

Monday 10/4

Related Verses

**Judg. 1:1-2**

1 And after the death of Joshua, the children of Israel inquired of Jehovah, saying, Who will go up first for us against the Canaanites, in order to fight against them?

2 And Jehovah said, Judah shall go up. I have now given the land into his hand.

**Isa. 54:5**

5 For your Maker is your Husband; Jehovah of hosts is His name. And the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer; He is called the God of all the earth.

**Jer. 31:32**

32 Not like the covenant which I made with their fathers in the day I took them by their hand to bring them out from the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, although I was their Husband, declares Jehovah.

**Judg. 2:11-12**

11 And the children of Israel did what was evil in the sight of Jehovah and served the Baals.

12 And they forsook Jehovah, the God of their fathers, who brought them out from the land of Egypt; and they followed after other gods from among the gods of the peoples who surrounded them; and they worshipped them and provoked Jehovah to anger.

**2 Cor. 11:2-3**

2 For I am jealous over you with a jealousy of God; for I betrothed you to one husband to present you as a pure virgin to Christ.

3 But I fear lest somehow, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your thoughts would be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity toward Christ.

**Rev. 19:7**

7 Let us rejoice and exult, and let us give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.

**Rev. 21:2**

2 And I saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.

**Rev. 22:17**

17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come! And let him who hears say, Come! And let him who is thirsty come; let him who wills take the water of life freely.

Related Reading

After the death of Joshua, the children of Israel inquired of Jehovah concerning who would go up for them first against the Canaanites in order to fight against them (Judg. 1:1). Jehovah gave His answer and promise, saying, “Judah shall go up. I have now given the land into his hand” (v. 2). This marvelous picture of oneness with the Lord, of the organic union of God with His people, is a continuation of the oneness in the book of Joshua when the people of Israel first entered into the good land. (*Life-study of Judges*, p. 5)

---

If we read the Old Testament according to [the] full scope [of the Scriptures], we will realize that at Mount Sinai God married Israel. In His concept and desire, He wanted to be to Israel as a husband to a wife, and He expected Israel to act as a wife toward Him. We need to keep this point in mind as we read the book of Judges.

In writing the books of history, Samuel put Judges after Joshua to show us what kind of life Israel lived toward her Husband. For some reason, she did not have a heart to be the wife of Jehovah. As a wife, she forgot her Husband, left her Husband, and acted according to her own desires. Eventually, Israel became a harlot. At the time of Hosea, Israel was a harlot in the eyes of God (Hosea 1:2; 2:2). Having fallen into the sin of adultery, she did not have a definite husband. In addition to Jehovah as her Husband, she had many other men....

In the book of Judges there is a terrible picture of a wife forsaking her Husband and not even acknowledging His existence. This is an ugly picture of a harlot, a wife who forsook her Husband and went after idols. In the beginning Israel had a bridal love toward God, but after her marriage she lost her position as a chaste wife to her husband. She forsook God and went to idols. Every idol was a “man,” and Israel became full of idols. Jeremiah 11:13 says that according to the number of the streets of Jerusalem the people had set up altars to burn incense to their idols. Ezekiel 16:24 tells us that Israel made “an elevation in every open square.” In the book of Judges, a particular saying is repeated a number of times: “In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did that which was right in his own eyes” (17:6; 18:1; 19:1; 21:25). But God was the King! According to the principle in the Bible, the husband is the head of the marriage and the head of the family. In

creation God ordained that the man would have this authority; therefore, he also has the kingship. In typology and in figure, God is the unique man. We all are females because we, the church, are the corporate wife to Christ. Since God is our Creator and our Lord, He should also be our King.

In the book of 1 Samuel, the children of Israel asked God to appoint a king for them (8:5). This was a great offense to God (v. 7). Even though Israel was a wife to God, she became a harlot. She did not recognize God’s kingship, and she did not recognize God as her Husband. Therefore, the children of Israel did what was right in their own eyes, and as a result they became rotten and corrupted.

This is what we see in the book of Judges....After the story of Judah and Caleb in 1:1-20, Israel’s history as recorded in Judges was full of the rottenness and corruption of a harlot. This is the intrinsic significance of the book of Judges.

