sealed: in the book of Isaiah it is written: -

- The vision of all this has become to you like the words of a book that is sealed. When men give it to one who can read, saying, "Read this," he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed." (Isaiah 29:11).

The words of the book are sealed means the words of this entire vision from chapter one to its end is sealed. This principal applies to all the prophecies of all the prophets contained in the Scriptures concerning the Messiah.

To the priests and the vast bulk of the people of Israel they were no more seen, known, and understood than if they had been in a book, written, rolled up, and sealed. Not because of the obscurity of the writings, or because they were sealed up, but, because of the spiritual blindness and stupidity of the people's minds, whose eyes were closed, and their hearts hardened to the word of God spoken to them by the prophets and given to them in the Scriptures.

Read this, he says, "I cannot, for it is sealed," (v11) during these early generations it was common for books to be in the form of rolls that when delivered to someone that understood the language in which the book was written it was opened and they were asked to read what was written.

When the book is given to one who can read and to one who cannot read both give the same answer saying, "they cannot, for it is sealed," The idea carried here is that it mattered not how learned the rulers and priests were or how much knowledge the common people lacked amongst the Jews neither the learned or unlearned were any better than one another for understanding the messages which God sent them by his faithful the prophets.

The sense is that although they had the true prophecies and word of God which the LORD had made clear to them through the prophets, yet they did not perceive and understand them. Isaiah is saying that they were as ignorant of their true nature as those who can read are of the contents of a letter that is rolled and sealed and as ignorant as those who cannot read are of the contents of a book that is handed to them. The message is sealed because the people of God are only giving the LORD lip service. They know the right things to say and do, but their heart is not involved. They have no love for the things of the LORD and doing His work is a burden to them. (Isaiah 29:13).

It is not until the Bible is read with a teachable spirit and a humble and seeking heart that desires to learn the truth and the will of God that it reveals its spiritual messages its mysteries and wonders, until then it remains as a sealed book to everyone (learned or unlearned). It will provide valued intellectual knowledge and wisdom as any other knowledgeable book does. It is only when prideful self-reliance gives way to a humble spirit that honestly seeks God that His love, grace and the path to salvation and eternal life is opened to the mind and the heart. Natural human learning without a right heart attitude will not enable anyone to rightly understand the word of God, and spiritual things.

- The natural person does not accept the things of the Spirit of God, for they are folly to him, and he is not able to understand them because they are spiritually discerned. (1 Corinthians 2:14).

God seals up His truths to the learned and unlearned alike whose hearts are self-reliant prideful and who have no desire to change their ways, in contrast to this those who approach His word with a humble heart and honestly desire to know Him will find Him.

Seasons

Seasons (*Hebrew mow`ed*) means an appointment it can refer to a fixed time or season, a year or a festival and by implication an assembly that is gathered for a definite purpose and specific time; seasons (*Hebrew ya`ad*) means to fix upon (by agreement or appointment) and by implication to meet at a stated time, to agree to make an appointment for a specific time and to set a time to gather together; seasons (*Hebrew z`man*) refers to a season of time and seasons (*Hebrew zaman*) carries the idea of an appointed or fixed time.

Seasons (*Greek kairos*) designates a fixed or special occasion; seasons (*Greek chronos*) refers to a space of time (in general and seasons (*Greek aion*) refers to an age and by extension perpetuity (past and future) and by implication the world. It especially applies to the Messianic age (present or future) and carries the idea of being eternal, forever (i.e., the beginning of the world without end).

Seated in Heavenly Places

In Paul's letter to the Ephesians he wrote: -

- God has raised us up with him and seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, ⁷so that in the coming ages he might show the immeasurable riches of his grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. (Ephes. 2:6-7).

Seated in heavenly places is symbolic terminology, it means those who belong to Christ are seated in righteousness, they are, seen as belonging to Christ, who is the head of the Christian race. Jesus is seated in heaven and believers are in him, in the sense that he is the believer's head seated in heaven. As, long as believers are under his headship their place in God's Kingdom is guaranteed and therefore it is right and proper to say that they are seated in heavenly places (i.e., they are seated in righteousness, not their own, but Christ's).

Adam is the head of the sinful race and therefore it would be right and proper to say that those without Christ are seated in Adam," meaning they are seated in sin. Christ is the head of the second race or Christian church, because he is risen and it is by faith in him the church exists so in this sense it could be said that the church is seated in heavenly places (i.e., seated in Christ, because he is the head of it).

Heavenly places: carries the idea of elevation, being hidden, not yet seen, but has been planned, but is not yet manifest. The expression, "heavenly places," can carry the following two ideas: -

1. God has delivered those in Christ from the domain of darkness and transferred them into the kingdom of His beloved Son (Col. 1:13); they are set free from the condemnation of the law and the sentence of eternal death; their sins are forgiven; they have favour and fellowship with God and with Christ; God lavishes grace upon them daily because of their devotion and love for His Son and has guaranteed them eternal life and everlasting happiness in glory.

It is in this sense that the faithful in Christ are said to be, "raised up with Christ and seated with him in the heavenly places (Eph. 2:7). It means that the faithful in Christ have by faith and God's grace been raised up with Christ and are seated with him in spiritual places far beyond any riches that this earthly world has.

The mind of every brother and sister in Christ is lifted-up into heavenly places by the wonderful knowledge that their sins are forgiven and they are accepted by God and will be raised to eternal life and everlasting glory. Taking the mind even higher into heavenly places is the truth that they have all this glory because of Christ's righteousness that God imputes to them as free-gift because of their devotion and faith in His Son the Lord Jesus Christ. This majestic knowledge elevates the mind into a higher state of joy and well-being. This is one of the reasons why it is referred to as being in heavenly places.

Paul is, able to speak of this majestic event in the past tense or as though it has already taken place because it is a reality by faith in the mind of all who belong to the Lord Jesus Christ. Added to this it is based on God's promise and He cannot lie therefore it is guaranteed.

- In hope of eternal life, which God, who never lies (cannot lie in KJV), promised before the ages began (Titus 1:2).
2. The word, heavenly comes from the Greek word (*epouranios and ouranos*) which carry the idea of elevation and therefore can refer to a heavenly state of the mind. With, this in mind the words, "seated us with him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." can also carry the idea of the mind being lifted-up into high places of joy, peace and love by the Gospel of Christ.

The faithful in Christ are always consciously aware of God's love and grace and the majestic and eternal blessings God has promised to them and this knowledge elevates the mind into a glorious state of joy, peace, contentment and wonder. It is similar, to when a secular person has a fabulous day or a great win and shouts in exuberant excitement and joy, "wow I'm in heavenly places." It's a spiritual way of saying that the mind is in an elevated state of joy and of well-being. This is one of the reasons Paul prayed that believers would: -

- Know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge so that they may be filled with all the fullness of God (Ephes. 3:19).

Paul understood that it is experiencing and knowing Christ's love that will lift the heart and the mind from the cares and troubles of this world into the heavenly places of God's world far more than a head full of intellectual scriptural knowledge can ever do. It could be said that the purpose of all scriptural knowledge is to bring us into this love since whoever has this love not only has the fullness of God, but will inherit eternal life in everlasting glory.

God has raised us up with him: (Eph. 2:6) faithful believers are risen in the sense that they are guaranteed of being resurrected in the ages to come. This is because their faith is founded upon the promise of God and He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).

God might show the immeasurable riches of his grace: (Eph. 2:7) it is because the faithful are in Christ and counted righteous by Christ's righteousness and not their own that God is, able to show His immeasurable riches of grace and kindness toward them. These surpassing riches not only encompass the grace God lavishes upon us daily, but also embraces the surpassing riches that are seen now by faith, but are to come in, the future Messianic age in which all God's promises to the faithful will come to pass in their fullness.

Sebat

Sebat is the 11th month of the Hebrew year (Zech 1:7), spelled Shebat in RSV. It corresponded to our February.

Seed

Seed (*Hebrew zera'*) means seed and depending upon the context can refer to fruit or a plant and to sowing-time, a fruitful time or to ancestors, children, future generations, heirs and descendants, while seed (*Hebrew zara'*) means to sow and figuratively to spread, to plant and to conceive seed.

Seed (*Greek speiro*) carries the idea of extending, to scatter and to sow or receive seed; seed (*Greek spao*) means to draw out; seed (*Greek sporos*) carries the idea of a scattering of seed as sown; seed (*Greek sperma*) means something sown and carries the idea of a seed sown (including the male sperm) and by implication offspring (especially a remnant) and seed (*Greek spora*) means a sowing, especially of a seed and by implication parentage (i.e., origin, descent and family). Summing it all up seed carries the idea of something sown (including the male sperm) and by implication offspring.

Seed (Greek sperma): embraces whatever possesses the vital force or life giving power and in various contexts refers to a few survivors taken from the masses and reserved as the germ of a new future race in the same way that a few seeds are taken from the harvest and is kept for future sowing. It embraces the grain or kernel which contains within itself, the germ of life for future plants, in the same way that the divine energy of the Holy Spirit operates within the heart and renews the mind and seals the faithful to be a new race in Christ's Kingdom.

The promised seed of Abraham: the seed can be collective or singular, so we need not think that promises made to Abraham were only for the Jews. Paul explains this principal in the following verse: -

- Now the promises were made to Abraham and to his offspring. It does not say, "And to offsprings," referring to many, but referring to one, "And to your offspring," who is Christ. (Gal. 3:16).

The King James Bible says: -

- Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. (Gal. 3:16).

The primary focus of the promised seed is Jesus Christ, but the seed expanded too all nations through water baptism into Christ as the following verse shows: -

- For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ. (Gal. 3:27).

Seemly

Seemly means, suitable or beautiful.

Seer

The following verse shows that a seer was the same as a prophet

- (Formerly in Israel, when a man went to inquire of God, he said, "Come, let us go to the seer," for today's "prophet" was formerly called a seer. (1 Sam. 9:9).

The word seer comes from the Hebrew word (*chozeh*) it literally and specifically means a beholder in vision (as looked upon with approval), but can refer to one who mentally gazes at a vision or to one who perceive and contemplate a thing (with pleasure).

It can refer to a faithful or unfaithful prophet, to those who gazes at the stars seeking prophetic signs or to those who see visions in their mind or outside of themselves (i.e., like a hologram or dream). The use of the word seer most likely fell into disuse, because of the men claiming to speak in God's name, but were pretenders using clairvoyance which brought the name of the true prophet of God into discredit.

However, though the name was dropped the prophet of God did not cease to be a seer; and to see visions which was one of the highest gift of the Spirit of God (Joel 2:28).

Selah

Selah means, "to lift up," it occurs seventy-one times in the Psalms and, also appears in (Habakkuk 3:3, 9, 13). The meaning of Selah is unknown. It is generally believed that its usage was that of a musical or liturgical sign such as a musical pause. Some seem to understand it as a direction to the orchestra to lift-up the music (i.e., to play the instruments while the singers are silent). Others render it to mean forever, but there is no support for this.

Jacob of Edessa (A.D 640-708) compared it to the Amen sung by the Christians after the Gloria. It may have been used as a signal for the singing of some sort of doxology or benediction after psalms or parts of psalms divided for liturgical use.

It will be noted that the word usually occurs at a place where a very significant statement has been made, making that a good place for a break or pause. It is believed that Selah was introduced during the late Persian period.

Send and away

Send and away are both from the Greek word (*apostello*) which means, to set apart, and by implication to send out on a mission.

Sense

The meaning of good sense, in the book of Proverbs it is written:

- Whoever gets sense loves his own soul; he who keeps understanding will discover good. (Proverbs 19:8).

Good sense means having the ability: -

- To appreciate a person's good qualities, skills and talents and perceive and be motivated by moral and ethical principles.
- To make intelligent decisions and sound judgments and understand something intuitively and detect and identify a good or bad change in somebody.
- To rationally arrive at a sensible conclusion or opinion through reason, logic perception and reflection and perceive intuitively if somebody or something is good or bad.
- To have the wisdom to foresee the end results and outcome (good or bad) of a decision made in the present moment.

Having good sense is evidence that a person loves their own life because those who have good sense will protect themselves from harm, physically, financially, sexually, emotionally, verbally and spiritually. See also the title, "Understanding (The Meaning of Understanding)," in this Bible Dictionary.

Sensuality

Sensuality (lasciviousness, wantonness in KJV) (*Greek aselgeia*) carries the idea of sexual immorality and shamelessness (sometimes including other vices). Sensuality (pernicious in KJV) (*Greek apoleia, apollumi and olethros*) carries the idea of ruin or loss (physical, spiritual or eternal) and can refer to the destruction of a damnable nation, and to death and punishment.

Sent

Sent in Scripture always relates to being sent to minister or a ministry whereas begotten in Scripture always relates to being born or birth.

Sent from heaven: Jesus asked the chief priests, scribes and elders,

- Was John the Baptist from heaven or from man? And they said, "If we say, 'From heaven,'" he will say, 'Why then did you not believe him?' (Mark 11:27-31).

Today we know John the Baptist did not descend from heaven and that the expression, "from heaven" and "came from heaven" is Jewish language meaning, "sent from God" or "sent by God," contrasted with being sent by man. The Pharisees knowing John the Baptist was born of a woman did not have a problem in understanding Jesus question, "was John from heaven?" Being Jewish they understood the expression, "from heaven" meant "sent by God."

The Pharisees were of the tribe of Levi who God had established as the Levitical priesthood, in this sense the Levites could say that they were, "sent from heaven" meaning they had the authority of God and were established by God. The Old Testament prophets were spoken of as being "sent from heaven" meaning, "sent by God" because they had the authority of God and spoke His message. The Jews avoided using God's name for fear of blaspheming so they would use the term, "sent from heaven" or "the Kingdom of heaven" both titles mean the same as "sent from God" or "the Kingdom of God."

The same principal applies when the Bible says, "Jesus came from heaven." In Jewish language, it does not mean he lived in heaven and then came to earth, but that he was, "sent by God" (it also embraces the fact that he was born of God). The common people knew that John the Baptist was a prophet and that it was in this sense that he is said to have come from heaven meaning he was "sent from God and approved of by God." This, is why the answer, "John the Baptist came from heaven," was the correct answer to Jesus question, "Was John the Baptist from heaven or from man?"

When Jesus question, "was the baptism of John from heaven or from man?" is put into its full context which is authority, (i.e., by what authority are you doing these things, or who gave you this authority to do them?) (v28) it becomes clear that the expression, "was John the Baptist from heaven or from man?" means by what (or whose) authority was John ministering and baptising in.

Separate

Separate (depart in the KJV) means, to give space.

Serpent

Serpent Hebrew: serpent comes from the Hebrew word (*nachash*) it literally means a snake (from its hiss) figuratively it refers to a magic spell and generally carries the idea of enchantment (i.e., to use charm and fascination to allure and entice) or of predicting and foretelling future events (i.e., a diviner, mystic, spiritualist and medium).

Serpent in the way: in the book of Genesis it is written: -

- Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward. (Gen. 49:17).

The serpent here embraces all kinds of deadly adders especially that kind of horned serpent of the colour of the sand which makes it easily to hide its body in desert sands and the dust of the highways travellers commonly use. Since it can hide itself in such a way it is not only a most deadly creature to all who come near it, but also able lie in wait without being seen, until it is ready to strike its prey with its deadly bite.

These very small serpents (in compassion to horses) are pictured as inflicting the much larger animal with a deadly wound, not by attacking its head, but by attacking its weakest part, its heel causing both the horse and its rider to fall.

The character of the serpent: is one of subtleness, deceptiveness, cunning and though small, in size, deadly dangerous.

Serpent Greek: serpent (*Greek ophis*) means, a snake, it carries the idea of sharpness of vision and figuratively refers to a type of sly cunning an artful, deceitful, conniving and malicious person (Satan).

- Viper (*Greek 'eph'eh,*) refers to an asp or some other venomous serpent.
- Adder (*Hebrew sh^ephiophon*) refers to a kind of serpent, probably the adder.
- Scorpion (*Greek skorprios*) carries the idea of concealment and piercing (from its sting)

In the New Testament Jesus said: -

- Behold, I have given you (the eleven apostles and those who were with them) authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you (Luke 10:19).

