

PARABLES

Bringing Hidden Things to Light



Psalms 78:2-4

I will open my mouth in a parable, I will utter dark sayings of old... We will not conceal them.

Parables Bookshelf - Series 2.4.1

Series 2 of the Parables Bookshelf contains a variety of writings covering a wide range of topics related to the Kingdom of God. These writings originally appeared as posts on the Heart4God website, or the Parables Blog, both of which are the websites of Bible teacher Joseph Herrin.

The Seven Days of Man - Part 1



In the presentation titled "Parables" we looked at Yahweh's method of selectively communicating truth through the use of parables, dark sayings, signs and symbols. Yahshua declared to His disciples that He spoke all things to the crowds in parables that only those whom His Father had granted the privilege of understanding would be able to discern what was actually being spoken. We observed that, though Christ would speak all things to the multitudes in parables, He would go aside with His disciples and

explain the parables to them.

We also saw that there are many types of parables that God has chosen to communicate truth through. Most saints only think of the teachings of Christ contained in the four gospels when parables are mentioned. Yet we saw

that not only did Christ speak in parables, but His very life, and the works He performed contained parables. We looked at the miracle where Christ cast the demons out of the Gadarene demoniac, and the demons entered into a herd of swine. The swine ran down the hill and were drowned in the sea. We saw how this event serves as a parable for the church age in which we now live.

We also looked at other books of Scripture, such as Revelation and Daniel, which are filled with symbolic images and things hard to understand. We saw that God also uses these types of writings to selectively reveal truth to His elect, while hiding the truth from those He has not granted the right of discernment.

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We saw that all of the more than 600 laws of the Old Testament, and the tremendous detail presented in the building of the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple of Solomon contain parables, and they serve as signs and shadows for spiritual truths that Yahshua wants His disciples to understand. We also saw how Yahweh is speaking in parables to this very hour through signs in the heavens and on the earth, that when properly understood give understanding to the saints of the day we live in and the things shortly coming upon the earth.

In this presentation we are going to look at the very first parable God gave in order that He might make known His work among mankind, while hiding the details of this work from those not granted understanding. We are going to look at the account of creation found in Genesis chapter one.

Psalms 78:1-4

Listen, O my people, to my instruction; Incline your ears to the words of my mouth. I will open my mouth in a parable; I will utter dark sayings of old, which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not conceal them from their children, but tell to the generation to come the praises of Yahweh, and His strength and His wondrous works that He has done.

Notice in these words that the Psalmist Asaph, who was also a prophet, declares that he is going to open his mouth in a parable. He then states that he "will utter dark sayings of old which we have heard and known and our fathers have told us." What are these parables and dark sayings to which he refers.

Young's Literal Translation of the Bible renders this phrase in the following way:

Psalms 78:2

I bring forth hidden things of old...

[YLT]

Remember that God has declared:

Proverbs 25:2

It is the glory of God to conceal a matter, but the glory of

kings is to search out a matter.

Matthew 13:35

"I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN PARABLES;

I WILL UTTER THINGS HIDDEN SINCE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD."

The Lord is quoting from the Psalm of Asaph that we just looked at, yet there is a slight difference in wording here, and in this difference we can discern something relevant to our study. Yahshua stated that He would utter things hidden since the foundation of the world. Some Bible translations render the word foundation as creation. If we understand the word foundation, we will see that it holds a similar meaning as creation. What is referenced here is the time when Yahweh acted to create the world and all that is in it. Yahshua is saying that there were things present at that time that remained hidden until His day, and He made them known.

What is it that Yahshua made known that was hidden in the creation of the world? Yahshua revealed God's plan of redemption for mankind. God knew before He even began to create the earth that the creation would experience a fall into sin and come under the curse of death. He had already formed a plan to redeem the creation and restore all things back to Himself through His Son, and He set the testimony of His great plan everywhere throughout the creation. This testimony is in the heavens, and this testimony is upon the earth. Yet it is hidden and must be revealed by the Spirit of Christ.

Consider for a moment that the Scriptures declare that Yahweh is omnipotent, that is to say, there is no limit to His power. If a Christian believes God spent six days creating the earth because it took Him that long to do it, being the limit of His ability, then the Christian has denied that God is omnipotent. If God is omnipotent, having no limit to His power, then He could have as easily created the earth in four minutes, or three seconds, or in no time at all. And in truth, He could have done so.

Why then do we read that God spent six days creating the earth, and on the seventh day He rested from His work? This is one of the things hidden since the creation of the earth. Every detail of the creation account was chosen precisely to communicate some truth relating to Yahweh's plan of redemption, and His great work with

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mankind. He chose to divide the work of creation up over six days in order to teach man something, though few have had eyes to see what is being taught.

Each day's work was perfectly planned to communicate the thoughts of God concerning His great work with mankind, and He intentionally set the limits of each day's activity to provide a perfect parable filled with hidden knowledge that men throughout the ages could search out.

Yet before we get into the understanding of the parable of the creation account, we must look at the correct understanding of the physical events that occurred. The church, by and large, does not even understand the elemental things spoken about in Genesis chapter one. This is due to the work of Satan who seeks to deceive the entire world, especially the church. The apostle Paul declared that the condition of the church before the return of Christ would be very tragic, for she would depart from the truth, and the majority would not even tolerate the teaching of sound doctrine.

II Timothy 4:3-4

For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, and will turn away their ears from the truth and will turn aside to myths.

I want you to consider these words from the apostle Paul carefully, for they have great importance to you. The time Paul was talking about is the time you live in. Paul says that in this day the church will not endure sound doctrine. Doctrine is instruction, or teaching. The church will not endure sound teaching. This means they will not tolerate it. They will not permit it to be taught in their church buildings and meeting halls. Instead they will accumulate (the KJV says "heap up") teachers of their own choosing who will declare things in accordance with their own desires, and they will turn aside to myths and fables.

