

THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY # : 18

The Church of
Christ

PART-2



THE GREAT TRUTHS OF THE BIBLE

STUDY #18

THE CHURCH OF CHRIST - PART 2 (THE LITTLE FLOCK & THE GREAT MULTITUDE)

PLEASE NOTE: Kindly refer to your Bibles for every scripture reference and read thoroughly.

MOST SCRIPTURE PASSAGES ARE QUOTED FROM THE AUTHORISED KING JAMES VERSION (KJV)

T

oday we will continue our study of **THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST** in **THE SECOND PART.**

☞ As we saw last time **THE CHURCH** of Jesus Christ is seen and found in the scriptures in-

Revelation 17:14

"...and they that are with Him (the Lamb) are called, and chosen and faithful"

☞ These we saw are the **THREE STEPS** or **STAGES** in the Christian life and development which the Christian must cover before attaining to **GLORY** with the Lord.

☞

WHAT DO THESE STEPS MEAN ?

We saw the meaning in great detail of the first **TWO** stages of "called" and "chosen" last time in **PART - I** of our study.

☞ We understood the scripture and its significance in-

Matthew 22:14

"MANY are called, but few are chosen"

☞

We saw that the "called" class are the **BELIEVERS** among Christians in **ALL** the various church denominations who

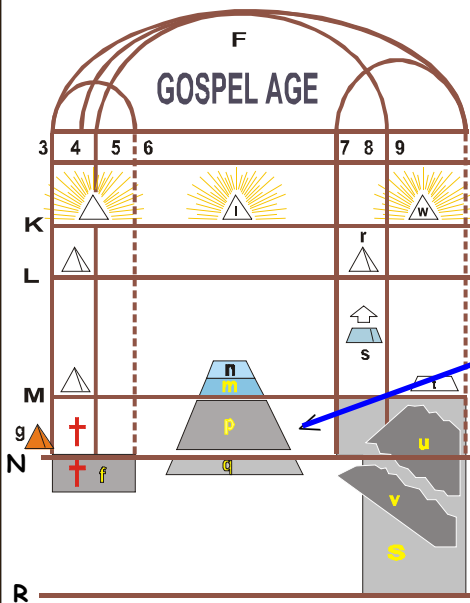
Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



have “FAITH” in Jesus and His blood and believe that He is the Saviour of the world.

These though are “BABES IN CHRIST” in their knowledge of the Word (1Peter 2:2) and their FAITH has caused them to be in a JUSTIFIED condition (Romans 5:1)

These we saw are represented by this part “P” OVER HERE (POINT TO IT) on THE DIVINE PLAN CHART.

Then we learnt that faith alone on Jesus was NOT sufficient but that it must be accompanied by “works” as read in-

James 2:17

“ Even so faith,if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.”

☞ What kind of “works” does this scripture refer to ?

Is it SOCIAL WORK ?- opening schools, orphanages, hospitals, charities ??, etc.

THE ANSWER IS NO !

Though these be all good works the “works” required of a Christian is very different !

We saw the answer was given by Jesus Himself in -

John 6:29

“This is the work of God,that ye BELIEVE on Himwhom He hath sent”

So, the “works” here represent BELIEF which becomes a TRUST deep enough to bring complete OBEDIENCE to the Lord Jesus’ commands and words as the Lord expects as the condition of discipleship as we read it in...

John 8:31

“Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my Word, then are ye my disciples indeed.”

☞ AND WHAT IS THE LORD'S COMMAND?

We read that too in -

Matthew 16:24

“If any man WILL come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me”

Yes! We saw how it is the WILL of God that “BELIEVERS” must seek to become “FOLLOWERS” of the Master in -

1 Peter 2:21 - *“.....leaving you an EXAMPLE that you should follow in His steps.....”*

☞ But then we saw that this FOLLOWING after the Master is compared to a NARROW WAY and we read of it in Matthew 7:14 that -
“few there be that FIND it”



Yes! Among **all** believers **VERY FEW** are able to “**see**” this golden opportunity to follow the Lord’s example and the **VAST MAJORITY** only cover this **one** step of being “**called**” and become and remain **ONLY BELIEVERS** in their whole lifetime !!