Malachi in the Old Testament said: -

- You who fear God shall tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I (the LORD) act, says the LORD of hosts. (Malachi 4:3)

The author of Psalm ninety-one says: -

- Those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot. ¹⁴"Because he holds fast to me in love, I will deliver him; I will protect him, because he knows my name (Psalm 91:1, 11-12).

Summary: you will tread on serpents and scorpions: in the Old and New Testament, the adder and serpent are symbols of poison and cunning. Serpents and Scorpions can kill. This means when serpents and adders (scorpions) are used figuratively they are symbols of people who are, able to seductively destroy a person's faith. In the New Testament Jesus called the religious leaders of his generation (the Pharisees and scribes) serpents and a brood of vipers (scorpions) (Matt 23:33-34).

When Jesus told his twelve apostles that they would, "Tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt them (Luke 10:19). He was basically saying, "The message they are taking to the world will destroy the hypocritical, prideful and self-serving religious leaders and no matter what these serpents and vipers do they cannot harm their salvation or their eternal inheritance."

Following are various verses throughout the Old and New Testament that speak of scorpions and serpents etc.

Serpents and scorpions in Genesis: when Jacob called his sons, he said, "Dan shall be a serpent in the way, a viper by the path, that bites the horse's heels so that his rider falls backward" (Gen 49:17). Serpent in this context is a symbol of anything that hinders a person from moving forward, especially in their faith.

Serpents and scorpions in Deuteronomy: Moses reminds Israel that, "God led them through the great and terrifying wilderness, with its fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty ground where there was no water" (Deut. 8:15). Scorpions in this context refer to anything that was dangerous to Israel's health, wellbeing and life. Moses says of those who forsake God and turn to idols and pagan gods, "Their wine is the poison of serpents and the cruel venom of asps (Deut. 32:33). Serpents and asps (scorpions) in this context are people who belonged to God but have corrupted His ways.

Serpents and scorpions in Kings: king Rehoboam, said to Israel, "My father disciplined you with whips, but I will discipline you with scorpions" (1 Kings 12:11, 14) (2 Chron. 10:11, 14). Scorpions in this context refer to unjust, cruel and brutal discipline.

Serpents and scorpions in Job: Job says, "The food of the wicked is turned in his stomach; it is the venom of cobras within him. He swallows down riches and vomits them up again; God casts them out of his belly. He will suck the poison of cobras; the tongue of a viper will kill him." (Job 20:14-16). Scorpion (viper) in this context refers to the death of the wicked.

Serpents and scorpions in Psalms: David in a Psalm says, "The wicked are estranged from the womb; they go astray from birth, speaking lies, they have venom like the venom of a serpent, like the deaf adder that stops its ear, (Psalm 58:4). Serpents in this context refer to the destructive character of those that lie and the wicked.

Serpents and scorpions in Psalms: the author of Psalm ninety-one, states, "The LORD will command His angels to guard those who dwell in the shelter of the Most High they will tread on the lion and the adder; the young lion and the serpent you will trample underfoot, because they hold fast to me in love, I will deliver and protect them (Psalm 91:1, 11-16). Those who love God will tread underfoot the adder (scorpion) and the serpent. Note the lion is a symbol of power and authority, but in this context, it is destructive and corrupt power and authority.

Serpents and scorpions in Psalms: David prays, "Deliver me, O LORD, from evil men; preserve me from violent men, who plan evil things in their heart and stir up wars continually. They make their tongue sharp as a serpent's, and under their lips is the venom of asps. (Psalm 140:1-3). Serpents and scorpions (asps) in this context refer to prideful, violent and wicked men who stir up strife and plan wars. (See complete Psalm).

Serpents and scorpions in Proverbs: Proverbs warns, "Do not look at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup and goes down smoothly. In the end, it bites like a serpent and stings like an adder. Your eyes will see strange things, and your heart utter perverse things (Proverbs 23:31-33). Serpents and scorpions (adder) in this context refers to drunkards drinking an excess of wine

Serpents and scorpions in Isaiah: Isaiah says to the people of Philistia, "Rejoice not, O Philistia, all of you, that the rod (Israel) that struck you is broken, for from the serpent's root (Babylon) will come forth an adder, and its fruit will be a flying fiery serpent. (Media Persia). (Isaiah 14:29). Serpents and scorpions (adder) in this context refers to two powerful kingdoms i.e., Babylon and Media Persia

Serpents and scorpions in Isaiah: Isaiah says "An oracle on the beasts of the Negeb. Through a land of trouble and anguish, from where come the lioness and the lion, the adder and the flying fiery serpent, they carry their riches on the backs of donkeys, and their treasures on the humps of camels, to a people (Egypt) that cannot profit them." (Isaiah 30:6). The serpent in this context is a symbol of weakness and flight i.e., Israel fleeing (to Egypt for protection) in fear and weakness from their enemies.

Serpents and scorpions in Jeremiah: the LORD through Jeremiah says that he will "Send serpents and adders among Israel that cannot be charmed, and they will bite them," (Jer. 8:17). God says He will do this because the people have rejected His word, His ways and His rules, the scribes write lies with their pens and speak deceitfully, they do their own thing rather than listen to the word of God and everyone from prophet to priest is greedy for unjust gain and deal falsely.

Serpents and scorpions (adders) in this context refer to corrupt and deceitful religious leaders and those who follow them. (See complete chapter).

Serpents and scorpions in Ezekiel: the LORD tells Ezekiel, "Though briars and thorns are with him and he sits on scorpions not to be afraid of them, nor be afraid of their words," (Ezekiel 2:6). Scorpions in this context refer to the rebellious, impudent, stubborn people of Israel who have transgressed against the LORD.

The Wicked trodden underfoot in Malachi: the LORD through the prophet Malachi said, "A day is coming, when all the arrogant and evildoers will be stubble, but those who fear my name, the sun of righteousness shall rise with healing in its wings (echoing Jesus Christ) and you will go out leaping like calves from the stall and tread down the wicked, for they will be ashes under the soles of your feet, on the day when I act, says the LORD (Malachi 4:1-6). Those being trodden under foot are the prideful and the wicked.

Serpents and scorpions in Matthew: when John the Baptist was baptising the people of Jerusalem, Judea and the surrounding region of Jordan who were confessing their sins and coming to him to be baptised in the River Jordan he saw the Pharisees and Sadducees coming to him for baptism, but John instead of baptising them rebuked them saying, "You brood of vipers! Who warned you to flee from the wrath to come?" (Matt 3:7) Scorpions (vipers) in this context refer to the corrupt and destructive nature of the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the Pharisees and Sadducees).

Serpents and scorpions in Matthew: Jesus when speaking to the religious leaders of his generation said, "How can you say anything good when you are evil you brood of vipers" (Matt. 12:34). Scorpions (vipers) in this context refer to the corrupt prideful self-serving, hypocritical scribes and Pharisees.

Serpents and scorpions in Matthew: Jesus said to the scribes and Pharisees, "You serpents, you brood of vipers, how are you to escape being sentenced to hell?" (Matt 23:33). Serpents and scorpions (vipers) in this context are symbol of the scribes and the Pharisees who sit on Moses' seat, men who have great religious authority and who outwardly appear righteous to others, but within are full of hypocrisy and lawlessness. They are spiritually blind teachers who lack justice, mercy and faithfulness and shut the Kingdom of God in people's faces. They love being called rabbi (teacher), doing all their deeds to be seen by others and sitting in the best seats in the synagogues. (See the complete chapter).

Serpents and scorpions in Luke: John the Baptist calls the descendants of Abraham, "A brood of vipers," (Luke 3:7). Scorpions (vipers) in this context refers to people who believed they were right with God, but were not. Jesus told the seventy-two disciples that they have authority to, "Tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy" (Luke 10:19). Serpents and Scorpions in this context can refer to any self-serving, prideful and hypocritical religious leader who uses their followers for their own selfish gain and oppress their congregation. In Jesus generation, it refers to the chief priests, Pharisees and scribes.

Serpents and scorpions in Romans: Paul likens those who are full of bitterness and deception, swift to shed blood and who have no fear of God to having, "The venom of asps under their lips" (Rom 3:13). Scorpions (asps) in this context refer to humans who destroy and kill others through lies and deception because of resentment and bitterness.

Serpents and scorpions in Revelation: in the book of Revelation John in a vision sees what appeared like, "locusts on the earth, who were given power like the power of scorpions of the earth and who had in their tails powerful stings like scorpions in their tails to hurt people" (Rev. 9:3) (Rev. 9:10). Scorpions in this context are most likely symbols of great and cruel armies, but even if this is not so they are symbols of something that brings harm to people.

Summary of serpents and scorpions: serpents and scorpions can be symbols of anything that is dangerous to a person's health, wellbeing and life or to something that hinders a person from moving forward, especially in their faith. They can in some contexts be a symbol of people fleeing in fear and weakness from their

enemies and of the death of the wicked. Serpents and scorpions can refer to powerful kingdoms with cruel armies, unjust, and brutal discipline or to drunkards drinking an excess of wine. The destructive corrupt character of the wicked especially prideful violent men with power and authority who kill others through lies and deception by planning wars and stirring up strife are likened to serpents and scorpions. Rebellious, impudent, stubborn people who belonged to God, but have corrupted His ways and transgressed against the LORD believing they were right with God, but were not are called serpents and scorpions.

In the New Testament serpents and scorpions refers to the religious leaders of Jesus generation (the chief priests, Pharisees, Sadducees and scribes) who had great religious power and authority and even though they appeared outwardly righteous to others were within prideful self-serving, full of hypocrisy and lawlessness.

They oppressed their congregations and used them for their own selfish gain, they did all their deeds so others would see because they loved being exalted as someone important and sitting in the best seats in the synagogues. Jesus called them spiritually blind teachers who shut the Kingdom of God in people's faces because they lacked justice, mercy and faithfulness. See also: Lion (Lion's, lioness, vipers and fiery, flying serpents), in this Bible Dictionary and "Serpent," and "Satan," in, Satan and his Family (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Seth (the god)

Seth the Egyptian god: besides Ra (creator of the universe), Mut (goddess of the sky and often the divine mother of the reigning pharaoh), Amon, Ptah, Osiris and his wife Isis, the principal gods were Horus (god of the sky), Seth (evil incarnate), Hathor (goddess of the sky and queen of heaven), and Anubis (god of the dead). The temples that were dedicated to them were treated as their abodes and as such could be entered only by priests and the Pharaoh.

Great festivals were held in their honour, the Pharaoh himself led the celebrations, escorting the statues of the gods through streets lined with worshippers towards temples decorated with flags and streamers. While most ordinary people probably worshipped the less-elevated local deities at shrines in their homes, these festivals were national holidays and state occasions in which all participated.

Seven

In the Scriptures seven often denote a complete or perfect number; and indicates completeness or perfections and is, considered to be the sacred number. Sevenfold carries the idea of seven days being concentrated into one making its light seven times as intense and clear as it normally would be. It implies perfection and a great magnification of spiritual light, happiness, blessedness and joy.

Seven Streams

See the title: "Rivers and Seas," in Map Locations and People of the Bible (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Seventy weeks

The following is a brief, summary of Daniel's seventy weeks: the title, Seventy Weeks, is a name applied to a prophecy given to Daniel (Dan. 9:24-27). It is a prophecy that in contrast to the general prophecies in Daniel chapter two and Daniel chapter seven presumably, pin-points the exact time within the fourth kingdom when the Messiah shall appear. Practically all agree that the weeks designate four hundred and ninety years. The prophecy is divided into successive periods.

Daniel 9:25 clearly shows Jerusalem has been previously destroyed, but also proclaims it will be rebuilt again and an anointed one will come. The prophecy embraces Israel and redemption (Dan 9:24) the Messiah (Dan 9:24-26) the sacrifices (Dan 9:27) and Jerusalem (Dan 9:25-26). Following are the two most commonly views: -

- 1 **The dispensational view:** that the 69th week terminated at the crucifixion, leaving the 70th week with the present age intervening as a, great parenthesis, to be fulfilled in the great tribulation.

- 2 **The conservative or traditional view:** the 70th week was introduced by Christ's baptism and bisected (3½ years) by his death, causing the sacrifices to cease (9:27). Jesus (the anointed one) destroyed Jerusalem, in the sense that he not only did away with the Old Testament covenant, and introduced a totally new covenant, but through his death on the cross and his resurrection he also destroyed the Old Testament Levitical religious laws, the ceremonial rituals rites and the sacrifices and stripped the Pharisees, the scribes and the chief priest of their power and control over the people.

Christ's death and resurrection destroyed the old religious world and introduced an entire new spiritual world and a new way of living under God and for God. After the Lord's death Jerusalem with its temple was no longer needed for God's people to worship Him. Putting these facts together Daniel's amazing seventy-week prophecy like most prophecies contains to some degree a historical application concerning Daniel and Cyrus, but at the same time is echoing a future time in the latter days. To see how this prophecy affects Daniel and Cyrus and the complete view see: Daniel chapter 9 in, Commentary OT (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Shadow moving backward

See sun dial (further down).

Shall

Shall, in the Greek seems to carry the same idea as the word out, meaning the point where motion or action proceeds in place or time it is often used of completion.

Shameful

Shameful (*Hebrew bosheth*) means shame (the feeling and the condition, as well as its cause) and by implication an idol as a shameful thing; shameful (*Hebrew buwsh*) means to pale and by implication to be ashamed, disappointed, confounded, confused; shameful (*Hebrew qiyqalown*) means intense disgrace; shameful (*Hebrew qalown*) means disgrace and by implication confusion, dishonour, embarrassment, disgrace, reproach and shame and shameful (*Hebrew qalah*) to be lightly esteemed and figuratively to be in contempt despised and seem vile.

Shameful (shame in KJV) (*Greek aischron and aischros*) means a shameful thing, it carries the idea of not observing, religious customs, ceremonial traditions or correct etiquette, protocol, formality and behaviour. It especially refers to dishonesty, falsehood, corruptness and all things sinister and unethical.

Shameful gain: (filthy lucre in KJV) means, greedy for money.

Shaven

Shaven (shorn KJV) means, to shear.

Sheep

Sheep (*Hebrew tso'n*) means to migrate and is a collective name for a flock of sheep or goats or to small cattle. Figuratively it can refer to men; sheep (*Hebrew keseb*) means a young sheep (i.e., a lamb); sheep (*Hebrew kebes*) means to dominate (i.e., a ram old enough to butt), it also embraces a lamb or sheep and sheep (*Hebrew she*) carries the idea of pushing out to graze; a member of a flock, (i.e. a sheep or goat), it also embraces small cattle, ewes, goats, lambs and sheep.

Sheep (*Greek probation*) refers to a four-footed animal that walks forward especially a sheep, while sheep (*Greek probaino*) means to walk forward (i.e. advance) (literally or in years) to be of a great age, to go farther on and to be well troubled and afflicted. In the Old Testament, the word sheep most commonly refers to a sheep or a goat, but in the New Testament always a sheep.

An overview of the nature of sheep: there is a certain strain of highly intelligent sheep known as leader-sheep. These sheep have, the ability to lead a flock home during difficult conditions and the instinct to sense danger and lead the flock to safety. They are prominent in the flock and have alertness in their eyes looking around in all directions for any dangers as they walk in front of the flock to guard them against predators. These leader-sheep never need assistance and often give birth to lambs that are extremely healthy and spirited right from birth.

However, in contrast to these sheep there are other leader-sheep utterly devoid of such intelligence. These sheep in contrast to leading the flock on a good path lead them to slaughter. This is because lambs from birth are conditioned to follow the older members of the flock. This instinct is hard-wired into them it is not something they think about and because of this they have a strong instinct to follow the lead sheep in front of them wherever that sheep decides to lead them, even if that lead sheep jumps over a cliff they are likely to follow such is the nature and instinct of sheep.

While grazing, they band together in a group to protect themselves from predators and when they do become separated from the group they become highly agitated. However, they have an amazing tolerance for pain and by instinct do not show it knowing if they did they would be more vulnerable to predators that look for prey that is weak or injured.