Joshua is the book of Israel’s history full of the marvelous victories over the inhabitants of Canaan in the presence of Jehovah. Judges, on the contrary, is the book of Israel’s history full of miserable defeats under their enemies in the forsaking of Jehovah. (*Life-study of Judges*, pp. 1-3)

**Further Reading:** *Life-study of Judges*, msgs. 1, 3, 9-10; *CWWN*, vol. 53, “The Ministry of God’s Word,” ch. 6

**Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 7 – Sections:** *The God With His Human Friendship; The Almighty God*

Tuesday 10/5

Related Verses

**Judg. 2:1**

1 Then the Angel of Jehovah went up from Gilgal to Bochim. And He said, I caused you to go up out from Egypt, and I brought you into the land that I swore to your fathers. And I said, I will never break My covenant with you,

**Exo 3:2**

2 And the Angel of Jehovah appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a thornbush. And when he looked, there was the thornbush, burning with fire; but the thornbush was not consumed.

## Joshua, Judges, Ruth Training – Week 6

Morning Watch

**The Intrinsic Significance of the Book of Judges and the Apostasy of Israel in the Worshipping of God**

Oct. 4 – Oct. 10 2021

**Acts 7:30-32**

**30** And when forty years had been fulfilled, an Angel appeared to him in the wilderness of Mount Sinai in the flame of a thornbush fire.

**31** And when Moses saw it, he marveled at the vision; and as he approached to examine it, there came the voice of the Lord:

**32** "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham and Isaac and Jacob." And Moses trembled and dared not examine it.

**John 8:42**

**42** Jesus said to them, If God were your Father you would love Me; for I came forth out from God and have come from Him; for I have not come of Myself, but He sent Me.

**John 10:28-30**

**28** And I give to them eternal life, and they shall by no means perish forever, and no one shall snatch them out of My hand.

**29** My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all, and no one can snatch them out of My Father's hand.

**30** I and the Father are one.

**Zech. 2:8-9**

**8** For thus says Jehovah of hosts, After the glory He has sent Me against the nations who plunder you; for he who touches you touches the pupil of His eye.

**9** For I am now waving My hand over them, and they will be plunder for those who served them; and you will know that Jehovah of hosts has sent Me.

### Related Reading

At Mount Sinai God entered into a marriage union with Israel and...wanted her to remain in the most intimate contact with Him in this marvelous marriage union. But Israel rejected God as her Husband and as her King and "went about as harlots after other gods and worshipped them" (Judg. 2:17). In dealing with this situation, the King became a servant, as the Angel of Jehovah, to admonish the children of Israel (vv. 1-5).

The Angel of Jehovah is spoken of throughout the Old Testament, from Exodus 3 through Zechariah 3. The Angel of Jehovah is also mentioned in Judges 2 and 6. The word angel is capitalized in these instances because this Angel is a particular Angel. The Angel of Jehovah is just God

Himself in His Divine Trinity serving His elect as a Servant. (*Life-study of Judges*, p. 9)

---

When Moses was being called by God to lead Israel out of Egypt, the calling Jehovah became the Angel of Jehovah. In Exodus 3 the names *Jehovah* and the *Angel of Jehovah* are used interchangeably (vv. 2, 4). The embodiment of the Triune God is Christ, and Christ is the Angel of Jehovah, who took care of Israel as the acting Jehovah in the Old Testament. Christ is the acting God, not a silent, passive God. For Christ to be the Angel of Jehovah means that God has appointed and commissioned Himself in His Divine Trinity to act in caring for His people.

Because Israel did not act as a proper wife, the very Jehovah who was the Husband, the Head, and the King of Israel became a Servant to His wife. This means that He did not come to her as a Husband, Head, or King but came to her as the Angel of Jehovah, who was sent by Jehovah (Zech. 2:9-11). Since Israel did not consider Jehovah as the Head, He became a Servant to serve her. His admonition in Judges 2 was the admonition of a servant.

With respect to Christ as the Angel of Jehovah, let us review what is revealed concerning Christ in the four Gospels. In the Gospel of Matthew Christ is presented as the King, and in the Gospel of Mark the King is presented as a Slave. The King-Savior thus became a Slave-Savior. In the Gospel of Luke the Slave-Savior is presented as a Man-Savior in His human virtues with the divine attributes. However, He is more than just a man; He is also God. Therefore, in the Gospel of John He is presented as God (1:1). He is the eternal God who became flesh (v. 14). Our Savior, therefore, is a God-man, who is both a King and a Slave. This is the intrinsic significance of the four Gospels.

