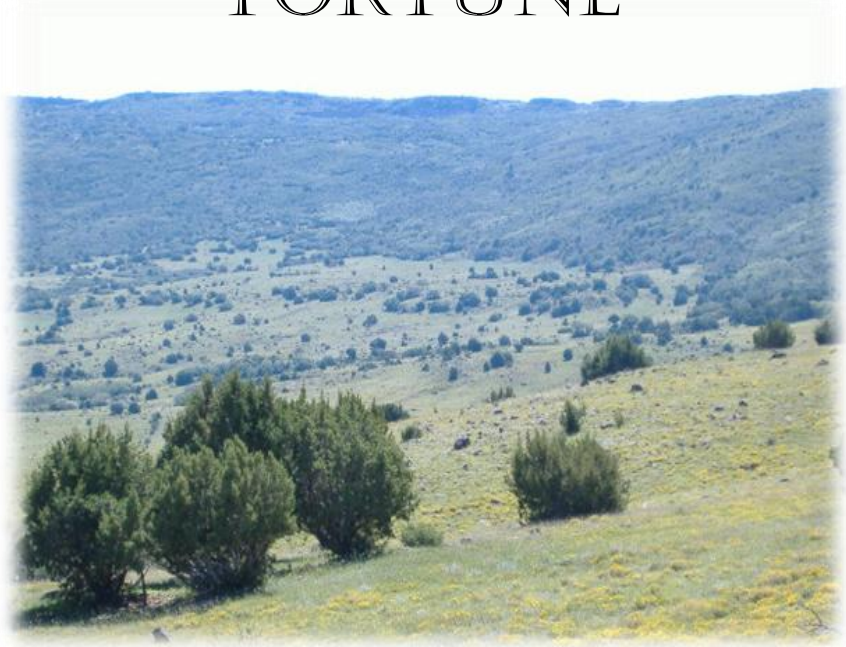


THE FAMILY FORTUNE



*...unto treasure hid in a field;
the which when a man hath found, he hideth,
and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath,
and buyeth that field.*

Matthew 13:44

GREG J. LINGUS

Revised 4th Edition

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DEDICATION

This book is dedicated to family—the Family of the God of Israel and the *new additions* because of the faithfulness of the Saints in sharing the *Good News* about the Family. Also, to the natural family of a man and woman who have become husband and wife; and to their children and children’s children—they’re a testimony... reminder... training ground... for our *hope* in the Family and its future.

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(The 2nd Edition is unedited.)

To my brothers and sisters in the Family, thank you for the fellowship.

PREFACE

I make mistakes and I grow from them. As I continue to mature, I'm able to better recognize current *anomalies* in the world. They're not new—they're just a *repeat* of historical wicked human behavior that God had to *intercede* in with judgment to keep humanity in existence. These *events* are happening more *intensely and rapidly* in the last few years. The Bible describes *similar-type* as *birth labor pains* preceding Jesus Christ's return—the *last intercession* of this age.

Are we there—has the *labor* started? Maybe... maybe not. If not, we *may be* experiencing the *twinges*... the *warm up*... the *precursors*—however... *the contractions can start quickly and unexpectedly*... and, when they do, they won't let up. The prudent has *the bags packed*... *the car ready*... *the route to the hospital established and rehearsed*. *Birth, like death, can catch us by surprise*... but, none-the-less... *it will happen*.

As the *succession* of these *events* take place... they act as *benchmarks* revealing *the time-line*. There is currently some talk... discussion... and related activity supporting the conditions for these *events* described in the Bible—kind of like *the storm clouds building on the horizon*. Until then, *the prudent* are asked to receive the Lord Jesus Christ as our Savior... prepare and grow in the Lord... watch and wait for *His return*.

Christ's return ushers in the rapture of His Church and God's wrath during *the Great Day of the Lord*. The *birth* then happens—the Millennial Age begins with *the redemption* of God's people—the House of Israel and the House of Judah—to establish the *Household of the God of Israel*... which the

Jew and Gentile Saint, the Body of Christ, is a part of.

History has shown, with the *end of each cycle* resolved by God's judgment, only *a remnant* has lived to talk about it. Whether by water... fire and brimstone... wars and plagues leading to captivity and destruction... the majority ceased to continue on. The Old Testament Prophets and the New Testament Apostles of the Bible... and Jesus Christ, Himself... reveals... *this time*... it will be no different. Do not hedge on *waiting it out*... *winging it—the odds are against you*. There's a *highly probable*... like *a majority*... chance... *you'll go down with "the Titanic"*!

It's not God's desire or pleasure to see men be condemned...*go down in flames*... in His judgment. For the sake of His faithful remnant, His judgment has to come... or none would survive the direction mankind is headed. God is merciful—He has given us a way... the only Way... the Son of David... the Son of God... the Lord Jesus Christ... to escape His judgment and wrath... if we'll take it. It appears many will not—not by God's choice... but man's.

As the world increasingly belches out bitterness... anger... delusions... lawlessness... and abnormal natural events, I understand some of the subject matter in the Family Fortune as serious... sobering... relevant—I'm taking time to revise and update.

With this edition, I've tried to clean up some vague language... add more *evidence* attempting to fill in some *blanks*... reiterate some points (maybe... too much... but they're important). I've given extra attention to chapters: 2 The Family Structure and 7 The Promise. There are also other revisions and updates throughout, some marked with [brackets]. There is a new chapter, 13 He Will.

1 INTRODUCTION

I have read some of the writings of Bill Bonner. The focus was on families and family wealth creation for their maintenance and growth. When reading the writings, I had the thought, “This sounds like what I understand from reading the Family History and Constitution (code of conduct—the Holy Bible)”.

Family Fortunes that Bill co-authored with his son, Will Bonner, helped inspire me to write *The Family Fortune*.

I did not have a creative brain freeze when coming up with a more unique title compared to *Family Fortunes*. *The Family Fortune* title just fit best for what I hope to communicate.

Essays and Series Essays I’ve written talk about some of what I will share. I will reference them periodically.

(If you want to dig deeper, there are PDFs of the Essays at the links listed on the *Appreciation Page* at the end.)

Of course, here’s my standard disclaimer—*this is just how I see it right now... it doesn’t mean I’m right... I’m still learning...*

checkout the scriptures in context.

Some of what I'm about to share is conjecture on... *wondering about...* what seems possible and makes sense. Or, I am simply addressing questions I have about the Family. My viewpoint is left open to input and discussion from other Family members.

This book is about family. Family is made up of elders with wisdom and those starting out in training wheels. I think family members who are growing, and even the elders for that matter, who believe they hold the only key to unlocking the mysteries of the family alienate themselves from the family. If enough family members hold this arrogant view, the family is ripped apart. The family members now go their separate ways.

All to say... the final authority on the matter is God... which He has recorded in His Word—we have to filter what we learn and discuss through the Bible.

As a young man in his mid-20s, I believed Jesus Christ to be the Son of God. He sacrificed His Life at the cross to forgive my sins and make salvation available to me. I accepted this Gift with the public ceremony of baptism. In the Name of God—the Father, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit—I was *born again* into a new bloodline—that of the Family of God. I now have a new Family with a new Family Identity—that being a son of God.

Christ did the work! Through His Name I am able to share in the Family Fortune.

Even though I know I am a son of God, I cannot say I have always lived like one. My picture could be hung along with

“the prodigal son”. This is sad to say because I realize the blessings I have missed in my life.

However!

If every time failure dealt its blow and I refused to loosen my grip on the attitude... *I can succeed on my own strength...* I would not be writing this book. I have changed my attitude over time.

I have also been slow to get it like “the spoiled rich kid”—more focused on “living it up” than thinking about the Family and the future generations of the Family.

I am beginning to wonder if what I’m about to share has not led me to a life of restlessness. I have often “shot myself in the foot”—for something was gnawing at me. Other Family members may be experiencing the same.

I will use quite a bit of scripture dispersed throughout... King James Version mostly... to help me remember why I said what I said.

2 THE FAMILY STRUCTURE

The traditional family structure of a husband, a wife, and children is the foundation for a stable society. A sound marriage produces children that are prepared by their parents to handle the pressures of future family growth. If a family that “sticks together” erodes, they turn to the state... to *outsiders*... for the security, support, and comfort that a unified family should provide. Sound familiar?

I was blessed to grow up in the traditional family. My dad worked the family ranching business while my mom managed the home.

I was sharing with my wife my experiences as a little boy. Dad was home most evenings, with the exception of those times he had to ship cattle to market in the fall of the year. At these times he was not able to pick up my brother and me from school. It felt weird on those days to have mom coming to get us. We would go home to do chores knowing my dad was not around.

As daylight faded, I would scan the horizon of the canyon—maybe expecting Indians whooping a war cry to ride over the

skyline at any moment. Having survived my chores, I tossed and turned in my bed having trouble falling asleep... until I would hear distinct sound of the motor of my dad's truck getting louder. Seeing the orange and white reflections of the running and head lights of the truck dance across my bedroom wall... I knew he was home.

I was able then to finally drift off to sleep with the lingering thought, "I'll have a go at the Indians tomorrow."

My mom was also at home every day, other than visiting family for a week or so throughout the year.

It was okay to rough it as one of the guys... for a day, maybe two at most.

Dad was a good cook but he just it did not make the special dishes for me that my mom did. I know... I was spoiled—of course, my wife still reminds me of this. Furthermore, I did not smell the beckoning aromas of my dinner as I walked into the house. The house lacked the warmth of my mother. My routine and comforts had been disrupted. Something was out of whack and it was getting old real quick.

I think this disruption of order causes "uneasiness" that is also evidenced when I witness the behavior of children who live in single parent households. They can be like a bucking bronco trying to throw the "restless nervousness" off his back. It takes the presence of both parents in their respective roles to balance the family—bringing the harmony of "rest and peace" into the family.

Life happens because of a dad and mom—without them we would not exist. I can trace my life back through my parents, grandparents, great grandparents, ending up with Adam and

Eve. It took male and female in a union for me to exist.

One thing has puzzled me though... when it comes to the Family.

God saw it fit for His Son, Christ, to have a human father, Joseph—in role if not actually begetting. And, He saw fit for Him to have a human mother, Mary. In the Gospel of Matthew, Joseph was asked to protect Jesus when He was a baby—not some angel or prophet brought back to life. Christ’s Spiritual Father, God, seems to have viewed Joseph as Jesus’ natural physical father because Jesus Christ’s physical paternal lineage is listed as: *the son of David, the son of Abraham* down to Joseph. Jesus also seemed to honor and love Joseph and Mary as His parents. Christ also recognized God as His Father.

To me, there is one missing component:

- ❖ Adam and Eve—then Cain and Abel;
- ❖ George and Elsie Lingus—then Greg;
- ❖ Joseph and Mary—then Jesus as a man in the flesh;
and
- ❖ God, the Father and (?)—then Christ on Earth as God.

There has always been *a mom* involved when life is brought into existence in the natural, but this is not addressed when talking about the Spiritual aspect of Christ, Him being God, or is it?

I have come to view *some* of the Holy Spirit’s *roles* as somewhat that of “a mother”. Scripture refers, like in the New Testament, to the Holy Spirit as “He” so I cannot take the view... the Holy Spirit is *a female*—He does seem *care for us* like our mothers would, though. And... this seems to be

the heart of God.

O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, thou that killest the prophets, and stonest them which are sent unto thee, how often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not! Matthew 23:37

Remember... *male and female are created in the image of God...* with particular attributes evident in each gender—there are specific genders clearly defined by God.

All to say, *gender attributes... roles... responsibilities...* are given to our specific gender from God... and, He (the Creator) seems to possess some of them Himself (He's not *completely like* His created man—He is without sin... we're not. We need the sinless... without blemish—perfect Sacrifice—Lamb of God... Savior... Redeemer, Jesus Christ.).

One example of this is the *Body of Christ*, the Church. The *Bride of Christ*... the Church... is referenced as a *female*—yet, God has placed both *male and female* Saints (the created... not the Creator) within to create the functioning Body for the Family of God. The Family members have been given specific *roles... functions—gifts* of the Holy Spirit for the edification (the building up of) of the *whole* Body to glorify God.

We cannot say the Church is an *actual* female gender. What I think we can look at—*she* has been given the *roles and responsibilities* that an *engaged bride* would have in relation to *her groom*... and, it seems she'll possibly be given the *roles and responsibilities* that a *wife* has in relation to *her husband* in the age-to-come. We'll discuss this deeper, later on.

In context of *roles and responsibilities...* the qualities of fruitfulness, comforter, nurturer, a heart with desire for love

and relationships, teacher, acting as “a bridge” between family relationships, and keeping the home life flowing smoothly seems to be that of *a mother... a matriarch*. I understand the following to possess these same traits:

- ❖ the Holy Spirit;
- ❖ the Proverbs 31 woman;
- ❖ “charity” in 1 Corinthians 13 (in the King James Version);
- ❖ “wisdom and understanding” of God as noted in Proverbs; and
- ❖ the fruit bearing tree in Jeremiah 17.

Except for the Holy Spirit, all are referenced by “*she... her*”. Also, the traits described are what I know of a woman to exhibit more than a man.

To add to the earlier comments—we, the children of God, Christ’s siblings, the Church... have the Holy Spirit, the Life of Christ, *in us*. Because of His Life in us, we’re able to have the *attributes* (fruit of the Holy Spirit) to carry out the *roles* (the gifts of the Holy Spirit) of discerning... teaching... helping... encouraging... hoping... building up each other in the Body—to *love one another as Christ has loved us*.

In other words, Jesus Christ works in... and through... His Body... His Saints... with *the power* of the Holy Spirit. And, God calls us the *Bride* of Christ... because of His Spirit in us. When we become a *wife* after Jesus Christ returns for His Bride, there’s the language of... *the Spirit and the bride say*...—we’ll also discuss more on this, later on.

Again, to say the Holy Spirit is of the *female gender* is not supported by God’s Word—the Holy Bible. The Holy Spirit is called *He* by the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ. We

are looking at *roles and responsibilities* in context of *Creator and the created*—He is God... we're not. He is *greater* than us.

With this established...

If “evil” (darkness) has:

- ❖ a father (Satan, John 8:44);
- ❖ a mother (*the evil, whorish, foolish, and strange woman—the great whore: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH*, Proverbs, Revelation 17); and
- ❖ children (*sons of the sorceress, the seed of the adulterer and the Whore—the seed of falsehood*, Isaiah 57:3-4)...

...why would there not be children of righteousness, or Light (Ephesians 5; 1 Thessalonians 5)?

What happened when *the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters*? Light came into existence on the earth (Genesis 1). Is there a connection between the Holy Spirit and Light? Seems to me there is. So, if the Father God, who has the final authority like a family patriarch, calls me a child of Light... whom am I also a child of? Hmm...

I have lived defending the honor of a mother.

Shortly after my graduation from high school, my dad was diagnosed with cancer. I chose to quit college and go back to the family ranch to help my parents run it. I didn't do this out of any sense of obligation. It was simply something I wanted to do out of love for my parents. About a year later, my dad passed on. Then, certain members of my family

attacked my mother's integrity and honor. Mom was one of the most giving and straight-dealing people I knew. It was only right for me to stay there with her and help her defend her honor—which amounted to family attempting to break family agreements involving family assets. In the end, my mom prevailed. The declaration of my dad and mom's decades of labor and commitment fulfilled to the family was upheld. I don't regret adjusting my life to have done this.

They could take a shot at me but not my mom!

That being said, I think I can relate to Christ's statement:

And whosoever speaketh a word against the Son of man, it shall be forgiven him: but whosoever speaketh against the Holy Ghost, it shall not be forgiven him, neither in this world, neither in the world to come. Matthew 12:32

You do not attack the character, integrity, and role of a son's mother, period, without facing dire consequences! We can't say Jesus Christ was using this specific context... but, a natural son's reaction would be strong. It does show the Holy Spirit of God is so special... powerful... relevant... that you cannot *discount... discredit... reject... Him... or, you'll be rejected by God.*

After becoming a son in the Family of God... if I had not recognized the presence of a *matriarch role* in the Family... could that have caused "uneasiness and insecurity"? I sure experienced this when my mom was absent—when she would leave home for a trip. Also, single parent children seem to exhibit this because one of the parents is absent... along with that parent's gender-specific *roles and qualities* to fulfill their responsibilities to the family.

The Family, to me, just seemed incomplete—something was missing. I witnessed the union of male and female, dad and mom, in my natural family, but not in my new Spiritual Family. Sure, I recognized the Holy Spirit, but not *fully* in the roles I have described.