Some of you know this is the condition of the church today. Those things we have been looking at in this Bible Study group are sound doctrine. The Spirit of Christ has directed me to speak to you about the high cost of discipleship. He has directed me to reveal to you the nature of Babylon, and to declare that the church of this hour is filled with all the idolatry of Babylon, even in its symbols

and rituals and its holy days that it has chosen as substitutes for the Feast days of Yahweh. The Spirit has directed me to speak to you about the lateness of the hour and the judgments that are coming swiftly upon the earth, judgments that will begin at the house of God.

It is not by chance that this Bible Study group is being conducted outside of a church building. Read again the words of Paul. The men and women of the church will not endure sound doctrine. They will turn their ears away from the truth. They have given themselves over to myths and fables and the things that are in accordance with their own desires.

The church does not wish to hear that there is a cost to be borne by everyone who would be a disciple of Christ. They do not wish to hear that they cannot love the world and Christ at the same time. They do not want to hear that multitudes of Christians will have their names blotted out of the Lamb's book of life and they will be cast into the Lake of Fire. They want a Christianity without cost, and they want to enjoy all the things of the world while declaring themselves to be followers of Jesus Christ.

Revelation 18:4

I heard another voice from heaven, saying, Come out of (Babylon), my people, so that you will not participate in her sins and receive of her plagues..."

The voice of the Spirit is calling out in this hour for the people of God to come out of Babylon. Coming out of Babylon involves a number of things. It may mean leaving a church that preaches a compromised gospel, one where the cross of Christ is spoken of, but the disciple's cross is neglected. It may mean ceasing from participating in idolatrous festivals that the church received from the world, such as Christmas and Easter. It may require a repentance from living a vain life focused upon the pursuit of the things of the world. It will always require a single minded devotion to Christ.

We should not be surprised that in a day when the church is described to have departed from sound teaching, and has embraced myths and fables, that many of her interpretations of Scripture are erroneous. There is great error concerning the creation account in Genesis

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chapter one. This error has led to the upset of the faith of many as they have been unable to answer the arguments of the scientific community. Vast numbers of young Christians have not been taught the Scriptures correctly, and when they have gone off to college and encountered the arguments of professors and fellow students they have not been able to provide an answer. Some have been persuaded that the beliefs of their parents and pastors and Bible teachers are simple minded.

Most young believers in fundamental evangelical churches have been taught that the earth is only 6,000 years old, for this is as far back as the genealogies of the Bible go. If a person starts with Adam, and calculates the age of the earth through the Biblical record, they are led to conclude that the earth can not be older than 6,000 years. Yet there is much scientific evidence of a much older earth.

The Christian is also challenged with all the fossil evidence of a great variety and of dinosaurs who once lived in large populations. There is nothing mentioned in Scripture of dinosaurs living at the same time as man, and once more the Christians finds himself troubled as he seeks to reconcile the teaching of the church with the evidence of science.

There is also much evidence of a great ice age where ice covered the earth, yet there is nothing taught in the church today of when this might have occurred. More often than not, Bible teachers simply deny that such an event ever occurred.

Yet, when one rightly divides the word of God, and has received sound doctrine from the Spirit of Christ, all such difficulties are resolved, and a perfect harmony is seen between the witness of the creation and the witness of Scriptures, both of which have the same Author.

I think this is a good point at which to make an important comment on Bible Study. The apostle Paul instructed Timothy with the following words:

II Timothy 2:15

Study and be eager and do your utmost to present yourself to God approved (tested by trial), a workman who has no cause to be ashamed, correctly analyzing and ac-

curately dividing [rightly handling and skillfully teaching] the Word of Truth.

[Amplified Bible]

I believe I was around 14-15 years old when I got my first copy of Strong's Exhaustive Concordance of the Bible. This book lists every English word in the KJV Bible, and it provides a link to the Hebrew, or Greek word from which it was translated. You could also look up every occurrence of a word in the Bible to do topical studies, or word comparisons. I spent hundreds of hours doing research on Bible topics, using this book, from the time I was very young.

Today, Strong's Concordance is also available in versions that link all the original Hebrew and Greek words to other popular Bible translations, such as the New American Standard Bible, and the New International Version of the Bible.

With the advent of computer based Bible study programs, doing studies of God's word has become much easier, and I have branched out to many more study tools. I use the Hebrew and Greek Interlinear Bibles that place the original word from ancient manuscripts right alongside the English word that it has been translated to. I use the Englishman's Search to find every occurrence of a Greek or Hebrew word and to see if the Translator's are rendering its meaning in a consistent manner. I have 9 different Bible translations that I look at regularly when I am doing studies on my computer, and I have about a half dozen more translations in hard copy.

I have resources such as Bible Dictionaries, Bible Commentaries, Atlases and Maps, and Topical References available to me. Beyond this I have read extensively the teachings of men that the Spirit has testified are spiritual men whom He called to be teachers to the body of Christ, and I continue to do large amounts of research right from home through a myriad of resources on the World Wide Web. On my Bible program at home I can look up the meaning of every name that occurs in Scripture, and through Internet sources I can check the etymology of words and names that are not in Scripture.

You may hear all this and think, "Well, that is not for me. God didn't wire me that way. I am not good at book work and studies." I concur that all men have varying

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abilities and talents, but I disagree that any man who desires to do so cannot become very proficient at studying God's word and learning for themselves of the mysteries hidden in God's words. The apostle John wrote:

I John 2:27

As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him.

John 16:12-13

"I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will guide you into all the truth..."

No man should think that he can come to the knowledge of the truth by study alone. A man must be led and instructed by the Spirit of God. The natural man, those not born again of the Spirit, cannot receive the thoughts of God, for they are spiritually appraised. Yet this does not mean that there is not a need for diligent study as well. We must study to show ourselves approved before God, rightly handling the word of truth.