Our God wants to save us and be our King, and we need to acknowledge Him as our Head and King. In order to save us, however, the King had to become a Servant and a Slave. As a Slave He is both God and man. He is a man, but His substance, His very essence, is God.

In His divinity God is our King and Head. Because our situation was so poor, the King had to become a Servant to serve us. The Servant sent by God in Judges 2 was actually Jehovah Himself in His acting situation. He did not come to rebuke or command; rather, He came to admonish and to take care of Israel. This is the significance of the Angel of Jehovah in Judges 2.

In 2:1-5 we have the admonition of the Angel of Jehovah, who, as we have seen, is Christ as the acting Jehovah in the Old Testament taking care of Israel (Exo. 3:2-10; 14:19; Judg. 6:21). (*Life-study of Judges*, pp. 9-11)

**Further Reading:** *Life-study of Exodus*, msgs. 80-81; *Life-study of Revelation*, msgs. 13, 62

**Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 7 – Sections:** *The God Of Changelessness; The God With His Trial; The Triune God Of Provision; The Triune God Of Blessing; The God Of Friendship On The Human Level*

**Wednesday 10/6**

### Related Verses

**2 Peter 2:2, 15**

**2** And many will follow their licentiousness, because of whom the way of the truth will be reviled.

**15** Forsaking the straight way, they have gone astray, following the way of Balaam, the son of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness

**Judg. 17:6**

**6** In those days there was no king in Israel; everyone did that which was right in his own eyes.

**1 Pet. 2:3-5, 9**

**3** If you have tasted that the Lord is good.

**4** Coming to Him, a living stone, rejected by men but with God chosen and precious,

**5** You yourselves also, as living stones, are being built up as a spiritual house into a holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

**9** But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people acquired for a possession, so that you may tell out the virtues of Him who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**Eph. 2:19-20, 22**

**19** So then you are no longer strangers and sojourners, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God,

**20** Being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus Himself being the cornerstone;

**22** In whom you also are being built together into a dwelling place of God in spirit.

Related Reading

In their degradation Israel became chaotic in three ways: in government, in worship, and in morality....God's tabernacle was at Shiloh, and the high priest had the Urim and Thummim, but there was no administration. Judges 17 and 18 reveal the abominable chaos in the children of Israel's worship. Micah set up a house of gods in his home. His mother consecrated silver to Jehovah to make an idol and a molten image. Micah then set up a house of gods, made an ephod and teraphim, and consecrated one of his sons to be his priest. The ephod signifies the authority of God, without which no one can worship God. Later, Micah consecrated a Levite to be his house priest, paying him a salary of ten pieces of silver a year plus an array of clothing and his food. In those days the Danites robbed Micah of his idol, the ephod, the teraphim, and the molten image with his priest, and with them they set up another worship place in the city of Dan, while God's tabernacle remained in Shiloh. The result was two worship centers—the proper one with God's tabernacle at Shiloh and the improper one in Dan. That was the chaos of the children of Israel in their worship. (*Life-study of Judges*, p. 53)

---

We may apply this picture to the present situation of Christianity. Today's Christianity has many "houses of Micah," the most prominent of which is the Roman Catholic Church. The Roman Catholic Church has set up idols, made its own "ephod," and set up its own priests. According to the New Testament all those who are born of God should be priests (1 Pet. 2:5, 9), but Catholicism has hired its own priests and set up a hierarchy under a pope. In principle, Catholicism is the same as the house of Micah in Judges. The state churches, the denominations, and many of the independent groups are also houses of Micah, full of idols as replacements of Christ.

Not everything in Christianity is wrong, but everything is a mixture. It is like the woman who hid leaven in three measures of meal until the whole was leavened (Matt. 13:33). The meal signifies Christ as food for God and for His people. The leaven signifies evil things (1 Cor. 5:6, 8) and evil doctrines (Matt. 16:6, 11-12). Micah's mother offered something to God, but her offering to God was mixed with the leaven of idolatry.