Maybe when we're finally able to relate to a family member, the relationship becomes real allowing us to "let down our guard". We now let them flourish in our lives and us in theirs forming a healthy family relationship.

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity! Psalm 133:1

Unity keeps a family, or a group, together. Isn't it the presence and effort of *the matriarch* that strengthens *unity* in a family? Christ talks about the value "of being one" in the Family. This happens because of what He gave us, the children of God. And, as far as I know, what He gave us was His Life... His Spirit... the Holy Spirit of God (John 17, 1 John 4). This *unity* gives us our Family Identity. We now have a *unity* to live in and treasure—to be a part of and serve within... the Family (Ephesians 4, Matthew 6).

That their hearts might be comforted, being knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgement of the mystery of God, and of the Father, and of Christ; In whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. Colossians 2:2-3

3 THE LONG BALL

I don't know of many amateur or professional athletes who don't dream of hitting a "home run". They want a chance of being on the "big stage" one day to win "the big one". Hitting "the long ball" to do so makes it much more special. This is why they tolerate hitting "base hits", for many years in some cases, for this chance.

In high school, I experienced making a last second winning shot. My shot caught only net as it swooshed through the rim cleanly as the game-ending buzzer sounded off. We had just upset the #1 basketball team in our division! Maybe what made it so special was that I was on the "short end of the stick" when it came to basketball talent—compounded with being as "cold as a block of ice" all night with my shots. It either took a lot of trust from my teammates, or they had run out viable of options, but they passed the ball to me for the last shot. It felt good as an underdog to come through—to be viewed as "having what it takes"!

It takes an understanding for the future of the children and children's children... even the unborn generations... to focus the family effort and make the sacrifices seem worth it. You

have to know why you're doing it. When the "why" becomes a "who", it becomes more inspiring and powerful. Outside of that, I believe one is reduced to acting like "the spoiled rich kid".

Many times when I hear discussion about the Family Future, I get more clarity from those in business. They discuss with detail and conviction why they do what they do—what they hope to accomplish in the future. I would have no problem with this, other than I do see the Family Future discussed in the Family History and Constitution (the Holy Bible—Scripture). I do see the detail we can use to communicate clearly to ourselves and the "newborns" of the Family—to educate and remind us of our future. This lack of discussion, I believe, has led some in the Family to be "hoodwinked" by imposters such as... apostates, false prophets and teachers, and the state. They encroach with an "inferior imitation" of the Family Future in attempt to divide and conquer the Family. What is it I'm referring to?

*By faith he [Abraham] sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country... For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.
Hebrews 11:9,10*

Those great Family members recorded in the Family History who have gone before us...

...Abraham... Noah... David... Joseph... the Apostles... the noted "others" of Hebrews 11...

...viewed their life as "*strangers and pilgrims on the earth*" not having received "the Family Promise".

"The Family Promise" described as:

- ❖ *The city of our God;*
- ❖ *The city of the great King;*
- ❖ *That great city;*
- ❖ *The city of the living God;*
- ❖ *The holy Jerusalem;*
- ❖ *The heavenly Jerusalem;*
- ❖ *The bride,*
- ❖ *The Lamb's wife; and*
- ❖ *The Church—the Body of Christ (Isaiah, Psalms, Hebrews, and Revelation).*

In other words, they had not “hit the long ball”, or “won the big one” yet. They lived with “*eternity set in their hearts*”.

*For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come.
Hebrews 13:14*

To show the “inferior imitation” of “the Family Promise”... I’m going to use the following excerpt from The Series Essay, *The Hope of Our Calling...Chosen For an Inheritance...*

Is it by coincidence that Lyndon B. Johnson’s “Great Society”, a “progressive” ideology instituted on the road to the tyranny we are experiencing by government today, was expressed by his following remarks at the University of Michigan?

“The Great Society rests on abundance and liberty for all. It demands an end to poverty and racial injustice... But that is just the beginning.

The Great Society is a place where every child can find knowledge to enrich his mind and to enlarge his talents... It is a place where the city of man serves not only the needs of the

body and the demands of commerce but the desire for beauty and the hunger for community.”

Does Lyndon B. Johnson’s description of the “city of man” sound familiar with God’s description of the “City of God”?

The City of God described:

- *And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. (Revelation 21:4*
- *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: (Revelation 22:3)*
- *And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them.²² They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat: for as the days of a tree are the days of my people, and mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands.²³ They shall not labour in vain, nor bring forth for trouble; for they are the seed of the blessed of the LORD, and their offspring with them. (Isaiah 65:21-22)*
- *The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.⁷ And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox.⁸ And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den.⁹ They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. (Isaiah 11:6-9)*

It seems to me the “**city of man**” is a blatant snub on “*the city built by the hand of God*” simply by the attempt to provide what God plans to, and will, in His city—the attitude of trying to usurp God as Satan thought he could leading to the rebellion in Heaven.

[red lettering & underline emphasis—mine]

If there is no understanding of the Family Future or Promise... one that Family members can articulate to each other with clarity... do we then allow *deceivers* to infiltrate the Family with their “inferior imitation” of the Promise given to us by our Father, *the Family Patriarch*? They hide their intent to steal the Family Wealth with their demands on us. I will elaborate more on this later.

The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy... John 10:10

Where there is no vision, the people perish... Proverbs 29:18

Does an understanding about the Family Future assist in uniting Family members—strengthening bonds between each other? Some families use crests, and some businesses use logos, to symbolize their purpose.

I was born into the Family (I received Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior) while fellowshiping with a very legalistic religion. Until thinking about writing this book, I never really knew why I still experience some deep bonds with people I met while attending this fellowship—it has been years since we have seen each other. Then it hit me, we had a crest representing our future. Added... of course... some of these

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people have chosen to continue to pursue the Lord Jesus Christ—we have a common *love*.

This crest seemed to remind us about our *hope* in the Family Purpose—so much so, that this understanding was a major part of our communication. Together, we celebrated the Holy Days of the Old Testament representing the journey to, and the fulfillment of, the Family’s Future. We sort of experienced a practice run of “hitting the long ball” every year if you will.

Today, I don’t agree with all the beliefs this fellowship imposed—as I said... they were legalistic. I left it having no desire to return... or go to any other legalistic... cultic group. That being said... I will not “throw the baby out with the bath water”—I was saved and learned some legitimate *things* there.

So, the crest was:



...and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them. Isaiah 11:6

Understanding the Family Future helps steer the course of our desires and our lives. We now live with that glint of hope and determination set in our eyes like the athlete training for “the big one”. The sacrifices and preparation for what is to come next become well worth it.

And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. I therefore so run, not as uncertainly; so fight I, not as one that beateth the air: 1 Corinthians 9:25-26

4 IN HOUSE

In *Family Fortunes*, I read about a billionaire family who I had never heard of before. What makes their low profile surprising is that the family founded and controls one of the world's largest retail operations. The point is that some wealthy families shun the public eye because their family is their passion, not public celebrity status. Where have we heard that before—you cannot serve two masters?

*...thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly.
Matthew 6:6*

Yes, I know—what about “*let your light so shine before men*”? We are children of the Light—if we’re living like it, our Light will shine. However, should our intent be to “change” the world? If the motive is honorable, the fruit will be honorable. If the drive “to keep us safe” or “if it will just save one child” were so “good”, there would not be a residual bondage of debt, and loss of liberty, for the beneficiaries and their heirs.

Many of our American Presidents have stepped out to protect us from their declared threats. The side effects have been the destruction of our financial future—saddling us and our

future generations with burgeoning debt, that at this point, seems to be irreversible. (See Appendix)

Withdraw thy foot from thy neighbour's house; lest he be weary of thee, and so hate thee. Proverbs 25:17

He that passeth by, and meddleth with strife belonging not to him, is like one that taketh a dog by the ears. Proverbs 26:17

These are expressions of, “mind your own business”—“keep it in house”.

Long-term debt that cannot be paid off is NOT honorable. It is a result of fear and bondage—over-extending one’s capital or level of productivity. This is not one bit of what I understand the Family to stand for. Our Savior... Redeemer... Lord... Creator... *Elder Brother*, Jesus Christ, paid off the Family debt at the cross. To accumulate debt again... something has to be wrong!

Blessing does not result in debt.

...the borrower is servant to the lender. Proverbs 22:7

...and thou shalt lend unto many nations, and thou shalt not borrow. Deuteronomy 28:12

...Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage. Galatians 5:1

The blessing of the Lord, it maketh rich, and he addeth no sorrow with it. Proverbs 10:22

To get back from scampering off on that trail...

The world does not want Light. I think that's obvious as the world seems to get darker. Is the increasing darkness a result of the Family not stepping up as... *"the light of the world... a city that is set on an hill"*? When I read this in Matthew 5, Christ says we ARE already this—so why the darkness? Is it because *our time is not yet?* It could be.

...that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light... John 3:19

And the light shineth in darkness; and the darkness comprehended it not. John 1:5

I understand internal Family matters such as:

- ❖ talking to our Father (*when thou prayest, enter into thy closet*);
- ❖ our charitable giving (*take heed that ye do not your alms before men*); and
- ❖ the Family governance (1 Corinthians 5-6)...

...are not to be a public spectacle so as to impress—to get an “atta boy” from them.

If the Family starts to live, or accommodate, for public approval like the politician, then Family behavior is modified and compromised. It is no longer recognizable in context of the Family History and Constitution. We cease being true to ourselves as a Family.

It is hard enough to carry on Family business among ourselves with focus, let alone be left open to scrutiny, ridicule, and divisiveness from “outsiders”. They do not understand the Family, or could be intent on destroying the Family. Does this mean we do not act with kindness towards

others? If our Family relationships are healthy and growing... we cannot help but act with gentleness and compassion—this is who the Spirit of our Family is. However, much like a private business that produces a product for the benefit of the public, their internal affairs are kept private.

The aforementioned billionaire family is not sought out and found by those seeking the spotlight. The reason... the family is not in the spotlight. They have been discovered by those hunting for the qualities this family has. By the accounts I have read, this family, who is the Gerard Mulliez' family of France, has not sought out to alter the behavior of other families. Rather, it has been their example of conducting themselves as a family that has inspired others to study and implement their practices.

Investments found mainly in the private sector, not the public, offer large gains. Starting and building a private business, or investing in a private startup as an “insider”, have the greatest potential for phenomenal returns. By the time the business becomes public through an initial public offering (IPO) on the stock market, the “insiders” have already gotten the best deal.

The public at large settles for the “miniscule return”. Their mind is crowded with the noise of the “trivial and frivolous” hocked as the “urgent” by the socialists, politicians, community organizers, entertainers, environmentalists, and false-religions in the public square.

(The earth is destined *to be exchanged like an old garment for a new one* by its Creator. I am not saying abuse it, but use it. I would rather invest in *the new garment*.)

Ads about what is trending, that finance the huckster’s pleas,

stimulate the appetite of the public for more stuff they do not need, nor can afford. Of course, they drag themselves out of bed to a job they hate. They have to—Mr. Mortgage Debt and Mrs. Credit Card Debt are holding them hostage. They became part of the family of debt... learning the habits of debt as Debt's child—Student Debt. After work, they buy the lottery ticket hoping to find freedom. They forget about the stories of those that have hit "pay dirt" only to find themselves back to where they started.

Owe no man any thing, but to love one another... Romans 13:8

They are too troubled and busy to hear the Voice of the Family Wealth.

Wisdom crieth without; she uttereth her voice in the streets... in the chief place of concourse, in the openings of the gates: in the city... Because I have called, and ye refused... and no man regarded... Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer... they shall not find me: Proverbs 1:20,21,24,28

The pursuit and acquisition of the Family Wealth is not a popularity contest expressed through the democracy of the majority.

- ❖ The Family Wealth is revealed by the Family Constitution.
- ❖ The Family Wealth is heard, accepted, and followed by the minority.
- ❖ The Family Wealth does not come from desiring immediate safety and security in lieu of promises made by the Family Patriarch for ourselves, and our children and children's children.

and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there

be that find it. Matthew 7:14

*Whosoever shall seek to save his life shall lose it; and
whosoever shall lose his life shall preserve it. Luke 17:33*

Why wealth by a *constitution* and not popular vote or sentiment?

When panic or euphoria set in with the emotions of fear or greed, the mind is whipped about at their whim. If we have been trained and grounded in the framework of a *constitution*... that has been well thought out, drafted, and owned during the calm before the storm... we default to it when the emotional heat is on. Under pressure, we have the structure to make sound quick decisions that support our long-term interests. Our choices are not controlled by the “flavor of the moment”—we are able to judge whether our thoughts are for us... or lying to us. We are not derailed from traveling towards our promise of reward.

Children, athletes, soldiers, traders, investors, pilots... and yes, even cowboys... rely on a *constitutional* decision-making process (too bad many leaders today do not). When pressed, they remember the... rules... warnings... checklists... systems... lessons... they have learned. Without having time to think through it, they know what to do. They live to fight for another day.

What do you think the reaction of the passengers of US Airways Flight 1549 would have been if asked... “Are you angry that Captain "Sully" did not ask for your “consensus” before deciding how and where to land the Airbus A320 after taking off from LaGuardia?” He had just lost both of his engines... he defaulted to his training and experience... he set the bird down on the river. The crew and passengers... they

all survived. When stepping off the rescue boats onto the banks of the Hudson River... I'll bet... in context of this discussion... to them... *“the process of using a constitution was not just for old fogies”*.

Of course... if we make our *constitution* difficult to change through “checks and balances”, we do not risk jeopardizing our future. The paradox... to act with thought and discipline first allows us to act on impulse later, and not just survive, but thrive in the long-run—act impulsively initially and we lose freedom of choice being forced to act at the will of others.

Reminds me of what Benjamin Franklin once said... if you keep your eyes wide open before getting married, you can keep them half shut during your marriage.

The Family is an uncommon Family with an uncommon Life destined for an uncommon Future. It requires an uncommon focus starting with the private Family Business.

Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world...

For all that is in the world...is not of the Father...

1 John 2:15,16

...and what communion hath light with darkness?

2 Corinthians 6:14

Labour not for the meat which perisheth... John 6:27

5 THE FAMILY BUSINESS

*There is that maketh himself rich, yet hath nothing:
there is that maketh himself poor, yet hath great riches.
Proverbs 13:7*

Starting and running a business is hard because the payoff is not immediate, the sacrifices are great, and there is failure involved in the process. This is not attractive to someone that wants instant gratification, or quick fleeting riches. You have to be willing to take on risk—to live “in want of” the reward of “*desire fulfilled*”. It is the “in want of” that gives us drive—like Abraham looking for “*the City*”.

It’s the profitable and growing family business that provides the wealth for families. If they sacrifice and build for the sake of financial wealth alone, I believe their lives will end up empty. The wealth has to serve a purpose greater than ourselves to be fulfilling.

When contemplating the writing of *The Family Fortune*, I thought out an *analogy* of a business to help me understand and remember “The Family Business”—what is produced from leaders... management... employees to create profit and

wealth for the owner(s). How do we glorify our Father, God—serve the God of Israel (The Father... the only begotten Son of God, Jesus Christ... the Holy Spirit, the Helper and glory of God.)?

From reading *Family Fortunes*, I see a clearer purpose of the “Family Wealth”, which I’ll discuss later. This purpose is speculative... *wondering about...* on my part—it’s not spelled out clearly in the “Family History and Constitution”—the Holy Bible. Our experiences with our natural families show us the model of natural family wealth. Is the purpose of the Family Wealth similar—does the natural family help teach us about it?

What *business* is the Family in?

THE FAMILY BUSINESS

Fruit Growers

(KINGDOM OF GOD)

Chairman of the Board: The Father

CEO: Jesus Christ (King... Lord)

President: The Holy Spirit (Comforter, Counselor, Advocate, Wisdom, Understanding, Helper, Authority and Power to represent the CEO and carry out the Chairman’s will.)

Vice-Presidents/Managers/Field Representatives: the

children of the Father, Jesus Christ's siblings, the Saints, the Church (kings and priests)

Employees: Angels (messengers/servants)

- Produce fruit from the Vine:
Chairman/CEO/President/Employees.
- Bear fruit from the Vine: Vice-Presidents/Managers/
Field Representatives (*Let not your heart be troubled,
neither let it be afraid*).
- "The Promise": The New Jerusalem.. the Glorified
Body... the Wife of the Lamb of God—God's Kingdom of
kings and priests.