There are certain prerequisites to understanding truth. We must be born of the Spirit of Christ. We must love the truth. We must desire the truth. We must be faithful with the truth we have already received, otherwise, even that which we think we have received will be taken from us.

What I want to impress upon you is that it is insufficient to merely read the words of your favorite Bible translation and think that you will thereby arrive at the truth. There is not a single Bible translation that does not include a myriad of errors, for the men who produced the translations were themselves limited in their understanding. Some of the men were not particularly spiritual. Some acted more out of political concern than spiritual integrity, and those who charged the Bible translators with the task of creating a new translation were oftentimes not spiritual either. If you investigate the history of many of our English Bibles you will be appalled at the base motives that guided many of them.

But even if the men were acting in integrity, they often stayed with the orthodox rendering of the day, or translated according to their understanding of a matter, which was often faulty. This is why we need to study these things for ourselves, and we need to be very sensitive to the voice of the Spirit.

Some might still say that they feel that they are poorly qualified to do in depth Bible Study for themselves. I know men who are as country as can be, who do not consider themselves to be book smart, or intellectual, yet they are masters of the topics that are appealing to them.

I know men who can tell you everything there is to know about fishing. They can tell you where all the good fishing spots are in the lakes and rivers around them. They can tell you what fish are biting, and what bait to use. They can tell you the best lures and the proper line, and the best rods and reels. These same men can tell you about the minutiae of how weather and temperature affect the fish, as well as the effects of the lunar cycles.

Other men are just as knowledgeable about hunting with bow, or rifle; whether hunting for turkey, or wild hog, or deer, or a multitude of other game.

Some men know volumes about cars and engines, or motorcycles. Others have their heads crammed full of knowledge relating to sports such as baseball, basketball, football, soccer, tennis, or golf.

The truth is that these same men could be just as expert in their knowledge of the Bible, and the truths of God's kingdom. They could understand mysteries hidden from others, if they applied themselves to the pursuit of the things of God. We tend to apply ourselves to the things we love. If you love God, and want to know Him and His wisdom above all else, you will make yourself into a good student of the Scriptures.

Proverbs 2:1-5

My son, if you will receive my words and treasure my commandments within you, make your ear attentive to wisdom, incline your heart to understanding; For if you cry for discernment, lift your voice for understanding; If

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you seek her as silver and search for her as for hidden treasures; Then you will discern the fear of Yahweh and discover the knowledge of God.

Do these words describe your attitude toward your pursuit of the things of God?

Do you treasure Yahweh's commandments?

Have you made your ear attentive to wisdom?

Is your heart inclined to understanding?

Have you been crying out for discernment?

Have you lifted your voice that God might grant you understanding?

Have you sought for these things as silver?

Have you searched for them as if seeking hidden treasures?

The apostle Jacob (James) wrote, "You have not because you ask not." What is it you are praying for? Are you asking for material things, earthly things? Are you asking God to make you wise in the things that He esteems? God will not give His most holy things to those who act indifferent to them. You must pursue them. You must apply yourself to their pursuit. You must become as a treasure hunter, knowing that the most valuable thing in this world is to understand the things of God, for the creation exists for His pleasure, and you are part of that creation.

How did you spend your free time yesterday? How did you spend your free time last year? How much time did you give to the pursuit of God, and the understanding of His ways, and the correct understanding of His Word?

Part of coming out of Babylon is giving up the pursuit of the idols of this world that you might pursue God with a whole heart.

Do you find that your desire for the things of God is not as great as a desire for the vain and empty things of this world? I have seen men turn down a time of Bible Study like this in order to watch a ball game on the television. Will Yahweh say, "Well done!" to those who make such choices? Will such pursuits benefit any man in the ages to come? Will they help equip the overcomers in Christ to rule and reign during the fast approaching Millennial period?

If your desire for the things of God is lacking, He already knows. If you want it to change, you must ask Him. You have not because you ask not.

John 16:24

"Until now you have asked for nothing in My name; ask and you will receive, so that your joy may be made full."

Will God reprove you for asking that He increase your desire for the things He esteems? Will He be displeased if He hears you confess that you want to love the vain things of the world less, and love Him more? Ask that your joy may be made full, for when your desires come in line with His desires, then you will truly be fulfilling the purpose of your creation, and you will know joy.

Let us now look at the Genesis account of the creation of the Earth and explore the dark sayings and hidden things that as kings it is our glory to search out.

As the book of Genesis opens we find that the earth has already fallen into ruin. It has experienced a judgment that has resulted in chaos and formlessness and darkness. So quickly does the transition come that many miss it.

Genesis 1:1-2

1 In the beginning God created the Heaven and the earth. 2 And the earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

KJV

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Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. And the earth *became* formless and void, and darkness was over the surface of the deep...

I want to show you the tremendous confusion that can result from rendering one single word incorrectly. The word rendered “was” in the KJV Bible is translated wrong, and it has led to many false teachings and wrong understandings. Because of this one word the faith of many has been overturned, and many more have been disturbed. I will demonstrate clearly that this word should have been rendered as “became,” and in seeing this truth you will find many other Scriptures falling into place and bringing forth a consistent testimony.

Because this word has been rendered as “was,” many Christians have falsely concluded that these two verses are declaring that God originally created the Earth a formless waste covered in darkness and then over the course of six days He molded it into what it now is. This is not what is declared, however. What it really states is that in the beginning of the creation God created the heavens and the earth. This earth existed for a period of time that is not specified, until the earth “became” formless and void. How long it lay in a state of being formless and void and sealed in darkness is not specified, either. A day came, however, when Yahweh began to re-create the earth and this is the subject of the six days of creation beginning in Genesis 1:2.