Any teaching or practice among Christians that is not according to the Scriptures is an idol. In the recent

rebellion among us, a teaching regarding autonomy was promoted. Those who teach this stress that every local church is absolutely autonomous. However, this is contrary to the Scriptures and produces local sects. This teaching has become an idol.

Each local church is autonomous in its business affairs, but the teaching that each local church is absolutely autonomous in every way within its locality is an idol. Nevertheless, some are using this teaching to spread division.

The Bible reveals that the church as the Body of Christ is universally and uniquely one. Because all the members of the Body of Christ exist on earth in different cities, this unique Body of Christ is expressed among people on earth in many cities—one city, one church. Whereas Catholicism, the denominations, and the independent groups are "houses of Micah," we meet as a local church, as the church in a particular city. In the Scriptures there are no house churches, street churches, state churches, or district churches. Instead, there are local churches. The local church in a city is a part of the Body. Therefore, we practice the local churches, and we also practice the universal Body of Christ. (*Life-study of Judges*, pp. 53-54, 59-60)

**Further Reading:** *Life-study of Ephesians*, msg. 27; *CWWL*, 1986, vol. 1, "Elders' Training, Book 7: One Accord for the Lord's Move," ch. 8

**Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 7 – Sections:** *The God For The Eternal Economy; The God Of The New Testament Believers; And The God Of Jesus Christ*

Thursday 10/7

Related Verses

**Deut. 12:5, 8**

**5** But to the place which Jehovah your God will choose out of all your tribes to put His name, to His habitation, shall you seek, and there shall you go.

**8** You shall not do according to all that we do here today, each man doing all that is right in his own eyes;

**John 4:24**

**24** God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truthfulness.

**John 17:11, 21-23**

**11** And I am no longer in the world; yet they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name, which You have given to Me, that they may be one even as We are.

**21** That they all may be one; even as You, Father, are in Me and I in You, that they also may be in Us; that the world may believe that You have sent Me.

**22** And the glory which You have given Me I have given to them, that they may be one, even as We are one;

**23** I in them, and You in Me, that they may be perfected into one, that the world may know that You have sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me.

**Eph. 1:22-23**

**22** And He subjected all things under His feet and gave Him to be Head over all things to the church,

**23** Which is His Body, the fullness of the One who fills all in all.

**1 Tim. 3:15**

**15** But if I delay, I write that you may know how one ought to conduct himself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and base of the truth.

Related Reading

In Deuteronomy 33:22 Dan is likened to a young lion....As a young lion, Dan fought in order to gain more land (Josh. 19:47; Judg. 18:27-29), the land signifying Christ (see footnote 1 on Deut. 8:7). After his success in his victory Dan became a serpent, a viper, acting individualistically and independently in his pride to set up an idol and a divisive center of worship and to ordain a hired priest in the city of Dan during the time that the house of God was in Shiloh (Judg. 18:30-31; cf. Deut. 12:5 and footnote). As a serpent Dan bit the horse's heels so that its rider fell backward, signifying that the apostasy brought in by Dan became a great stumbling block to the nation of Israel. Throughout the history of the church many spiritual people have followed Dan's example, thereby frustrating God's people from going on in His ordained way. (Gen. 49:17, footnote 1)

---

Many use the matter of the worship of God as a cloak for setting up a divisive center. Some would say, "What could be wrong with doing such a thing for the worship of God? Isn't it better to set up a center of worship than to go

Morning Watch

**The Intrinsic Significance of the Book of Judges and the Apostasy of Israel in the Worshipping of God**

Oct. 4 – Oct. 10 2021

to a movie theater?” According to the history in the Old Testament, nothing throughout the generations was more sinful or more damaging to God’s people than Dan’s act of setting up a divisive center of worship. In Deuteronomy 12, 14, 15, and 16 the Lord through Moses charged the children of Israel at least fifteen times not to offer their burnt offerings in the place of their choice. They were commanded to go to the unique place the Lord had chosen for His name and for His habitation. Deuteronomy 12:13 and 14 say, “Be careful that you do not offer up your burnt offerings in every place that you see; but in the place which Jehovah will choose in one of your tribes, there you shall offer up your burnt offerings, and there you shall do all that I am commanding you.”...Again and again Moses, the elderly, loving lawgiver, charged the children of Israel concerning this matter. If you read these chapters, you will see that Moses charged the people concerning the unique place, the place the Lord had chosen for His name and for His habitation. The reason the Lord commanded Moses to issue this charge repeatedly was that He was concerned about maintaining the unity of His people.