¹⁴ And that which fell among thorns are they, which, when they have heard, go forth, and are choked with cares and riches and pleasures of this life, and bring no fruit to perfection. ¹⁵ But that on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience. Luke 8

²⁰ ...and receive it, and bring forth fruit, some thirtyfold, some sixty, and some an hundred. Mark 4

¹ I am the true vine, and my Father is the husbandman. ² Every branch in me that beareth not fruit he taketh away: and every branch that beareth fruit, he purgeth it, that it may bring forth more fruit. ⁵ I am the vine, ye are the branches: He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit: for without me ye can do nothing... ⁸ Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples. John 15

²² But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, ²³ Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law. Galatians 5

THE FAMILY FORTUNE

²⁷ Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid. John 14

²³ Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of life. Proverbs 4

¹⁵ And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful. Colossians 3

⁶ Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God. ⁷ And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4

⁸ By faith Abraham... ¹⁰ For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better country, that is, an heavenly: wherefore God is not ashamed to be called their God: for he hath prepared for them a city. Hebrews 11

¹⁴ For here have we no continuing city, but we seek one to come. Hebrews 13

⁹ ...Come hither, I will shew thee the bride, the Lamb's wife. ¹⁰ And he carried me away in the spirit to a great and high mountain, and shewed me that great city, the holy Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God, Revelation 21

⁸ And I will bring them, and they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God, in truth and in righteousness. Zechariah 8

¹⁸ ...behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy. ¹⁹ And I

will rejoice in Jerusalem, and joy in my people: Isaiah 65

⁶ ...and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. ⁷ Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9

Who is the fruit for?

If we don't have a *hope* beyond ourselves like "spoiled rich kids", this business may seem like a bummer.

To believe *the fruit* will benefit the world-at-large is like giving the "seed corn" to the mob. We watch them devour it. They cannot see beyond filling their stomachs in the moment. Failing to see the "long-term investment value" of the fruit, they destroy their hope for a harvest that will flourish into their wealth. Then, when they are hungry again: *neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you.*

If we view the Family growth as being "capped" in the future, would all the fruit just be for us to pig-out on? If so, we start living like the married couple choosing the life of dream homes, travel, and pleasure... never wanting children. One day the emptiness hits when they realize all they have left are "trinkets". Is the fruit for future generations? Before I reveal too much, let me go on.

I see "wisdom and understanding" in Proverbs as being what

the Holy Spirit provides... who declares:

*My fruit is better than gold, yea, than fine gold;
and my revenue than choice silver. Proverbs 8:19*

Is the Holy Spirit saying that to bear the *fruits of the Spirit* equates to true and lasting wealth—more valuable than what the world views as wealth?

I find it interesting that to bear this wealth in the Family Business we find ourselves with the role similar to what Eve had.

She had the role of a *help meet* (aid-assistant) to the *keeper of the Garden*, the 1st Adam.

Prior to writing this, I always viewed our responsibility as that of a “grounds-keeper”—but I don’t see that now. To show this, let’s look into the history of the Family Business to see how it got started, fell apart, and how the current Family Business became established.

The Family Business of Yesterday

Look with me at Genesis:

And the Lord God took the man, and put him into the Garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. Genesis 2

After placing Adam in the Garden to *dress it and to keep it*, God creates Eve from Adam’s flesh as a *helper*. Eve did not have the primary responsibility of *grounds-keeper* for the Garden. It was Adam who was formed from *the dirt*, and upon receiving the *breath of God*, became alive (a soul) with “life-supporting properties” much like “soil”. From this “soil”

(Adam's flesh) Eve was created.

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... And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam... And the rib, which the Lord God had taken from man, made he a woman... Genesis 2

Remember, *the fruit bearing tree* is called *she* in Jeremiah 17 (see *The Family Structure Chapter*)... so could Eve be like “a fruit tree”?

And out of the ground [“the soil”] made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the ... Genesis 2

I have to admit, a woman is definitely... *pleasant to the sight*.

And, God also said to “the soil” (Adam) and “the tree” (Eve)... *be fruitful and multiply*.

It would seem that only Adam, not Eve, was given the primary responsibility to *dress and keep* the Garden which “the soil” was a part of. This was a role of “maintenance and protection” so the fruit trees in the Garden could bear fruit—so Eve could flourish.

[As a husband... I've come to realize... to be able to lead and provide for my wife, I must first let the Lord *dress and keep* me (*clean up my dirt*... as we'll see later). A leader... ruler... must first be under control... tempered (His *weeds* plucked out... or is it *deadwood pruned* off?) through the power of the Holy Spirit (the fruit of *self-control*... Galatians 5:22-23) before he can lead others.]

Also notice, Adam and the land animals were *formed* (brought forth) from the earth (*the dirt*) while the trees *grew out of* “the soil”. You need soil for a tree to grow. Without soil there is no tree—Eve was created out of Adam (*the dirt* that became like “soil”—*a living soul*).

Man is chiseled and angular (sculpted)—he has an “edge” about him. A woman has gentle curves that are “inviting” and *pleasing to the sight* (as were the Garden trees)! Could this contrast represent that man was “constructed by the forces” of the Hand of God (hey, He was to become a son of a carpenter wasn’t He) in order to “cultivate” the woman with a gentle hand that “nurtures, protects, and supports” (is He not the Son of a Gardener, too)?

God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind... Genesis 1

And out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field, and every fowl of the air... And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground... Genesis 2

The command from God, *not to eat*, appears to have been given to Adam before Eve was created. Did Adam fail to communicate this warning to Eve, or did she just not listen?

Adam neglected his role to “nurture, protect, and support” Eve—his responsibility to *dress and keep* the Garden—the trees in the Garden. This carelessness opened the door for the seed of temptation—the thistle seed of doubt—to sprout. By the time Eve entertained the seed of doubt from Satan of, *Did God really say...* it was too late. Adam had already neglected the Garden allowing “the soil” to support the thistle seedling that had popped up. Adam did not kill “the invader

weed” on sight and Eve nurtured it until she believed, *You will not die*. Her eyes now opened to “the power and charm” she possessed... Adam listened to Eve and his eyes were also opened to... *the thorns and thistles* (anyway, that’s how I think it went down).

Adam could not handle his original role of *keeper of the Garden* so *the thorns and thistles* choked out Life—the Tree of Life... and the fruit thereof. Now, cut off from Life, God gave Adam a new role of...

cursed is the ground [“dirt”—outside of the Garden of Eden]...
Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee... In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Genesis 3.

They were kicked out of the Garden of Eden to no longer tend to the Garden’s soil.

And, on this cursed ground, Eve (the fruit tree) brings forth the children (fruit) of sorrow condemned to return to *the dirt* to rot whence they came from.

Unto the woman he said, I will greatly multiply thy sorrow and thy conception; in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children...
Genesis 3

Her desire was now for Adam... and he would rule over her.

...and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee. Genesis 3

The following are either made from *the dirt* or are dirt itself:

- ❖ Adam
- ❖ The animals
- ❖ The earth (terra firma)

If Adam rules over (has dominion over) Eve, then terra firma (creation) also has dominion over Eve—and Adam for that matter. The dominion they once had... they now lost.

And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion...over all the earth...

Genesis 1

This may sting, but it is not necessarily meant to ridicule, just my observation. Women seem to be inspired and burdened, more so than men, to support the *cause*, or *walk*, to cure... save the... rid the world of... its troubles. She seems to be subservient to the world and its causes. These desires are not entirely wrong on their own merit but their timing is off. I will explain myself later when I discuss what I think “the woman” possibly could be destined for.

Did the failure of the 1st Adam reduce man to a state of *dirt* again?

Having lost the Garden with its fruit orchard and vineyard, dirt was the only asset and inheritance for Adam and Eve and their children, and children’s children. They had become “dirt-poor” farmers! Sorry, I could not resist—you wonder where these phrases come from... well, maybe.

If man was to ever possess “Life” again, the One that has the power to “transform dirt”, Adam’s Creator, had to intervene. Being that the 1st Adam failed at *dressing and keeping* for the 1st Eve, Adam’s Creator had to go beyond just “transformation of the dirt”.

And He did! The Last Adam, Jesus Christ, intervened for the failure of the 1st Adam. Not only did He restore *the dirt* to “soil” but He completed the 1st Adam’s role successfully of *dressing and keeping* “the soil” for His bride—the soon-to-be Lamb’s Wife.!

The Last Adam took the *curse of thorns and thistles* upon His head when the *crown of thorns* was driven into His skull at the cross. As head of His “bride-to-be” (the Church), He took the curse literally on His head for Her. He had now fulfilled the role of removing *the curse* from *the dirt* and “transforming it into clean soil”.

“Clean soil” represents a good heart... a new Heart... the clean and pure *heart of flesh of the New Covenant*.

Man was created from *the dirt* and Christ removed *the curse* from *the dirt* making it “clean soil”. Christ removed the curse from man... making him clean.

The Family Business of Today

Was the curse completely removed in this life? No... today, we have a *heart of “clean soil”* in a body of “dirt” where *weeds* still strive to take over. This is like mixing water and oil—we all know how well that works.

For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other...

Galatians 5:17

Can't Keep A Good Man Down...

Yes, one day our body will return to *the dirt*. And like the title

above of the song by the group, “Alabama”... our heart that was on “foreign ground” will separate from *the dirt*. Our “clean heart of soil” will be reunited with its like kind—a body of “clean soil”... a redeemed body... a body of Spirit... a glorified body.

The will no longer be a mixture. There will be purity... forever... where *the tree of life will bear for the healing of the nations* (Revelation 22)!

Now that the Family Business is re-established, can we relate to it?

From my experience in ranching, I know bare dirt generally grows noxious weeds (a plant harmful to man and animal), which a thistle and thorn bush are. However, soil is “dirt transformed” that is able to grow something beneficial for a man... grass, crops, fruit trees, and grape vines—a profitable business product. If the product is produced without accumulating long-term outstanding debt that cannot be paid off (the weeds... the worries and cares of the world), the business becomes more profitable and the doors remain open.

When we believe on and accept Christ’s sacrifice at the cross, we become part of the Family. Now, our role in the Family Business is *to help* the “dresser and keeper”, the Last Adam, Jesus Christ. The Gardener, God the Father, placed Christ in the garden of our life, as our High Priest, to maintain its “clean soil”—the heart of flesh of the New Covenant. We are the “help-meet” that supports “the word”... “the seed of God”... the Holy Spirit planted in this “clean soil” from which fruit is produced.

...having an high priest over the house of God...having our

hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water. Hebrews 10:21,23

And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption. Ephesians 4:30

Being “a helper” amounts to believing the revelation about Christ and what He has done for us.

...he said, It is finished:... John 19:30

...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. Hebrews 13:5

For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. Galatians 3:26

For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God. Romans 8:14

Beloved, now are we the sons of God,... And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as he is pure. 1 John 3:2,3

A belief that we are a son of God—so we express thankfulness because we know Christ “has rescued (healed) us from the bondage of sin and death”... that we be *filled with* the Holy Spirit and His power. Our Father has provided all the Family Wealth we need for the operation of the Family Business in hope of “the Promise fulfilled”. A thankfulness that squelches out the threats to profitability in the Family Business that come from our perception that we still operate with indebtedness on the books... we’re still in bondage—that we *owe* to the world... our lives.

THE FAMILY FORTUNE

Be careful for nothing... And the peace of God, shall keep your hearts... Philippians 4:6,7

*In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you. Quench not the Spirit.
1 Thessalonians 5:18-19*

And that ye put on the new man... Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Ephesians 4:24,29

Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away. And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares. For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Luke 21:33-35

Our indebtedness to God for our sin (the greatest magnitude possible demanding death from us) has been paid in full by Christ's death at the cross and His resurrection from the grave. We can now get on with our role "of bearing" in the Family Business—the production of a profitable product... the Fruit of the Holy Spirit (a product than nourishes and enriches ourselves and others).

*And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.
Hebrews 10:17*

But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19

and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness. Isaiah 55:2

Our faith now becomes valid by our actions.

For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also. James 2:26

Put in perspective of business accounting:

There are costs associated with producing earnings in business—costs to maintain and grow a business such as operating expenses, inventory, improvements to the business, etc. After these “cost of earnings” are deducted, what’s left is called “free cash flow” (profit). The “free cash flow” can be deposited in the bank for business expansion and to reward shareholders through payment of dividends. With the company’s cash reserves built up over time, along with little or no debt on the books, the company is in a healthy position to “expand its borders” when heightened demand for their business in the marketplace presents itself.

Without cash reserves, a company misses out on the opportunity to build more wealth. In the “trials” of a bad economy, or market in correction, the company that lacks resources and holds heavy debt faces bankruptcy. Now, its assets are sold off at fire sale prices to the company holding cash reserves—the wealthy become wealthier and the fearful and foolish become poorer.

*...Thou wicked and slothful servant... Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.
Matthew 25:26,28*

Correlated to the Family Business:

Christ has covered the “cost of earnings” (the thorns and weeds... cares and concerns of the world... doubt leading to

guilt and shame) daily as our High Priest, forever. The more we believe Christ has already taken care of these “costs”, the greater our “free cash flow” (fruit of the Spirit we bear) because we accordingly do not assume the “cost of earnings”. Over time, we store up these increasing amounts of “free cash flow” in the bank (rewards in Heaven) and dividends are paid to the shareholders...

(our Father is glorified... Christ is worshiped... the Holy Spirit flourishes... and we, as part of the Family, enjoy the blessings of God today in preparation of what is to come tomorrow).

Our bank account of “free cash flow” is reserved for our opportunity coming in the marketplace... *that great city, the Holy Jerusalem*—the Promise.

*And having an high priest over the house of God; Let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith...
Hebrews 10:21,22*

Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble; Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it... the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is. If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward. 1 Corinthians 3:12,13,14

Wait on the Lord, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land... Psalm 37:34

Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father... Matthew 13:43

Those that rely on “easy cheap credit”...

(the flesh... strength of man... self-reliance—the *city of man*... the state... false religions)

...face bankruptcy (ultimate loss) when the “fire” of a market correction (trial... the day of judgment) happens in their lives. They are liable for their “debt” from the “easy cheap credit” resulting in their high “cost of earnings”. The error of building their lives on this “debt”... and not on the foundation of assets and wealth (the Grace of God, Jesus Christ)... become evident—they are cut off from the Family Business and the Family Fortune.

Now the Egyptians are men, and not God; and their horses flesh, and not spirit. When the Lord shall stretch out his hand, both he that helpeth shall fall, and he that is holpen shall fall down, and they all shall fail together. Isaiah 31:3

For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it shall not be. Psalm 37:9-10

But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God. Luke 12:20-21

It appears that the Family Business bank account is also used to acquire assets that are appreciating like real estate (land... the earth) for the Family. These are assets that have been lost through bankruptcy by those that have chosen to be “cut off” from the Family Business.

The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again: but the righteous sheweth mercy, and giveth. For such as be blessed of him

shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. Psalm 37:21-22

And the best part—the state and the apostates (the *city of man*) will not be around to levy larceny rates of taxation and burdens against Family assets to erode the Family resources!

Added value...

Many investors look for what is called a “moat” in a business. This is an “unfair advantage” that a business possesses that the competition is not able to emulate, without incurring great costs, if at all. A moat protects their market share from being eroded by competing businesses... thus, creates additional value for the business.

Yes, religions of the world, false prophets, and false teachers have attempted to copy *the fruits of the Holy Spirit*. Some have in varying degrees of success with their acts of “good works”, “do-goodism”, and *false* signs and wonders. But from my experience, when the “heat is on”... and self-interests or the flesh are no longer served... “the fruit” is exposed as being imitation and rotten. When poked, it releases... *bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking... malice...* bizarre behavior.

We could disagree and say man is generally good and this is not true—but, have we seen “true intensive heat” either? But... it’s starting to *warm up*... more-and-more.

Genuine Fruit... its Love... will withstand “the day of heat” that is coming when... *iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold*. The imposter fruit, however, will no longer produce compassion and “good works”. Its goodwill ceases!

...in the last days perilous times shall come... For men shall be lovers of their own selves... despisers of those that are good... lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God; Having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof:

2 Timothy 3:1,2,3,4,5

There is only one God... one Family... one Family Business... one Holy Spirit and His Fruit born thereof—anything else is a mere copy... a fake. As we have seen and will discuss further, the Family Business not just survives, but thrives, while the competitors become extinct in the marketplace of the world.

Which business would you invest in?

And who said God has nothing in common with capitalism... business... the marketplace... wealth accumulation—that the children of God should not be involved in a “Business for profit”?

6 THE LEGAL ENTITY

Before I talk about the Promise, there is a legal aspect to keeping family assets intact for generations to come such as... wills, trusts, and other legal entities.