Sheepfold

Sheepfold refers to a yard or court as open to the wind and by implication a mansion or palace.

Shekel

The early way of trading between two parties and paying for a service or product that one was selling and the other needed was to barter something that matched the value of what was being sold. Overtime this way of trading gradually led to the use of using precious metals. Each metal would be given a certain value according, to its weight. At the time of purchase the seller would have a set of scales and weigh the metals in the presence of assembled witnesses until they equalled the purchase price and the sale would be made.

Eventually, this method of exchange was later replaced by the more convenient use of coins of a fixed weight and known value. One of these coins was the shekel. There were shekels of gold (1 Chron. 21:25), shekels of silver (1 Sam. 9:8), shekels of brass (1 Sam. 17:5) and shekels of iron (1 Sam. 17:7). In some parts of the East it is still common today that merchants at the gates (or the markets) have their scales at their side ready to weigh money which is often in lumps of valued metals or rings.

Sheol

Sheol (grave in KJV) (*Hebrew sh^eowl*) primarily means, the grave as the place of the dead, but in many contexts of Scripture it is personified as the world of the dead (as if a subterranean retreat), including its accessories and inmates. Sheol is sometimes called hell or the pit.

The pit: refers to a huge hole in the ground that people are buried in sometimes an area within this massive pit where the dead bodies lie is called the grave. During the Old Testament thousands, could be killed on a battle field in one day. To prevent disease, and wild animals and birds eating the decaying corpses they would be buried in a mass grave. The same thing is done today when there is a plague or too many bodies and not enough men to bury them all in separate graves, this mass grave was called a pit.

When the Scripture speaks of the pit as a bad place it implies that it is only the ungodly that are buried there. The Bible talks a lot about the uncircumcised and those who have fought with weapons of war and the chief people and nations of the earth being in the pit (sometimes personified as being alive and walking around within it) in contrast to the faithful who belong to Christ being referred to as sleeping in Christ (because their death is only temporary).

Shepherd

Shepherd (*Greek poimen*) a shepherd (literal or figurative), pastor, while shepherd (*Greek archipoimen*) a head and chief shepherd. Literally it carries the idea of a shepherd feeding and caring for a flock of sheep, figuratively it carries the idea of supervising as a paster and caring for his congregation.

Shewbread

Shewbread (the bread of the presence in ESV) there are several words from the original text that were translated into the word shewbread.

Literally: it means bread or loaf (as raised).

By implication: it means to lift, to take up or away.

Figuratively: it means to raise the voice or to keep the mind in suspense, to put or take something away or bear something up, to expiate sin or to set forth a proposal, a purpose or an intention.

It especially refers to the show-bread in the temple that symbolises a person being exposed before God. It carries the idea of placing or exhibiting and determining a thing or setting forth a plan or purpose for one-self and placing them all in front of God leaving ones-self with their plans and purposes exposed before the LORD.

The general aspects of the shewbread: shewbread was called hallowed bread (1 Sam. 21:6), it was required to be kept before the LORD continually (Exod. 25:30) (2 Chron. 2:4) the provision for it was by a yearly per capita tax (Neh. 10:32-33).

The Levites prepared it (1 Chron. 9:32) (1 Chron. 23:29) and placed it on the table of shewbread (Exod. 40:22-23) and David ate it unlawfully (1 Sam. 21:1-15) (Matt. 12:3-4) (Mark 2:25-26) (Luke 6:3-4).

Old Testament ordinance concerning shewbread are recorded in: -

- Ordinances for table of shewbread (Ex. 25:23-28) (Ex. 37:10-15) (Lev. 24:5-9).
- Shewbread position in the tabernacle (Ex. 26:35) (Ex. 40:22).
- Furniture of the shewbread (Ex. 25:29-30) (Ex. 37:16) (Num. 4:7).
- Consecration of the shewbread (Ex. 30:26-27) (Ex. 30:29).
- How the shewbread was removed (Num. 4:7) (Num. 4:15).
- Shewbread was for the temple (1 Kings 7:48-50) (2 Chron. 4:19-22).
- The table of the bread of the presence and the lampstand was in the first section (the Holy Place) of the tent of meeting (the temple of God) (Heb. 9:2).

Summary the shewbread: (the bread of the presence) shewbread literally refers to a loaf of bread, but figuratively it carries the idea of placing everything a person is, does, thinks and plans and exposing it all before God (the good and the bad) which explains the reason it also means removing sin and keeping the mind in suspense because no-one knows what their mortal future holds.

Sick

Sick means, to be feeble or weak (in any sense) to be diseased, impotent or sick, to be without strength physically, morally, spiritually, intellectually and emotionally. Figuratively it means to be without power.

Signet

The word signet comes from the Hebrew word (*chatham*) it literally means a signature-ring that acts as a seal and carries the idea of sealing up, closing up or to make an end of. In many contexts, it most likely refers to a ring or seal that was marked in some way that made it easy for those who saw it to know or identify who it belonged to.

Signs

Signs means, a mark to indicate and signify a thing or person. Following are seven signs the Bible gives before the Lord Jesus Christ returns: -

1. The apostles will be hated by all because of Jesus; they will be delivered up by family members and friends to synagogues; some will be persecuted; others will be put in prison and some will be killed, nevertheless they will bear witness and testify to the name of Christ and not a hair of their head will perish for salvation and eternal life (Luke 21:12-18).

2. Jerusalem will be surrounded by armies; the Jews will fall by the edge of the sword; women will suffer; those inside the city and the people of Judea will flee to the mountains and Jerusalem will be destroyed. The Jews will be scattered to all nations and there will be great distress upon the earth. Jerusalem will be trampled underfoot by the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles are fulfilled.

These are days of vengeance, to fulfil all that is written (Luke 21:20-24). In 70 A.D., all of this happened, Jerusalem was destroyed and the Jews were scattered throughout the nations.

3. Many will accept the Gospel and Christ, but many will be deceived (Luke 21:8).
4. There will be wars because nations will rise against nations (Luke 21:9-10).
5. There will be enormous earthquakes, overwhelming famines, extreme pestilence and natural disasters over the entire earth (Luke 21:11).
6. There will be signs in the sun and moon and stars, people will be in distress, fear, and terror and with foreboding of what is coming on the world because of the roaring of the sea and the waves (i.e. floods, tidal waves tsunamis and maybe the rising of sea levels) (Luke 21:25-26).
7. When all these things reach a peak, the Son of Man will come in a cloud with power and great glory (Luke 21:27).

Jesus signs: the signs, miracles and wonders were to authenticate that Jesus was the: -

- Promised seed of Abraham and the promised seed of King David.
- The prophet to come like Moses and the promised Messiah of Israel.
- The Christ and the Son of God.

Silence

Silence (*Hebrew hacah*) means to hush, to hold peace (i.e., hold the tongue) to keep silence, be silent and be still. Silence (*Hebrew damam*) means to be dumb and by implication to be astonished, to stop, perish, cease, cut down and cut off. To forbear, hold one's peace, to quiet one's self, to be at rest, be silent, keep or put to silence, be still, stand still, tarry and wait.

Silence (*Hebrew damah*) means silent, cease, fail, perish, destroy, be cut down or cut off, destroy, be brought to silence and be utterly undone. Silence (*Hebrew charash*) carries the idea of secretly keeping silent, speaking not a word, being still and holding the tongue, leave off speaking, hold peace, be quiet and rest.

Silence (*Greek phimoo*) means a muzzle and to muzzle; Silence (*Greek sigao*) means to keep silent, to keep secret and to hold peace; Silence (*Greek sige*) means to hush and be silent, it carries the idea of voluntary refusal or unwillingness and reluctance to speak and silence (*Greek siopao*) means silence and hush (i.e. muteness) in carries the idea of involuntary stillness, or the inability to speak.

Silence (*Greek hesuchia*) means quietness and stillness, it carries the idea of withdrawing one's self from the bustle of life or of language and speech; Silence (*Greek hesuchios*) means peaceable and quiet and carries the idea of keeping one's seat inactive and by implication) remaining still and undisturbed and silence (*Greek hedraios*) means to sit inactive and by implication to be immovable, settled and steadfast.

Simple

Means seducible simple

Sin

Sin means, offending others, to err especially morally and to trespass, it carries the idea of missing the mark and therefore not share in the prize.

Sin and the devil: the following verses show that the devil (diabolos) is the personification of sin.

In the New Testament Peter says: “Your adversary the devil (diabolos) prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.” (1 Peter 5:8) and James says, “Submit yourselves to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you” (James 4:7).

In the Old Testament Moses says: “If you (Cain) do what is right, will not you be accepted? But if you do not do what is right, “Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you, but you must rule over it” or “Sin is lurking at the door and its desire is for you, but you must master it.” (Gen 4:7).

The roaring lion and sin crouching at the door: James statement, “Your adversary the devil as a roaring lion is seeking whom he may devour,” and Moses statement, “Sin is crouching at the door; and its desire is for you,” Show us that the devil and sin is the same thing.

Sin and the devil in the Old and New Testament: the book of Genesis says sins desire is for Cain, or seeking to devour Cain, but he should rule over it. The apostle Peter says, your adversary the devil as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking to devour you, and in other translations the devil’s desire is for you. This shines a light upon the truth that sin and the devil (diabolos) are the same entity.

The picture painted by these verses is that sin and the devil are waiting and looking for their opportunity and chance to pounce. God says we can master it, meaning control its behavior or bring it into submission. The Old Testament picture of sin is the same as the New Testament picture of the devil which means that the devil is the personification of sin (Gen. 4:7) (1 Peter 5:8).

Cherishing sin in the heart: David wrote: -

- If I had cherished iniquity in my heart, the Lord would not have listened. ¹⁹But truly God has listened; he has attended to the voice of my prayer. ²⁰Blessed be God, because he has not rejected my prayer or removed his steadfast love from me! (Psalm 66:18-20).

The words, “If I had cherished iniquity in my heart,” carry the idea of being indifferent to how our inward attitudes affect God. If we are content to harbour such things as malice, adulterous thoughts, hatred, lust for revenge, bitterness and resentment etc., in our heart and mind God will not listen to our prayer.

Perhaps there maybe certain circumstances that would justify such attitudes, but these things are of the flesh and not the Spirit and the Spirit and the steadfast love of God cannot dwell within such darkness. David clearly understood this principle and it is certain he not only confessed all the sinful attitudes dwelling within, but also hated that they did.

The following verse shows that the apostle John not only understood the limitations of human nature because of the corrupted fallen body we live in that we inherited from our earthy father Adam, but was also aware of the sinful dysfunctions and aberrations that dwell within the flesh and understanding sin, human nature and the flesh comforts all the faithful in Christ with the following words: -

- If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. ⁹If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us. (1 John 1:8-10)

Acknowledging and confessing sin carries with it the idea of being sorry and burdened before God because of it, as opposed to being indifferent. It is not just the words that are involved, but the repentance and sorrow of the heart before God over the sin.

Using God’s grace and the motivation of the heart: some might say, “If we can sin and repent and be forgiven why not do as we please since repentance covers.” The answer to this is simple, we may fool man, but we cannot fool God, he

perceives the honest motivation of the heart and will judge accordingly. It is almost certain those who deliberately use God's grace as an excuse to sin will find themselves standing in the group Jesus speaks of in the following verses: -

- Not everyone who says to me, "Lord, Lord," will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." (Matt. 7:21).
- Why do you call me "Lord, Lord," and not do what I tell you? (Luke 6:46).

Sin

Sin from Strong's Concordance means: -

- To miss or wander from the path of uprightness and honor and to do or go wrong.
- To wander from the law of God or violate God's law.
- To miss the mark or to err and be mistaken, to trespass and offend by one's faults
- To behave offensively or violate the divine law in thought or in act.
- It does not say anything about an inherited sin nature, the definition of sin is an act of doing wrong or of wandering from the law of God.

A simple definition of sin is, anything that harms another human financially, emotionally, physically, verbally or spiritually, all sin harms another human. The Spirit behind the Ten Commandments is love, because each law protects innocent humans

Sin dwells within: means sin is at home within the human body.

My thoughts on sin: God breathed into Adam and he became a living soul (mind and spirit) knowing only good, the spirit is always good and pure, it is the flesh (self, ego and pride) that has the leaning or caving toward wrongdoing. When Adam fell, he entered, into or became aware of Satan's kingdom of evil, meaning, he was now controlled by self, ego and pride and separated from the love, joy and contentment that only comes with a union to God, because of this humanity is left with an absence of peace and well-being which they desperately crave and need for happiness and fulfillment

The holy or unselfish nature, the life or spirit Adam was given became dominated by a new nature craving to find some way of replacing the absence of the presence of God, humanity is now pulled to whatever will replace in their heart and mind the missing fulfillment and pleasures that comes from a union with God. This lost or unfulfilled nature in humanity now has a will to choose to do lawfully or unlawfully what is needed to fulfill the emptiness of their inner most being.

Conscience controls the human spirit and the flesh (self, ego and pride) even today the lost world has a conscience of God, it may be very weak and they may not want to admit it, but the fact they live a moral (however weak) life shows an awareness that to some degree they have knowledge of God even though they deny it verbally. The collective world system is slowly diminishing this consciousness of God in society the result of this is a lack of moral conscience in the individual. The more Satan can remove the sound of Gods voice from the collective consciousness of society the weaker the individual conscience becomes toward the moral values of God

Sincerity

Sincerity means clearness and purity and carries the idea of being tested, tried and prove to be genuine.

Sinners

Sinners (*Hebrew chatta'*) means a criminal and offender or one accounted guilty, while sinners (*Hebrew chata'*) means to miss, to be at fault, do harm, lead astray, offend and trespass, by implication to bear the blame, offer for sin, to repent, to

cleans, purge (self) and make reconciliation. Sinners (*Greek hamartolos*) means sinful, while sinners (*Greek hamartano*) means to miss the mark (and so not share in the prize) and figuratively to err, especially morally) to be at fault, offend and trespass.

Silver

Silver (*Greek arguros*) means shining and refers to the silver metal, in an article or in coins, while silver (*Greek argurion*) means silvery and by implication cash, money, a silver piece especially a drachma and silver (*Greek drachme*) means a drachma or silver coin (as handled) and generally a piece of silver.

Sister

Sister (*Hebrew 'achowth*) a sister while sister (*Hebrew 'ach*) a brother (used in the widest sense of literal relationship and metaphorical affinity or resemblance. Sister (*Greek adelphe*) means a sister, a biological one or an ecclesiastical one, while sister (*Greek adelphos*) means sister, brother or kindred near or remote.

Skull

Skull (*Hebrew gulgoleth*) literally means a skull (as round) and by implication a head of persons, while, skull (*Greek kranion*) literally means a skull or cranium, biblically it refers to the place of the skull, (Calvary in KJV) also called Golgotha. It was the place where Jesus was crucified (Matt. 27:33) (Mark 15:22) (Luke 23:33) (John 19:17). Skull (*Greek keras*) refers to the hair of the head or a horn (literal or figurative).

Slanderers

Slanderers (*Greek diabolos*) means to speak maliciously and falsely of a person, to slander and defame someone's character and falsely, deceptively and dishonestly accuse, while slanderers (*Greek diaballo*) figuratively means to maliciously defame, insult, smear and accuse, especially Satan as a false accuser or the devil as a slanderer.

Slaves

Slaves (servants in KJV) means, a slave, (involuntary or voluntary) (literal or figurative), it carries the idea of being in subjection, dominated and oppressed and subservient.

Sleep

Sleep (*Greek hupnos and hupo*) carries the idea of (silence) or under, underneath, beneath or below, with the idea of an inferior position or condition and especially one that is to some extent secret. Figuratively it refers to spiritual sleep.

Sleep in death: using the term sleep for death, carries the idea or thought that they are going to awake

Sleeping in Christ: when a person who belongs to Christ dies, the Bible says, that they have no knowledge and know nothing, they are totally unaware of it and are therefore in a perfect state of peace, this state is called sleeping in Christ and because they have no consciousness there, is no time. It is very similar, to someone in a deep sleep there is no awareness of time, when the person wakes they have no idea of whether four, seven or twelve hours have passed.