We see then that there are three distinct periods of time mentioned in the opening verses of Genesis. There is the original creation of the earth before it was judged and made formless and void. There is the earth under judgment. Then there is the earth being re-created by God. The length of the first two periods is unknown, not being revealed to us in Scripture. It could have been many long ages. Only the last period, beginning with the removal of the curse of darkness in Genesis 1:3, is revealed to us, for this is the period relating to man. The first two periods were prior to man’s creation.

This is not some unsubstantiated opinion that I have come up with. Such an understanding is the result of rightly dividing the word of God, and correctly rendering the original language into English.

Strong’s Concordance of the Bible reveals that the Hebrew word in question here is “hayah.”

This same word was translated as “become” by the KJV Bible in chapter 2nd of Genesis.

OT:1961

hayah (haw-yaw); a primitive root; to exist, i.e. be or become, come to pass...

Genesis 2:7

And 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.

KJV

We see then that the KJV translators knew the Hebrew word “hayah” meant “became.” However, they chose to translate it according to the tradition of the day, rather than according to its actual meaning.

King James of England exercised his authority to produce a new Bible translation that was first printed in 1611. For this reason we call it “the authorized King James Version.” Because it was produced under his authority, he laid down the guiding principles that the translators were to follow. A number of renowned English theologians refused to participate in this project when they learned of these guidelines. These guidelines can still be found in the front section of some KJV Bibles. Among these guidelines was the following rule of translation:

When a Word hath divers Significations, that to be kept which hath been most commonly used by the most of the Ancient Fathers, being agreeable to the Propriety of the Place, and the Analogy of the Faith.

To phrase this in modern English, it could be rendered, “When a word has different meanings, the traditions of the church are to be followed.”

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Hugh Broughton, foremost Hebrew scholar of England at that time said he would rather "be rent to pieces by wild horses than have had any part in the urging of such a wretched version of the Bible on the poor people."

I do not think the KJV Bible is a worse translation than any of the other popular Bibles of the day. It was simply the product of fallible men, produced for purposes other than a single minded love of the word of God. Other translations have been produced for no better reason than that Bibles are constantly best sellers, and bring in much revenue. Therefore, many of the Bible translators have felt a pressure to produce translations that would not be rejected by the majority of professing Christians. To this end they have at times compromised accuracy for the sake of tradition and orthodoxy.

This is why the disciple of Christ must "study" to show himself approved as a workman of God, rightly dividing the word.

The following slides will provide evidence to support the understanding that a great judgment fell between verse one and verse two of Genesis chapter 1 and that God then set out to re-create the earth in six days.

The following passage from Jeremiah provides a real key for our understanding. As you read it, note clearly that everything about this passage is speaking of the judgment of God being manifested due to the presence of sin and rebellion.

Jeremiah 4:16-28

16 Make ye mention to the nations; behold, publish against Jerusalem, that watchers come from a far country, and give out their voice against the cities of Judah. 17 As keepers of a field, are they against her round about; because she hath been rebellious against me, saith Yahweh. 18 Thy way and thy doings have procured these things unto thee; this is thy wickedness, because it is bitter, because it reacheth unto thine heart. 19 My bowels, my bowels! I am pained at my very heart; my heart maketh a noise in me; I cannot hold my peace, because thou hast heard, O my soul, the sound of the trumpet, the alarm of war. 20 Destruction upon destruction is cried; for the whole land is spoiled: suddenly are my tents spoiled, and my curtains in a moment. 21 How

long shall I see the standard, and hear the sound of the trumpet? 22 For my people are foolish, they have not known me; they are sottish children, and they have none understanding: they are wise to do evil, but to do good they have no knowledge. 23 **I beheld the earth, and, lo, it was without form, and void; and the heavens, and they had no light.** 24 I beheld the mountains, and, lo, they trembled, and all the hills moved lightly. 25 I beheld, and, lo, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens were fled. 26 I beheld, and, lo, the fruitful place was a wilderness, and all the cities thereof were broken down at the presence of Yahweh, and by his fierce anger. 27 **For thus hath Yahweh said, The whole land shall be desolate; yet will I not make a full end.** 28 **For this shall the earth mourn, and the heavens above be black:** because I have spoken it, I have purposed it, and will not repent, neither will I turn back from it.

KJV

Note the similarities here between this judgment upon Jerusalem and God's judgment of Satan. In verse 17 it states that her sin is rebellion, even as Satan rebelled against God. Verse twenty proclaims destruction against Jerusalem, even as Ezekiel 28 states that God has destroyed Satan. The judgment proclaimed includes a description of the earth being without form and void and the heavens having no light. It is very evident that these things described in the words "formless, void and darkness" are all the result of judgment. It is a judgment for the sin of rebellion.

These are the three same descriptive words we find in Genesis 1:2, and these words only occur in this combination in these two passages, and one other. The third instance is in Isaiah 34 where the destruction of Babylon is prophesied.

Isaiah 34:11

But the cormorant and the bittern shall possess it; the owl also and the raven shall dwell in it: and he shall stretch out upon it the line of **confusion**, and the stones of **emptiness**.

KJV

The words that were rendered as "formless" and "void" in the previous verses are rendered as "confusion" and

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“emptiness” in Isaiah. The words “confusion” and “formless” signify the same things, even as the words “void” and “empty” are synonyms. In the Hebrew the words are “tohu” and “bohu”. These are the only three instances where these words occur together in all of Scripture. Seeing that both Jeremiah and Isaiah used these words to describe the appearance of the earth, or a portion of it, brought about by a judgment of God, we can reasonably conclude that this is also what precipitated the condition of the earth found in Genesis 1:2. Yet we can find even more evidence to support this conclusion.

Isaiah further tells us the following:

Isaiah 45:18

For thus says Yahweh, who created the heavens (He is the God who formed the earth and made it, He established it and **did not create it a waste place**, But formed it to be inhabited)...

Isaiah tells us that Yahweh did not create the earth as a waste place, yet in Genesis 1:2 we find that it has become one. Isaiah doesn't stop here, however, he gives us even more evidence by which we might properly interpret Genesis 1:2.