☞ Then we saw those “**few**” who enter into the second stage of “**CHOSEN**”. are shown a “**secret covenant**” by the Lord -

Psalms 25:14

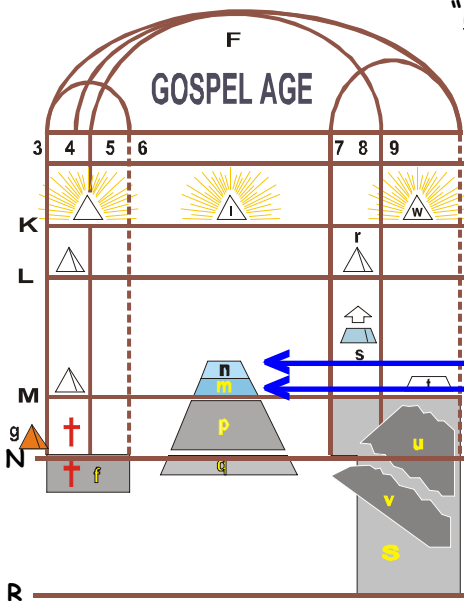
“ The secret of the Lord is with them that fear Him; and he will shew them His covenant.”

This covenant was first made by the Lord Himself as seen in Hebrews 10:7 where the covenant was to sacrifice His own will and **DO THE FATHER’S WILL!**

This covenant we saw is **SYMBOLIZED** beautifully in water immersion or **BAPTISM** which again **Jesus also took FIRST!**

☞ This “**CHOSEN**” class thus **FOLLOW** the “**Lamb**” in His example !

We saw on this chart, (POINT TO IT) this class of “**CHOSEN**” is represented in “**m**” and “**n**” over here (POINT TO IT) ←



They are upon **plane M** which represents this **second stage** of the Christian development- the **CONSECRATED** covenanted life of sacrifice - of being “**new creatures**”

☞ What is this “**new creature**” ?
 We saw that in....

2 Corinthians 5:17

where we read-


“If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature, old things are passed away, all things are become new.”

We saw this meant that those entering this **CONSECRATED** “covenanted” stage receive a new **SPIRITUAL MIND!** And thus “**all things**” become new !!


We read about this “new mind” in -

Colossians 3:10

“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him.”

 What are those “*all things*” ?

They are the **DREAMS, GOALS** and **AMBITIONS** of the person.
They change from **EARTHLY** to **HEAVENLY** or **SPIRITUAL**.

Finally at the conclusion of the last class we saw that the “**CHOSEN**” class are actually **TWO** groups-
 “**m**” and “**n**”
and we wondered what **THEY** represented.

TODAY WE WILL LOOK INTO THESE ANSWERS.

We will begin though by studying a few more scriptures referring to this “**CHOSEN**” class.

 We will begin with -

Hebrews 3:1

“Wherefore, holy brethren partakers of the heavenly calling...”

Yes! - the “*holy brethren*”- the “*saints*”- the **CHOSEN CLASS** become partakers or **ENTER** into a HEAVENLY calling !!

 We see it again in...

Philippians 3:14


“ I press towards the mark for the PRIZE of the HIGH CALLING of God in Christ Jesus.


Here again we see the **HEAVENLY** calling being referred to as

 “.....*the High calling.*”

And it also speaks of a **PRIZE** !

Before we look into this **PRIZE** let us first understand this

 “heavenly” or “high calling”.

Many are of the opinion that the “**CALLED**” class or “**believers**” who **NEVER** become “**CHOSEN**” are also going to heaven!
Infact it is very **COMMON** today for Christians to say -
 “We are **ALL** going to heaven” !!


 **IS ALL THIS TRUE ?**


When we study the matter in the scriptures we see the words of Our Lord in -

John 3:3

“ Except a man be born again he cannot see the Kingdom of God”

Yes ! Here is a clear verse speaking of **HOW TO GO TO HEAVEN** !-

 The Lord says that one has to **be born again** !

 What does it mean? We read further in and also see the reaction of **NICODEMUS** in-

John 3:4

*“Nicodemus saith unto him, How can a man be born when he is old?
Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”*

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Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

Yes ! Here Nicodemus understood Jesus words of being “born again” to mean

 - A REBIRTH from his mother’s womb !

- or in other words entering into the BIRTH PROCESS all over again !


 WAS HE RIGHT ?

Yes ! -The Greek word for “born” used here is

“gennao” (Strong’s Concordance - Greek #1080)

which is commonly used to mean BOTH- “to be born” and “to beget” or “be begotten”.

From Nicodemus’ reaction we see that Jesus meant that one must


 ENTER into the WOMB or BIRTH PROCESS all over again !!

 “...even so can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb...”

Now we do know that every birth process has a BEGINNING and an ENDING !!
IN BETWEEN IS THE PERIOD OF DEVELOPMENT.

In human beings that development period is nine months.

Yes ! The human birth process BEGINS at conception and ENDS at the birth which is nine months later !