Likewise, because there is no time in death the moment a Christian dies is the moment they are in the Kingdom of God and with the LORD, for them it is instant, even though many years may have passed by in our world's time.

David died thousands of years ago, but the moment he is resurrected will be like the moment he breathed his last breath, because for him there is no awareness of time, so it is for every Christian from death to Christ is instant.

Death to the Christian is similar, to a person in a coma: a person in a coma has no, consciousness of time, time does not exist to them, when they wake, they often think only a day or so has gone by, when in actual, fact several years may have passed yet they think they are waking up, the same day, or next day after they went to sleep. The person in the coma or in death is totally unaware of any time that they have spent in the coma or being dead.

Death to those who belong to Christ is much the same as the person in the coma, the dead or those who are sleeping in Christ have absolutely no consciousness of time so for them, the moment they die, is the moment they are instantly with the Lord, even though many years may have passed during the time they have been dead (i.e., sleeping in Christ).

It is the same principal as a person who goes into hospital for an operation: the patient is given an anaesthetic and put to sleep, surgeons cut them open and remove infected body parts over the next few hours, yet the patient is totally unaware of it they wake up and have absolutely no idea of the time that has passed, therefore when Paul says: -

- We would rather be away (absent in the KJV) from the body and at home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).

It is a true statement, even though he may have spent years sleeping in Christ.

NOTE: a second reason a Christians death is called sleeping in Christ is because their death is only temporary, being asleep in Christ means everyone who dies in Christ is kept in the eternal mind and memory of God.

Jesus said: -

- Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? And not one of them falls to the ground without the father knowing it and even the hairs of our head are all numbered therefore we should not fear death because we are of more value than many sparrows (Matthew 10:29-31).

The entire person, (i.e., body, spirit, mind and consciousness) remains sleeping in Christ, until the first resurrection (Rev. 20:5) when all who are asleep in the Lord are woken up at the blast of the angels' trumpet and raised from the dead to everlasting glory and clothed with an eternal and immortal body.

NOTE: some people find it difficult to comprehend God raising the dead, but think of it this way: we have super computers today that have in their memories literally trillions of bits of information and at the touch of a key any one of those bits is resurrected to us on a brightly coloured screen (in the future it is most likely they will simply appear in the air), then with another touch of the key it all vanishes into the super memory and is gone, until we resurrect it again.

Knowing that God has given his creation a mortal mind and finite memory to be able to build such amazing computers should make it very easy to understand how God keeps us all in His immortal mind and eternal memory waiting for the right time to touch the supernatural keyboard of heaven and raise us once again to life. Added to this very few Christians have any trouble believing God created the universe that we live in so raising the dead in comparison is not such a difficult task for such an awesome, powerful and majestic God (Heb. 11:3).

Slothfulness

Slothfulness comes from the Hebrew word (*ʾatslah*) and means indolent, lazy, lethargic, idle and apathetic while the word idle comes from the Hebrew word (*r^emiyah*) and means treachery, deceitful, false, idle, slack, slothful. Figuratively it means to delude, betray and deceive. Clearly both words refer to a person who is lazy and refuses to work for no good reason. In the book of Proverbs, it is written: -

- Go to the ant, O sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise. (Prov. 6:6).
- A slack hand causes poverty, but the hand of the diligent makes rich. (Prov. 10:4).
- The desire of the sluggard kills him, for his hands refuse to labour.” (Prov. 21:25).

See also lazy in this Bible Dictionary.

Smitten

Smitten means to strike, kill, slaughter, slay, murder or wound (literal or spiritual).

Smoke

As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away: in the book of Psalms it is written: -

- As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God! (Psalm 68:2).

Smoke rises from the earth in massive thick black clouds, but is soon scattered and dispersed by a strong wind so that no trace is left. Likewise, God will do to the enemies of His people. They may fume with pride and darken the sky with their malice as they mount up higher and higher in arrogance defiling those under their influence, but like the wind blows away the dark clouds of smoke God will with the power and force of His breath cause the wicked to vanish from the face of the earth.

Smoke in God's nose: in the book of Isaiah the LORD said that the rebellious people of Israel are a smoke in His nostrils, a fire that burns all the day. (Isaiah 65:5). The word nose comes from the Hebrew word (*'aph*) it literally refers to the nose or nostrils, but carries the idea of rapid breathing in passion and especially of anger, because anger is evidence by hard breathing. The following verses show that the writers of Scripture considered the nose to be the seat of anger

- Smoke went up from his nostrils, and devouring fire from his mouth; glowing coals flamed forth from him. (Psalm 18:8).

The LORD'S words, "These are a smoke in my nostrils, a fire that burns all the day (v5) most like carry an allusion here to the smoke of their self-righteous sacrifices ascending up before God and provoking Him to anger.

It carries the idea that their conduct was offensive to God as smoke is unpleasant and painful to the nostrils. Instead of the smoke of their sacrifices being a pleasant aroma to the LORD they are a fragrance of judgment and death in his nostrils.

Smoke represents human armies: the following verse shows that smoke can represent armies, "Wail, O gate; cry out, O city; melt in fear, O Philistia, all of you! For smoke comes out of the north, and there is no straggler in his ranks." (Isaiah 14:31).

Snare

Snare (reproach in KJV) means assumption, arrogance, haughtiness, conceit, pride, rail, chide, taunt, revile at, and to degrade or defame and cause one to suffer.

Snatch

Snatch (pluck in the KJV) means to eagerly snatch or seize and claim for one's self or to put out or away and carry off by force. It carries the idea of eagerly choosing, preferring and claiming for oneself; to take by force or to carry off by force and to catch away or seize on.

Snow, wool and linen

Snow, wool and linen is applied to the faithful believer and the faithful global church because they reflect the purity of God's people and of the church through the imputation of Christ's righteousness to them. The prophet Isaiah wrote: -

- Come now, let us reason together, says the LORD: though your sins are like scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they are red like crimson, they shall become like wool. (Isaiah 1:18).

In the book of Revelation, it is written: -

- I looked, and behold, a great multitude that no one could number, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, with palm branches in their hands (Rev. 7:9).
- It was granted her (Christ's Bride) to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure—for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints. (Rev. 19:8).

- The armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him (the King of kings and Lord of lords) on white horses. (Rev. 19:14).

The faithful in Christ are pictured as being clothed in clean white linen and washed as white as snow and as white as the purest wool.

Sober-minded

Sober-minded (sober only in KJV) means to abstain from wine and keep sober, figuratively it means cautious, careful, mindful, discreet, watch and thrifty.

Sodom

The three major sins of Sodom: were pride, idleness and they had an abundance but did nothing to help the poor and needy.

Sodomite

The word sodomite is from the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) it means licentious and idolatry and refers to a sacred person (i.e., a shrine or cult prostitute) and to a devotee who has sex with the shrine priest or priestess of the temple. In the book of Deuteronomy, it is written: -

- There shall be no whore of the daughters of Israel, nor a sodomite (*qadesh*) of the sons of Israel (Deut. 23:17).

This is the only verse in the entire Bible that uses the word sodomite. The word sodomite is from the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) which is a Hebrew word that refers to a sacred person and devotee by prostitution to licentious idolatry. It has nothing to do with people of the same sex in a committed loving relationship.

The translators of the King James Bible have translated the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) to sodomite rather than translating it to shrine or cult prostitute which is what the word (*qadesh*) means in the Hebrew language.

The following show that most modern Bible versions have correctly translated the Hebrew word (*qadesh*) in this verse to a cult prostitute and not as sodomite.

New International Version: states, "No Israelite man or woman is to become a shrine prostitute."

New Living Translation: states, "No Israelite, whether man or woman, may become a temple prostitute."

English Standard Version: states, "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, and none of the sons of Israel shall be a cult prostitute."

New American Standard Bible: states, "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute."

International Standard Version: states, "There are to be no cultic prostitutes among the daughters or the sons of Israel."

New American Standard 1977: states, "None of the daughters of Israel shall be a cult prostitute, nor shall any of the sons of Israel be a cult prostitute."

These verses show that the word Sodomite (*Hebrew qadesh*) has nothing to do with people of the same sex in a committed loving relationship, but temple cult prostitutes. For further information see the title: "Same Sex Relationships" (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Solid

Solid means stiff, solid, stable, steadfast, strong, sure to stand or abide (literal or figurative).

Solitary

God settles the solitary in a home" (Psalm 68:6) the word solitary comes from the Hebrew word (*yachiyd*) and in this context, carries the idea of a beloved one being isolated or dwelling in a desert place or of one being lonely.

When a man or woman makes God and the Lord Jesus Christ the King of their heart, mind and life God fills their inner most being with His love and grace especially when they are in such isolated places or lonely circumstances.

Solomon's Porch

Solomon's Porch was a magnificent colonnade built by Solomon on the East-Side of the temple area. Jesus walked in the temple, in the colonnade of Solomon (John 10:23) and many signs and wonders were regularly done by the hands of the apostles when they were all together in Solomon's portico (Acts 5:12).

Son

Generally, the word son is used of the offspring of men (i.e., one born by a father and of a mother). In a wider sense a descendant; one of future generations or heirs; the children of Israel or the sons of Abraham, it is often used to describe a student or one who depends on another, or is a follower of another.

Song

Sing a New Song: a new song often means a new age or a new lifestyle has come or is coming. At the birth of Christ and his death and resurrection a new song was sung; marvellous things were seen; God's right hand (referring to the Lord Jesus Christ) worked salvation upon the earth and his righteousness was revealed to the ends of the earth and all saw the salvation of God and rejoiced before the King of glory. Likewise, at his return in glory to gather the faithful to himself a new song will be sung; marvellous things will be seen; God's right hand (referring to the Lord Jesus Christ) will work salvation upon the earth and his righteousness will be revealed to the ends of the earth and all will see the salvation of God and rejoice before the King of glory.

When all creation see, God rise-up to judge the world in righteousness and Christ reigning over the earth if it were possible for the sea; the waves; the trees of the forest; the oaks; the cedars; the pines; all their branches; the leaves; the flowers; the fields and everything in them to speak they would stand up with rejoicing and sing a new song of joy and happiness not only for themselves, but for all mankind. In the book of Romans, it is written: -

- Creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to decay and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. (Rom. 8:19-22).

Isaiah the prophet wrote: -

- Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done it; shout, O depths of the earth; break forth into singing, O mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, and will be glorified in Israel. (Isaiah 44:23).

When Christ returns in glory not only will all those who belong to his Kingdom sing a new song with abundant joy, but all of creation will unite to rejoice with them in the anthem of celebration, because not only will the faithful be adorned with immortal bodies, but all of creation will be healed from its curse of decay and a new and glorious age will begin on earth.

Sons

Sons (children in ESV) can mean a son, a child (as produced) and in some contexts, embraces daughters (i.e., sons and daughters of God).

Sons and Grandsons

Jacob calls Laban the son of Nahor (Gen. 29:5) even though he is his grandson, this is a common use of relatives' names in Scripture. In the following verse the LORD calls Jacob the son of Abraham when he is his grandson: -

- Behold, the LORD stood above the ladder and said (to Jacob), "I am the LORD, the God of Abraham your father and the God of Isaac. (Gen. 28:1-22).

Son of God

Son of God can apply to Adam, angels and those who are born again and revere God as their father and to those who God loves, protects and benefits above others. In the Old Testament is used of the Jews and in the New Testament of Christians. It is used of Jesus Christ, as enjoying the supreme love of God, united to him in affectionate intimacy and privy to his eternal plans and purposes.

Son of Man

It is a term describing man, carrying the connotation of weakness and mortality and used by Christ himself, doubtless in order that he might designate himself as the head of the, human race the man, the one who both furnished the pattern of the perfect man and acted on behalf of all mankind

Christ seems to have preferred this title to the other messianic titles, probably because by its lowliness it was least suited to foster the expectation of an earthly Messiah in royal splendor.

Sons of God

The following verses show that the expression the “sons of God” refers to human men and woman who belong to God’s Kingdom: -

Jesus said: -

- Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God (Matt. 5:9).

Paul wrote: -

- The creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God (Rom. 8:19).
- In Christ Jesus you are all sons of God, through faith (Gal. 3:26).

The sons of God came in to the daughters of man: in the book of Genesis it is written: -

- The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown. (Gen. 6:4).

The expression, “The sons of God came in unto the daughters of men” means that the men of Seth’s line (referred to as the sons of God because Seth’s line was the bloodline of the Messiah) lusted for the unbelieving sensual woman of Cain’s line and took them for their wives.

Ultimately these women caused the men of Seth’s line to fall away from God as Cain himself did. This principal continues all the way through the Old Testament with God constantly warning His people (the sons of God) not to mix marriages (especially with woman who had a strong faith in pagan gods). Even today godly men are still lusting upon sensual worldly woman and falling from their ministries.

Genesis chapter five is called, “The book of the generations of Adam” (Gen. 5:1) yet Cain and his entire line are excluded from the genealogy it completely skips Cain and moves straight onto Seth (the third recorded son of Adam and Eve). Since Able was murdered it is understandable that he is excluded since there would be no line to trace, but this is not so with Cain who settled in the land of Nod and built a city.

Since Cain is not included in this genealogy the sons and daughters of God refer to those in the line of Seth while the sons and daughters of men refer to those in the line of Cain. However, this does not mean that Seth’s line was filled with godly men and women, but that the Redeemer; the Son of God, born of Mary came from his line.

By the time of the flood the only people found faithful to enter the ark from the line of Seth were Noah and his three sons Shem and Ham and Japheth (Gen. 7:13) which means that all of Cain’s line and almost all of Seth’s line were not counted worthy.

Soothsayer

Soothsayer means to distribute, it carries the idea of determining by lot or magical scroll and by implication to divine (i.e., the practice of divination). For further information see Magic in this Bible Dictionary.

Sorcery

Sorcery (*Greek pharmakeia and pharmakeus*) (witchcraft in KJV) means, medication, pharmacy, magic sorcery or witchcraft and by extension, a drug, or spell-giving potion, (i.e., a druggist) (pharmacist) or poisoner, today it would be one who pushes or sells mind altering drugs. The word sorcery can refer to all, of the following: -

- To those who by charm captivate or puts somebody under a spell.
- A scientist or wise man (so called) who predicts what is going to happen in the future
- To those devoted to the practice of religion or to occult rituals or processes designed to influence or control the course of nature, to dominate others or circumstances (especially by tapping into forces unseen).
- To those who practice the art of forecasting the future (divination) with a view to avoiding its perils and pitfalls.
- To those who use their authority and power (especially religious power) to conquer the common or depressed class of people for their own agendas, goals and for selfish purposes.
- To those who control and influence the masses by doing things in secret.

The underlying spirit of each one of these is trickery, deception and superstition, this clearly show why the Bible is against all forms of sorcery and wizardry, but sadly much of the world's religions and global governments are founded and survive on these very things. This, is why a day is approaching when God will bring judgment on our Babylonian global world system. For further information see Babylon in this Bible Dictionary.

Sorcerers

Sorcerers (*Greek Magos*) refers to one who claimed to have super-natural power or knowledge. He often used magic potions and was, considered to be in league with evil forces. The practice of sorcery was widespread in ancient times (Exod. 7:11) and was regarded an evil practice for Israel (Isaiah 47:9) (Mal. 3:5). Practice of the occult arts was prevalent in the New Testament era. Simon of Samaria used sorcery, but was converted under Philip (Acts 8:9-13), and Paul and Barnabas found a sorcerer in Paphos (Acts 13:8-11).

Sorcerers/Magicians

It appears that the sorcerers and magicians of ancient times were permitted by God to perform miraculous acts up until God said he would put a division between the people of Egypt and the people of God. This idea would seem especially true when it is considered that once these sorcerers and magicians realised they could no longer perform such wonders they themselves confessed, "This is the finger of God" (Exod. 8:19).

From the day, the LORD established this division between His people and the people of the world concerning miraculous wonders that defy our natural laws of nature (Exod. 8:22-24) we see throughout the Bible prophets of God doing amazing wonders and miracles, whereas there is no record of people of the secular world performing such wonders.