Isaiah 24:1

Behold, Yahweh lays the earth waste, devastates it, distorts its surface and scatters its inhabitants.

Making the earth waste is always an act of judgment. So let us look one more time at the correct rendering of the first 2 verses of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. **But** the earth **became** formless, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

In order to understand both the literal meaning of Genesis, as well as the parable contained in its imagery, we must render this verse correctly. In reading this we can now see that at the very beginning of the creation that

God made the heavens and the earth. He did not create them a waste. He created them perfect. Yet something occurred to mar their perfection, and by looking at the language of verse two and comparing it to the rest of scripture we understand that it was due to a judgment of God that the earth was made formless, void and covered in darkness. All of these conditions are symbolic of judgment. We can then further understand that the remainder of chapter one of Genesis speaks of the re-creation of the earth, and not its first creation.

Now this is a very important point, and it is largely unseen by the church due to a wrong orthodoxy and poor Bible translations. We must ask, "What occurred on this original earth that caused Yahweh to judge it so completely?" We are only given one event that could have caused such a judgment to be rendered and this was something prior to the creation of Adam. It was the rebellion of Satan.

Ezekiel 28:12-18

Thus says Yahweh GOD, "You had the seal of perfection, full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering: the ruby, the topaz and the diamond; the beryl, the onyx and the jasper; the lapis lazuli, the turquoise and the emerald; and the gold, the workmanship of your settings and sockets, was in you. On the day that you were created they were prepared. You were the anointed cherub who covers, and I placed you there. You were on the holy mountain of God; you walked in the midst of the stones of fire. You were blameless in your ways from the day you were created until unrighteousness was found in you. By the abundance of your trade you were internally filled with violence, and you sinned; therefore **I have cast you as profane from the mountain of God. And I have destroyed you, O covering cherub**, from the midst of the stones of fire. Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; you corrupted your wisdom by reason of your splendor. **I cast you to the ground**; I put you before kings, that they may see you. By the multitude of your iniquities, in the unrighteousness of your trade you profaned your sanctuaries. **Therefore I have brought fire from the midst of you; it has consumed you, and I have turned you to ashes on the earth** in the eyes of all who see you."

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The first earth also had a Garden of Eden on it. It was an earth of paradise prior to the creation of man. Satan walked upon that first earth even as he walks upon the present one. Satan was originally created perfect, but he fell into sin. He began to look at the magnificence of his own being, and the lofty duties given to him and he became conceited. In his conceit he rebelled against God. The prophet Isaiah tells us more about Satan's fall.

Isaiah 14:12-17

"How you have fallen from heaven, O star of the morning, son of the dawn! **You have been cut down to the earth**, you who have weakened the nations! But you said in your heart, 'I will ascend to heaven; I will raise my throne above the stars of God, and I will sit on the mount of assembly in the recesses of the north. I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will make myself like the Most High.' Nevertheless you will be thrust down to Sheol, to the recesses of the pit. Those who see you will gaze at you, they will ponder over you, saying, 'Is this the one who made the earth tremble, who shook kingdoms, who made the world like a wilderness and overthrew its cities, who did not allow his prisoners to go home?'"

We have another account of Satan's fall through the words of Christ recorded in Luke's gospel.

Luke 10:18

And He said to them, "I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning."

The Scriptures reveal that the angels existed prior to man, and among the angels was a most magnificent cherub called Lucifer. He was created perfect in beauty and in wisdom, and his role among the angels was very exalted. Yet this being took his eyes off of his Creator and began to look at his own magnificence and this led to pride and the corrupting of his wisdom.

Paul refers to the transgression of Satan in the following verse where he is speaking to Timothy about the qualifications for an elder:

I Timothy 3:6

and not a new convert, so that he will not become con-

ceited and fall into the condemnation incurred by the devil.

Satan's fall began with the formation of conceit and pride within his heart. This pride led to rebellion, and ended in judgment. Ezekiel and Isaiah both wrote of the judgment of Satan as having occurred already, but in Revelation we read of it as a future event.

Revelation 12:7-9

And there was war in heaven, Michael and his angels waging war with the dragon. The dragon and his angels waged war, and they were not strong enough, and there was no longer a place found for them in heaven. And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was thrown down to the earth, and his angels were thrown down with him.

The Scriptures do not contradict each other here, for Satan has been cast down to the earth in the past, and he will be cast down again in the future. Satan will be judged by God a total of three times before his judgment is complete. The number three is an important number in Scripture, representing fulness. Thus we see Elohim being Father, Son and Spirit. We find man being body, soul and spirit, etc.. We also find that Satan's judgment is only complete after the third judgment rendered to him by Yahweh.

Isaiah, Ezekiel and Yahshua spoke of the first judgment where Satan was cast down. This is when the original earth was destroyed. Yet after a time the Spirit came and began to re-create the earth and at this time Satan was released from his first imprisonment. We then see him in Eden enticing Adam and Eve to sin, and the fall of man became the instrument of Satan's elevation over this world once again. Yahweh did not make Satan "the god of this world," "the prince of the power of the air." Man gave him this authority when he joined in Satan's rebellion. Yet we are told that, during the millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be bound again, this time for a thousand years. This is the second judgment of Satan. After the thousand years he will be released for a short time, and then his third and final judgment will come.

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Revelation 20:1-3

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. And he laid hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; and he threw him into the abyss, and shut it and sealed it over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.

This is Satan's second judgment.

Revelation 20:7-10

When the thousand years are completed, Satan will be released from his prison, and will come out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together for the war; the number of them is like the sand of the seashore. And they came up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city, and fire came down from heaven and devoured them. **And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone**, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

This is Satan's third and final judgment. In the previous presentation titled "Parables" we saw that Yahweh places significance on different numbers. The number three is a number representing completion. Man was created as a two-part creature, being body and soul. Man is not completed until he becomes a three-part being, having body, soul and spirit. Man must be born again of the Spirit to attain to the desire of God. The number three is used in the same way in regard to judgment. Satan's judgment will be complete only after his third and final judgment. We will see that this number three being used in reference to completion is also seen in relation to the earth.