These are designed to pass family wealth onto the next generation, and keep the thieves... I mean the state and false-religions... from completely destroying the resources of the family, and thus, the family.

Is the Family Wealth threatened by a thief?

Yes, his name is Satan, *the accuser of our brethren*.

His claims:

- We are still indebted to God.
- We are still slaves to the world.
- We are not worthy to be called Family.
- The Family robe, ring, and shoes are only for the other brother.

- The Father is stingy and hard-hearted and will not forget our blunders.
- The Father likes to see us “sweat and squirm” because we are still “dirt” that yields thorns and thistles.
- The Family members are only out for themselves.
- There is nothing special about family because men are smart enough to provide for themselves by forming a “city of man” to take care of each other.
- A marriage between a man and woman is not really required to produce “a family”.
- Lust... I mean love with an ulterior motive conquers all things.
- No one wants us for we are orphans.

And, I could go on... you get the point... however...

There is a Contract from the Father... “the legal entity” of the Family that fulfills the requirements of the Law of God! It is called *the New Covenant*, signed if you will, by the Blood of the Father’s Son, Jesus Christ, on the cross.

...the days come, saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant... Hebrews 8:8

A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh. And I will put my spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them. Ezekiel 36:26-27

...saith the Lord; I will put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts: and I will be to them a God, and they shall be to me a people... For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more. Hebrews 8:10,12

THE FAMILY FORTUNE

...Jesus the mediator of the new covenant... Hebrews 12:24

*And, having made peace through the blood of his cross, by him
to reconcile all things unto himself... Colossians 1:20*

*...and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all
sin. 1 John 1:7*

*For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one
that believeth. Romans 10:4*

By His Blood on the cross, Christ has ratified this Contract paying off our “indebtedness of sin” to God. Those that believe this, with confession by their mouth, enter into this Contract becoming part of the Family.

*...and their children, and their children's children for ever... I
will make a covenant of peace with them; it shall be an
everlasting covenant with them... Ezekiel 37:25,26*

...the blood of the everlasting covenant... Hebrews 13:20

*...with the mouth confession is made unto salvation...
Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed...
whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.
Romans 10:10,11,13*

No man... no state... no false religion... can nullify the New Covenant and the Family for they are *everlasting*. However, this being said, I think one can be deceived that the New Covenant along with its promises and the Family does not exist. They can disenfranchise themselves from the Family through “unbelief”.

Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God... For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast unto the end; Hebrews 3:12,14

*...hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown.
Revelation 3:11*

The invitation to join the Family, through Christ, is an invitation any human being can accept... or reject—it's a choice we have to make. Christ has already fulfilled “God’s part of the deal”—our acceptance activates it evidenced by us receiving the Holy Spirit. We know this happens because we become *a new man* starting to live as a Family Member bearing the *Fruit of the Spirit* in the Family Business.

...What shall we do, that we might work the works of God?... This is the work of God, that ye believe on him whom he hath sent. John 6:28-29

...for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace; Ephesians 2:15

...but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light: (For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;) Ephesians 5:8,9

7 THE PROMISE

That the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of wisdom and revelation in the knowledge of him: The eyes of your understanding being enlightened; that ye may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, Ephesians 1:17-18

Much of what I am going to talk about here is to ask the question, “what if?” I don’t intend this to be a doctrinal discussion, but more of the question, “could *this* be?”

Preparing to write this book has caused me to look at my relationship to God, more so than I have done in the past, through the lens of a “complete family model” consisting of the *roles* of a father, mother, and children. I have asked myself while contemplating, and during the writing, why delve into “the speculative” if it is not clearly addressed in the Family History and Constitution—the Holy Bible?

I lost both parents by the time I reached my early 20s. Even

a young adult desires to ask from time to time, “Mom, or Dad, what would *you* do about this?” When there is the absence of parents to answer, one must draw on the legacy of wisdom the parents have instilled, or seeks out mentors—but there still remains a “sense of loss”. Maybe this “loss” is what drives the orphan to seek out his “blood”—birth parents. He has to quiet the “restlessness” because his true identity is mysterious.

In my pursuit, concrete answers have not been found to all the questions. Rather, “assurance of identity” is continually confirmed, which broadens, enriches, and deepens my relationship to the Family.

Even though I have talked about “the Promise” in the Series Essay, *The Hope of Our Calling...Chosen For an Inheritance...* and other Essays (see Essay links on the *Appreciation Page* at the end) this is more focused on the Family structure of this Promise starting with...

The Matriarchal Role

This has been a big question mark for me. I can relate with the *female roles* of mother, bride, and wife in my natural physical family and the role of “bride” in my Spiritual relationship to Christ as the Church. But, when it comes to origin of my “new man” and of Christ being born as God/Man, who fulfills *this role...* if anybody?

Christ is without “beginning of days” for He is God... but as the Christ Child, He *waxed strong in spirit* (he grew strong in the Spirit). Though He was fully God, He was also “baptized in the Spirit” before starting His ministry. Does this indicate He had growing to do in a physical sense as well as in the Holy Spirit?

Wait a minute. I thought He was God... so why does He need to “grow in the Spirit”? Was it because He was a “child of the Spirit”... born of the Spirit? I am “a child of God” yet I also need to grow in the Spirit.

Did Christ set an example for us with His obedience to the Father growing in the Spirit of God? Once we receive the Holy Spirit, we are to *be filled with the Spirit*. With any relationship, stagnation will kill it. When the Holy Spirit flourishes in us, it’s described as... *being filled*. This is active and ongoing for us—it’s not a one-time deal.

Did Christ have a mom? Yes, we know that Mary was carrying the *child of the Holy Ghost* born as a man also being fully God.

Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost... she was found with child of the Holy Ghost.
Matthew 1:18,20

We know Christ is the Son of the Father, God. But, He is also known as the *Child of the Holy Ghost* (the Holy Spirit).

In Revelation 12, a woman brings forth a man child, who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron... and her child was caught up unto God, and to his throne. Who is this woman?

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

The same promise of... *to him will I give power over the nations... shall rule them with a rod of iron...* has been given by the Son of God to... *he that overcometh*. When Christ gave

the promise, He said, “As *I received of my Father*”—so it seems He is just sharing this promise with... “*he that overcometh*”.

And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.

Revelation 2:26-27

Since “*he that overcometh*” is a Saint, or Child of God, one might say the Revelation 12 woman is the Church whom Christ shared the promise of... “*power over the nations... shall rule them with a rod of iron*”... with. Furthermore, the Church is also known as a woman—the Bride of Christ.

The Revelation 12 woman also gave birth to *a man child*. If this woman is the Church, then one would be saying the Church gave birth to Christ. Why? Christ is also known as... *a man child... caught up unto God, and to his throne*”.

This would be about like saying the bride gave birth to the husband—that does not make sense. Also, if this woman was the Church and she birthed children... other Saints... would they not be described as... “*her children were caught up*” instead of “*her child was caught up*”?

The Church did not give birth to Jesus—Mary was specifically chosen for that.

This Revelation 12 mystery woman has... *the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ.*

And the dragon was wroth with the woman, and went to make

war with the remnant of her seed, which keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ. Revelation 12:17

Is this *seed* describing the believer in Christ... the Saints—the Church?

Some could say this woman is Mary because Mary had Christ, and through Him, the Church was brought into existence. If this is Mary, would she not be asleep in Christ at this time... yet to be resurrected—like every other believer that has died? This woman is alive and persecuted in Revelation 12. Also, would we, the Church, not be described as “born of Mary” instead of... “*born of the Spirit*”?

And when the dragon saw that he was cast unto the earth, he persecuted the woman which brought forth the man child.
Revelation 12:13

Who could this woman be? Is *she* the Holy Spirit... the incorruptible seed of God... who brought forth Jesus Christ? Possibly... other than to speculate, I don't know for sure.

[When I wrote the 1st Edition, I failed to look at the New American Standard translation of Revelation 12. This indicates the *woman* is God's chosen people, Israel—which I agree... also makes sense. I dug into this in more detail in the Essay... *Turn Out the Lights*. Either way... the Church is grafted into *the natural tree*, Israel (Romans 11). Both have a relationship to God through the New Covenant which is valid by the Holy Spirit's presence in the *new heart of flesh* given to those who accept Jesus Christ as their High Priest... the Mediator of this Covenant—the *only* High Priest over the House of God.]

The children of God, the Father... the followers of Jesus Christ... the Saints... are also known as the “*children of Light*”. Being that the Holy Spirit is *the Life of Christ in us*... and His Life is *the light of men*... could we then say the Holy Spirit is also known as Light? If this is so, besides being children of the Father, God, could we also be known as the children of the Holy Spirit [Light]—also God?

Jesus was a *Child of the Holy Ghost* and Christ describes the children of God as *born of the Spirit*—would that make Jesus Christ, and us, both *born of the Holy Spirit*?

While ye have light, believe in the light, that ye may be the children of light. John 12:36

In him was life; and the life was the light of men. John 1:4

Ye must be born again...so is every one that is born of the Spirit. John 3:7,8

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

[As a side note: I am using King James Version of scripture in this book so the phrase “begotten of” indicates the paternal side of a child while “born of” seems to indicate the maternal side of a child. And in light of the scripture that shows this... without also being born of the Holy Spirit, we are headed for “trouble”.

Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not. Job 14:1-2]

As God and our Creator, Jesus Christ was *without beginning of days*. He voluntarily chose to be *made in the likeness of men*—His creation. Jesus was begotten of the Father, God, as a *Child of the Holy Ghost*. Joseph, Mary's husband, fulfilled *the role* in the natural as a father to Jesus. Mary carried the "Seed of God" to bear Jesus as his natural mother. Jesus Christ was born of both Spirit and flesh to become our Savior... the Last Adam—*fully* God and *fully* man.

Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: Philippians 2:6-7

That which is born of the flesh is flesh; and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. John 3:6

In my case, I was begotten of my natural father, George Lingus, and I was born of my natural mother, Elsie Lingus, as a "natural flesh man". When I was "born-again", I was... *begotten again by the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ... to be born-again... of the Holy Spirit...* as a child of God—a *new man* into a new Family. I am now born of flesh... and born-again with the Holy Spirit—I am a man while also being a child of God... child of Light... with the Holy Spirit. I'm God's creation *sharing in* His nature through the Holy Spirit by God's grace. But... He's God... I'm not.

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy Hath begotten us again...
1 Peter 1:3*

Jesus Christ, as our Savior... our Redeemer, is from the Spiritual Family of God as well as a natural family. I, the saved... the redeemed, am from a natural family born-again

into a new Family—the Spiritual Family of God. The natural family has a father and mother. The Spiritual Family of God has a Father—is there a Matriarchal *role* involved? I don't know for sure. I have just given you my questions and thought process, and at “end of the day”, my reaction may still be... “Huh?”

The Bride... the Wife

*How shall we sing the LORD's song in a strange land?
If I forget thee, O Jerusalem, Let my right hand forget her skill.
Let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, If I remember
thee not; If I prefer not Jerusalem Above my chief joy.
Psalm 137:4-6*

Before I start, some in the Family have the opinion that there is one message to God's chosen people, Israel (the Jews) and one for the Church (the Bride of Christ). This would mean we have been given different promises.

Yes, there seems to be messages directed specifically to God's people... the House of Israel and the House of Judah. However, when looking at... *the promises given to Abraham... the covenants of promise... the Jew and Gentile Saints share in them by Jesus Christ's work of the cross becoming the High Priest over the Household of God—the Church is grafted into God's Household... the commonwealth of Israel.*

Let me share my thoughts from the Series Essay, *The Battle of The War...*

Paul starts out describing that our faith in the cross of Christ sealed us with the Holy Spirit promised to us by Christ (Ephesians 1:13). We were... *without Christ, being aliens from*

the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world... (Ephesians 2:12). Through the cross, we have been granted the peace of God... the Holy Spirit. We're no longer estranged from God's chosen people... His Holy Nation... *the commonwealth of Israel.*

Through the Holy Spirit, we are now grafted into the fellowship of God's chosen becoming... *fellow citizens with the saints, and of the household of God...* where...

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise...

That the Gentiles should be fellowheirs, and of the same body, and partakers of his promise in Christ by the gospel...

But if some of the branches were broken off, and you, being a wild olive, were grafted in among them and became partaker with them of the rich root of the olive tree (NASB) (Ephesians 2:11-22; Galatians 3:27-29; Ephesians 3:6; Romans 11:16-23).

The following sums up what Jesus Christ, our Redeemer, has done for us:

Endeavouring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, one faith, one baptism, One God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all. Ephesians 4:3-6

Now, onto the Bride...

...*Be fruitful, and multiply... Genesis 1:28*

Be fruitful, and multiply—the directive given by God to Adam and Eve. A directive He also gave to His other living creatures. A promise to Abraham of... *That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore...*(Genesis 22:17)—an... *Everlasting Covenant of Peace* (the New Covenant) with the promise to Israel of... *I will place them, and multiply them...* (Ezekiel 37:26).

Is God the God of... *be fruitful, and multiply?*

Adam and Eve were also given the instruction... “*a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh.*”

What does all this mean for us?

We were created with the potential of being children of God—the Bride of Christ. To become such do we have to follow the instruction... *shall leave his father and his mother?* Could this be a description of...

...the process of us choosing to leave behind our “old natural identity”... that of a child of a natural father and mother... in exchange for a new Spiritual Identity—*begotten again* of the Father, God, as a *child born of the Spirit*... a child of God?

Have we completed the process for we are still flesh? I’ll get to that later.

And God created great whales, and every living creature that

moveth... And God blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply... Genesis 1:21,22

Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother, and shall cleave unto his wife: and they shall be one flesh. Genesis 2:24

Okay, so our Identity is also that of a Bride. Seems God created male and female to... *be fruitful, and multiply*. Brides eventually become mothers so would this be any different for the Bride of Christ... the Church?

Consider the process of how life comes into existence and grows:

1. Leave father and mother.
2. Get married.
3. Husband becomes a father—bride becomes a mother.
4. Children grow and mature to repeat the process.
5. Now, there are children's children.

If we elect, as a society, to stay in the *husband and wife stage* without proceeding to the *having children stage*, do we become self-absorbed like “the spoiled rich kids”? Do we become obsessed with expecting God to give us “our bang for our buck” now because we have *no hope* of children and children's children—a Family of Spirit that... *the increase of... there shall be no end?*

Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end... Isaiah 9:7

We could say, “Sure, our children are those that come to Christ becoming part of the Church during our lifetime by our witness of the Gospel throughout the nations.” Does not

God describe the relationship between Saints as... *brethren*... brother and sister? Also, wouldn't that mean the Bride of Christ is also His Children? That seems a little weird in the context of a natural family model I can relate to. But, God is Spirit... His ways are higher than ours—so, I'm really not sure.

[Yes... I'm aware the Apostle John, in the Books of John, refer to fellow Saints as... *my little children* (1 John 2:1). He also refers to himself as... *the elder* (2 John 1:1, 3 John 1:1). Could John be *referring* to—that he was older... more mature... experienced... and, he was giving advice as such... to a younger... less experienced... Saint? Today, why does a Saint read the Books of John—is it not to learn and become more mature? Also... remember *the gender* discussion earlier on *roles and responsibilities*.]

Today, are we a Bride—rather, a Bride-to-be... preparing to become a Wife?

In the natural family, does not the bride first leave her father and mother? And, after the marriage ceremony, does she not go to live with her husband in the same house? Is she now known... officially... lawfully... practically... as his wife?

Did not Christ say to His Bride...

In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

John 14:2-3

If we are a Bride-to-be and not a Wife yet, what about being seated with Christ in Heaven, or that Christ is *the head of the*

Church? I don't know for sure other than God's promises are... *are yea, and in him Amen* (2 Corinthians 1:19-21)... for those who remain faithful.

If ye then be risen with Christ... where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Colossians 3:1

After what I have written so far, I decided to research this subject and would like to share what I found about *Jewish wedding traditions in Biblical times*.

Jewish wedding traditions in Biblical times:

Before the betrothal there is the **Shiddukhin**. This is where the father selects a bride for his son.

- ❖ Abraham selected a bride for Isaac... and for us: *No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him.*

After the bride is selected there is the **Ketubah** which is the written marriage contract. This spells out what is expected of the groom and bride to provide during the upcoming marriage. I understand the bride has the right to reject this contract and proposed marriage even though she was chosen by the groom's father.

- ❖ We have the contract called... *the New Covenant* given to us by the Father and ratified by His Son's Blood. It is a choice of our free will to accept it... or reject it.