 This is exactly what Jesus was speaking about when He said.....

John 3:5

“Verily, verily I say unto thee except a man be born of water and of the spirit he cannot enter into the kingdom of God”.

Now the detailed study of this subject we are not going to enter into, today.

(THAT WILL BE IN CLASS #41)


But we see here that Jesus is explaining THE HEAVENLY BIRTH PROCESS !

 It begins with “born of water” !

This is the BEGINNING of that BIRTH PROCESS !


Without the BEGINNING there is NO birth process begun at ALL!

It is commonly understood to mean “water” baptism. But we have just studied that BAPTISM is ACTUALLY the SYMBOL of “the covenant by sacrifice” that is made with God which Jesus first made and took and now those Christians who CHOOSE to follow Jesus footsteps are INVITED to do the same.

 Yes! The baptism Jesus took was the “one baptism” of the Body of Christ as seen in Ephesians 4:5.

Now there are many Christians who have taken “baptism” but have NO IDEA of this “SECRET OF THE LORD” as we read in Psalms 25:14 - the “covenant by sacrifice” (Psalms 50:5).

 They are merely BELIEVERS and HAVE NO IDEA OF the opportunity to become a follower.

 And besides how can one take the “one baptism” of Ephesians 4:5 WITHOUT FIRST COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE of the “secret.... covenant” ?

Thy Word is Truth



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Thy Word is Truth

(WE WILL BE STUDYING OF “BAPTISM” IN DETAIL IN CLASS # 53)

But “*born of water*” here represents the **BEGINNING** of the heavenly birth process which is the “**one baptism**” which in turn is the **SYMBOL** of the “secret covenant by sacrifice”.

☞ Thus those at the “**CALLED**” stage having not this knowledge **NEVER**

ENTER INTO THIS CONDITION of beginning the heavenly birth process **AT ALL !!**

They thus will **NEVER** go to heaven but will receive **an earthly resurrection** with the rest of the world of mankind when in due time -

“.....*even so in Christ shall ALL be made alive*” (I Corinthians 15:22).

➔ Their **ADVANTAGE** will be that having been **BELIEVERS** and if they had tried to avoid or fight the ways of sin, then in the kingdom time of the

☞ “*Highway of Holiness*” (Isaiah 35:8)

it will be a little easier for them to “walk” in **OBEDIENCE**.

☞ Now returning back to the “**heavenly calling**” and the “**prize**” let us see what it is as we read in -

Romans 2:7

“*To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and IMMORTALITY....*”

➔ Yes! The prize is **IMMORTALITY !** What does it mean ?

It is the **OPPOSITE** of **MORTALITY** and is a condition where **DEATH is NOT AT ALL POSSIBLE !!**

☞ It is a **DEATHLESS** condition of life !!

It is a condition of such a **GLORIOUS** “life” than one can hardly fully imagine or **COMPREHEND** the full meaning of it !

☞ Let us read more of it in.....

2 Peter 1:4

“.....*are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises.... that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature....*”

There ! Immortality is the **DIVINE NATURE**.

It is God's nature of life.

In the beginning **only** God possessed it as we read in -

I Timothy 6:16

“*Who ONLY hath immortality...*”

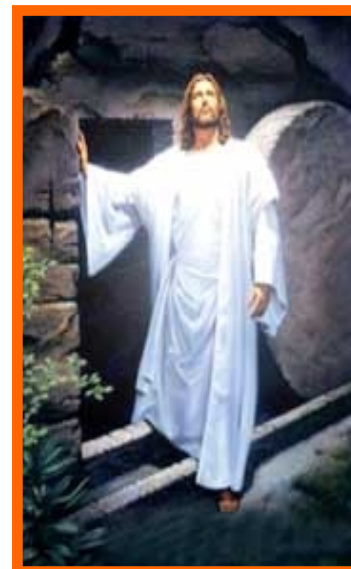
☞ Then God gave it to Jesus **AFTER** Calvary as we read in -

Revelation 1:18 / John 5:26

☞ “*I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive forevermore, A-men.....*”

☞ “*For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself.*”

➔ Yes ! Jesus **CONFIRMS** the fact that **HE HAD DIED** and **ONLY THEN** was granted that condition of life which is **IMMORTALITY**.




The scriptures in **John 5:26** describes this **LIFE** as "*life in himself*".


It is **NOT DEPENDENT** on outside sources for life such as
air, food, water, etc as in the case of humans !

This **LIFE** is **CONTAINED** and **GENERATED** within the **BEING** itself !

 "*...life in Himself*".