So now we can understand the meaning of the opening verses of Genesis.

Genesis 1:1-2

In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth **became** formless, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep.

In the beginning of the creation, God made the heaven and the earth. Satan was upon this earth in his perfect state before his fall, for Isaiah tells us, "You were in Eden, the garden of God; every precious stone was your covering...." We never see Satan described this way after Adam and Eve are placed in the re-created Garden of Eden. Instead, we find him coming in the form of a serpent. We can therefore understand that this description of Satan in his perfection and glory in Eden pertains to the first creation of the earth.

We are not told how long Satan remained blameless. His fall might have been after many long ages, or it might have come soon after he was created. Therefore, we also do not know how long the original earth existed before Satan rebelled. It could have been an immense period of time, long enough to account for the many signs of an ancient earth. At some point Satan did rebel and he was cast down to the earth. The earth was judged along with Satan and made waste and void and sealed in darkness. In this state of judgment the earth might have lain for many long years.

There are many who teach today that the earth is only about 6,000 years old, and they cite many evidences for a young earth. Yet when the scriptures are correctly understood we find that the earth existed prior to Genesis 1:3 when God began to remake it. Many scientists are also pointing to signs of the earth being very ancient. In truth, both groups are correct. The original earth is quite ancient, yet the re-created earth is relatively young. We should anticipate that there would be evidences of both a young earth, and a very old earth. Sadly, these two groups often find themselves pitted against one another when the Scriptures reveal a harmony to this evidence.



Dinosaur Bones

The Seven Days of Man - Part 1

We are told:

Genesis 7:1-3

Then Yahweh said to Noah, "Enter the ark, you and all your household, for you alone I have seen to be righteous before Me in this time. You shall take with you of **every clean animal by sevens**, a male and his female; and **of the animals that are not clean two, a male and his female**; also of the birds of the sky, by sevens, male and female, to keep offspring alive on the face of all the earth.

We are not told of any animals being left out of the ark, so I am led to believe that the dinosaurs were inhabitants of the original earth and were not alive at the time of Noah. This conclusion is also supported by the finding that so many of the dinosaurs appear to have perished in a great cataclysm, which is fitting with an understanding of the destruction of the first earth. Some have suggested that the Behemoth and Leviathan of Job are speaking of dinosaurs. However, those who hold this point of view should consider that Job lived after the flood, and for dinosaurs to exist after the flood would mandate that Noah took dinosaurs on the ark. We must then deal with the question of what might have caused them to perish after the flood, for we see no report of them in the Bible. Certainly if they had existed concurrent to modern man, they would have been frequently mentioned. Yet we see David performing a great exploit by guarding his sheep from a lion and a bear, not from a T-Rex and a Pterydactyl.



Ice Age

There is much physical evidence that the earth was once covered in massive blankets of ice. I believe that this

occurred during the period of the earth's judgment when it lay in darkness.

In the book of Job, which is considered by many to be the oldest written book of the Bible, we find that men of the time of Job understood that God had brought a judgment on the original earth and sealed it in darkness.

Consider the following words:

Job 9:4-7

"Wise in heart and mighty in strength, who has defied Him without harm? It is God who removes the mountains, they know not how, when He overturns them in His anger; who shakes the earth out of its place, and its pillars tremble; who commands the sun not to shine, and sets a seal upon the stars..."

In these verses we find a description of God's judgment upon the earth when Satan defied Him. In judgment God made the earth a wasteland and sealed it up in darkness, as is described here. He commanded the sun not to shine, and He sealed up the stars. Having the light of the Sun cut off from the earth would logically result in falling temperatures resulting in an ice age.

There are other evidences that point to the account of Genesis 1:3 and following as referring to the re-creation of the earth, and not its original creation.

One evidence is seen in the following verse:

Genesis 1:27-28

So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them. And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and **replenish the earth**, and subdue it:

KJV

This phrase "replenish the earth" means to fill it again. You can only replenish something that has been made empty. We speak of replenishing the supply of food in our cupboards when the cupboards have been emptied. We would not use the word 'replenish' if we were filling the cupboard the first time. In such a case we would

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speak of filling the cupboards, not re-filling them.

The root word in the Hebrew is 'male' (mal - ay), and it means to fill. But the form of the word found in this passage, and in only a few other occurrences all bear the understanding of a replenishing, or refilling.

We find this same word form used in Genesis 9:1 where God is speaking to Noah after the flood.

Genesis 9:1

And God blessed Noah and his sons, and said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and *replenish the earth.*

KJV

We can understand very plainly that 'replenish' is the appropriate word to be used in this passage, for all but a remnant of living creatures perished in the great flood. Mankind had been completely judged and destroyed, with the exception of Noah and his family. Noah's family, and the animals on the ark, were to replenish the earth. They were not just to fill it, they were to refill it, for it had previously been filled, but now was empty.

This is also the understanding we have of Genesis chapters 1 and 2 when we understand them properly. The original earth had been previously inhabited, but it was made waste and void at the judgment of Satan. Adam and his wife were called to replenish the earth that had become depopulated.

This same word form also occurs in the following verse.

Genesis 1:21-22

And God created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after his kind: and God saw that it was good. And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and *fill the waters in the seas...*

KJV

To be consistent, this verse also should read "replenish the waters in the seas", for it uses the exact word form as the two verses we have just examined. Sadly, there has been a great inconsistency in the way certain word forms have been rendered, and this inconsistency has led to the obscuring of the true understanding of many Scriptures.