Then there is a price to be paid (dowry) by the groom to the bride's family called the **Mohar**, or **Bridal Payment**. These resources are given to the bride so she will no longer be

dependent on her parents. She is to be set free from her old identity—her parent’s household.

- ❖ Christ paid an enormous price for us at the cross:

For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

...know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold... But with the precious blood of Christ.

1 Peter 1:18-19

The Eyrusin—Betrothal (engagement)

To prepare for betrothal, the groom and bride separately take part in a **Mikveh** (immersion). This is a ritual immersion that symbolizes spiritual cleansing.

- ❖ Even though Christ was a *Child of the Holy Ghost*, He was baptized (immersed) to start His ministry... and I was baptized to become a son of God and the Bride of Christ.

After the **Mikveh**, the couple appears in a public ceremony where a cup of wine is shared to seal the betrothal commitment. The couple is now considered married but cannot live together nor be involved sexually.

- ❖ Christ took the cup of wine during the Last Supper before entering into the betrothal commitment (going to the cross).

...when he had given thanks, he gave it to them: and they all drank of it. And he said unto them, This is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many... I

THE FAMILY FORTUNE

*will drink no more of the fruit of the vine, until that day
that I drink it new in the kingdom of God.*

Mark 14:23,24,25

And when the Bride drinks of the cup of wine...

*...this do ye, as oft as ye drink it,
in remembrance of me.*

*For as often as ye eat this bread,
and drink this cup,
ye do shew the Lord's death till he come.*

1 Corinthians 11:24-26

Now that the betrothal ceremony is over, the groom returns to his home to fulfill his obligations to the bride. Before he leaves, he gives the bride a **Matan** (Bridal Gift). This is a token reminder for the bride of his love for her and his commitment to return for her—that he is thinking of her... he is with her in spirit.

❖ Is not the Holy Spirit called the “Gift of God”?

*If thou knewest the gift of God...
thou wouldest have asked of him,
and he would have given thee living water...*

John 4:10

*...out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.
(But this spake he of the Spirit,
which they that believe on him should receive...*

John 7:38,39

Is the Holy Spirit also known as the “Spirit of Promise”?

*...ye heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation:
in whom also after that ye believed,
ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise...
Ephesians 1:13*

Is the... *hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts* (2 Corinthians 1:22)... like the engagement ring?

Those that have accepted Christ's Blood at the cross (the Church... the Bride of Christ—not yet a Wife) have received the "*Gift of the Holy Spirit*". Can we still say the "Kingdom to come"... the New Jerusalem... the Wife of the Lamb... only relates to the House of Israel and the House of Judah—therefore, the "Gift" was only given to them? If we conclude this, that would be suggesting we, the Church, are still orphans because we do not have the "Gift of the Holy Spirit".

The promises of the Holy Spirit... the New Covenant... are given to Israel—the Church, by God's grace, is grafted into to share in them.

The Eyrusin... is a time of "sanctification" or being "set apart". This is when the couple prepares for the upcoming marriage covenant. The groom goes to prepare a place for his bride. He does not build a completely new house—rather, he builds additional rooms onto his father's house. The bride prepares her wedding dress for the big day.

❖ Christ did say... *In my Father's house are many mansions... I go to prepare a place for you.*

THE FAMILY FORTUNE

Christ has completed the work for His Bride as our Savior...

*How much more shall the blood of Christ,
who through the eternal Spirit
offered himself without spot to God,
purge your conscience from dead works
to serve the living God.
Hebrews 9:14*

And He remains as our High Priest...

*And having an high priest over the house of God;
Let us draw near with a true heart
in full assurance of faith,
having our hearts sprinkled
from an evil conscience,
and our bodies washed with pure water.
Hebrews 10:21,22*

*...ye are washed, but ye are sanctified,
but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus,
and by the Spirit of our God.
1 Corinthians 6:11*

We as the Bride... to prepare our wedding garments... are to stand firm in our faith in Christ and His work on the cross—bear the Fruit of the Holy Spirit from the Vine (Christ):

*For as many of you as have been baptized
into Christ have put on Christ.
Galatians 3:27*

Even the righteousness of God

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*which is by faith of Jesus Christ
unto all and upon all them that believe...
Romans 3:22*

*I will greatly rejoice in the Lord...
he hath covered me with the robe of righteousness...
as a bride adorneth herself with her jewels.
Isaiah 61:10*

*Let us hold fast the profession of our faith
without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)
Hebrews 10:23*

*Now the God of peace... through the blood
of the everlasting covenant, Make you perfect
in every good work to do his will, working in you
that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus
Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.
Hebrews 13:20,21*

*...we, according to his promise,
look for new heavens and a new earth...
seeing that ye look for such things,
be diligent that ye may be found of him
in peace, without spot, and blameless.
2 Peter 3:13,14*

The Big Day—the Wedding

The final step before the Wedding Day is called **Nissuin**—which is a verb that means “to carry”. The bride has no idea as to the day or hour when her groom will come to get her. Even the groom has no clue—only the father of the groom makes the decision when the groom will be allowed to go and get his bride.

❖ Christ told us...

*Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day
nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.
Matthew 25:13*

*But of that day and that hour knoweth no man,
no, not the angels which are in heaven,
neither the Son, but the Father.
Mark 13:32*

When the father gives *the green light*, there is a sounding of the shofar. There is a wedding processional to the bride's house shouting—"Behold, the bridegroom comes."

The wedding ceremony starts with the couple saying a blessing over a cup of wine. The wedding ceremony finalizes the promises and vows of the couple.

The wedding ceremony culminates in a marriage supper feast for all the guests. After the celebration, the husband and bride go to their home... that the husband prepared... to live as husband and wife in the full covenant of marriage.

*For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout,
with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and
the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and
remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to
meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.
1 Thessalonians 4:16-17*

*Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the
marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself
ready... And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in*

fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints. Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. Revelation 19:7-9

Wow, I did not expect to find this. I was planning to show how Revelation 19 talks about *the marriage of the Lamb* and *the marriage supper of the Lamb*. This possibly indicated, today, the Church is still an engaged Bride—not a Wife. The *Jewish wedding traditions in Biblical times* relate it better than I ever could have without looking into them.

...for I have espoused you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ. 2 Corinthians 11:2

[espoused G718. Harmozo har-mod'-zo from 719; to joint, i.e. (figuratively) to woo (reflexively, to betroth):--espouse. - Strong's Greek Lexicon]

Christ is a Jew from the tribe of Judah. According to Jewish custom, He would be required to only marry another Jew for he could not marry a Gentile. If this is the case, wouldn't our identity as Gentiles have to change in order to become the Wife of the Lamb of God? We, the Church... the wild olive branches... are grafted into God's people, Israel... the natural olive tree... making us one olive tree (Romans 11). Also, Israel, pre-Exodus from Egypt, was required to marry within the family (see below).

You may be asking...

...if the Son of God, Jesus Christ, is begotten of the Father, God, and a Child of the Holy Spirit... and the children of God, the Bride of Christ, are begotten again of the Father, God, and born of the Holy Spirit... would that make them closely

related?

You could say that. We do have the same Life... the Life of Christ in us... and the life is in the blood. So... another possible way to look at it may be...

Did God use marriage within a family-line of Israel to concentrate the bloodline of the Israelites by the time they left Egypt for the Promised Land? In the Series Essay, *Blood*, I discuss that *The Basis of Line Breeding* by Jim Lents, a book about cattle line-breeding, talks about how Abraham and Sarah were half-brother and half-sister (they had the same father, Terah, but different mothers... Genesis 20:10-12). According to Jim, mating could not be done outside of the family-line of the patriarch, Terah, because the focus was on concentrating the blood of Terah within Israel—it appeared God wanted purity in the bloodline of Israel.

Can you negate the “natural flesh component” of our makeup—Joseph and Mary, for Christ, and our natural parents, for us? That difference in our natural family lines *might be* what makes us like, if you will, the “half-brother/half-sister” scenario. However, all the natural flesh of man stems from the Adam and Eve created by God—so trying to come up with a definitive answer may be like... *trying to find where the east or the west begins.*

I do know with a wife, and time, in the natural family comes...

The Children

In the natural model, children come after the wife has been living with the husband. With the Spiritual, does God keep the same model? If so, who would be the children of Christ

and His Wife, the New Jerusalem—if they exist? Again, this is speculation on my part for I do not see directly where the Family History and Constitution (the Holy Bible) spell this out. The observation just comes from my experience with a natural family—and the natural is created by God.

But, the natural on its own can only stimulate... *wondering about*—it has to also be discussed in the Word of God to start to look at more seriously... and if it's mentioned consistently in similar context... well... that's how *doctrine and faith* are established. We know sin causes destruction... and, the Bible tells us so!

[Since writing the 1st Edition, I've done a deeper study with the Essay... *As It Was*. I discussed *the children... the seed of His servants... the seed of Abraham*—there's also the indication of *children* described as... *And the streets of the city (Jerusalem) shall be full of boys and girls playing in the streets thereof* (Zechariah 8:3-5). Jerusalem is also described as... a mother... *Rejoice ye with Jerusalem... That ye may suck, and be satisfied with the breasts of her consolations; that ye may milk out, and be delighted with the abundance of her glory. For thus saith the LORD, Behold, I will extend peace to her like a river, and the glory of the Gentiles like a flowing stream: then shall ye suck, ye shall be borne upon her sides, and be dandled upon her knees. As one whom his mother comforteth, so will I comfort you; and ye shall be comforted in Jerusalem* (Isaiah 66:10-13). I asked, *is this the New Jerusalem?* See the *Appreciation Page* at the end for the link to *As It Was*.]

Could *spiritual children of God* coming into the Church today be *these* children? In context of what has been discussed and what we will... *these children* seem to be of a *future* tense—along with... *multiply* seems to still apply in the age-to-come. Who are *these kids* mentioned during this age when

the Bride of Christ has become the Lamb's Wife?

To dig deeper...

The 1st Adam named his wife "Eve" which means "*the mother of all living*".

*And Adam called his wife's name Eve;
because she was the mother of all living. Genesis 3:20*

Is... *the Jerusalem which is above*... the Wife of Christ—the Wife of the Last Adam? If so, could the Wife of the *Last Adam* be thought of as... the "final" or "last" Eve. The Bible does not use this name other than the Lamb's Wife... the Wife of the Lamb of God (Christ Jesus). The *Lamb's Wife* is what I will also use.

*But Jerusalem which is above is free,
which is the mother of us all. Galatians 4:26*

Why would Apostle Paul be inspired to say this? Is he saying the Lamb's Wife... the Wife of the Last Adam, Christ Jesus... is *a mother*? If so, what makes the Lamb's Wife a mother?

Can the Church today, the Bride of Christ, simultaneously be the Lamb's Wife... *the heavenly Jerusalem*... *the Jerusalem which is above*... *the New Jerusalem*? If it is impossible to be both a *betrothed bride* and *wife* at the same time, is the current Church a "forerunner" of something to come?

Did the road begin with "*the mother of all living*" and continues on through "*the mother of us all*"?

What gives us the identity as a child of God? Is it not that we are "born of the Holy Spirit"—that we have received the Holy

Spirit? Would it be any different for, if I could say, and will hereafter refer to as... *a child of God through Christ*—a child of the New Jerusalem (the Wife of the Lamb)? Of course, **if** that child exists.

I know I have given “sound bites” of thought because I am “leaping out there”. Along with seeing the “connections” in bits and pieces, this is somewhat difficult to convey—so bear with me. I hope to clear this up as we go.

The Children of the Wife?

I have always understood that after the following events in sequence (Revelation 20-21):

1. The first resurrection;
2. “Those sitting on thrones judging”;
3. The thousand-year reign of the millennium;
4. Satan being released from the bottomless pit;
5. Satan being conquered and thrown into the Lake of Fire;
6. The Great White Throne judgment;
7. Death and hell thrown into the Lake of Fire;
8. And, finally, the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven...

...sin, pain, suffering, death, etc. was “finite, kaput, no más, no more”—never to be seen again.

And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. Revelation 21:4

And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of

THE FAMILY FORTUNE

*the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:
Revelation 22:3*

*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain:
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:9*

And then I saw...

*...mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands... and
their offspring with them. Isaiah 65:22,23*

*The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb,
and the leopard shall lie down with the kid;
and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together;
and a little child shall lead them.
And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp,
and the weaned child shall put his hand
on the cockatrice' den.*

*They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain:
for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD,
as the waters cover the sea.
Isaiah 11:6,7-9*

Wait a minute, did not Christ say... *the resurrection from the dead, neither marry, nor are given in marriage...* (Luke 20:35).

If there is no marriage among the resurrected Saints with glorified bodies, where does this... *offspring of God's elect, the little child, the sucking child, and the weaned child...* come from?

Then I go on to read... *There shall be no more thence an infant of days, nor an old man that hath not filled his days: for the child shall die an hundred years old; but the sinner being an*

hundred years old shall be accursed (Isaiah 65:20).

Did we just read that there would be no more “*curse and death*” in Revelation chapters 21 and 22? What about in Luke 20 I just quoted?

*Neither can they die any more:
for they are equal unto the angels;
and are the children of God,
being the children of the resurrection. Luke 20:36*

If... “*Neither can they die any more*”... how could children grow to be *old men* to... *fill their days*... to die? How can one die if there is no more death? How can there be a “*sinner who is cursed*” if neither the condition of “*sinner*” or “*curse*” is supposed to exist?

Who are these people?

If I say God is speaking figuratively, then how do I choose which part of the description of *God’s Holy Mountain* to discount?

The Lamb’s Wife is described in Revelation 21 and the chapter ends with:

*And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth,
neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but
they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.
Revelation 21:27*

During the age of the New Jerusalem... Eternity... the Lamb’s Wife, why would someone like this even be mentioned if no such being, or person... one that sins... even exists at this point?

In the next chapter, I read that the Lamb's Wife has...

...on either side of the river, was there the tree of life, which bare twelve manner of fruits, and yielded her fruit every month: and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. Revelation 22:2...

...with similar language in Ezekiel.

And by the river upon the bank thereof, on this side and on that side, shall grow all trees for meat, whose leaf shall not fade, neither shall the fruit thereof be consumed: it shall bring forth new fruit according to his months, because their waters they issued out of the sanctuary: and the fruit thereof shall be for meat, and the leaf thereof for medicine. Ezekiel 47:12

I thought, at this point, the Victory of Salvation was all there was in existence. Why is there a need for a tree of life that bears fruit... has leaves for the *healing of the nations*? What do they need to be *healed* from?

Is this... *healed... healing...* just about physical maladies (*the nations* may not have glorified bodies like the Lamb's Wife)... or, is it connected to what the Saints-of-the-current-age understand—that Christ Jesus *redeemed* us from... *healed* us from... *converted* us from... death to Life? He released us from the prison of the grave. (I ask this... because someone may have a clearer answer for the age-to-come.)

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him; and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:4-6

Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree,

that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed. 1 Peter 2:24

He hath blinded their eyes, and hardened their heart; that they should not see with their eyes, nor understand with their heart, and be converted, and I should heal them. John 12:40

*O LORD my God, I cried unto thee, and thou hast healed me. O LORD, thou hast brought up my soul from the grave: thou hast kept me alive, that I should not go down to the pit.
Psalm 30:2-3*

Is it reiterated that “sinners” (the *unhealed...* as we understand of the *unrepentant* man, today) exist on outside of the New Jerusalem... the Lamb’s Wife?

For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Revelation 22:15

And then there is the “invitation” from the Holy Spirit and the Lamb’s Wife... “*let him that is athirst come... let him take the water of life freely*”. Does this sound like the invitation we, the Church, received to begin our journey towards becoming the Lamb’s Wife—to be *healed*?

*And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.
Revelation 22:15*

In the last day, that great day of the feast [Feast of Tabernacles], Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. John 7:37

(As a side note—I believe... *the last day, that great day of the feast* [Feast of Tabernacles]... represents the day, or age, of the Wife of the Lamb of God. Also see the Essay... *Counting Up...* at the link on the *Appreciation Page* at the end.)

If there is no need for salvation... the refreshment of the Living Water... the Holy Spirit... why would this offer... *let him that is athirst come... let him take the water of life freely... be made?*

I know I have posed a lot of questions. I don't have definitive answers for them—but they all express a point I want to make.

Mentioned along with the Lamb's Wife are... *the nations of them which are saved and the kings of the earth—that they walk in the light of the New Jerusalem.* Who are these *nations* and *kings*?