Yes ! On the third day after Calvary, Jesus **RECEIVED** this life from the Father.

 Now this highly exalted life of **IMMORTALITY** is offered to the church
as the **PRIZE** of the heavenly calling as we just read above.

 Let us see **MORE** of the prize as we read in

2 Timothy 2:11,12

"If we suffer, we shall ALSO REIGN WITH HIM.."

Yes! The prize also includes **REIGNING** with Jesus in His Kingdom as fellow king !

We see this **promise** by Jesus Himself in

REVELATION 3:21 - "*to him that overcometh I will grant to sit with me in MY THRONE.."*"

and the **prophecy** in **DANIEL 7:27** - "*And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom
under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints.."*"

That is why Jesus is called the - "**King of kings..**" because the "kings"
over whom He will be King are none other that **HIS CHURCH - HIS BODY MEMBERS !**

 And there's **MORE** to the prize as we read in -

Galatians 3:29

"And if ye be Christ's then are ye Abraham's SEED and HEIRS according to the promise."

Yes! The great privilege is also to be a part of "**THE SEED OF ABRAHAM**" and to

 "**bless all the families of the earth**" !

Yes ! This was the "promise" and "covenant" made nearly

4000 years ago to **THE ONE WHO WAS CALLED -**

 '*....The friend of God..*'

Imagine the **JOY** and the **GLORY** when this "covenant" is fulfilled
and all the families of the earth are blessed !

 And to be **A PART** of that "seed" !!!

AH ! WHAT A GREAT PRIVILEGE INDEED !



THIS IS THE GREAT PRIZE GOD HAS KEPT

FOR ALL THOSE FAITHFUL IN FOLLOWING HIS SON'S FOOTSTEPS.

Truly it is as it is written in **I Corinthians 2:9** - "*Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have
entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him*"

Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth

☞ Thus we have seen that for the "CHOSEN" CLASS of Christians there is a RACE to be run and a PRIZE to be won!
That is why the Apostle Paul says in -

Philippians 3:13,14

"I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

➡ YES ! IT IS A RACE !

☞ And see the apostle's ADVICE for all who run this race in -

1 Corinthians 9:24

"....so run that ye may obtain."

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?

➡ It shows the RIGHT WAY and the RIGHT ATTITUDE in which to run !
Yes! This implies a FAITHFULNESS to the "covenant by sacrifice"

Now we come to these TWO groups on the "CHOSEN" stage- "m" and "n" (POINT TO IT)

☞ WHAT DO THEY REPRESENT?

These represent that in the "race" for the prize of the High calling only

➡ ONE group is found to be FAITHFUL unto death.

☞ This is the group "n" at the very top (POINT TO IT) who are still "fewer" when compared to the other group "m".

Thus "n" represents "the called, and chosen AND FAITHFUL"

The class "m" represent those who were "called, and chosen,

☞but LESS THAN FAITHFUL.

Thus the "n" class ALONE come through the THIRD stage in the Christian development VICTORIOUSLY !! Of them it is written in -

Matthew 24:13

"But he that shall ENDURE unto the end, the same shall be saved."

And of these the Master said in -

Luke 12:32

"Fear not LITTLE FLOCK: for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Yes ! They are said to be a "little flock" !!

☞ They have been under selection since about 2000 years now right through this GOSPEL AGE from the day of Pentecost till today !

☞ Do they have a number -this little flock?

Let us see the answer as we read from -

Revelation 14:1




“...a Lamb stood on the mount Zion, and with Him an hundred and forty four thousand...”

 WHO ARE THESE?


They are “*with the Lamb*”- Yes ! These are the “little flock- the church in **GLORY** !



THEY NUMBER 1,44,000 !

 This number appears only **TWICE** in the whole Bible-
REVELATION 14:1 and **REVELATION 7:4-8**.

 But many have **MISUNDERSTANDINGS** about this group!

 They feel that this group is **TOO SMALL** to be the church selected
for nearly **2000** years .

Then others feel these are from natural, fleshly Israel- the Jews and **NOT** Christians!


IS IT TRUE ?

We will see the answers to all these questions as we read from -

Revelation 7:4-8

*“And I heard the number of them which were sealed :
and there were sealed an hundred and forty and four thousand of all the tribes of the children of Israel.”*



Yes ! These are the 1,44,000 sealed out of

 **ALL** “the tribes of Israel”
-12,000 out of each of the tribes !
12,000 x 12 = 1,44,000.


 But as many seem to think, -

ARE THESE REALLY THE 12 TRIBES OF NATURAL, FLESHLY ISRAEL ?