I have taken the time to show you the error of the KJV translators in rendering this one word "hayah" which means "became," due to the tremendous errors of understanding that have resulted from one mistranslated word. Consider that many Christians have had their faith troubled because preachers have told them that the earth was only created six thousand years ago. When science has challenged this assertion by providing evidence of a much older earth, the Christian has had no recourse but to deny the evidence presented by science, or to abandon their faith in the inerrancy of the Scriptures.

Understanding what the Bible actually teaches resolves all problems that arise from observing in the earth both evidence of an old creation and a more recent creation. It also resolves the problem of understanding when the dinosaurs roamed the earth, and what caused their extinction. We must study to show ourselves approved by "rightly dividing the word of truth."

Now we are prepared to talk about the three creations of the earth, and its seven unique stages. (There is an eighth state, but that pertains to the new creation. It arises from something completely distinct from the present earth, for this present earth will be consumed as with fire and then a new earth will come down out of heaven.)

We should expect the earth to conform to this pattern, for it is a pattern that is pervasive throughout God's creation. We mentioned that the tertiary structure of creation is seen in the tri-part nature of man. We also see that there were three great feasts that God ordained for Israel to observe, Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. We see that the Tabernacle of Moses and the Temple were divided into three distinct areas, the Outer Court, the Holy Place, and the Holy of Holies. We see that the saints are described by John in three levels of maturity, little children, young men, and fathers. We see that time has three great divisions, past, present, and

The Seven Days of Man - Part 1

future. We could list pages of such examples of the tertiary design of creation. It should then not surprise us to find that there are three earths described in scripture.

The earth is a parable of man, for man's flesh was formed of the dust of the earth. We can therefore see tremendous parallels between what has, and will, occur in the earth, and man's own condition.

THE FIRST EARTH

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.

The Scriptures do not tell us a lot about this first earth, for this earth was not the earth of man. It seems that during the present age Yahweh has only revealed things to us on a "need to know" basis. He has revealed enough for man to have understanding of his present place in creation, but He has not yet allowed man's curiosity to be fully satisfied by looking clearly into ages that preceded his existence, nor future ages. Of these things, we are only given glimpses. What we are told is that this first earth was destroyed at the judgment of Satan, and for this reason we find it lying in a state of ruin and darkness in Genesis 1:2.

THE SECOND EARTH

II Peter 3:7, 10

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men... But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, in which the heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up.

Matthew 24:35

"Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will not pass away."

Genesis 1:3 begins the re-creation of the earth. This is the second earth, and the earth of Adam and Eve. This is

the earth man has known for the past 6,000 years. This earth too shall pass away. Even as man must pass through the fire of affliction in this age, or be cast into the lake of fire that his sinful flesh might be dealt with, so too must the earth be consumed by fire. There is a perfect correlation between the two.

THE THIRD EARTH

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

After the second earth is destroyed by fire, Yahweh will then create the earth a third and final time. This third earth corresponds to mankind in the resurrection, after he has received a new and glorified body.

I Corinthians 15:53-54

For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality...

I John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

We see then that even as man is a tri-part being that was formed of the dust of the earth, so too the earth will have its three creations. Yet within this tri-part design we see a further seven-part division. This is in harmony with other acts and creations of God. Consider that there were three great feasts given to Israel where they were commanded to appear before Yahweh in Jerusalem three times a year. These great feasts are Passover, Pentecost, and Tabernacles. Yet these three feasts break down into seven distinct events, for Passover has three parts to it, as does Tabernacles. Passover includes The Passover, The Feast of Unleavened Bread, and The Sheaf of Firstfruits. Tabernacles includes The Blowing of the Trumpets, The Day of Atonement, and The Feast of Tabernacles. Thus the three great feasts have their seven

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divisions.

The same pattern is seen regarding the earth. We have seen its three creations. Now we will see the seven divisions within these creations. At each division the earth exists in a distinct state that is set apart from the others. They are as follows.

FIRST STATE - THE ORIGINAL EARTH

Genesis 1:1

“In the beginning, God created the heavens and the Earth...”

In this first creation the earth is perfect. The original Garden of Eden was found here, and Lucifer before his fall walked in this garden. It is my belief, and that of other Bible teachers such as Watchman Nee (see his book “The Mystery of Creation”), that this was the earth upon which the dinosaurs dwelt.

SECOND STATE - THE JUDGED EARTH

Genesis 1:2

“But the Earth became formless and void and darkness covered the face of the deep.”

It is obvious that this earth exists in a different state than it had previously known. Even as the sky was darkened from the ninth to the twelfth hour during the crucifixion of Christ when the judgment for all sin was laid upon the back of Yahshua the spotless Lamb, so this earth under judgment is sealed in darkness where no light can penetrate.

THIRD STATE - THE RE-CREATED EARTH

Genesis 1:3 - 31 describes for us the re-creation of the earth. Note that the very first thing that occurs is the removing of the judgment of darkness.

Genesis 1:3

Then God said, "Let there be light"; and there was light.”

This verse is unlike the other verses of the creation account. It does not say here that God created the light. It merely states that God said, “Let there be light.” Light already existed in the creation, but the judged earth had been sealed up against this light. This judgment has to be removed in order for God to begin re-making the earth. The earth is then formed once again according to the design of God, and a new garden of Eden is placed upon the earth and man and woman are set as inhabitants in the midst of it.

FOURTH STATE - AFTER THE SIN OF ADAM

After Adam sinned, the earth became subject to the curse. Paul speaks of it in this way:

Romans 8:20-22

For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.

This earth now brings forth thorns and thistles, and it yields its produce with difficulty. Man must now work by the sweat of his brow to obtain the good fruit of the earth. Death has now entered into the creation.

FIFTH STATE - EARTH UNDER THE FLOOD

Genesis 7:24

The water prevailed upon the earth one hundred and fifty days.

Although the Scriptures state that God destroyed the earth with the flood, it was not a destruction of the order that occurred when Satan was judged.