*And the nations of them which are saved
shall walk in the light of it: and the kings of the earth
do bring their glory and honour into it. Revelation 21:24*

John describes *kings and priests* of the Father, God, as those who are washed from their sins with Christ's Blood. Christ promises... *he that overcometh... to him will I give power over the nations... as I received of my Father.* Could we make the conclusion this is indicating the Church... the Saints... from the statement... *he that overcometh the world... is... he that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God?*

Also, Apostle Paul told us... *that the saints shall judge the world.*

From this...

Do we, as the Church—the Bride of Christ... who has become a Wife—appear to be *a king... a leader... a judge* of the world (the New Earth)?

We also know Christ Jesus as the “*King of kings*”.

If the Saints (the Lamb’s Wife) are *kings*—does this title make sense now?

*...him that loved us, and washed us from our sins
in his own blood... And hath made us
kings and priests unto God and his Father... Revelation 1:5,6*

*And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end,
to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule
them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a potter shall they be
broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father.
Revelation 2:26-27*

*For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world:
and this is the victory that overcometh the world,
even our faith. Who is he that overcometh the world, but he
that believeth that Jesus is the Son of God? 1 John 5:4-5*

*Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if
the world shall be judged by you... 1 Corinthians 6:2*

*...the Lamb... for he is Lord of lords,
and King of kings... Revelation 17:14*

If at this time, we are all Saints... the Lamb’s Wife... why would there be a need for leadership, discipline, and judging? We would all know how to live in righteousness—wouldn’t we?

More questions.

Now to the big what if...

What if... the process of birth, youth, adulthood, marriage, children, and death of physical human beings is ongoing in the Millennium (the 1000 year period after Christ Jesus returns for His Bride)... or possibly *forever...* for *Eternity*—with children and children’s children... and so on? What if these people are... *the nations of them which are saved*?

To become *saved... healed...* will each individual have to come to accept Christ Jesus... the Son of David... as their Savior... Redeemer... High Priest over the House of God—just like we, the Lamb’s Wife, did when we became the betrothed Bride? Do we, the now Wife, speak and lead from our experience of having traveled the road before them... as a “forerunner”?

Did we not have to be “born” as a child of God to become the Lamb’s Wife?

To be labeled *firstborn*, does there not have to be the birth of others? Jesus Christ died and was resurrected, as the firstborn... the Saints will follow suit by the power of His Holy Spirit.

If this pattern does continue on... if the Lamb’s Wife bears children of God through Christ, would these children be... the next generation—*the nations of them which are saved*?

...unto the city of the living God,

the heavenly Jerusalem... church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven... Hebrews 12:22,23

Did the road traveled as the Bride... through a dry and barren land of a fallen world... serve only the purpose of preparing us to become “cloud potatoes”? Do all we have to look forward to is strumming a harp all day, all starry-eyed, gazing at the Husband for eternity like a newlywed?

Maybe—but that sounds idealistic.

From experience, our heart tells us a marriage in the “here and now” that never gets out of this stage gets old real fast with boredom, or insanity—it’s called obsessive and compulsive behavior.

Why does God give us the experience of marriage and children—a natural family? Why does God give us experience—through being the betrothed Bride... the children of God... the Church—of:

- ❖ our created gender;
- ❖ salvation;
- ❖ bearing fruit;
- ❖ discipleship; and
- ❖ spreading the Gospel as field representatives in the Family Business?

Is there a purpose?

Does the Lamb’s Wife share “the Good News”—the righteousness... the mercy... the goodness... of God—with “*the nations*” from Her abundance of experience about being the Bride-to-be (of Her now Husband)? Does she do this as a *help-mate* so... *the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the*

Lord... for “*the nations*” to make a decision to seek the Lord—to follow God’s ways... be *healed*... becoming children of God through Christ?

To *declare* the Lord—this was in the heart of... *the man after God’s own heart*... King David.

22 I will declare thy name unto my brethren: in the midst of the congregation will I praise thee. 23 Ye that fear the LORD, praise him; all ye the seed of Jacob, glorify him; and fear him, all ye the seed of Israel. Psalm 22

2 Awake, psaltery and harp: I myself will awake early. 3 I will praise thee, O LORD, among the people: and I will sing praises unto thee among the nations. 4 For thy mercy is great above the heavens: and thy truth reacheth unto the clouds. Psalm 108

2 Every day will I bless thee; and I will praise thy name for ever and ever. 4 One generation shall praise thy works to another, and shall declare thy mighty acts. 21 My mouth shall speak the praise of the LORD: and let all flesh bless his holy name for ever and ever. Psalm 145

[When ancient Israel had a Husband (God), she disobeyed Him... cheated on Him... committed spiritual adultery... by worshiping other gods—idolatry. God chastised her.. He divorced her... she became *barren* of God’s Spirit... His presence.

God’s Temple where He resided was destroyed... the 1st and 2nd Temple—Israel could no longer offer acceptable sacrifices to Him. The body of the Saint became the Temple of God with the presence of the Holy Spirit through Christ Jesus as the only valid High Priest over the House of God. Christ is the only one-time *perfect acceptable* sacrifice to *forgive* our

sins... not *just cover* them until the next sacrifice. That's if we *confess* and *repent* of our sin.

He maketh the barren woman to keep house, and to be a joyful mother of children. Praise ye the LORD. Psalm 113:9

For the first time in history... will Israel finally... *be fruitful and multiply*... that she will not be barren?

Sing, O barren, thou that didst not bear; break forth into singing, and cry aloud, thou that didst not travail with child: for more are the children of the desolate than the children of the married wife, saith the LORD... For thy Maker is thine husband; the LORD of hosts is his name; and thy Redeemer the Holy One of Israel; The God of the whole earth shall he be called. Isaiah 54:1...5

She'll be *redeemed*... she'll bear her *fruit*. What role will the Lamb's Wife... the New Jerusalem... play in all this?

But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all. For it is written, Rejoice, thou barren that bearest not; break forth and cry, thou that travailest not: for the desolate hath many more children than she which hath an husband. Galatians 4:26-27

The LORD hath been mindful of us: he will bless us; he will bless the house of Israel; he will bless the house of Aaron. He will bless them that fear the LORD, both small and great. The LORD shall increase you more and more, you and your children. Psalm 115:12-14

Of old hast thou laid the foundation of the earth: and the heavens are the work of thy hands. They shall perish, but thou shalt endure... and thy years shall have no end. The children

of thy servants shall continue, and their seed shall be established before thee. Psalm 102:25...28

Behold, that thus shall the man be blessed that feareth the LORD. The LORD shall bless thee out of Zion: and thou shalt see the good of Jerusalem all the days of thy life. Yea, thou shalt see thy children's children, and peace upon Israel. Psalm 128:4-6

Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, he shall prolong his days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in his hand. Isaiah 53:5...11

For both he that sanctifieth and they who are sanctified are all of one: for which cause he is not ashamed to call them brethren, Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee. And again, I will put my trust in him. And again, Behold I and the children which God hath given me. Hebrews 2:9...15

(Also see the Essay... *As It Was*.)]

Is this why... *let him that is athirst come... let him take the water of life freely...* is still mentioned, along with the tree of life, in the New Jerusalem?

If "*the nations*"... eat from *the tree of life*... drink from *a pure river of water of life*... that they are *healed*... in the Lamb's Wife, do they receive the Holy Spirit... or are *filled with* the Holy Spirit? Are they now born of the Holy Spirit becoming a child of God through Christ?

[Remember... when Adam and Eve became corrupted with *the knowledge of good and evil*, they were barred from the *tree of*

life...or they would have lived forever (Genesis 3:22-24). In other words... did they still need to eat from *the tree of life* to live forever if they hadn't sinned? It seems that way.

The Saints, today, have been given the *earnest... down payment... of Life* through the Holy Spirit. Then, we seek to be *filled with the Holy Spirit* on a continual basis to grow in Christ... remain faithful... obedient—which *fills us with the Holy Spirit* (Romans 8:12-13). We *need* the Holy Spirit, and by seeking the Lord and His ways, we find Him... but, without the Holy Spirit, we couldn't even *seek*—all to serve the Lord and His Body, the Church.

Only by God's power... the Holy Spirit... can we be sons... children... of God (Romans 8:14-18, John 1:12-13). As we're *filled... we look forward to being raised from the dead... the grave... by the power of the Holy Spirit... the power that gives Life* (John 6:63; Romans 8:9-11; Proverbs 3:13-21; Proverbs 11:30). Again... we *need* the Holy Spirit!

As I mentioned in the *Preface... God's judgment* protects His righteous faithful from corruption by *removing it* from their presence (Matthew 13:41-43; 1 Peter 1:2-5). Was God keeping the corrupted... now sinful... non-repentant Adam and Eve... from living forever—who would also corrupt the Garden of Eden where the *tree of life* is at... *forever*? By *removing the corruption... did man now have a chance of redemption through the coming Redeemer... the Son of David... the Son of God... Jesus Christ? Jesus Christ's blood sacrifice at the cross has done this for the Saint and those who will accept it before He returns.]*

Will not *the nations walk in the light* of the New Jerusalem? Do not the Saints of today walk in the Light... the Light that has come into the world, Jesus Christ"—they walk with His

Life in them... the Holy Spirit... as *children of Light*?

[Was the example set... or was it just for this age—to go to *Jerusalem for power... the Holy Ghost... to witness, both, in Jerusalem and to the nations abroad*—to share the Word of the Lord with them? Notice, it also included... *in Jerusalem*. The Word of the Lord was also to be spread within Jerusalem—also expressed as... *to the Jew first... then to the Gentile...* which the Apostles obeyed described in the Book of Acts.

And, behold, I send the promise of my Father upon you: but tarry ye in the city of Jerusalem, until ye be endued with power from on high. Luke 24:49

And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me. For John truly baptized with water; but ye shall be baptized with the Holy Ghost not many days hence... But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth. Acts 1:4...8

Behold, I will bring it health and cure, and I will cure them, and will reveal unto them the abundance of peace and truth.

And I will cause the captivity of Judah and the captivity of Israel to return, and will build them, as at the first. And I will cleanse them from all their iniquity, whereby they have sinned against me; and I will pardon all their iniquities, whereby they have sinned, and whereby they have transgressed against me.
Jeremiah 33:6-8

Will witnessing continue on in the age-to-come? If so, will it still be in the context of... *to the Jew first... then to the Gentile?*

They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:9

Turn, O backsliding children, saith the LORD; for I am married unto you: and I will take you one of a city, and two of a family, and I will bring you to Zion: And I will give you pastors according to mine heart, which shall feed you with knowledge and understanding. Jeremiah 3:14-15

*To whom coming, as unto a living stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious, Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. Wherefore also it is contained in the scripture, Behold, I lay in Sion a chief corner stone, elect, precious: and he that believeth on him shall not be confounded. Unto you therefore which believe he is precious: but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner, And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient: whereunto also they were appointed. But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light;
1 Peter 2:4-9*

But now thus saith the LORD that created thee, O Jacob, and he that formed thee, O Israel, Fear not: for I have redeemed thee, I have called thee by thy name; thou art mine... Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have

chosen: that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he: before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me. I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour. I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God.

Isaiah 43:1...12

Thus saith the LORD; I am returned unto Zion, and will dwell in the midst of Jerusalem: and Jerusalem shall be called a city of truth; and the mountain of the LORD of hosts the holy mountain... And let none of you imagine evil in your hearts against his neighbor... Yea, many people and strong nations shall come to seek the LORD of hosts in Jerusalem, and to pray before the LORD... that ten men shall take hold out of all languages of the nations, even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you Zechariah 8:3,16-17,21-23

(underline emphasis... mine)

Will God finish what He started with Israel?

What advantage then hath the Jew? or what profit is there of circumcision? Much every way: chiefly, because that unto them were committed the oracles of God. Romans 3:1-2

Again, I ask questions... wonder about... that I don't have definite answers to—but, there seems to be some hints of possibilities. (Also see the Essay... *As It Was*.)]

When... *the child shall die an hundred years old...* as... “an old man that has filled his days”... will he or she, at the “twinkling of an eye”, become part of the Lamb's Wife—to

disciple the current and next generation?

If we say the Holy Spirit is *peace*... and the Holy Spirit is multiplied as described above through the Lamb's Wife "bearing children of God through Christ"... would the increase of the Holy Spirit be *without end*? If these children mature into the New Jerusalem, would not "*without end*" also hold true for the Kingdom of God—the *kings and priests* of the Father, God... the Government of God... the Lamb's Wife?

Would this whole process make the scripture... "*the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end*"... listed in the Family Business page (above) seem relevant?

[Remember the "subservience" comment about "the woman" in *The Family Business* Chapter?

If what has been discussed is possible...

(Keeping in mind Christ will reveal to us... how it will be when He returns—which very well could be different than the... *What if.*)

...would "the woman" (the Lamb's Wife) now have dominion over the creation of the New Earth... as *kings and priests* of the Father God? Would the desires placed in her heart now be fully realized—to lead, teach, encourage, nurture, and build up the next generation of her household?

Would she now no longer be "under" (subservient to) the flesh ("the dirt") but reign over it as a leader in service to the Family?

Has she not been raised from "the dirt"—her old body... the body from God through Adam and Eve that fell to sin? Has

she become “a tree in redeemed soil”—her new Body of Spirit... the glorified body of the Lamb’s Wife... by the Father God through Jesus Christ with the power of the Holy Spirit—bearing fruit like the Jeremiah 17 *tree planted by the waters*. Does She reign as—the Body of Christ... the Church... *the heavenly Jerusalem*—a Body from where *the Spirit and the bride say, Come?*]

We know Satan’s permanent address is the Lake of Fire from where he cannot touch the Lamb’s Wife. However, the Life of Christ was a choice to receive... or reject... for the betrothed Bride... the now Lamb’s Wife. Will the choice still exist? If so, will some in “*the nations*” reject Christ Jesus as their High Priest? Is this why there are... *whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters*, etc... mentioned? If so, is their fate “*the second death*” of “*the lake of fire*”—just like the fate of those not written in “*the Book of Life*” at “*the great white throne judgment*”?

But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death... And there shall in no wise enter into it [the holy city, the New Jerusalem] any thing that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life. Revelation 21:8,27

For without are dogs, and sorcerers, and whoremongers, and murderers, and idolaters, and whosoever loveth and maketh a lie. Revelation 22:15

[Yes... I remember death and hell are thrown into the Lake of Fire at the Great White Throne Judgment—and, this is called the second death (Revelation 20:11-15). There are many

holes and a lot of questions in the ... What if... that we may never find the answers to until Christ Jesus returns. However... asking the question is sometimes followed by the... answer... as God sees fit to reveal by His Spirit through His Word—the Bible.]

Why does Christ say this about hell?

...into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched.

Mark 9:43,44

Is He *also* referring to those in the ongoing generations of “*the nations*” who reject Him? Or, is He *just* referring to Gehenna where the unsaved dead go today, and will be sentenced to the Lake of Fire at the Great White Throne Judgment for *an eternal damnation and torment*? They have rejected the atoning blood sacrifice of the Son of David... the Son of God... the Lord Jesus Christ—there’s no getting out, forever (Revelation 14:9-11; Isaiah 66:23-24; Jude 1:11-13).

If He is also referring to *ongoing* generations... will “*the nations*”... with their children and children’s children continuing on for eternity... be able to choose... or reject... the heart of the New Covenant—like we, the Lamb’s Wife, did?

Choice—Adam and Eve had it... we have it... but, Satan attempts to *manipulate* our *choices*. Even though he’s locked up at the end of this age until the end of the Millennium, when he’ll be *rendered powerless* and is *destroyed* for Eternity, will the future generations still have a... *choice*?

However it works out... it seems like *eternal destruction* will be a *motivation* to choose *the Lord*—as it is for us... today.

23 And it shall come to pass, that from one new moon to another, and from one sabbath to another, shall all flesh come to worship before me, saith the LORD. 24 And they shall go forth, and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh.

Isaiah 66

The Father of us all...?

Abraham was listed at the start of the Lord Jesus's human lineage making Christ known as... *the son of David, the son of Abraham... the seed of Abraham.*

The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of David, the son of Abraham. Matthew 1:1

Abraham was given, by God, "the Promise" of: "*thou shalt be a father of many nations*"... "a seed as innumerable as the stars in the heavens and the dust of the earth". Is the growth of Abraham's seed "capped" from Genesis through Christ's return into the Millennium and possibly onto Eternity?

If the answer is... *yes*... what does... "*so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered*"... used to describe *the Promise* mean?

If the answer is... *maybe not*... would... *the increase of without end*... for the world to come discussed previously possibly be relating to this?