We can find out by making **TWO LISTS** -

 **ONE** as listed in this **7th** chapter of **Revelation**
and another of the twelve sons of Jacob as listed in the
49th chapter of **GENESIS**

when Jacob the patriarch, before he dies, pronounces a blessing
and prophetic word upon his **TWELVE SONS**.

 Thus comparing these two lists side by side
we must examine if they are exactly the same !

Here under and in the following page are the **TWO** lists and
**WHAT DO WE SEE ?**



SLNO.	GENESIS 49	REVELATION 7
1.	REUBEN	JUDAH (4)
2.	SIMEON	REUBEN (1)
3.	LEVI	GAD (8)
4.	JUDAH	ASHER (9)
5.	ZEBULON	NAPHTALI (10)
6.	ISSACHAR	MANASSEH
7.	(X) DAN	SIMEON (2)
8.	GAD	LEVI (3)
9.	ASHER	ZEBULON (5)
10.	NAPHTALI	ISSACHAR (6)
11.	JOSEPH	JOSEPH (11)
12.	BENJAMIN	BENJAMIN (12)

The Revelation 7th chapter list of the 12 tribes of Israel has the tribe of **DAN MISSING** and replaced by **MANASSEH** who is **NOT** a tribe of the original twelve at all !

WHY IS THIS ? AND WHAT DOES IT MEAN ?

- ☞ From this we realize that the Revelation 7th chapter Israel is **NOT** and cannot be referring to the natural and “fleshly” nation of Israel !
- ☞ For was not **DAN** a tribe among the 12 tribes of “fleshly” Israel ?

☞ Then why are the **12 tribes or rather 11 tribes** of the nation of Israel listed and what is **THE SIGNIFICANCE** of the missing tribe of Dan?

☞ This is all **SYMBOLIC** language and especially **THE BOOK OF REVELATION** which is mainly symbolic in language as we clearly read in -
Revelation 1:1 - “ and He sent and **SIGNIFIED** it by His angel unto His servant John” (KJV Bible)

☞ **WHAT DOES THE “ISRAEL” AND ITS 11 TRIBES SYMBOLIZE HERE ?**

Let us see as we read in -

Galatians 6:16

“...Peace be on them, and mercy, and upon the **ISRAEL OF GOD.**”

Ah ! Yes! There is an “Israel of God” or a **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** in the Gospel Age- that is the **CHURCH**, and natural Israel only **TYPIFIED** this **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** .

☞ **AND WHAT ABOUT THE MISSING TRIBE OF DAN ?**

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Thy Word is Truth

WHAT does it signify ?

Just as the **NATURAL** fleshly nation of Israel was founded upon **TWELVE** tribes - or the twelve sons of Jacob - so too it is seen that **SPIRITUAL** Israel is founded upon the **TWELVE** “apostles of the Lamb”.

👉 **AND THEN WHAT HAPPENED ?**

Yes ! One **APOSTLE** was replaced as he lost his place among “the twelve” !

👉 Who was it ?

IT WAS JUDAS ISCARIOT !!

WHO REPLACED HIM ?

It is **POPULARLY** thought that it was **MATTHIAS** as seen in Acts 1:20-26

But the selection of a **replacement** apostle could surely NOT be by lot !

Besides the apostles had yet to receive the Holy Spirit and it was **BEFORE PENTECOST !**

WE MUST REMEMBER THAT IT IS JESUS HIMSELF WHO DOES THE SELECTION UNDER THE GUIDANCE OF GOD (Luke 6:12, 13).

Thus it was that Jesus made His choice a few weeks later which we read about in -

Acts 9:15

“But the Lord said unto him, go thy way: for he is a chosen vessel unto me, to bear my name before the gentiles, and kings and the children of Israel.”

Yes! It was **SAUL** of Tarsus!- who later became

👉 **THE GREAT APOSTLE PAUL !**

This matter is **conformed** by Paul himself as we read in -

1 Corinthians 9:1-2

“Am I not an apostle ?.....Have I not seen Jesus Christ our Lord ? If I be not an apostle unto others, yet doubtless I am to you.....”

Apparently **many DISPUTED** this claim of Paul to be the **TWELFTH appointed apostle** by the Lord Himself.

-NOTE- “.....if I be not an apostle unto others.....”