The purpose of these great wonders and miracles of God was so that the people of Egypt and by extension all the world of all generations would know that the LORD is God in, the midst of all the earth (Exod. 8:22). There is no doubt that these miraculous signs and wonders and others like them truly separate the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob from all other gods' people believe in.

Sons of the sorceress: (Isaiah 57:3) the word sorceress in this verses comes from the Hebrew word (*'anan*) it literally means to cover or cloud over. Figuratively it carries the idea of acting covertly. It embraces those who practise magic; those who observe times (i.e., an enchanter) and those who prophecy out of their own mind and tell people what they want to hear (i.e., a soothsayer).

The expression, "the sons of the sorceress," may apply to the following two things.

1. The women of Israel who wore veils and magic bands on their arms and not only spoke false visions and practiced divination, but also prophesied lies out of their own minds and by their false visions and prophecies disheartened the people of Israel and lead them astray. (Ezek. 13:17-23).
 2. To those who are addicted to sorcery and enchantments; who consult the oracles of pagan gods rather than the only true God.
- For you have rejected your people, the house of Jacob, because they are full of things from the east and of fortunetellers like the Philistines, and they strike hands with the children of foreigners. (Isaiah 2:6).

Like other inhabitants of the East, the people of Israel were very much addicted to these things particularly in the time of Manasseh the evil king of Judah.

- He burned his son as an offering and used fortune-telling and omens and dealt with mediums and with wizards. He (Manasseh) did much evil in the sight of the LORD, provoking him to anger. (2 Kings 21:6).

They were so devoted to hearing from mediums and from wizards that it would be right and proper to call them, "the sons of the sorceress," as if a sorceress had been their mother, and they had grown up to walk in her steps, and to imitate her example. For further information see Magic in this Bible Dictionary.

Sorrows

Sorrows means anguish and figuratively affliction suffering, agony, distress grief and pain etc.,

Godly sorrow: is having sorrow for the hurt and pain caused to another person and the desire to correct it. This type of sorrow leads to repentance.

Worldly sorrow: is being sorry because of the punishment one is going to suffer, there is no thought for the other person's pain, hurt and suffering, the sorrow is for self, it is about what self is going suffer. This type of sorrow will never lead to repentance, because it is all about protecting self from punishment.

Repentance that leads to salvation: the words, "Godly grief produces a repentance that leads to salvation without regret" (2 Cor 7:10) refers to repentance that stems firstly from offending God and secondly from hurting another person, this kind of grief leads to a change of attitude in the heart. This, is why it is called godly grief, the sorrow is not about self, but stems from offending God and from hurting others this kind of sorrow leads to salvation, because it is honest repentance from the heart and truly sorry before God.

There are three primary reasons Paul states that this kind of repentance is, "Without regret" firstly it allows God and those who have been hurt to forgive, secondly it unites the repentant person to God and thirdly it saves them to eternal life.

Repentance that leads to death: the words, "worldly grief produces death" (2 Cor 7:10) is, in contrast to, godly grief since, worldly grief refers to a person who is full of tears of sorrow, but only because they have been caught and are going to suffer some form of punishment. This kind of repentance does not bring about a change of attitude in the heart since it's only focus is caring about self. This, is why it is called worldly grief and worldly sorrow and the reason it leads to death (separation from God and death eternal) since this kind of repentance and grief has nothing to do with God neither does it care about the hurt it may have caused others. (2 Corinthians 7:10).

Man's plans will not hinder God's sovereign plan: in the book of Proverbs it is written: -

- Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the LORD that will stand. (Proverbs 19:21).

This principle is not limited to men and women only, but also applies to kings, rulers of nations, governments, ministers and leaders of churches, organisation and groups. We all make our plans, but none of them no matter how great will hinder the eternal and sovereign plan that God planned and purposed in His eternal mind before time began and set in motion by His spoken word at creation.

God's sovereign will: the difference between the miraculous conquest of Canaan and the ordinary facts of history is not that God did the one and Israel did the other; both are equally involved, though in different methods. In the field of human affairs, as in the realm of nature, God is immanent over both. Even though God's working maybe complicated by the mysterious power of man's free will to set itself in antagonism to His will it matters not since in some mysterious and impossible manner for us to solve, His sovereign will, is supreme. Though His final-end is determined, His ways of getting to it are flexible.

The very powers which are arrayed against God are acting within His sovereign purposes, and their end is by His appointment. No one needs to understand what cannot be understood in, order to believe that there is no power but of God, and that from Him are all things, and to Him are all things.

Sovereignty and God's eternal foreknowledge: is a stunning mystery to the human mind, by foreknowledge God is, able to allow us to do as we please and come what may our free will is still mysteriously working within God's sovereign will and bringing about His eternal plan that He set in motion before the beginning of time such is the wonder of God's sovereignty and eternal foreknowledge and His eternal wisdom. God in the book of Isaiah says: -

- My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD, for as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts (Isaiah 55:8-9).

The following is a simple example that can help in showing how man's free works within God's sovereign will (howbeit certainly not perfect or an all-encompassing example). Take a large glass jar (representing God's sovereign will) and half fill it with cardboard pieces (representing individual humans). Shake the jar and every cardboard piece will move in their own individual and different directions within the space inside the jar, but no matter where they move they are still within the Jar.

A principal of sovereignty: from the beginning God predestinated that He would love, forgive and save those who from their own free will choose to follow His Son the Lord Jesus It is salvation in Christ that is predestinated, not who will be saved and who will not

sovereignty and God's foreknowledge: is a stunning mystery to the mortal finite human mind, but majestically manifests the wisdom of God who has given mankind free will. By sovereignty and eternal foreknowledge God is, able to allow us to do as we please and come, what may our free will is still mysteriously working within His sovereign will and bringing about His eternal end that He planned and purposed before the beginning of time.

This is the wonder of dwelling in an eternal dimension that has no beginning and no end and the wonder of God's eternal mind and His sovereignty and eternal foreknowledge. A mystery our mortal and limited minds cannot grasp or comprehend. This, is why Scripture states: -

- Man, cannot find out the work of God that is done under the sun. However much man may toil in seeking, he will not find it out. Even though a wise man claims to know, he cannot find it out." (Eccles. 8:17).

NOTE: when speaking of God's sovereignty, predestination, foreknowledge, and timeless mind it is with a fallen and finite mind that is limited to time (as we understand it) that we attempt to understand God's eternal wisdom and God's eternal knowledge which is far higher than our limited fallen mortal mind can comprehend therefore we should never claim perfect understanding and should certainly not be dogmatic concerning our explanations and understandings when speaking of any of these topics, but always allow for a certain amount of mystery.

Sovereignty, predestination and Jesus words: -

- Now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed. (John 17:5).
- Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:24).

Do not mean that Jesus was with God the Father before the world existed (as many believe), but that the majestic and royal glory of Christ has been in the mind, plans and purposes of God from before the foundation of the world. It can be likened to a pregnant woman who long before the birth of her baby not only knows that at some time in the future she will bring the unseen child into the world, but also deeply loves the baby even though it does not yet exist in this world.

A mother who plans and purposes to have a baby does not suddenly begin to love the new born child at birth, her love for the baby begins in her mind and heart the moment she plans and purposes to have a child even more she goes out and buys the unborn child, clothing toys beds and prams long before her baby is even born, because her love for the baby and the baby itself already exists in her mind.

An architect long before a building is constructed plans the entire structure in his mind, he sees every detail of it in vivid clarity long before the builders begin to construct it and long before the workers even set foot on the site where it is to be built.

Likewise, in this same sense God loved Jesus Christ and saw his future glory from the foundation of the world. Jesus did not pre-exist with God in heaven and then become a foetus in Mary's womb waiting to be born. Rather Christ was in the sovereign plans and purposes of God and in God's heart and mind from the beginning. Jesus was the centre of all of God's sovereign plans for the entire universe from the very foundations of the world. The glory Jesus had from the beginning was the in the future-plan and purpose of God, Christ was in the mind and heart of God from the beginning and it is in this sense that Jesus said: -

- Father, glorify me with the glory that I had with you before the world existed (John 17:5) and "Father, I desire that they also see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world. (John 17:5).

A person does not have to exist to be loved in the heart and mind. From the moment parents begin to plan and purpose to have a baby they deeply love the child in their heart and mind even before the baby exists in the world, just ask any mother who has suffered the horror of a still birth and you will know how real this statement is and how real the child was in her mind.

Jesus did not have to physically exist for God's heart and mind to love him before the beginning of time and see his future glory and Jesus knowing the Scriptures from beginning to end was fully aware of the glory God had purposed for him from the foundation of the world. Even the prophets spoke of the coming of Jesus and his future glory and faithful Israel set their love on their coming Messiah and knew of his glory before he even came.

Words of comfort and encouragement: since the teaching that Jesus is God has such a strong hold on much of traditional Christianity the following will encourage and comfort faithful brothers and sisters in Christ who maybe in some doubt and unsure of what to believe concerning the Father and the Son.

The Bible very clearly shows that even if Jesus was God no one has, to know this to be saved to eternal life since there is not one verse in the entire Bible that states:

- We must believe that Jesus is God to be saved.

Nor is there one verse from Genesis to Revelations that says: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is God will be saved.

In total contrast to this silence there are literally multitudes of Scriptures throughout the pages of the New Testament that very clearly proclaim: -

- We must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved.

And that say: -

- Whoever believes that Jesus is the Son of God will be saved.

Surely if it was important to believe that Jesus was God to be saved to eternal life Jesus, the apostles and Paul would have told us at least once in all their teaching concerning salvation, but all we hear from Paul, the apostles and Jesus himself is them saying that we must believe that Jesus is the Son of God to be saved to eternal life. Jesus himself said, "This is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" (John 17:3). For further information, see the title: "Trinity (The Doctrine of the Trinity)" in, Various Topics (ON WEBSITE MENU).

Sows

Sows (soweth in KJV) carries the idea of extending or scattering.

Soul

Soul Hebrew: soul (*Hebrew nephesh*) refers to a breathing creature and carries the idea of vitality (bodily or mental); soul (*Hebrew ruwach*) refers to the wind, the air or the breath (i.e., the spirit or mind of a rational being) it carries the idea of a violent outbreath of anger or a sensible exaltation and acclamation of courage. Soul (*Hebrew chay*) refers to the life of living creature, of a plant or of a thing.

Soul Greek: soul (*Greek psuche*) refers to the breath and by implication the spirit; while soul (*Greek pneuma*) refers to the rational and immortal soul and soul (*Greek zoe*) refers to mere vitality even of plants.

Similarities of soul in Greek and Hebrew: the Greek (*psuche*) is the same as the Hebrew (*nephesh*), the Greek (*pneuma*) is the same as the Hebrew (*ruwach*) and the Greek (*zoe*) is the same as the Hebrew (*chay*).

Summing it up, the soul embraces the life, the will, the mind, the intellect, the thoughts and the emotions, it is the sum-total of all that makes us who we are in character, personality, thought and behaviour.

Spat

Spat (*Greek ptuo*) means to spit, figuratively it carries the idea of insulting, (i.e., to spit in the face as an indignity mistreatment abuse or defilement). (Num. 12:14) (Deut. 25:9) (Job 30:10) (Matt. 26:67) (Matt. 26:67 (Matt. 27:30). (Jesus used spit in healing) (Mark 7:33) (Mark 8:23).

Speak

Speak means to talk, utter words, preach, say, speak, tell and utter.

Speaking and sin: sins of the lips are real sins and punishable sins, it should never be thought that because hatred gets no further than verbal railing, mocking and degrading from the lips that it will be excused.

Spend

Spend (consume in KJV) in a good sense means to consume and in a bad sense to incur cost, to waste and devour.

Spices

Spices and precious oil embraces any or all, of the following: -

- Precious healing ointments and creams made from the oil of olives.
- Myrrh, cinnamon which were common gifts offered to princes from a very early period and gumbenzoin which is used in Arab States of the Persian Gulf and India, where it is burned on charcoal as an incense and is also a major element of church incense used in Russia and some other Orthodox Christian societies, as well as Western Catholic Churches.
- Various kinds of aromatics which were used in public worship or for anointing of kings and priests.
- Spices used for the purposes of luxury and perfumes to smear or massage the body with after bathing, or to use when they were to appear in public.

When these are mentioned as being part of the king's treasures it highlights the fact there was abundant commerce and trade of civilisation of that time.

Spikenard

See (Plants) in this Bible Dictionary.

Spiders web

In the following verses the wicked are said to, give birth to adder's eggs, hatch viperS and weave a spider's web: -

- No one enters suit justly; no one goes to law honestly; they rely on empty pleas, they speak lies, they conceive mischief and give birth to iniquity. ⁵They hatch adders' eggs; they weave the spider's web; he who eats their eggs dies, and from one that is crushed a viper is hatched. ⁶Their webs will not serve as clothing; men will not cover themselves with what they make. Their works are works of iniquity, and deeds of violence are in their hands. (Isaiah 59:4-6) (ESV).

Spirit

Spirit in the Old Testament: spirit (*Hebrew ruwach*) in the Old Testament can refer to the air or the wind or a blast of wind or a blast of breath, but only the breath of a rational being (including their expression and functions) such as a sensible exhalation (laughter, courage and joy etc.) or a violent exhalation (anger, resentment and vanity etc.). It can also refer to the mind or life itself and by extensive to a region of the sky.

The Spirit is represented by the wind: wind carries the idea of a wind blowing, but you can't see it, the idea is that it has an influence even though you can't see it or understand where it comes from and how it works. Likewise, the wind symbolizes the Spirit's influence that comes from God that cannot be seen. The Gospel is proclaimed and the message goes out and the spirit influences the listeners.

This invisible Spirit goes out as the word of God is proclaimed and influences those who are open to receive it. It is called the Holy Spirit because its influence effects a change in a person's mind toward God and His holiness.

A believer going through difficult circumstances that they do not understand could be likened to a person in a boat without a paddle. The wind will take the boat wherever it may blow, likewise there are times when our lives feel as though we are in a boat without a paddle, but the Spirit will never lead contrary to Scripture.

Spirit in the New Testament: spirit (*Greek pneuma*) in the New Testament refers to a movement of air, a gentle blast of the wind, the wind itself or the breath of the nostrils or mouth. It embraces in its meaning the vital principle by which the body is kept alive or the rational spirit (the soul) (i.e., the power by which humans feel, think decide, know, desire and act). Additionally, Spirit denotes the simple essence, devoid of all or at least all grosser matter and carries the idea of a spirit higher than man, but lower than God, (i.e. an angel or a life-giving spirit).

It is used of evil gods called demons who were believed to inhabit the bodies of humans and to the spiritual and divine nature of Christ (higher than the highest angels and equal to God) and to the Holy Spirit. It also refers to the influence that fills and governs the mind and to the source of any power affection, emotion or desire, etc.

The spirit and a person's essence: the mind, spirit and soul is a person's essence, it is the sum-total of all who they are in character, personality, mind, thoughts and actions.

Spirit as God's power and agency: God's power is the agency He uses to influence those He calls, but His power is not His essence, it is not who He is. God's Spirit power is manifest by creation, miracles and its influence upon the mind that are productive in achieving His plans and purposes in the world and in the church

Spirit and the flesh: in the Bible, the higher nature within a human that leans toward good is called the spirit, while the lower nature that is controlled by self, pride and ego is called the flesh, (or the old-self). Since humans have been separated from God all things are in a state of deterioration mankind is destined for death and creation is decaying, humans have, to struggle to survive, because of this struggle the flesh (self, pride and ego) are the primary forces that control the human heart (to lesser or greater degree, depending on the person).

The motive and actions of the flesh is opposite to the motive and actions of the spirit, the spirit thinks of others, whereas the focus of the flesh is self). When a person has an encounter with Jesus, his Spirit through love influences their human spirit to override or put to death the flesh (self, pride and ego).