The Seven Days of Man - Part 1

SIXTH STATE - EARTH AFTER THE FLOOD - CURRENT AGE

The earth is distinctly changed.

Before the flood we are told that there was no rain, but a mist rose from the earth to water the ground (Genesis 2:6). After the flood there is rain. Prior to the flood we see men living to great ages, Methuselah being 969 years old at his death. After the flood man's lifespan is shortened to 120 years (Genesis 6:3). This is the state of the earth that man currently finds himself in.

SEVENTH STATE - MILLENNIAL REIGN OF CHRIST

Revelation 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.

In Revelation 20:2-7 we are told that in the coming Millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. Isaiah speaks of this time.

Isaiah 65:20

"No longer will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his days; for the youth will die at the age of one hundred and the one who does not reach the age of one hundred will be thought accursed."

Isaiah also gives us this insight:

Isaiah 11:6-8

And the wolf will dwell with the lamb, and the leopard will lie down with the young goat, and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little boy will lead them. Also the cow and the bear will graze, their young will lie down together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox. The nursing child will play by the hole of the cobra, and the weaned child will put his hand on the viper's den.

This is a very different world from that which we currently know, and it will exist for a thousand years. That this is the seventh state of the earth finds perfect correspondence with the seventh day of creation. The seventh day is Sabbath rest, and this thousand year period finds its parallel in the seventh day of creation when the earth knew rest.

At the end of the millennial reign of Christ, Satan will be released and will rebel one final time and be judged. This earth will be consumed with fire, and a new heaven and a new earth will appear. This new earth will not be counted as a part of the former creation, but as a new beginning, eight being the number of new beginnings. This last earth will know nothing of sin, rebellion, or the curse.

Revelation 21:1

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the former heaven and the former earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea.

II Peter 3:13

But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.

Eight is the number of new beginnings, and it is also the number that relates to Yahshua the Messiah, the New Creation Man. We are told that He arose on the eighth day, and following His pattern mankind will experience a resurrection from the dead and will receive a new and glorified body that knows no sin or death.

Look at this Scripture from II Peter 3:13 and consider it as a parable of man. According to the promises of God we are looking for a new body in which righteousness dwells. As John declared:

I John 3:2-3

Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

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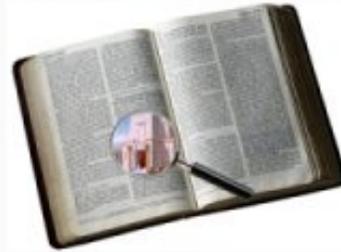
What a glorious earth this will be! A unique aspect of this final earth will be that there is no longer any sea. The seas represent death throughout scriptures. This is why God always used seas as a point of demarcation. Passing through a sea was typical of passing from one stage of life to another. Thus we see the Israelites passing through the Red Sea, leaving the bondage and fleshpots of Egypt behind them. Even baptism in water today is symbolic of being joined with Yahshua in His death and then being resurrected to new life in Christ. There will be no death in this final earth, and therefore it will contain no seas.

What a magnificent design is revealed in these things. We see that Yahweh has had a plan for the earth and its inhabitants that is marked by the fulness of the numbers three and seven. There is also the new creation when man will lay aside this mortal flesh and put on immortality. Yahweh designed the earth and its ages to be a parable of man as he progresses toward that spiritual creation that Yahweh has envisioned from the beginning.

When we “rightly divide the word of God” we see that all fits according to the pattern Yahweh has established. When we fail to rightly divide the word of God, then the pattern is broken. Many multitudes of the saints today are told that the entirety of the first chapter of Genesis speaks of the original creation of the earth and that Adam and Eve dwelt upon this original earth. In holding to this wrong understanding they break the patterns of God, for this would leave but two creations of the earth, and it would know only five stages. These numbers do not represent fulness and completion.

We must interpret the scriptures correctly to maintain the pattern of God. It is evident that seven is a number representing fulness for God’s present creation. Then comes the number eight which speaks of a new and heavenly creation. We see that He has chosen seven days to define the creation and to bring it to a state of rest in Him. God did not need seven days to create the earth. He could have accomplished it in a single moment of time. He chose seven days to define the creation for they fit His perfect plan for the ages of the earth.

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Charles Haddon Spurgeon - Bible Devotion

*"The Lord trieth the righteous."
Psalm 11:5*

All events are under the control of Providence; consequently all the trials of our outward life are traceable at once to the great First Cause. Out of the golden gate of God's ordinance the armies of trial march forth in array, clad in their iron armour, and armed with weapons of war. All providences are doors to trial. Even our mercies, like roses, have their thorns. Men may be drowned in seas of prosperity as well as in rivers of affliction. Our mountains are not too high, and our valleys are not too low for temptations: trials lurk on all roads. Everywhere, above and beneath,

we are beset and surrounded with dangers. Yet no shower falls unpermitted from the threatening cloud; every drop has its order ere it hastens to the earth. The trials which come from God are sent to prove and strengthen our graces, and so at once to illustrate the power of divine grace, to test the genuineness of our virtues, and to add to their energy. Our Lord in His infinite wisdom and superabundant love, sets so high a value upon His people's faith that He will not screen them from those trials by which faith is strengthened. You would never have possessed the precious faith which now supports you if the trial of your faith had not been like unto fire. You are a tree that never would have rooted so well if the wind had not rocked you to and fro, and made you take firm hold upon

the precious truths of the covenant grace. Worldly ease is a great foe to faith; it loosens the joints of holy valour, and snaps the sinews of sacred courage. The balloon never rises until the cords are cut; affliction doth this sharp service for believing souls. While the wheat sleeps comfortably in the husk it is useless to man, it must be threshed out of its resting place before its value can be known. Thus it is well that Jehovah trieth the righteous, for it causeth them to grow rich towards God.