After the children of Israel entered the good land, the tabernacle, the house of God, was in Shiloh (Judg. 18:31)...[Hence,] Shiloh was the unique center for the worship of God. As the unique center, it should have maintained the unity of God’s people. However, Dan set up another center in the north, which caused the first division among the children of Israel...[Although God] is omnipresent...[He] enjoys being limited for the purpose of keeping the unity of His people. Most Christians today,...like the Danites,...feel free to set up another center of worship.

Judges 18:30 says, “The children of Dan erected for themselves the sculptured idol.” Here we see that the Danites did something for themselves. They did not care for the other tribes. Thus, the source of their apostasy was not caring for their brothers. Not caring for the other parts of the Body is the source of apostasy. This apostasy crept in under the guise of the worship of God. The principle is the same today. Many Christians set up other centers, not for gambling or dancing, but for worshipping God. Although this seems so positive, it is actually done by the self and for the self. Every divisive center is established for someone’s self-interest. Such a practice causes not only division but also competition. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 1317-1319)

**Further Reading:** *Life-study of Genesis*, msg. 102-103; *CWWL, 1975-1976*, vol. 3, “Young People’s Training,” ch. 12; *Life-study of Matthew*, msg. 47

**Corporate Reading of “The History of God in His Union with Man” Chapter 8 – Sections:** *Working On Isaac; Raising Him as the Unique Heir to Abraham; Making Him a Type of Christ as the Son of Abraham; As the Only Begotten Son of the Father; Given by the Father All That the Father Has*

everything possible to preserve his empire. This is apostasy. (*Life-study of Genesis*, p. 1321)

---

The whole of Christendom today is an apostasy. So many are doing things for themselves under the name of Jesus Christ and under the cloak of the worship of God. This is the reason the Lord needs a recovery. The Lord’s recovery will always offend others. As long as the recovery is here, the divisive groups will stand condemned. As long as the temple was in Jerusalem, the golden calf was under condemnation. Was it possible for Dan to love Jerusalem? No, there could be no reconciliation between Dan and Jerusalem. Often others have come to me and said, “Brother Lee, please don’t be so bold. Why not be a little nice?” I replied, “To whom should I be nice? To the serpent? To the horned snake? To the graven image? To the golden calf?...” How can we be kind to today’s apostasy? There can be no compromise. Do not try to compromise with the serpent, the horned snake. If you are kind to the snake, you will be poisoned by it. If you try to be nice to today’s apostasy, you will be damaged...In Jerusalem there was God’s temple as His testimony, but in Dan there was apostasy. Both in church history and in our own Christian experience we have seen this very thing...We might have said that we were working for the Lord when we were actually working for something else. This is apostasy.

Dan did not care for the other tribes; he cared only for his own tribe. After he won the victory and gained the expansion, the enlargement, he did something for himself. This was the source of his apostasy. According to the Old Testament, the Lord never forgot Dan’s apostasy. In the eyes of God it was the worst sin in His economy. Nothing is more damaging than divisiveness. Nothing is more destructive than division among God’s people. Divisive worship centers are often related to idols. Because the devil lurks behind idols, by setting up an idol Dan became a serpent. Whenever you become divisive, no matter how good your reason may be, there will be something behind you—the serpent, the subtle one. The whole history of the church testifies of this and our experience confirms it. Whenever you do not care for others, but only for your interests, doing something merely for yourself, the serpent is at hand. The best way to be safeguarded from falling into apostasy is taking care of others. Suppose Dan had contacted the other tribes and said, “Brothers, do you agree

**Friday 10/8**

**Related Verses**

**1 Cor. 12:27, 12**

27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

12 For even as the body is one and has many members, yet all the members of the body, being many, are one body, so also is the Christ.

**Eph. 4:2-6**

2 With all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, bearing one another in love,

3 Being diligent to keep the oneness of the Spirit in the uniting bond of peace:

4 One Body and one Spirit, even as also you were called in one hope of your calling;

5 One Lord, one faith, one baptism;

6 One God and Father of all, who is over all and through all and in all.

**1 Cor. 10:16-17**

16 The cup of blessing which we bless, is it not the fellowship of the blood of Christ? The bread which we break, is it not the fellowship of the body of Christ?