The new spirit or new self: is created in the likeness of God it desires righteousness and holiness it puts away falsehood and speaks the truth and joins itself to others who belong to Christ. The new-self shares with anyone in need and only speaks good or edifying things that will build others up and encourage them. It does an honest day's work and is kind tender hearted and always prepared to forgive another. (Ephes. 4:24-29, 32).

The new-spirit or new-self does not give any opportunity to wickedness, stealing, bitterness, wrath, anger, slander, malice or demand its own way. Nor does it sin when it feels the emotion of anger, it does not speak corrupting talk, live a lifestyle of sin or grieve the Holy Spirit of God. (Ephes. 4:26-31).

NOTE: one of the greatest dangers of grieving the Holy Spirit of God is the tendency to go back under the law or rely on self-effort, good deeds or the keeping of ceremonial practices and religious rites to earn or maintain salvation. Some of these things are good in themselves, but if a person is trusting in them for salvation or for maintaining their salvation they are grieving the Holy Spirit, because they are denying the saving grace that Jesus achieved for us on the bloodstained cross of Calvary and thereby making his death count for nothing.

Having the Spirit of Christ: means being in the likeness of Christ, this carries the following two ideas, firstly, having a love for God and being faithful to Him and secondly, being humble and putting others first and showing kindness, compassion, forgiveness and love to others as Jesus did.

In the Spirit: means being controlled by the Spirit, it is being in the empowering presence of the Spirit that enables Christians to enjoy fellowship with God

I will pour out my Spirit: is explained in the following ways: -

- I will open my heart to you.
- I will make my mind known to you.
- I will pour out my thoughts to you.

God's Spirit is: His holy intelligence, character, personality and behaviour.

The Spirit's invitation: invites all to come to Christ and be privileged to share in God's secret counsel and to know His divine plans and purposes which He longs to share with them. To become holy as God is Holy and live in an intimate and personal relationship with God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ His Son.

The Spirit of God: is His unseen love, power and influence that affects creation and mankind as a collective whole and works through history, nations governments and individuals in a variety of ways to bring about His sovereign plans and purposes.

God's Spirit poured out on the believer: God's Spirit poured out on the believer carries the idea of God's heart and His holy character, personality, behaviour, intelligence, power, knowledge, truth and wisdom and the revelation of His plans and purposes being imparted to the believer. The term Holy Spirit contains within its meaning and its use, the sum-total of all the above that is extended or imparted to the believer in the centre of their being, heart and mind (i.e., their spirit).

God's word coming to the mind of man: a person's mind can believe or be motivated by their own opinion or they can allow their belief or mind to be inspired by God with His wisdom and understanding.

Before God's word was in print this wisdom and understanding of God's purposes came to the mind of the prophets and apostles by the Spirit of God, they then spoke this knowledge of God and His purposes to the people, but once the Cannon of God's word was in print that same wisdom and understanding of God now comes to the mind of people by hearing, reading and mediating on His written word that is now recorded in the Bible.

Paul was shown by the Holy Spirit: in the book of Acts it is written, Paul and Timothy were forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia. (Acts 16:6). This can carry the following two ideas: -

1. The Holy Spirit directly spoke to Paul's mind or in a vision or some other way.
2. If an evangelist is intending to go to a town or village, but after talking to the people perceives that the collective mind of the population is clearly against the Christian message and will severely persecute, imprison or even kill anyone who proclaims the Gospel, it would then be biblically correct for the evangelist or any other disciple to say that the Holy Spirit forbid them to go, as in most cases this, would be God's will for that evangelist in those circumstances.

Paul knew Asia was against him proclaiming Christ, it would have been foolish for him to go there when there were so many other safe places that had populations who longed to hear what he had to say, because of this it was not God's will for Paul to risk being killed (not at this period, of time at least), especially since he was God's primary ambassador for Christ, therefore Paul was biblically correct in saying "the Holy Spirit forbid him to go to Asia."

Following are four secular examples that help understand this principal.

1. A foreign man could visit Australia and say, "The spirit of Australia showed him that he had to love sport to be accepted by the Australian people. The spirit in this context is a term given to the collective consciousness, attitude and dominant mindset) of a nation.
2. A teenage boy may attend a dance and quickly perceive if he doesn't dance the others at the party will consider him uncool. In this context, the spirit embraces the collective consciousness, attitude and dominant mindset of the group while the voice of the spirit in in the teenager attending the dance refers to that silent voice (self-talk) in the mind picking up on the dominant spirit of the party and conveying to his mind that he must dance to be accepted by the others.
3. The spirit of the Mason family accepts most people, but this does not mean that there is a spirit named Mason the term applies to the collective spirit of the entire Mason family (i.e., the collective consciousness, attitude and dominant mindset) of all those in the Mason family.

4. When a parent is looking for a school for their child and they perceive the collective consciousness, attitude and dominant mindset of a school is to give their students a second chance the parent could then say, the spirit showed them that the school was one of forgiveness.

Shown by the Holy Spirit: in some contexts, means to be shown by the collective voice, attitude and behaviour of all those that are in Christ. The general speech and outward behaviour (good or bad) that God's word has had on a collective church congregation reflects the dominant mindset of that church (i.e., the spirit of the people). If it is a righteous one, then it can be spoken of as the Holy Spirit, but if it is an evil one it would be referred to as having an evil spirit.

Nations, groups of people, companies, religious organizations and churches in most cases will have a dominant spirit it could be a spirit of legalism, control, greed or a Spirit of giving, helping, teaching and evangelising. Paul warns all those seeking God to discern the spirit of the individual leader and of the collective group.

Speaking in the Spirit or with the Spirit: Paul stated, "All Scripture is breathed out by God," (meaning by God's Spirit (i.e., spoken by God), therefore speaking by the Spirit of God is the same as speaking God's word. (2 Tim. 3:16). In the mind of New Testament writers' passages of Scripture that were inspired by God are in many verses referred to as being spoken by the Holy Spirit even though they were spoken by human men.

The author of Hebrews wrote, "As the Holy Spirit says, To-day if ye will hear God's voice, Harden not your hearts, as when your fathers tempted God forty-years" (Heb. 3:7-10). Moses spoke this, but the writer of Hebrews says the Holy Spirit said it. The Holy Spirit used the writers of Scripture to pass through them the messages that God wished to communicate to mankind.

The illumination of the Holy Spirit: biblical inspiration must be complemented by an interior illumination or by the Holy Spirit in, order to make that which God has given in the past become His living revealing word today in the heart and mind of the believer. This enlightenment of the heart and mind is generally referred to as the illumination of the Holy Spirit.

Spirit, self, ego and pride: spirit denotes the absence of self, pride and ego it, suggest that the natural or lower nature of a person is not involved in speech act or deed.

Speaking in the spirit: is speaking God's truth, speaking what God says and speaking by the Holy Spirit, it is speaking from God's viewpoint as opposed to speaking from man's viewpoint and speaking in kindness, mercy and love as opposed to speaking in bitterness, anger and corrupting talk

Walking according, to the Spirit: is living a lifestyle in love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness and gentleness it is having self-control and not being conceited or provoking and envying one another (Gal. 5:22-26)

Walking in the Spirit: is sharing in the divine nature of Christ. It is serving God with all your heart and strength and walking in His ways and having Gods words impressed upon your heart and mind. It is to be always doing what is good and right in the sight of the LORD and listening and giving earnest heed to God's word, serving and clinging to Him and not allowing the heart to be lifted-up above others in Christ or become bitter and rebellious toward God, but love and hold fast to Him.

Living in the Spirit: in many contexts means the same as living in faith it carries the idea of living before God, believing He is in control of your life and daily present with you. It is having the mind set on God and His promises and being fully assured that one's salvation is secured by faith and trust in Jesus. It is living in grace and not trying to earn salvation or maintain it by self-effort or religious rites, traditions, practices and habits

Setting the mind on the Spirit: carries the idea of being focused on the things of God and aiming to please Him. The greatest way we can please God is to live our lives from a spirit of love, because love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore,

love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:10), and to do good to other humans. This sums up the Ten Commandments regarding mankind and Jesus command to, "Love your neighbour as yourself," (Mark 12:31). James the brother of Jesus calls this command the royal law. (James 2:8).

Christ dwelling in the heart: means: -

- The character of Christ is in the heart.
- The fruit of the spirit (love, mercy, kindness, compassion etc) is in the heart.
- The things that Christ loves, is in the heart.
- God's best interest is in the heart.
- The desire to please and obey God is in the heart.

Christ in us: or the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit in us, means that the heart or vital principal of a person is always seeking to know God and the Lord Jesus Christ and have a continual desire to understand the Bible and God's ways.

It is enjoying fellowship with others in the faith and being thankful to God and the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation with a longing in the heart for his return and God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace to be established on earth.

The titles Christ in us or the Spirit of Christ, the Spirit of God and the Holy Spirit in us, also carry the idea of hating wrongdoing, but loving justice (i.e., fairness for all) and desiring to manifest the fruits of the Spirit (love, kindness, compassion, mercy and forgiveness etc.) toward others. It is being aware of inward sin (self, ego and pride etc.) before God and having the desire to be free from it.

Christ is in us carries the idea of these things being the vital principal in our heart, mind and life, it is when the inner man (the real person) of those in Christ love the same things that he loves. These desires are the inward evidence that the Spirit of God, the Holy Spirit and the Spirit of Christ is dwelling within the believer, because these things are the desire and the character of God and of Christ.

It should be noted that these attitudes and desires will vary in strength with all Christians in their outward manifestation and lifestyle, it will depend a lot on what background teachings, beliefs abuses and suffering people are coming from or have experienced, but when a person deliberately lives contrary to these desires they are limiting themselves from experiencing God's peace, joy and contentment, because they are living contrary to who they really, are in Christ.

I am in my Father, you are in me, and I in you and you in me: carry the idea of fully belonging to Christ who is the head of a new race. Those who belong to Christ are in this new race by faith. Adam was the head of the old race that all those without Christ are in. Those who belong to Christ could say they were in Adam, in Adam's race and in Adam's world, but are now in Christ, in Christ's race and in Christ's world.

Belonging to Christ: those who belong to Christ are together and in union with Christ, they are in, agreement with Christ and sharing in the divine nature of Christ. Jesus said, "You shall know that I am in my Father, and you in me, and I in you," (John 14:20), this could read, "In that day you shall know that I am together with My Father, and you are together with me and I am together with you."

Dwelling in the heart of another person: the following is a true story which gives insight and understanding into the concept of a person dwelling in the heart of another. A seven-year old disabled girl whose best friend was her mother was about to do her first live stage show at her school. The mother loved her daughter, but could not be at the opening show as she was in hospital being treated for cancer. A television reporter asked the young girl if she would be sad and miss her mother at the opening of her school concert.

The girl, with tears in her eyes said, “yes I will miss her, but she will be in my heart where she belongs.” Love for a person creates the reality and presence of the person in the human heart. The greater the love the greater the reality and the presence of that person.

Heavenly places: carries the idea of elevation, in some contexts the expression, “in heavenly places,” refers to the state of the mind (i.e., the mind is lifted-up into high places of joy, peace and love by the Gospel of Christ. When a person’s mind is enlightened to the reality of Christ and the knowledge that their sins are forgiven, and that they are accepted by God and have eternal life their mind is elevated into a higher state of well-being.

This elevated mental state in some contexts of Scripture is called being, “in heavenly places.” It can be likened to when a person has a great day or wins the lottery and in excited joy says, “wow” I’m in heavenly places.” It is a spiritual way of saying that the mind is in an elevated place of joy and well-being. This is one of the reasons Paul prays that believers would come to know the fullness of God’s love that passes knowledge, he wants them to experience being in heavenly places.

Spiritual blessing: some blessings are present while others are future; spiritual blessings are not the same as spiritual gifts, spiritual blessings are available to all who believe, while spiritual gifts are available only to various believers.

Present spiritual blessings: are produced in a believer and come by faith. When a believer who belongs to Christ is confident in God’s promise that they are forgiven and God accepts and loves them and has prepared a glorious eternal Kingdom for them, because He desires to dwell with them Himself. They will experience joy, peace and contentment, in this present life because faith in the knowledge of God’s promise produces hope, and that hope brings joy and peace to the inner most being here and now.

Future spiritual blessings: are still in heaven, they are rewards to come and will be realised when Christ returns to establish God’s Kingdom of righteousness, justice, joy and peace on earth. When this glorious time comes the believer’s joy and peace will not be dependent on faith because it will be the true nature of their being.

Spiritual gifts: are limited to various people, while spiritual blessings are available to all believers.

The spirit, candle and lamp of man and of God: in the book of Proverbs it is written: -

- The spirit of man is the lamp of the LORD, (candle of the LORD in KJV) searching all his innermost parts (inward parts of the belly in KJV). (Proverbs 20:27).

The word belly comes from the Hebrew word (*beten*) it refers to the belly, especially the womb and to the bosom or body of anything. It carries the idea of being born within the womb and from the body and therefore when used figuratively it embraces the spirit of man. The following verse shows that the spirit of man was firstly breathed into him by his Creator: -

- The LORD God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living creature. (Genesis 2:7).

The spirit of man embraces the entire life and every faculty of the body, the heart, the mind, the innermost being and the thoughts. It is often spoken of as the lamp and the candle within man, because it embraces all the faculties and senses of the body collectively such as: -

- The higher life of a human, in contrast to the lower life within animals.
- The innermost heart, the rational mind and conscience.
- The powers of insight, consciousness, intellect and the ability to reason.

The candle and lamp of the LORD: is given to man as an inward light and guide it carries the idea of a clear and glorious light, set up in the innermost being of us all for our information and direction. It is said to be the lamp and candle of the LORD, because God breathed the spirit into us at the creation of Adam who is the earthly father of us all.

Man's spirit searches the thoughts, the intents, and the purposes of the heart which are the things only the spirit of the person and the Spirit of God knows. It is by this candle and lamp of man that we are, able to look, into our heart and the innermost recesses of it and examine our thoughts, motives and schemes and judge whether they are right or wrong.

The candle of man also embraces the conscience which passes sentence on what is in us or has been done by us either excusing or accusing us (this of course is supposing the conscience has not been seared or hardened). The apostle Paul wrote: -

- These things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. Who knows a person's thoughts except the spirit of that person, which is in him? So also no one comprehends the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God. (1 Cor. 2:10-11).

God's Spirit also searches the thoughts, intents, and purposes of the heart and the things hidden deep within it and within the mind that only the person themselves and God know. A candle and a lamp shine their rays of light into the darkest recesses of a room. Likewise, God's Spirit and His word shines the light of God into the darkest recesses of the heart and the mind testing all the inward secret thoughts, feelings and desires discerning not only the outward actions which are visible to others, but also the most inward thoughts and affections approving some and condemning others according, to whether they agree with God Spirit and His word or disagree. The author of Hebrews wrote: -

- The word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. (Heb. 4:12).

The candle and lamp of God can also be, seen as the word of God and that light that comes from the Father of light through divine revelation and through the Gospel of God's grace and salvation in Christ, which has shone out to all mankind like the rays of the sun beaming out in the most brilliant splendour and bringing life to earth.

The word spirit in the following list all come from the same Greek word (*pneuma*) the list shows the various ways that the same word spirit is used in the New Testament.

The spirit in man is the breath of God: the following verses show that the spirit in man is the breath of God.

- The LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. (Gen. 2:7).
- It is the spirit in man, the breath of the Almighty that makes him understand. (Job 32:8).

The King James Bible says: -

- There is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

In the book of Job it is written: -

- The Spirit of God has made me, and the breath of the Almighty gives me life. (Job 33:4).

The expression, "the breath of the Almighty," refers to the life within us, while the inspiration of the Almighty refers to the inspiration of God's Spirit. The spirit in man embraces the following: -

- The life and breath of the body.
- The mind, the conscience, the intellect and the will.
- The ability to reason, discuss and debate things.
- The senses and intuition.
- The ability to use common sense and logic to discover a thing.
- Knowledge of things, natural and divine.
- The ability to discern between one thing and another and make right judgments.

Everyone dwelling under the sun has a spirit within the body of flesh that gives life and is, able to reason and discern between good and evil, and correctly judge people's behaviour and opinions and rightly discern whether they are speaking honestly or with deceit.