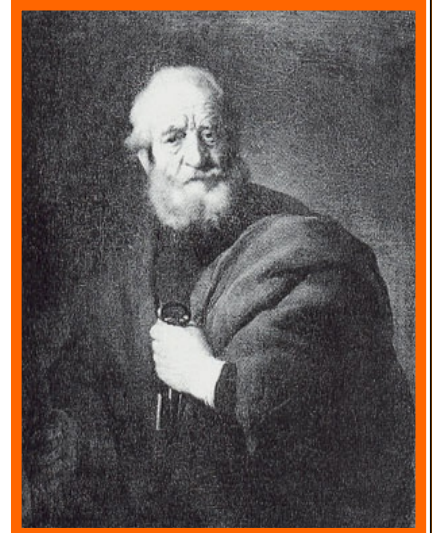
Yes ! Many Christians in the early Church **REFUSED** to accept and believe that Paul was the chosen apostle in place of Judas. In fact this belief has been carried forward to our day where **MANY** and **THE GREAT MAJORITY OF CHRISTIANS** are unaware of this matter and consider Matthias to be the apostle who replaced Judas !

👉 But the apostle Paul **HIMSELF** makes the matter very clear as he wrote to the Galatian church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit in -

Galatians 1:1

“Paul, and apostle (not of men, neither by man, but by Jesus Christ and God the father, who raised him from the dead;)

How clear is this **TESTIMONY** of the Apostle Paul of his **APOSTLESHIP !!**
He clearly **NEGATES** the previous selection of Matthias by the words -



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth


→ “not of men” ⇒ a reference to the selection of Matthias by the other apostles.

→ “neither by man” ⇒ a reference to the selection **METHOD** used - “by lot”.

Thus Paul's selection as the replacement for Judas Iscariot by the Lord Jesus Himself was a mystery to many in the early church itself !
Now this is shown **SYMBOLICALLY** in that the tribe of **MANASSEH** (signifying Paul) - not one of the **original** 12 of the tribes of Israel, **replaces the tribe of Dan** -

 as was the case with **PAUL** replacing Judas!

Remember, Paul was **NOT** among the **ORIGINAL** twelve apostles of the Lamb !

 Now someone may ask how does Dan **SYMBOLISE** Judas ?

 Let us read about this tribe of Dan in -

Genesis 49:16,17

“Dan shall JUDGE His people.....he shall be a serpent by the way, that biteth the horse’s heels, so that the rider shall fall BACKWARD”

Yes ! This is perfect symbolic language symbolising the **DECEIVING AND DEVIIOUS NATURE** of Judas-one of “the twelve apostles of the Lamb”.

Thus it is seen that Israel and its 12 tribes in the Jewish Age **TYPIFIED** the future **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** and its experiences of the Gospel Age.


This is the matter that is **SYMBOLISED** here in Revelation 7th chapter and refers to **SPIRITUAL ISRAEL** - the **Church of the first born** !

 Now coming to the next scripture where the 1,44,000 is mentioned we read in -

Revelation 14:4

“These (the 1,44,000) are they which were NOT DEFILED WITH WOMEN; for they are virgins.....”

This seems to show that the **CHURCH** will be **CELIBATE** and not marry at all !

 The Roman Catholic priesthood apply this verse and this group to signify themselves and thus they have- a “**VOW OF CHASTITY**”-

 **BUT IS THIS TRUE ?**

We must remember that this verse is from the Book of Revelation which is a book written in **SYMBOLIC** language (Rev 1:1) and does **NOT** have a literal meaning.

Further let us see **WHY THIS CANNOT BE TAKEN LITERALLY** as we read in -

Hebrews 13:4

“Marriage is HONORABLE in all, and the bed undefiled.....”

Yes ! This is the Apostle Paul's **INSPIRED** writings to the church.


Marriage was to be honorable in all and we see that even

the Apostle Peter WAS MARRIED as we read in -



Matthew 8:14,15

“And when Jesus was come into Peter’s house, He saw his wife’s mother laid.....”


 Yes ! Peter’s mother-in-law - the mother of his wife was sick
when Jesus visited their house !


We further read that even **BISHOPS** were instructed to be married as we read in -

1 Timothy 3:2

“A bishop then must be blameless, the HUSBAND of ONE WIFE.....”

Yes ! Even the highest of God’s servants- a **BISHOPS** was to be married !

 How **STRANGE** it is to see today that the **BISHOP** do just the reverse !
And they are even **HONORED** and **RESPECTED** for **DISOBEYING** the word of God !

 Thus we see these words *“were not defiled with women, for they are virgins”*
does **NOT** have a **LITERAL** meaning but must have a **SYMBOLIC** meaning.

Besides we see that if this verse is to be taken as literal,
then the 1,44,000 would consist **ONLY OF MEN** !

Does the **CHURCH** consist only of men and is there no place for the dear sisters ?