...my covenant is with thee, and thou shalt be a father of many nations... thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of many nations have I made thee. Genesis 17:4,5

And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth: so that if a man can number the dust of the earth, then shall thy seed also be numbered. Genesis 13:16

...Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. Genesis 15:5

He shall cause them that come of Jacob to take root: Israel shall blossom and bud, and fill the face of the world with fruit. Isaiah 27:6

The Promise... also known as “*heir of the world*”... was also given to Abraham and his seed who is Christ. If we are in Christ, then we, the Church... the Bride of Christ... are also Abraham’s seed. As Abraham’s seed, we are given the same Promise of “*heir of the world*”—we are *joint-heirs with Christ*. Does not being an “heir” mean we are waiting, or are in line, to receive what is promised? If you recall, Abraham and “the others” of Hebrews Chapter 11 lived and died hoping for, but not having received, “the Promise”—*the Promise* known as:

- ❖ *The city of the living God;*
- ❖ *The holy Jerusalem;*
- ❖ *The heavenly Jerusalem;*
- ❖ *The bride, the Lamb's wife; and*
- ❖ *Church of the firstborn.*

If Abraham is waiting, would that not make sense Christ and His Church are also waiting for this Promise of... “*heir of the world*”?

...to Abraham and his seed were the promises made... as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ. Galatians 3:16

For the promise, that he should be the heir of the world, was not to Abraham, or to his seed, through the law, but through the righteousness of faith. Romans 4:13

There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise. Galatians 3:28-29

...we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ... Romans 8:16,17

What could “heir of the world” possibly mean...

Abraham is called “*the father of us all*”... “*a father of many nations*”.

Therefore it is of faith, that it might be by grace; to the end the promise might be sure to all the seed; not to that only which is of the law, but to that also which is of the faith of Abraham; who is the father of us all, (As it is written, I have made thee a father of many nations,)... Romans 4:16,17

Jesus Christ is the seed of Abraham—so could Christ also be known as: “*the father of us all*”... “*a father of many nations*”?

Before you cringe at me saying this, remember... Abraham, by faith, had a son, Isaac, of the free woman, Sarah.

Then... Isaac begat with generations continuing on to bear the “seed of Abraham”—Jesus Christ.

Then... the Father, God, allowed Christ to shed His Blood at the cross to ratify the New Covenant. He provided His creation of man *the pure heart of flesh of the New Covenant*—

where the Holy Spirit lives.

Those that believe and accept Christ's sacrifice at the cross become children of God... the Church... the Bride of Christ... *the church of the firstborn*. This Church then becomes the Lamb's Wife... *the heavenly Jerusalem*... with Christ's return.

Now... in context of my speculation of "the Lamb's Wife possibly bearing children of God through Christ"...

Apostle Paul was inspired to say, "*The Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all.*" Is there a connection, or relevance, between... "*the father of us all*" and "*the mother of us all*"?

If so, who are the "*all*"?

Are the "*all*" the "world to come"—"*the nations*" with their children and children's children continuing on for eternity—"*the increase of... there shall be no end*"?

If so...

...could that make Christ Jesus (the Lamb of God) and His Wife (the Lamb's Wife... the New Jerusalem) the "heir of" and "the father and *mother* (having the role of)" for... the world... *the nations*.?

Whoa—I give pause saying that... but it makes me wonder!

[Is the name... *Father*... included in the name of Christ Jesus?

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be

called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

And I will clothe him with thy robe, and strengthen him with thy girdle, and I will commit thy government into his hand: and he shall be a father to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah. And the key of the house of David will I lay upon his shoulder; so he shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open. Isaiah 22:17...25

His foundation is in the holy mountains. The LORD loveth the gates of Zion more than all the dwellings of Jacob... And of Zion it shall be said, This and that man was born in her: and the highest himself shall establish her. The LORD shall count, when he writeth up the people, that this man was born there. Selah. Psalm 87:1...6

(underline emphasis... mine)

(Also see the Essay... As It Was.)]

Could we possibly say Abraham and Sarah were like an “intermediary Adam and Eve”? Were they the “restart button” that ushered in the Last Adam and His Wife (the Lamb’s Wife) from “the lost generation” of the 1st Adam and Eve?

For the LORD is good; his mercy is everlasting; and his truth endureth to all generations. Psalm 100:5

Thus saith the Lord GOD; In the day that I shall have cleansed you from all your iniquities I will also cause you to dwell in the cities, and the wastes shall be builded... And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. Then the heathen that are left round

about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. Ezekiel 36:33...38

Break forth into joy, sing together, ye waste places of Jerusalem: for the LORD hath comforted his people, he hath redeemed Jerusalem. The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. Isaiah 52:6...15

Christ Jesus is... *The Everlasting Father* from Abraham, the *father of us all*—His Bride is... the Lamb's Wife... the New Jerusalem... the Heavenly Jerusalem known as *the mother of us all*... from Isaac born of Sarah. Did they come through Abraham and Sarah for the... “the next generation”?

...Abraham had two sons, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman... he of the freewoman was by promise... Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants... But Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all... Now we, brethren, as Isaac was, are the children of promise... So then, brethren, we are not children of the bondwoman, but of the free. Galatians 4:22,23,24,26,28,31

I don't particularly like posing so many questions, but as I've said, this is a speculative... *What if?*...

I'm going off of what I have experienced to understand and know. For me this is...

- ❖ the natural family model of marriage between a man and woman that begets and bears children; and
- ❖ the Family... the Church... the Bride of Christ, who exists today.

- ❖ The *pattern*... the repeat of... how God has... *created man in his own image... after [His] likeness... male and female... to... be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the animals*] (Genesis 1)—how Adam... Noah... Abraham... Jacob... David... Joseph... Jesus... and mankind have arrived at... *today*. Will it be the same *pattern* for... *tomorrow*... and possibly for... *eternity*?

Does “*I make all things new*” in Revelation Chapter 21 mean that God, at the end of this age, crumples up the family model like a wad of newspaper to discard it—never to be used again?

God... who has an intent and purpose for His creation—who completes what He starts.

So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.
Isaiah 55:8...13

He created the family model... and our present relationship with Him is within its context. It seems possible our future described in the Bible is, too.

The following was written to address *the evidence* of God’s will:

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1

Evidence is converted to belief and action by faith because... faith is not blind. It requires “substance” and “evidence” to validate *hope*. It was said of the *Heroes of Faith*...

...not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off... were persuaded of them, and embraced them...

Hebrews 11:13

Upon seeing the “evidence”, the *Heroes of Faith* embraced their *hope* and... now, we read about their *actions* in the Holy Bible.

Is the Family... and the family (recognition of their existence and value... the experiences of) the “substance” and “evidence” of our future... our *hope*—the blessed hope?

...waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body... But if we hope for that we see not, then do we with patience wait for it. Romans 8:23,25

Of course, Abraham had the patience—he must have been anticipating something great!

[I don't *completely* understand... *what is to come*. I'm not a Jew... an Israelite... by natural birth—I'm a Gentile of mostly Greek and Spanish descent. I'm not a natural “insider” but have been grafted... adopted... in by Christ Jesus.

What I understand comes from the Holy Spirit through Bible—the Old Testament and its Prophets... the New Testament and its Apostles—along with today's sound teachers. All—the Saints... the servants... of the Lord led by the Holy Spirit. And, also what I experience in life that agrees with God's Word. I continue to learn and correct error as needed

(I discuss some of this in the Appendixes of the Essay... *As It Was*.)]

8 THE NEXT GENERATION

I was taught about preparation for the next generation from the actions of my paternal granddad and my parents—actions of “storing up for the lean day”. In reading *Family Fortunes*, I saw the same principles discussed. Even though some families have wealth, they are content to avoid the spin masters of the media, live in modest homes, drive average automobiles, and wear common clothes. They still seem to make sacrifices after accumulating wealth. The typical reaction from an “outsider” is, “Why deny the self?”

The answer is simple: their passion is the next generation.

They have *a hope* for the future of their family, and they believe their sacrifices are worthwhile. They turn their focus from themselves to the future of their children—and children’s children... even to the yet unborn generations.

For the last few years, I have listened to the viewpoint within the Family that if you trust and focus on grace, your business or finances should flourish, your health should be restored,

and losses recovered. This is not a ridicule of those desires. Who doesn't want to see those things happen in their life? That being said, how do you find relevance in the circumstance when your health has not been restored, the business venture still struggles, the finances are challenged, and the encroachment of age is still advancing upon the body?

Then I hear, "Be patient, be thankful, and make sure you are doing... (this thing or that thing)." Ultimately, this just makes me feel like a 2nd class Family member who is just somehow "missing it"... reinforced by the testimonies of those claiming to be "making it".

I start to question, "What is it that I am not doing?"

Then I notice many of the men I hear are like me (more so now with the writing of this 2nd edition). Their hair is getting thin—the pot belly is showing up—glasses are pulled out, or the eyes squint, in order to see—and, the skin continues to wrinkle.

I then contemplate:

- ❖ Abraham died with desire unfulfilled.
- ❖ David died with desire unfulfilled.
- ❖ The writers of the New Testament also died in ways we would prefer not to discuss—with desire unfulfilled.

So I ask, "What is there to be desirous of?"

When there is no family purpose to guide the direction of the family... or they could care less about one... the heart and minds of family members can become set on the "opulence of the now". Their intent is now set on burning through the

family wealth. They leave the minimum, if anything, for the next generation. Why not? There is really no inspiration for the family's future other than living it up now. "Eat and drink for tomorrow we die."

With boredom from lack of a family purpose, family wealth morphs into the "weird":

- ❖ The modest home designed for simplicity and comfort turns into complex mansions, or estates, spread across the land where the threat of theft chokes out peace of mind from one's life.
- ❖ Practical transportation turns into the Lamborghini to attract the babes.
- ❖ The desire for a family turns into lust to bed the babes for a "quick hit" of pleasure.
- ❖ Simple food turns into the obsession with pairing flavors to tantalize the palate.
- ❖ A view of the countryside is exchanged for a paint splattered canvas, or twisted metal, called "modern art".
- ❖ Enjoying and using God's created natural resources turns into fear manifested in the form of conservation and protectionism leading to the loss of the resources anyway—for if we don't use them, somebody will!
- ❖ Living life turns into the obsession with finding the "fountain of youth" because of the fear of death.
- ❖ The "good life" becomes boredom leading to the hopelessness of "diminishing returns" in the world of drugs and alcoholism.

The sleep of a labouring man is sweet, whether he eat little or much: but the abundance of the rich will not suffer him to sleep. Ecclesiastes 5:12

When thou sittest to eat with a ruler... Be not desirous of his dainties: for they are deceitful meat. Proverbs 23:1,3

Before you think I have a “burr under my saddle blanket”... we have someone in the Family that lived a life of “diminishing returns”. His conclusion was:

*Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity... the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man.
Ecclesiastes 12: 8,13*

Was this his way of saying... *get a life, the Life of Christ—catch the Family blessed hope?*

We do not like to talk about, or will attempt to explain away, the admonitions of those Family members that have gone before us.

...having food and raiment let us be therewith content... But they that will be rich fall into temptation and a snare... into many foolish and hurtful lusts, which drown men in destruction and perdition. 1 Timothy 6:8,9

... give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with food convenient for me: Lest I be full, and deny thee, and say, Who is the Lord? or lest I be poor, and steal, and take the name of my God in vain. Proverbs 30:8,9

...for I have learned, in whatsoever state I am, therewith to be content... both to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. Philippians 4:10,12

Yes, God loves us... God provides for us... He answers our prayers... He wants the best for our lives—He has a future

planned for us. It should not shock us if we experience some discomfort in the, if we could say, “engagement period” of the bride.

It’s not unusual for a bride-to-be to act like a spoiled child—dreaming of having *the perks* of a family one day. Discipline and teaching prepare her to become the wife... who lives like an adult taking her family seriously.

For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.
Jeremiah 29:11

For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not? Hebrews 12:6-7

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
2 Corinthians 4:17

The engaged bride is not given access to all of the family wealth. There is a *trial period* to confirm her intentions on becoming part of the family—to be trusted with their wealth.

From personal experience, the engagement period can be a time of “testing” the relationship—the commitment to each other. If successful, you reach the wedding day. If you are really sure, you say... “I do.” Then legacy is born and history is made.

Up until then, there is “the dance” of the test.

Is not our relationship to Christ as the Bride of Christ... the

Church... right now, “under review”?

My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations... that the trying of your faith worketh patience... that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.
James 1:2,3,4

And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers;... For the perfecting of the saints... Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ:
Ephesians 4:11,12,13

For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure... Do all things without murmurings and disputings: That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;
Philippians 2:13-15

To interject here, there may be some saying, “What about the Church having all authority because Christ does, and as He is in Heaven, so are we on Earth?”

We’ve been given gifts of the Holy Spirit to use today... as He sees fit—and, we’re asked to be part of the administration of the Family Business.

On the other hand...

- ❖ try and walk through a wall;
- ❖ jump off of a cliff;
- ❖ transport your body at thought;
- ❖ have all miracles happen at the instant you speak;

- ❖ choose not to eat or drink for very long; and
- ❖ last—if I would wind up and punch you, I would probably draw blood and it would hurt both of us.

My point, we live in a fallen world with imperfect bodies of flesh—we make mistakes. We still have some ground to cover—really, “the dirt” to leave behind... to receive our inheritance of “all things”.

Today, there may be some experiences during the “engagement period”, like...

- ❖ failure;
- ❖ the struggle of relationships;
- ❖ health problems;
- ❖ financial problems;
- ❖ the cold or the heat;
- ❖ the aches and pains; and
- ❖ the blurriness...

...it seems to be different for everyone.

These experiences lead us, through the power of the Holy Spirit, to learn...

- ❖ what Christ has done for us;
- ❖ that He is trustworthy;
- ❖ that we were created to be the Family with a purpose;
- ❖ and how to live as Family members.

For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us. Romans 8:18

I see the purpose of the “under review” time experienced

during the betrothal for proving to ourselves what we really have—what we *hope* for! That we really believe what we say we do—our words translate to our actions expressing our faith.

...but we glory in tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience; And patience, experience; and experience, hope: And hope maketh not ashamed... Romans 5:3,4,5

That the trial of your faith... be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ... Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls. 1 Peter 1:7,9

If I were the patriarch of a family where my son's bride-to-be *tears it up* like a *real wild child*, I would send the matriarch of the family to enlighten her, literally—about the family and its interests. I would also want to protect her from the danger of those attempting to dissuade her from becoming part of the family.

Say unto wisdom, Thou art my sister; and call understanding thy kinswoman: That they may keep thee from the strange woman, from the stranger which flattereth with her words. Proverbs 7:4-5

“For the joy that was set before him”... what was this joy?

Is the joy the anticipation of His Life with His Wife?

This is expressed in the natural by the spark in the eyes of the bride and groom—the “fire of desire” for what is to come. Did those of the “hall of faith” in Hebrews sojourn... *for the joy that was set before them?*

...who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross,

despising the shame... Hebrews 12:2

As an engaged bride is not entirely “one” with her finance—we, as the Church, have not completed “oneness” with, or thoroughly know, Christ. By this... I mean we have not beheld Him, or the Father, face-to-face, nor have we taken on His Glorified Body. Yes, Christ is in us through God’s Gift of the Holy Spirit—the engagement ring. However, we still live with the “*hope of Glory*”... “*eternity set in our hearts*”—dreaming of one day “*hitting the long ball*”.

...at the appearing of Jesus Christ: Whom having not seen, ye love... 1 Peter 1:7,8

For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. 1 Corinthians 13:12

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

...Christ in you, the hope of glory... Colossians 1:27

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus... Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body... Philippians 3:13-14,21

Could it not be said better? If you have been married for awhile... and think back... the engagement period was really like looking *through a glass, darkly*.

Why go through betrothal?

In a good marriage that has matured, a husband has “faith and trust” in his wife with the wealth and legacy of their family. In accepting his last name, she has witnessed:

- ❖ her household thrive and mature under his leadership and protection (the role to “*dress and keep the garden*”);
- ❖ the children she has bore “in his name” mature into fine young adults getting married and having their own children (the next generation);
- ❖ the family wealth is providing for and flourishing her and her husband’s children and children’s children (even the unborn generations);
- ❖ the praises to her from her family of... “*Well done, good and faithful servant... I will make thee ruler over many things*”; and
- ❖ the family legacy expand the borders into new territory.

The heart of her husband doth safely trust in her... She will do him good and not evil all the days of her life.

Proverbs 31:11,12

She looketh well to the ways of her household... Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her. Proverbs 31:17,28

The Family has become “at one” because they have come to realize their... *purpose*... for the Family is the same. They understand and “know” what the Family is about now—“*the increase of... there shall be no end*”.