The inspiration of the Almighty: does not refer to the natural and rational powers and faculties of the mind and the use of them that gives a person the ability to teach others wisdom; but to the following five things: -

1. The human spirit being inspired and influenced by God whether old or young.
2. The gifts that God permeates and inspires His people with.
3. The inspired word of God, that gives an understanding of the things of God.
4. The Scriptures dwelling in the mind and the heart by God's love and grace.
5. The Holy Spirit that God pours out upon those who receive by faith His plan of salvation (John 20:22).

Spirit of God: used 13 times.

Spirit of the Lord: used 5 times.

My Spirit: used 3 times.

Spirit of truth: used 3 times.

Spirit of Christ: used 2 times.

Human spirit: used 49 times.

Evil spirit: used 47 times.

Spirit general: used 26 times.

Spirit: used 8 times.

Jesus' own Spirit: used 6 times.

Jesus' own Ghost: used 2 times.

Miscellaneous: used 21 times.

Spiritual

Spiritual (*Greek pneumatikos, pneuma, psucho, phusikos*) means non-carnal, (fleshly and sensual) and humanly ethereal (unearthly) in contrast to being sensual, fleshly, earthly and demonic. It can refer to a human spirit, a regenerated spirit a divine, demonic or religious spirit, a supernatural spirit or to a superhuman, an angel, a demon or to God, Christ's Spirit, the Holy Spirit and the spirit of life, the rational soul, the vital principle and mental disposition (i.e., nature character temperament personality) etc. and to the higher or renovated nature in contrast to

the lower nature. It carries the idea of being spiritually minded (i.e., godly minded) in contrast to being earthly minded (i.e., worldly minded). Summing it up to be spiritual carries the idea of living from the higher nature in contrast to the lower nature or from the divinely regenerated nature as opposed to the lower or bestial sensual and fleshy nature.

Spiritual meat and spiritual food: Jesus said: -

- Do not labour for the food (meat in the KJV) that perishes, but for the food (meat) that endures to eternal life (John 6:27)

The author of Hebrews tells his listeners: -

- They should be teachers, but they still need milk, not solid food (meat in the KJV) and then adds that everyone who lives on milk is unskilled in the word of righteousness whereas solid food is for those who have their powers of discernment trained by constant practice to distinguish good from evil. (Heb. 5:12).
- Jesus told his disciples: -
- He has food (meat in the KJV) to eat that they are not aware of. He then then tells them that his food is to do the will of Him who sent him and to accomplish His work. (John 4:32-34).

Paul said: -

- For the kingdom of God is not a matter of eating and drinking but of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Spirit. (Rom. 14:17).

Summary of spiritual meat and spiritual food: spiritual meat (i.e., spiritual food) is righteousness (Heb. 5:12-14) which means doing good and what is right and just for all. It, is being able to discern what is the best choice to make that will benefit others rather than oppress them (i.e. being able to discern and distinguish good from evil) (Heb. 5:12-14).

Spiritual meat is to do the will of God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ and accomplish their work (John 4:32-34) (John 6:27). It is doing what you can to keep peace and joy (Rom. 14:17), and talking to each other in a way that heals and not in a way that wounds. The will of God the Father and of the Lord Jesus Christ is found in the words, "Love your Neighbour as Yourself," it is called the Royal Law in the New Testament. Love your neighbour means do not deliberately do harm to other humans.

No sane person deliberately does things to inflict pain on themselves, loving others as you love yourself is not about feeling some warm and fuzzy emotion towards others, it is about not hurting others as you would not hurt yourself. The thing God hates the most is when we do harm to another person, physically, financially, sexually, verbally, emotionally or spiritually and the thing God loves the most is when we do good to others.

It is interesting to notice that the major crime that God points out in Noah's time and one of the main reasons for the flood was because of all the violence in the land. Leviticus chapter nineteen makes it clear that our neighbour is every other person, showing that the law requires justice to all people. The six commandments regarding mankind should be applied to everyone and we must abide by them ourselves.

To love in the biblical sense is not an emotional attitude, but the keeping of these laws in relation to our neighbour. This is the general law of justice, beyond that; our conduct is to be regulated by relationship. We must render honour and justice to all people wherever due, but we have a particular-responsibility to care for our families and those who belong to Christ.

NOTE: many think that the words, "Unskilled in the word of righteousness," means they don't have enough knowledge of the Bible, but the focus is righteousness not intellectual knowledge.

The primary focus of spiritual meat or solid food in these verses is not about having more detailed intellectual head knowledge of the Scriptures, but doing the work of God and doing the words of Christ it is about God's word in action which the congregation of Hebrew was sadly lacking.

Spitting

Spitting (spit in KJV) (*Greek ptuo*) literally means, "to spit," figuratively it carries the idea of insulting, (i.e., to spit in the face as an indignity mistreatment abuse or defilement). (Num. 12:14) (Deut. 25:9) (Job 30:10) (Matt. 26:67) (Matt. 26:67) (Matt. 27:30). (Jesus used spit in healing) (Mark 7:33) (Mark 8:23).

Staff

The word staff comes from the Hebrew word (*natah*) it literally means a branch (as extending). Figuratively it can refer to a tribe; a rod, for chastising and correction, or to a scepter for ruling, or a walking staff for support. In ancient times a staff and sceptre were so elaborately adorned with magnificent carvings that they were worthy of being handed down as emblems of authority from father to son. In most contexts, it most likely refers to a walking staff or a shepherd's crook.

Stagger

Stagger (*Hebrew ta`ah*) means to vacillate, (i.e. reel or stray) (literal or figurative). It carries the idea of going astray, being deceived, being seduced and wandering out of the right way. Stagger (*Hebrew nuwa`*) to waver, to make go up and down, to move away, to reel, to remove, to scatter, to move to and fro and be or made a vagabond, beggar and wanderer.

Stains

Stains symbolically signifies o gluttonous and greedy men with no moral integrity.

Stand

Stand can mean, to stand ready or prepared, to be of a steadfast mind or to be one who does not hesitate or waiver.

Star

A star literally means shining, luminousness (natural or artificial) solid and stable. It carries the idea of perpetuation and to lighten, shine, show appear, seem and be seen. In certain contexts, it refers to a prince and to the morning-star and the day star. In a good sense, it can signify being strong, sure, steadfast, firm, immovable and solid and in a bad sense, cruel, stiff and stubborn.

Stars of heaven and Abraham: God told Abraham He would multiply his offspring as the stars of heaven and as the sand that is on the seashore. (Gen. 22:17) (Gen. 26:4) (Exod. 32:13).

Prior to entering the Promised Land Moses reminds Israel that their fathers went down to Egypt seventy persons, but now the LORD has multiplied them (in the wilderness) as numerous as the stars of heaven (Deut. 1:10) (Deut. 10:22) (Neh. 9:23), and later he tells Israel though they were multiplied as the stars of heaven they will be left few, in number, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD their God. (Deut. 28:62).

The ultimate fulfilment of God's promise to Abraham to multiply Israel as the stars of heaven will be fulfilled in Christ when he returns the second time as King of kings and Lord of lords (Rev. 19:6) to establish God's Kingdom of righteousness, justice joy and peace on earth, but this promise does not only apply to Israel as all Gentiles in Christ are counted as children of Abraham and God at this present time is building a new nation made up of Jews and Gentiles in Christ the promised seed of Abraham.

A star falling from heaven to the earth: in the book of Revelation it is written: -

- The fifth angel sounded, and I saw a star fall from heaven unto the earth: and to him was given the key of the bottomless pit. (Rev. 9:1).

This star represents a king falling from his high position of authority and power. In the book of Daniel, it is written: -

- Out of one of them came a little horn, which grew exceedingly great toward the south, toward the east, and toward the glorious land. ¹⁰It grew great, even to the host of heaven. And some of the host and some of the stars it threw down to the ground and trampled on them. ¹¹It became great, even as great as the Prince of the host. And the regular burnt offering was taken away from him, and the place of his sanctuary was overthrown. (Dan. 8:9-11)

These stars the little horn (an arising world ruler) threw down to the ground represent people in high places authority lose their power.

Stars sun and the moon: in the book of Genesis it is written: -

- Then he dreamed another dream and told it to his brothers and said, "Behold, I have dreamed another dream. Behold, the sun, the moon, and eleven stars were bowing down to me." (Gen. 37:9)

The stars in this context refers to Jacob's eleven sons, Joseph's eleven brothers.

Steadfast

Steadfast carries the idea of a person who is loving, merciful and kind.

God's steadfast love endures forever: this is mentioned twenty-six times in Psalm one hundred and thirty-six, it is one of the most common expressions throughout the Psalms. Some Bibles say, "God's steadfast mercy endures forever," while others say, "God's love endures forever. The word mercy comes from the Hebrew word (*checed*) and means to show, kind favour, to show merciful kindness, to be kind, to show one-self merciful and to pity which embraces such things as compassion, sympathy, empathy, comfort and forgiveness showing that love and mercy are bound together. The apostle Paul wrote,

- Love does no wrong to a neighbour; therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. (Romans. 13:10).
- Love is patient and kind. (1 Cor. 13:4).

And John wrote: -

- Anyone who does not love does not know God, because God is love. (1 John 4:8).
- God is love, and whoever abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him. (1 John 4:16).

The word mercy embraces the following, compassion, pity, kindness, sympathy, grace and forgiveness which means love and mercy cannot be separated, love without mercy is not love and mercy without love is not mercy, which also means that Bibles that state, "God's mercy endures for ever," and Bibles that say, "God's love endures for ever," are both correct in their interpretations.

NOTE: love is not a part of God's character; God is love wherever love is God is present by His Spirit. This does not mean that wherever love is the people are saved to eternal life, it simply means God by His love is in that love.

Steadfastness

Steadfastness (patience in KJV) means to stay under and remain, to undergo or bear trials, to have fortitude and persevere, to abide, endure or take patiently. It carries the idea of a person who is cheerful (or hopeful) and who patiently suffers with endurance waiting with tenacity and determination (especially for Christ).

Steward (Treasurer)

Steward (treasurer in KJV) comes from the Hebrew word (*cakan*) it literally means to be familiar with and by implication carries the idea of ministering, to provide a service, to minister, to, to be serviceable and to be a treasurer. In addition to this it was the highest authority in the kings' government and of such importance that it was sometimes held by a king's son.

The treasurer was entrusted with the care of the budget and finances of all the ministrations of the kingdom. To be treasurer was to be the king's friend and principal officer of the court and the king's counsellor concerning the running of his kingdom. He had the keys of the money stores and as such had great authority in the ordering of all the civil and domestic affairs within the kingdom which was an extremely high position to hold.

Sting

Sting literally means, "to prick" and refers to a prick or sting, as that of bees, scorpions and locusts and, figuratively a divine impulse. Many animals wound by their sting and even cause death, because of this Paul personifies death as a sting, (i.e. a deadly weapon).

It also carries the idea of a goad (a rod, whip or stick) which was used for urging oxen, horses and other beasts of burden on their way. This, is why Jesus said to Paul, "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads (pricks in KJV)" (Acts 26:14). The pricks in this context were the signs Jesus had been doing that should have revealed to Paul that Jesus was the promised Messiah the Christ.

Stink

You have brought trouble on me (Jacob) to make me to stink: (Gen. 34:30), this means they have made him to be looked upon and treated as a cruel, bloodthirsty, deceitful and treacherous man who made no difference between the innocent and the guilty. A man who had no regard to his word, to covenants and agreements made by him and who would stop at nothing to gratify his craving for revenge.

Though strangers in the country Abraham, Isaac and Jacob had been respected, but now Jacob was for good reason apprehensive that these murderous and extremely shameful acts of his sons would cause him and his religion to be, seen as an abomination amongst the Canaanites, especially since the atrocious crime Simeon and Levi had committed on the defenceless citizens and their families far exceeded any crime the Canaanites had committed.

The crime Simeon and Levi had committed was that they had not only slaughtered Hamor the prince of the land and his Son Shechem, but also killed all the men of the city and plundered their flocks, herds, donkeys and whatever was in the city and in the field and their wealth, their wives and their children (Gen. 34:25-29). They did this because Shechem had seized Dinah their sister and lay with her and humiliated her. (Gen. 34:1-2). (the full story is in Genesis chapter thirty-four).

Stoicism (Stoikos)

A Stoic was an adherent of a certain philosophy; it was a system of pantheistic monism. They held that: -

- Fire is the ultimate substance with God and the active principle of the cosmos, permeating everything as a sort of soul.
- Nature, is a hierarchical unity controlled by the universal Logos, being a kind of impersonal divine reason and therefore all humans are participants in the universal Logos (i.e., the word of God, or principle of divine reason and creative order) and participants in deity.
- The true essence of humanity is mind having the capacity to understand the rational order veiled by phenomena.
- As a Logos-being people are, able to perceive that everything caused, including every human act, is a result of something so there is no real free will, therefore it is possible for humans to live in harmony with nature (also called fate or providence).
- Nothing lies within a persons' own power except imagination, desire, and emotion and so by cultivation of detachment from the world outside of them and mastery over their reactions to the world's impingement upon themselves they can achieve freedom, happiness, and self-sufficiency.

- Whatever a person's position or handicap was, any person even a slave can be inwardly free, because all are partakers of a common rational nature so all humans everywhere are subject to the same law.
- There is a universal morality rooted in the universal Logos, Stoicism did not think in terms of obedience to a personal God, sin was simply an error of judgment, rectified by a change of opinion.

Story

Dwelling in the heart of another: the following is a true story which helps give insight and understanding into the concept of a person dwelling in the heart of another. A seven-year old disabled girl whose best friend was her mother was about to do her first live stage show at her school. The mother loved her daughter, but could not be at the opening show as she was in hospital being treated for cancer.

A television reporter asked the young girl if she would be sad and miss her mother at the opening of her school concert. The girl, with tears in her eyes said, "yes I will miss her, but she will be in my heart where she belongs," Love for a person creates the reality and presence of the person in the human heart. The greater the love the greater the reality and the presence.

Straining

Straining means to stretch oneself forward or upon, it carries the idea of reaching forth.

Stranger

See, Hospitality, Traveller and Stranger in this Bible Dictionary.

Strangers

Strangers means, foreign and by implication a guest or (vice-versa) entertainer (Host)

Strangers

Strangers literally refers to foreigners, but in some contexts, can also carry the idea of turning aside from a path for a place of lodging or to a person turning aside from the right way (i.e., committing adultery or any other type of wrong doing).

Strength

Strength (*Greek dunamis*) means, force (literal or figurative) especially a miraculous power (usually a miracle itself). It can refer to a worker of miracles or a mighty and wonderful work.

They will renew their strength: in the book of Isaiah, it is written: -

- They who wait for the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint. (Isaiah 40:31).

Strength here is to be understood of an increase of spiritual strength that the faithful have in the heart and mind being refreshed and strengthened. It means that the people of God who trust in Him shall become strong in faith and able to meet the temptations and trials of life while living in troublesome and sorrowful times. The faithful who endure will grow stronger and stronger in faith, and patience, and fortitude, and thereby will be more than conquerors over all their enemies and adversities. It is a spiritual strength that revives and causes what was once decayed to flourish again.

Strengthened

Strengthened means to empower or increase in vigour stamina, energy or endurance.

Stricken

Stricken (*Hebrew naga*) means to touch or lay the hand upon (for any purpose), to strike violently, beat or punish, defeat and destroy. (It is also used as a euphemism for laying with a woman).

Strikes

Strikes you on the cheek: is translated from six Greek words each with the following different aspects of meaning: -

Strikes (*tupto*) means to thump or pummel with a cudgel or a stick by repeated blows.

Strikes (*paio and patasso*) usually denotes a single blow with the hand or any instrument.

Strikes (*plesso*) denotes using the fist or a hammer.

Strikes (*rhapizo*) is using the palm of the hand.

Strikes (*tugchano*) is an accidental collision.

Strikes (*tugchano*) by implication means to punish and figuratively to offend the conscience and generally to beat, smite, strike or wound.