17 Seeing that there is one bread, we who are many are one Body; for we all partake of the one bread.

**Related Reading**

The words *for themselves* in Judges 18:30 are very significant. Many who claim to be worshipping God are really doing something for themselves. Apostasy is doing something for the self under the cloak of worshipping God. Jeroboam had no heart for God. Rather, his heart was for his own little empire. In his heart he feared that the kingdom would return to the house of David (1 Kings 12:26). Using the name of God as a cloak, he did

Morning Watch

**The Intrinsic Significance of the Book of Judges and the Apostasy of Israel in the Worshipping of God**

that I set up another worship center in the city of Dan?" Had he done this, the others would have said, "Brother, don't do this. Deuteronomy 12, 14, 15, and 16 forbid us to have any other center of worship that we may come to the unique center." If Dan had consulted the other tribes, he would have been kept from apostasy. But being individualistic, he set up another worship center and fell into apostasy.

In principle, every divisive center of worship is the same. Those who establish them care only for their interests, their desires, and they neglect all the other saints. They are like Dan, who cared only for his tribe, not for the others. (*Life-study of Genesis*, pp. 1321-1323)

**Further Reading:** *CWWL*, 1972, vol. 2, "The Genuine Ground of Oneness," ch. 3; *Life-study of 1 & 2 Kings*, msg. 8

**Corporate Reading of "The History of God in His Union with Man" Chapter 8 – Sections:** *Offered to God for God's Satisfaction and Resurrected from the Dead; Gaining the Gentile Church as His Counterpart through the Holy Spirit; Putting Him under His Rich Blessing; Given by His Father All That He Had; Given by God Two Sons as Twins; God Appearing to Him and Promising Him*

**Saturday 10/9**

Related Verses

**2 Peter 1:3, 19**

3 Seeing that His divine power has granted to us all things which relate to life and godliness, through the full knowledge of Him who has called us by His own glory and virtue,

19 And we have the prophetic word made more firm, to which you do well to give heed as to a lamp shining in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts;

**Psa. 119:105**

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.

**John 1:4**

4 In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

**John 10:10**

10 The thief does not come except to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have life and may have it abundantly.

**Rom. 13:11-13**

11 And this, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to be raised from sleep; for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

12 The night is far advanced, and the day has drawn near. Let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the weapons of light.

13 Let us walk becomingly as in the day; not in reveling and drunkenness, not in fornication and licentiousness, not in strife and jealousy.

**1 John 5:12**

12 He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

**Rom. 5:10, 17**

10 For if we, being enemies, were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more we will be saved in His life, having been reconciled,

17 For if by the offense of the one death reigned through the one, much more those who receive the abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

Related Reading

[Second Peter] was written in the time of the church's degradation and apostasy....The burden of the writer was to inoculate the believers against the poison of apostasy....The apostasy distracted the believers from the economy of God by leading them into the human logic of puzzling philosophies. It was not the exercise of partaking of the tree of life that gives life, but of participating in the tree of knowledge that brings in death (Gen. 2:9, 16-17)....In order to inoculate against this death-poison in his healing Epistle, Peter first prescribed the divine power as the strongest and most effective antidote. This provides the believers with all things related to the generating and supplying divine life (not the killing knowledge) and the God-expressing godliness (not the show of human wisdom). This rich divine provision, which is covered in detail in the following verses (2 Pet. 1:3-11), is more than sufficient for the believers to live a proper Christian life and overcome the satanic apostasy. (*Life-study of 2 Peter*, p. 14)

---

In 2 Peter 1:3 the word *divine* denotes the eternal, unlimited, and almighty divinity of God. Hence, divine

power is the power of the divine life related to the divine nature.

Here the word *granted* means imparted, infused, planted. All things which relate to life and godliness have been imparted to us, infused into us, by the all-inclusive life-giving Spirit, who has regenerated us and who indwells us.

Life is the inward energy, inward strength, to bring forth the outward godliness, which leads to glory and results in glory.