Let us read in -

2 Corinthians 6:17,18

“...And will be a Father unto you, and you shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord...”

Yes ! The church - the body of Christ consists of **BOTH brothers and sisters** !

Yes ! Thus we see even the word *“women”* is **NOT** and **CANNOT** be literal
but has a symbolic meaning !

 **THE SYMBOLIC MEANING OF THIS SCRIPTURE AND
ITS REFERENCE WILL BE TAKEN UP IN FUTURE CLASSES**

But what do we read of this 1,44,000 as we read further in that same verse ?

Let us read in -

Revelation 14:4


*“.....these are they which follow the lamb withersoever He goeth.
These were redeemed from among men, being the FIRST FRUITS unto God and to the Lamb.”*

Truly these are the **“FAITHFUL”** followers or **“CHOSEN”** class
who seek to **COMPLETELY** follow the **EXAMPLE** of the “Lamb”- the **LORD JESUS** !
They follow into- sacrifice, suffering, persecution, loss, shame and even death
in doing the Father’s will- (**Romans 8:29.**)


 They are said to be the **“FIRST FRUITS”** or are the choice fruitage
of **CHARACTER** and **OBEDIENCE** of all mankind- (**James 1:18**)



Thus this “little flock” of 1,44,000 are shown here- “n” (POINT TO IT)
and they as a reward for their faithfulness receive-

 a “crown” ⇨ Revelation 3:11 - “*hold that fast which thou hast that no man take thy CROWN.*”

 granted to “sit upon the throne” of Jesus ⇨ Revelation 3:21 - “*...to him who OVERCOMETH shall I grant to sit with me in my throne.*”

 Yes ! The “little flock” receive **CROWNS** upon their heads and get to sit upon the **THRONE** with Jesus !

 Now we come to this group “-m-” Who are they ?

They are also of the “**CHOSEN**” class but are not found FAITHFUL
to their “covenant of sacrifice.”

They fall short of the desired level of faithfulness as we see and read in -

Revelation 7:9

“After this I beheld and lo, a GREAT MULTITUDE, which no man could number of all nations, and kindreds.....stood BEFORE the throne and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes and palms in their hands.”

YES ! THIS IS A “HEAVENLY” GROUP TOO !

But notice these **DIFFERENCES** from the “little flock”-

 They are **BEFORE** the throne -**NOT** upon it !

 They are **STANDING** -**NOT** sitting !

 They are **BEFORE THE LAMB** -**NOT** next to Him !

 They have **PALMS IN THEIR HANDS** -**NOT** crowns on their heads !

 Yes ! These are **NOT** of the “little flock” class.

They are not a **FIXED** number either ! They are a **GREAT MULTITUDE !!**

This group is referred to as “**foolish virgins**” in the parable of-

Matthew 25:1-13

Let us read vs - 1 and 2

Vs - 1, 2 - “*Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.*”

Here the “*wise virgins*” represent

 those **Christians** showing development towards the “little flock”

while the “**foolish virgins**” represents those **Christians** showing the development which falls short.

WHAT ARE THE REASONS GIVEN ?

 Let us learn some lessons from them -



Firstly both “foolish” and “wise” virgins are having “lamps”

 What do these “lamps” signify ?

Let us read the answer in -

Psalms 119:105

“Thy word is a LAMP unto my feet...”

Yes ! The “lamps” represent the word of God - **THE BIBLE**.

We see that all possess the Bible - all carry “lamps” !

 Then what do we read ?

Let us read from -

Matthew 25:3-4

*“They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:
But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.”*

Yes ! Then we see that the “foolish” virgins do not carry “oil”.

What does the “oil” represent ?

Yes ! The “oil” represents the **HOLY SPIRIT** as we read in -

Psalms 133:2 → *“it is like the precious ointment (oil) upon the head, that run
down upon the beard, even Aaron’s beard; that went down to the saints of his garments.”*

Yes ! The “oil” of anointing” which represented the **ANOINTING** of the Holy Spirit.

Thus the “oil” is a symbol of the **HOLY SPIRIT**.

 Then what are the “vessels” ? We read of them in -

2 Corinthians 4:7


“But we have this treasure in earthen vessels.....”

 **WHAT DOES THIS MEAN ?**

It refers to the human “bodies” and “hearts”.

 - **WITHIN OURSELVES !**

The **HOLY SPIRIT** is carried and must be made manifest in the day to day life !!

 This condition is attained by **NOT ONLY** listening
to the word of God but by also **FOLLOWING** it.

 Now what is the “light” from the lamps ?