Strikes you on the cheek: in the book of Luke Jesus said: -

- To one who strikes you on the cheek, offer the other also, and from one who takes away your cloak do not withhold your tunic either. (Luke 6:29).

Strike in this context denotes a single blow with the hand to the side of the face, but also carries the idea of offending the conscience. Jesus literally suffered both, of these, he was struck on the face by the priests, ridiculed, mocked and treated as a criminal, yet even though he knew he had all the power of God at his disposal to destroy his tormentors, (i.e., do you not think I could call on a legion of angels) (Matt. 6:25) he endured the insults, the humiliation and the torturous beatings even unto death.

Jesus has just chosen his twelve apostles and is now preparing them to go out and take the Gospel to the world he knows that the disciples will come across all sorts of opposition so he is telling them how to respond beforehand. Jesus is not saying if a murder, rapist or criminal of any sort attacks one's family or the helpless they are to turn the other cheek and allow the victim to be violently abused or even murdered, this is not about self-defence or aiding the helpless from bullies, the context is all about suffering or being ridiculed for the name of Christ and proclaiming the Gospel, other Scriptures call it suffering for Christ's name.

Stir

Stir and awake are from the same Hebrew word (*'uwr*) it carries the idea of opening the eyes, to wake. To lift or stir one's self up.

Strive

Strive (follow peace in the KJV) means to flee or to pursue and follow-after, to press forward and by implication to persecute or given to suffer.

Strong

Strong refers to the following: force, forcible, forcefulness, boisterous, mighty, mightier, powerful or stronger and applies to one who is valiant in ability or strength.

Study

Good Bible study: when a word or a single verse is difficult to know exactly what it means. The rule in such circumstance for good Bible study is not to determine what a verse means based upon one word or the single verse, but to look at the context and what make the most sense when all the information concerning the matter is looked at together.

Nine tips to help understand the Bible when studying, always: -

1. Look to see who is talking, because they may not be saying a truth or correct thing.
2. Look for the sequence of thought in the chapter.

3. Be consciously aware of wider meanings, meaning, the hidden undesigned patterns that are deeper than what is superficially being said.
4. Keep in mind that the Scriptures contain the words of the greatest mind in the universe.
5. Single verses have, to be interpreted in the light of the Bible's core truth.
6. God talks to Israel, but the application can often apply to the reader personally.
7. Look for the power or meaning behind the message the words contain.
8. Words do not always carry the same meaning, often it is the context that gives the word its meaning.
9. Behind many passages and chapters in the Bible is the Lord Jesus Christ while lying in others verses is a future age.

All Scripture is breathed out by God: applies to the messages spoken by the prophets and apostles, it does not mean every individual or single word of the Bible, but it does mean the messages that the sum total of the individual words are teaching.

The Bible is to be used for: teaching and reproof, correction and training in righteousness so that the man or woman of God may be competent and equipped for every good work (2 Tim. 3:16-17).

A principal of Bible writers and authors: a common principal of Bible writers is to hide themselves in the letter they are writing. The writers very rarely use the word I, they will often say, "that disciple with them" or "him" when they are referring to themselves. It is a style of writing that avoids boasting and contrasts the natural spirit of the world and pride which desires to feel important, biblical writers deliberately avoid this by hiding themselves in their writings.

The Bible and Jesus: a lot of what the Bible or Jesus says, pre-supposes some things while other things are in place or happening.

Bible's translations: can translate the thought the words carry or translate it word for word.

Darby's Bible: uses the words, "congregation" or "assembly" instead of church some say the Darby Bible is a good literal translation, because the author had a big mind.

A Danger in Biblical Interpretation: it is all too easy to be beguiled by words into building a theological superstructure upon them, which the words were never designed to bear.

Bible Books: Kings, is the plain history while Chronicles shows how God was acting in history. The following is my perspective only. The Bible records history revealing how God works through world events and is telling a spiritual story from God's perspective, but even though it records snippets of history it is not a real historical book, rather it records accounts expressing a faith that says God is just, if there is punishment there is a reason for it.

The stories also contain another message of forgiveness for those who turn to God with all their heart and soul and obey His voice accept their guilt and change their ways. Throughout its pages it proclaims to mankind there is hope. Biblical writers may expand the story to develop the meaning or leave out much of the detail so that the core focus of the story is in focus. The central focus or primary purpose of the Bible is not the historical account or the exact detail of the story, but the eternal lessons that the story communicates to the reader, it is about God's relationship with man and the good and evil in the human heart.

Keys to reading the Bible: no reader should be surprised that large chunks of history or unimportant details the story are not mentioned, as it is common for Scripture to leave matters not important to the story to the intelligence, reasoning

and logic of the reader. Had the original writers of the Bible manuscripts not taken this approach the Bible would be so thick it would take a lifetime to read it. When these gaps occur, it is left to the intelligence and common sense of the reader to fill them in.

A letter written to a loved one will be different in style to one that is written to a university. Who a person is that writes will determine the style and intellect and the emotion of that letter. It is always important to take this principal into account when interpreting the Bible and to be aware of the danger of being beguiled by words, into building a theological superstructure upon them, which the words were never designed to bear, many false doctrines are built this way.

Biblical language: the main message of the Bible is man's way back to God and the proclamation of the Kingdom and the resurrection. The miracles and healings are only to authenticate the message and for a Jew and Bible writers if a thing or event is declared by God that it will happen, it can be spoken of or written about as though it has already happened, this is because it is sure to come to pass.

Studying: we may never know the entire truth, but our very attempt of looking for it will get us closer to it.

Subjects

Subjects means to subordinate and obey, it carries the idea of being under obedience and submitting one-self to some extent secretly or tolerably.

Submission

Submission (obedience in KJV) means to obey, to be under obedience and to submit self to another, it carries the idea of an inferior position or condition. The submission maybe with any of the following attitudes, stealthily, secretly, slyly, moderately, tolerably or fairly,

Sufferings

Suffering (tribulations in KJV) means something undergone, a hardship or pain it can refer to an emotion, to an influence, to an affliction, a burdened, an anguish or to a trouble or persecution.

Sufficiency

Sufficiency carries the idea of self-satisfaction, self-complacent, contentedness and competence.

Sulphur

See Brimstone in this Bible Dictionary.

Sun

The word sun often applies to the light of God's word, while the sun going down can mean, darkness of God's word.

- Therefore, it shall be night to you, without vision, and darkness to you, without divination. The sun shall go down on the prophets, and the day shall be black over them; ⁷the seers shall be disgraced, and the diviners put to shame; they shall all cover their lips, for there is no answer from God. (Micah 3:6-7).

Sun Dial

The sun-dial (or sun clock) of Ahaz was probably in the form of an obelisk standing on steps that were designed to indicate the time and in such a manner that each step would represent an hour or half-hour as the shadow of the obelisk moved over them. It is most likely that the shadow moving backward was limited to the step-dial and not the entire planet. This story is also recorded in two Kings Chapters nineteen and twenty. When these stories are combined, we discover that the LORD gave Hezekiah the following seven promises: -

1. The LORD will heal Hezekiah and on the third day he will go up to the house of the LORD. (2 Kings 20:4-5).
2. The LORD will add fifteen years to Hezekiah's life (2 Kings 20:6) (Isaiah 38:5-7).

3. The LORD will deliver Hezekiah and Jerusalem out of the hand of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and I will defend Jerusalem. (2 Kings 20:6) (Isaiah 38:6-7).
4. The LORD will make the shadow cast by the declining sun on the dial of Ahaz turn back ten steps. (2 Kings 20:9-11) (Isaiah 38:8).
5. In the same year that the Rabshakeh on behalf of Sennacherib mocked the living God the inhabitants of Jerusalem will eat what grows of itself. (Isaiah 37:30)
6. Out of Jerusalem will go a remnant, and out of Mount Zion a band of survivors. (Isaiah 37:30-32).
7. The LORD will put His hook in Sennacherib nose and turn him back by the way which he came because he raged against the LORD. (2 Kings 19:28) (Isaiah 37:29).

As a sign that these promises would come to pass the LORD says He will cause the shadow of the sun to move backwards. This story is more fully told in (2 Kings 20:8-11) here Hezekiah asks for a sign, and is offered the following two choices, "Does he want the shadow to go forward or backward?" He reasons that it is easy for the shadow to go forward so he chooses the more difficult of the two and asks for it to go backward.

NOTE.

Sceptics deny this story since they cannot comprehend that the shadow could move backward. They feel that for this to happen the sun would have to move backward and such a thing would cause chaos on earth, but when it is considered the moving of the shadow was most likely limited to a fragment of light covering the steps it is no so difficult to comprehend.

Added to this, God created the sun, the shadows and the laws that govern them, so it is no problem for Him to move the shadow backwards. When it is considered God created all things and that He is going to raise thousands from the grave to eternal glory moving a shadow of a sun dial is a very little thing indeed.

Super

Super apostles (chiefest apostles in KJV) means exceedingly and abundantly over, beyond or above or more superior.

Super apostles: are egotistic and prideful workmen who think they are important or famous, they put on airs, exalt themselves and boast of their own human efforts and achievements (i.e., boast according, to the flesh). They are deceitful, cunning, malicious and conniving religious teachers that lead people's thoughts astray from a sincere and pure devotion to Christ.

They disguise themselves as Christ true apostles and angels of light by accusing Christ's true apostles of living a lifestyle in the flesh (2 Cor 10:2) and saying that they proclaim the same message as the twelve apostles but undermine their message by proclaiming another Jesus than the one Paul, Silas and Timothy proclaimed (2 Cor. 11:4).

They devour and taking advantage of those in Christ, and make slaves of them to fulfil their own selfish ambition. (2 Cor 11:12-20).

During the New Testament period these so called "super apostles" would have been proclaiming Christ but their message would have been full of legalism (i.e., keeping the Levitical law, circumcision, the holy days and Sabbaths and all the Jewish ceremonial rites). Though they proclaimed Christ their message was one of self-effort rather than grace and it is in this way they made slaves of their followers.

The spirit of a super apostle is self which when in religious duties nearly always disguises itself as a nice person (i.e., an angel of light) (2 Cor 11:14). By extension the title "super apostles," can refer to any pastor or minister who is proclaiming Christ, but teaching a gospel that leads people away from grace and back under the law or works to be saved and thereby make slaves of them to self-effort (of which there is no end) striving to be righteous enough to be saved or maintain their salvation.

Superfluous

Superfluous means, beyond, excessive and exceeding, it carries the idea of being superabundant in quantity, superior in quality, more abundantly above and beyond measure and especially to pre-eminence.

Supper

Supper means dinner, (i.e., the chief meal usually in the evening) (a feast). It is interesting to consider that the Last Supper was most likely a proper meal with a roast lamb since it was the Passover meal and in the evening.

Added to this it is hardly likely Jesus at the end of a day's service to his heavenly Father would expect his twelve apostles to sit at a table and only have one piece of bread to eat and a one cup of wine to drink for their evening meal, but there is majestic beauty in the fact that the Passover roast lamb (without blemish) is not mentioned because that very day the Lord Jesus Christ was about to become the eternal Passover Lamb.

Supplication

Supplication biblically refers to a prayer of petition or request, it carries the idea of binding oneself or being in bonds to a person and in prayer begging, beseeching and requesting something from God.

Surpasses

Surpassess (passeth in KJV) means, more superior to or the very chiefest, it carries the idea of going beyond, to surpass and excel abundantly above and beyond.

Sure

A sure place in the Bible, is Jerusalem

A sure foundation: see: Corner Stone, in this Bible Dictionary.

Swallow

Swallow comes from the Hebrew word (*ṣṣowr*) it applies to a bird (i.e.; the swift or some, kind of swallow). It is a small graceful songbird with long pointed wings and a notched or forked tail. It is rapid in flight and migrates annually. It carries the idea of purity; of moving rapidly and freely and of having a spontaneity and outflow of liberty. It is sometimes used to signify the suppressed cry, moaning and feebleness of the body and the lamentation of those suffering pain or grief.

It's twittering and chattering is used in some Scriptures to signify interrupted groans of broken speech and prayers prayed with cries of unmeaning unintelligible sighing or prayed with quick breathing and moaning to God that what is being prayed is so lacking of articulate words what is being said is scarcely intelligible.

Swearing

Swearing in God's name: in the book of Isaiah it is written: -

- He who blesses himself in the earth shall bless himself in the God of truth; and he that swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth; because the former troubles are forgotten, and because they are hid from mine eyes. (Isaiah 65:16).

The statement, "he that swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth," does not mean that those who make a promise should confirm it by swearing in God's name (i.e., saying, "I promise in God's name," since this would contradict the following words of James: -

- Above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation. (James 5:12).

Rather the expression, "he that swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth," carries the idea of putting one's trust in God's plan of salvation. It could be written, "I as a Christian promise that salvation and blessing is in God and the Lord Jesus Christ."

In the context of this verse, swearing (i.e., promising) refers to honestly praising God from a sincere heart for His salvation and blessings and offering up to Him our true worship in contrast to proclaiming another way of salvation and worshipping Him in hypocrisy, insincerity and dishonesty.

The apostle Paul wrote: -

- For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. (2 Cor. 1:20).

He that swears in the earth shall swear by the God of truth, carries the idea that the faithful who understand God's love and faithfulness put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ and endeavour to do all they can to be like him in faithfulness and in truth as they are called to do. It means they will honestly put their trust in God's plan of salvation and in His name and not in any other teaching or foreign god and that they will fully trust themselves to God's judgment and in prayer and every other act honouring Him as the God of truth.

Swift

See swallow above.

Sword

The word sword comes from the Hebrew word (*chereb*) it literally means drought (dearth and famine etc.,) and to a cutting instrument (from its destructive effect), as a knife, dagger, sword, axe, or other sharp implement (all instruments of war). It carries the idea of killing, slaying and destroying and making desolate. The sword is an emblem of war, and is often used among the Hebrews to denote war as the following verses show: -

- By your sword you (Esau) shall live and you shall serve your brother. (Gen. 27:40).
- I (the LORD) will bring a sword upon you (Israel), that shall execute vengeance for the covenant and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. (Lev. 26:25).

It is also an emblem of justice and punishment: -

- If I (the LORD) sharpen my flashing sword and my hand takes hold on judgment, I will take vengeance on my adversaries and will repay those who hate me. ⁴²I will make my arrows drunk with blood, and my sword shall devour flesh—with the blood of the slain and the captives, from the long-haired heads of the enemy. (Deut. 32:41-42).
- If a man does not repent, God will whet his sword; he has bent and readied his bow. (Psalm 7:12).
- These two things have happened to you (the inhabitants of Jerusalem) —who will console you?—devastation and destruction, famine and sword; who will comfort you? (Isaiah 51:19).

The sword of the LORD: can be a pagan country, in the following verses the sword of the LORD in this context, is Babylon

- They have made it a desolation; desolate, it mourns to me. The whole land is made desolate, but no man lays it to heart. ¹²Upon all the bare heights in the desert destroyers have come, for the sword of the LORD devours from one end of the land to the other; no flesh has peace. (Jer. 12:11-12).

A sword, Gethsemane and after Gethsemane: prior to Gethsemane Jesus told the apostles not to take, a staff, a bag, bread, money or an extra tunic (Luke 9:3) and prior to Gethsemane Jesus told the seventy not to take a moneybag, a knapsack, sandals and greet no one on the road (Luke 10:4), but now at the Garden of Gethsemane Jesus tells the apostles to take a moneybag (purse in KJV) and a knapsack, their script (in KJV) and a sword with them (Luke 22:35-36).

Jesus knows the chief priests, scribes and Pharisees are planning to put him to death and that after his death they will be seeking to kill the apostles.

It appears Jesus tells them to buy a sword to protect themselves during the time following his trial and death, but it is more likely he was simply indicating that great opposition and persecution is about to rise, up against them, which is exactly what happened, immediately after Jesus death the chief priest and the Pharisees aggressively sought to persecute all those who confessed to believe in the name of Christ and the church.

However, we do not see anywhere in the Scriptures any of the apostles or Jesus disciples taking up a literal sword and going to war against their enemies.

Bible House of Grace