In 1:19-21 Peter [uses] the prophetic word found in the Old Testament to confirm the apostles' testimony. Both the apostles' witness and the prophetic word in the Scriptures are the shining of the truth. This shining is part of the divine provision, the provision God has made by His power so that His elect children may be able to stay away from heresy and apostasy.

It is important for us to realize that the element of apostasy continues today. Because a number of basic truths have been given up, even by those who apparently are fundamental believers, there is the need for us in the Lord's recovery to fight the battle for the truth....We believe not only in all the genuine items held by fundamental Christians, but also in the deeper truths. We definitely believe that the Bible is fully inspired by God word for word. We would follow the literal translation of 2 Timothy 3:16 to say that all Scripture is God-breathed. We believe that the Lord Jesus is the Son of God. He is true God and true man. We believe in Christ's incarnation and in His death on the cross for our redemption. According to the Scriptures, we believe that the Lord's death was all-inclusive. Through His crucifixion He terminated the old creation, including us with our flesh and our fallen nature. We fully believe in the Lord's resurrection and ascension. We believe that the Lord is now on the throne. But we also believe that He is not limited to the throne, for as the life-giving Spirit He dwells in our spirit. We believe in every aspect of what Christ is and of what He has done, is doing, and will do. We also believe in all that Christ has attained and obtained. Furthermore, according to the Bible, we believe in transformation and in being constituted of the element of God for the rearrangement of our being. We may say that all this is our deeper faith. In a time of apostasy, we believe

Morning Watch

**The Intrinsic Significance of the Book of Judges and the Apostasy of Israel in the Worshipping of God**

and testify the full revelation of the pure Word of God.  
(*Life-study of 2 Peter*, pp. 14-15, 69-70, 91-92)

**Further Reading:** *Life-study of 2 Peter*, msgs. 2, 8-11;  
*Life-study of 2 Timothy*, msgs. 2, 7

**Hymns, #800**

- 1 God the Lord has spoken, God has been unveiled;  
All His character and persons are expressed;  
Unto Adam's sons His mystery is revealed,  
Fully illustrated and made manifest.
- 2 God the Lord has spoken, and His heart disclosed,  
That His Son should have pre-eminence in all,  
That in His dear Son He might be glorified  
Midst all His creation, either great or small.
- 3 God the Lord has spoken, Christ has been revealed:  
He is very God and yet is truly man;  
He is all in all, in Him all things subsist,  
Center and circumference of th' eternal plan.
- 4 God the Lord has spoken, and His mystery shown,  
Christ and His expression has His counsel willed:  
Christ with all God's fulness as the glorious Head,  
And the Church His Body, with His riches filled.
- 5 God the Lord has spoken, and from heaven shown  
That the triune God would blend with creature-man:  
Father in the Son, the Son the Spirit is,  
Dwelling in the Body to fulfill His plan.
- 6 God the Lord has spoken, revelation giv'n  
Of His vast creation and His lowly birth,  
Of His great redemption and salvation full;  
May His adoration ever fill the earth.

- 2 For you yourselves know perfectly well that like a thief  
in the night, so the day of the Lord comes.
- 4 But you, brothers, are not in darkness that the day should  
overtake you like a thief;
- 5 For you are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are  
not of the night nor of darkness.
- 6 So then let us not sleep as the rest do, but let us watch  
and be sober.
- 7 For those who sleep, sleep during the night, and those  
who get drunk are drunk during the night;
- 8 But since we are of the day, let us be sober, putting on  
the breastplate of faith and love and a helmet, the hope of  
salvation.
- 9 For God did not appoint us to wrath but to the obtaining  
of salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ,
- 10 Who died for us in order that whether we watch or sleep,  
we may live together with Him.
- 11 Therefore comfort one another, and build up each one  
the other, even as you also do.

**Further Reading**

*Life-study of Judges*, msgs. 1, 3, 9-10

*Life-study of Exodus*, msgs. 80-81

*Life-study of Genesis*, msgs. 102-103

*CWWL, 1972, vol. 2, "The Genuine Ground of Oneness,"*  
*chp. 3*

**Lord's Day 10/10**

**Related Verses**

**1 Thes. 5:1-2, 4-11**

1 But concerning the times and the seasons, brothers, you  
have no need for anything to be written to you;