Let us read the answer in -

Psalms 119:105

“Thy word is aa light.....”

Yes ! The **WORD** is light. And what do we read of God’s **WORD** ?

Let us read in -

John 17:17

“...Thy word is truth.”

Yes ! The “light” is the **TRUTH**.



Just as a lamp gives forth light when there is oil, so too the Bible gives forth THE TRUTH only when one possesses the HOLY SPIRIT. (JOHN 16:13)

Without the “oil” (THE HOLY SPIRIT) the “lamp” (THE BIBLE) does not give its “light” (THE TRUTH) .

Now let us understand this matter by AN ILLUSTRATION.

When one takes a glass HALF FILLED with water.

What does one say ? We say -
→ **“The glass is half filled with water”**
What about the other half ?

We say -
→ **“It is half empty”**

This is NOT TRUE, for actually the glass is HALF FILLED with water and HALF FILLED with the “air” all around !!



IT CANNOT REMAIN A VACUUM !!

It must be filled with SOMETHING or the “air” that surrounds will fully FILL UP the glass !!

IT IS A SIMILAR SITUATION WITH THE VIRGINS (the followers of Jesus) AND WITH THOSE WHO BECOME “FOOLISH”.

Yes! The foolish virgins NEGLECT their “covenant by sacrifice” and fill their VESSELS (their lives and hearts) with the “spirit of the world” leaving no place for the Holy Spirit.

WHAT is this “spirit of the world” ?

Let us read of it in -

Matthew 13:22

“He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the world, and he becometh unfruitful.”

Yes! The “spirit of the world” is

→ **“care of this world” and “deceitfulness of riches.”**

This is the “spirit” that is **ALL AROUND** us in the world !

One must be careful that this ‘spirit of the world’ which is

ALL AROUND does not ‘fill’ our “vessels” - our hearts and lives !!

→ For the “FOLLOWER” Christian walks “*in faith*” upon the “*promises*” of the LORD in HIS WORD such as -


MATTHEW 6:33 → *“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.”*

And again in -

HEBREWS 13:5 → *“...be content with such as ye have; for He hath said; I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.”*



But the "foolish" virgins **LACK THE FAITH** upon these "promises" and thus spend **NEEDLESS TIME, ENERGY** and **MIND** upon these worldly matters and allow the 'spirit of the world' -

 *"the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches.."*

to **FILL** their vessels leaving very little **TIME** and **MIND** for Christian development and fulfilling their "covenants by sacrifice."

Yes ! It is **VERY IMPORTANT** for "FOLLOWER" Christians to **watch** their "*vessels*" - their hearts and lives and see what is **FILLED** therein -

 the "Holy Spirit" **OR**the "spirit of the world" ?

THUS THESE "FOOLISH VIRGINS" CLASS MISS THE GRAND PRIZE !!

 Thus we see that the group "n" **only** go on to be the **CHURCH IN GLORY WITH THE LAMB.**

These **TWO** parts of this "**CHOSEN**" class are seen in **TYPE** in the **ATONEMENT DAY SACRIFICES** of Israel in Leviticus 16th chapter. (THIS WILL BE STUDIED IN DETAIL IN CLASS # 32)



We read that scripture in -


Leviticus 16:7,8

" And he shall take the two goats, and present them before the LORD at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation. And Aaron shall cast lots upon the two goats; one lot for the LORD, and the other lot for the scapegoat."

 Here are the **TWO** goats mentioned !!


These signify the **TWO** parts of the chosen class as we have just studied today !


-  1. The "Lord's goat" -who represent **THE LITTLE FLOCK** - "n"
-  2. The "scape goat" -who represent **THE GREAT MULTITUDE** - "m"

 The "Lord's goat" is selected by "lot" showing that **NO PREFERENCE** or **PRE SELECTION** or **BIAS** is exercised at all by God in this matter of selection of this **CHURCH** of **JESUS CHRIST** !

FINALLY in the **CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST** we have seen.....

 that "many" are, "**CALLED**" (these are **BELIEVERS**).

And "few" are "**CHOSEN**" (those who become **FOLLOWERS**)

and **fewer still** are found to be **FAITHFUL** (those who become **COPIES OF THE SON** which is the **GOAL** of the selection process



as we read in ROMANS 8:29 -
“...He also did PREDESTINATE to be conformed to the image of His Son.”)

In THE NEXT CLASS we will study this
👉 “little flock”
IN GREATER DETAIL as described and symbolised in
👉REVELATION 7TH CHAPTER.

-----Amen-----



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth



Thy Word is Truth