And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. John 17:3

I know this sounds idealistic—but “the Promise of Abraham” also sounds idealistic.

*And I will make thy seed as the dust of the earth...
Genesis 13:16*

And Abraham believed!

...Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Romans 4:3

And, if we do... it's called our... *blessed hope.*

Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world; Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ; Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. Titus 2:12-14

9 THE FAMILY WEALTH

What is family wealth and what is it used for? With our natural families, a common source of family wealth is a family business. The wealth is used for the growth of the family business itself. It is also invested in order to provide the resources for current and future family growth building a family legacy. If there is long-term debt accumulated that cannot be paid off, the family starts to dwindle away and their legacy disappears.

A few years ago I recognized traditional wealth accumulation could be a losing battle. At the time I did not know if my thought was based on wisdom or foolishness. It was not the act of acquiring that makes wealth accumulation so unfruitful—but rather the act of theft. Since then, I have had my thoughts confirmed as wisdom by understanding the vehemence of “the state”... and false religions... against the private family’s existence.

Those positioning themselves to power and wealth on the backs of the majority... we could say they’re just greedy and

self-absorbed. Or, it is corruption from a *seed* that has sprouted as—*open-mindedness*... leafing out into *suggestion*... bearing the fruit of *accusation*... ripening into *persecution*—the *seed of darkness* with its fruit.

Why the hatred?

As I have said, God does, and intends to, provide for His people.

The fruits experienced of the *unseen Power*, God, are a constant reminder of the depravity of the *current seen weakness* of man rejecting God's offer to him of *the city of the living God*. Man's frailty is the indicator of the finality of the *day of death* bearing down on his existence. With *no hope*, he will stake the lives of others in the fight against this approaching darkness in an effort to preserve himself and his treasure. He does not realize what he defends is the very darkness itself known as the... "city of man".

Those that have confiscated power through the state and false religions—worship "the city of man". Like a cancer, "the city of man" will convince the majority to support "her" by operating *under the surface*. Then one day "she" arises having consumed the *wealth of the masses*. Now depleted, the masses... the host... *the world*... dies!

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.

2 Corinthians 4:18

Thus saith the Lord; Cursed be the man that trusteth in man... whose heart departeth from the Lord... he... shall not see when good cometh... Jeremiah 17:5,6

Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish. Psalm 146:3-4

Blessed is the man that trusteth in the Lord, and whose hope the Lord is. For he shall be as a tree planted by the waters, and that spreadeth out her roots by the river, and shall not see when heat cometh, but her leaf shall be green; and shall not be careful in the year of drought, neither shall cease from yielding fruit. Jeremiah 17:7-8

I use “she” to describe “the city of man”.

I believe “she” is “the strange woman”, “the adulteress”, and “the harlot”—that the Holy Spirit has the *role of warning* the Family about—described in Proverbs. “She” is “the whorish woman” that seduces the hearts of men leading them away from the Family as a bull led to slaughter.

With her much fair speech she caused him to yield, with the flattering of her lips she forced him. He goeth after her straightway, as an ox goeth to the slaughter...
Proverbs 7:21,22

When “the city of man” has lusts that can no longer be financed by the labor of the majority, she borrows from them by issuing a promissory note. They accept the trade of their labor for this note because she has seduced them into believing she loves them. They think she has their best interests in mind by saving some of their “wealth” (really, the sweat of their brow—their labor) on their behalf to return to them on the day they grow too weary to “provide for themselves” (really, provide labor for “the city of man”). When they come to realize she had no intentions on paying them

back... they protest. Her façade is exposed—the promissory note is a fiat currency backed with nothing of value.

Value! What Value?

The “city of man” treasury is depleted as the vanity of the beauty she once had. It’s too late. The wealth of the majority, like their labor, has already gone down the river.

The protest of the masses is answered by the crack of the whip she holds in her hand.

To add insult to injury... their labor purchased the whip!

Having already succumbed to her “charms”, at the lashing, they open the door to their private sanctuaries allowing her to grab any gold she may find. If their sanctuary has none, she has already compensated herself by increasing her own line of credit from them (setting lines of credit: a prerogative of the lender, not the debtor).

How has she done this?

First, she suppressed interest rates by printing copious amounts of promissory notes at her will—not at the will of the lender... the savers and investors. Now, she would not have to pay usury to the savers and investors from which she has borrowed (or is it stole) from.

Her manipulation policies then snap back like a rubber band causing inflation. This reduces the real value of the promissory notes held in the banks, mattresses, and coffee cans—on top of the declared value of outstanding debt she owes to the people.

No longer able to pay their bills, they close their businesses and lose their homes. She has taken their treasures.

She has found multiple ways to steal from them.

To conceal her lusts, she resorts to accusing the productive as being greedy, stingy, and criminal for attempting to hold onto the fruits of their labor. In her eyes, this justifies her violation of humanity.

[Of course, the false religions—MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH—the false church... produces the same *rotten fruit* through the social gospel... attempting to *save the world* and all that's in it.]

...and your labour for that which satisfieth not? Isaiah 55:2

Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal. Matthew 6:19

The uncommon Family... “the city of the living God”... requires a different form of wealth to exist, grow, and thrive into becoming a legacy. I call this wealth “the other Gold”... also known as... *the gold tried in the fire*.

There is no debt, long or short term, associated with “the other Gold” for it has been paid-off, “once and for all”—forever! It is not subject to rust, rot, or depreciation. It cannot be inflated to worthlessness!

Why?

The value of “the other Gold” is based on the Family Treasury

which is overflowing with true solid wealth called the Grace of God through Jesus Christ. “The other Gold” is not hid in a sanctuary made of stick, stone, or mortar. Rather, “the other Gold” occupies a sanctuary made of flesh called the “pure heart of flesh of the New Covenant”. This sanctuary is “the most inner room” (the vault) of the Temple of God on Earth—the body of the child of God... the Body of Christ... the Bride of Christ—the Church.

I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich... Revelation 3:18

*But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us.
2 Corinthians 4:7*

...lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven... For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. Matthew 6:20,21

Yes, presently “the other Gold” is at risk of raids, or theft. However, “the other Gold”—like those “*certain unalienable Rights endowed all men by their Creator*”—cannot be taken by force. Rather, it is given up by the will of the possessor when he negligently allows entry of the thieves into his *vault*.

Those that stave off the thieves of Satan and the world—attacking in the form of “doubt”... leading to “fear”... resulting in “sin”—continue to deposit the “returns of bearing fruit” from “the other Gold” into the Treasury of Heaven. These deposits are “saved” and “insured” by the Bridegroom of the Bride to bring with Him on the day they will meet again in marriage. Then she, as the Lamb’s Wife, will have complete access to and use of the Family Wealth.

Keep thy heart with all diligence; for out of it are the issues of

life. Proverbs 4:23

But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end... lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:6,13

That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures. Proverbs 8:21

And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance... Colossians 3:23,24

He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be his God, and he shall be my son. Revelation 21

Which is worthy of pursuit as an investment for building lasting wealth... gold or... “the other Gold”?

Throughout history there has been much manipulation, deception, and atrocity carried out by men from the mistake of believing that the possession of one gold is an indicator of the possession of the other. That being said...

What is “the other Gold”?

It is Faith expressed by, “*It is finished*”, leading us to the Life of Christ—the Holy Spirit. This Life is the foundation of “the city of the living God”—the Wife of the Lamb of God. It is the Gift of God released and given by the permission of the Father through the “once and for all” Atonement Sacrifice Blood of His Son, Jesus Christ—when Christ willingly laid down His Life at the cross. A Gift of “the Promise” encompassed by the words... “*I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee*”—the Gift

that is the “will of God”.

That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth... 1 Peter 1:7

*When Jesus therefore had received the vinegar, he said, It is finished: and he bowed his head, and gave up the ghost.
John 19:30*

*...I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father.
John 10:18*

*...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.
Hebrews 13:5*

*And this is the Father's will which hath sent me... that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will raise him up at the last day.
John 6:39,40*

*...what the will of the Lord is... be filled with the Spirit...
Ephesians 5:17,18*

I have stated the world hopes in man and “the city of man” so it strives to put down any threat to thereof. Does the targeting, or attack, of the world on the following substantiate the theory that all these serve as a reminder of “the city of the living God”... the New Jerusalem... the Lamb’s Wife—to come:

- ❖ marriage defined as a union between a man and a woman;
- ❖ the traditional family of a husband, wife, and children;
- ❖ the woman;
- ❖ the man;

- ❖ the Christian;
- ❖ the Jew;
- ❖ the nation of Israel, which stewards the city, Jerusalem; and
- ❖ Jerusalem itself?

The world... the state... the apostate harlot false church with its deceitful teachers... the occult... new age... Satan—they're all builders of the *city of man*... the kingdom of man. They're interchangeable—they offer the same *false* promises and hopes. Their *intents* are described in this chapter... *to steal, and to kill, and to destroy* (John 10:9)—it's the spirit of antichrist... the demonic.

10 REGRESSION TO THE MEAN

You can look up the meaning of “Regression to the Mean” and find the mathematical, statistical, and financial definitions. But simply to me, it means “at the end of the day” all the effort, energy, money, and time will give you an average result. It is best summed up with:

For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 1 Timothy 6

*...for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return.
Genesis 3:19*

One also could say the “Law of Gravity” embodies the meaning.

Stated by a simple man observing a cursed and fallen world, “There’s no winning here.”

*... the race is not to the swift, nor the battle to the strong,
neither yet bread to the wise, nor yet riches to men of*

understanding, nor yet favour to men of skill; but time and chance happeneth to them all. Ecclesiastes 9:11

As a simple man who has lived awhile, I would say this is true... and a “losing investment”—an investment with “diminishing returns”.

“Regression”, “depreciation”, and “diminishing” are terms indicating loss.

I disdain the thought of ultimately facing complete loss. The words “all is vanity” in Ecclesiastes have been like a constant “knocking on my soul” reminding me that “ultimate defeat” does exist. There have been times I have turned up “the noise of the world” in attempt to drown out the constant reminder—like drops from a leaking roof hitting the bottom of an empty bucket on a rainy day. The continued frustration of experiencing “regression” motivated me to reach for the door to stop the “knock”.

Behold, I stand at the door, and knock... Revelation 3:20

Like Apostle Paul, I have also experienced “abound and to suffer need”.

I could crow about my “abound” or lament about my “suffer need”. However, those “type A doers” attracted to the “abound” will turn down the volume when I speak of my “suffer need”—and those “feelers and thinkers” will respond to the opposite.

Does the presence, or absence, of either “abound” or to “suffer need” create relevancy, or irrelevancy, for indentifying to the Family for those Family members who:

- ❖ are a child;
- ❖ are single;
- ❖ are a husband or wife—a parent;
- ❖ are a single parent;
- ❖ have a barren womb;
- ❖ are a laborer;
- ❖ are a businessman;
- ❖ are a poor man;
- ❖ are a wealthy man;
- ❖ are a blind man;
- ❖ are quadriplegic;
- ❖ are mentally handicapped; or
- ❖ the end of their days are closer than the beginning?

It is not about the “abound and to suffer need”... for we all have stories... but what our experiences lead us to. No matter our state of being... the Family and the Family Purpose... *the blessed hope*... is what we all have in common.

If we refuse to contemplate the “world of regression”, we turn to more striving resulting in exhaustion... fantasy leading to delusion... resignation becoming the “walking dead”.

Is there another world to consider?

When confronted by those wanting to engage me in defense of my faith through intellectual debate by asking, “How can you prove the Bible is not just some conjured up writing like any other book”—I think to myself, “I really can’t definitively with intellectual logic *exclusively* because I have never seen inside the halls of Heaven.”

To be frank, every so often, parts of the Bible have seemed contradictory. So what do I base my faith on?

I remember, as a 6 or 7 year old boy, walking across a dike at the family ranch in the heat of day during the dog days of summer—it was barren... other than for a couple of weeds struggling to survive. The following thoughts flashed through my mind and were felt in my soul... “This seems so dreary and burdensome—there has to be something more to life.”

The thought of that boy was the beginning of the recognition of “regression” which has become more validated the longer I live. However, when I became a son of God, I also began to experience the life of “cultivation”, “proliferation”, “increase”, and “advancement”—to use a few terms. I was starting to “gain more than my losses”—the life any investor, or trader, hopes for... that the “wins” get larger while the “losses” get smaller. The average no longer remains average but expands into “new territory”—growth of the heart... mind... soul—growth in character.

I’m getting to know the God of...

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

—exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think... *Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us. Ephesians 3:20...*

—my cup overflowing... *Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Psalm 23:5...*

—strength and power... *My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness... that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 2 Corinthians 12:9... it is sown in*

weakness; it is raised in power: It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body... 1 Corinthians 15:43,44...

—beyond victory... Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. Romans 8:36-38...

—without end... and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice from henceforth even forever. The zeal of the Lord of hosts will perform this. Isaiah 9:6,7.

The longer I live as a Family member, the easier it becomes to “bear fruit in the Family Business”. As my body regresses towards the end of its days, the potential of the *new man* inside of me is starting to become more recognizable.

When Indiana Jones finds “the key” in his search for the treasure of the Ark of the Covenant, and engages it, the mountains and the caves start to quiver and rumble like the “sleeping giant” aroused from slumber. After a violent shaking tantrum, they crumble away like Goliath brought down by the “ruddy youth”, David. With “the giant” removed, “the treasure” is revealed. Personally, *this treasure* is discovering... who the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—the God of Israel—is really like.

When the Family and Family Purpose given by God’s written Word come into focus... like “the key” that is engaged... I see the contradictions in the Bible “fall away into agreement”. The world of “Life More Abundantly” is revealed as described by God’s Old Testament Prophets and confirmed by His New

Testament Apostles... and the testimony of the Lord Jesus Christ, Himself. This is because the Holy Spirit is teaching my *intellect*—filling my heart... renewing my mind... saving my soul.

Yes... there are still *dry spells*... I'm still flesh in a fallen world... they're not all *aha* moments. When I continue walking through *the valleys*... I do discover more of *the treasure* as I *come out the other side*.

My experience of “Life More Abundantly” (the antithesis of the “Regression to the Mean”) confirmed by God’s Word... is what I base the *proof* of my Faith on. This legitimizes the “unseen” of tomorrow and the “Family History and Constitution” of today.

Maybe ol’ Jabez was only asking for what, in his heart, he knew of the God he asked—the God of Israel we understand... who *enlarges our borders* with the heart of flesh of the New Covenant and the hope of *the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end... with... no sorrows added!* Did he understand the Family’s Hope?

And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested. 1 Chronicles 4:10

11 FAME & FORTUNE

As “fame & fortune” has slipped through my hands like a fistful of air, I have wondered if it has been a result of “restlessness” or by “grand design”... or maybe both. The choices I have been left with in going forward are either resignation birthing bitterness, or discovering a purpose that overwhelms current circumstance.

I have chosen... *purpose*.

The seeking has given me the experience to write what I have.

Does this mean I’m right?

I don’t know for the “end of the story” has not been *written yet* but I take confidence and comfort from the words:

And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28

Those times I have “dug in” to exercise my right to protect my “fame & fortune”... I have generally lived to regret. I have paid way more in terms of time, resources, and assault on the heart than what I have gained. Upon thinking about this and becoming befuddled... the following words remind me:

Labour not to be rich: cease from thine own wisdom. Wilt thou set thine eyes upon that which is not? for riches certainly make themselves wings; they fly away as an eagle toward heaven.

Proverbs 23:4-5

I’m not saying it feels great to keep my mouth shut and arms to my side (you can interpret the meaning of “arms” however you want) when there is “a slight” instigated against my family. It is not so much the material loss that stings. Rather, it is the perception by the perpetrator of me being “the weakling lamb”... a target for the wolves... also expressed, “he who is silent is said to consent”—this devastates my ego.

Then I think about the words in *Psalms 37* to remind myself why I choose the subdued response.

Yes, it is a choice of my free will.

Do I always make the right choice? No.

But, yes... I am getting better at it.

Furthermore, I have come to terms with *the grievances* when I remember the following:

... that there is none beside me. I am the Lord, and there is none else. I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, and create evil: I the Lord do all these things. Isaiah 45:6,7

Consider the work of God: for who can make that straight, which he hath made crooked? In the day of prosperity be joyful, but in the day of adversity consider: God also hath set the one over against the other, to the end that man should find nothing after him. Ecclesiastes 7:13-14.

Who am I to question the existence of evil and its tainted fruit? If God created darkness for His purpose... is it my job to eradicate it from the face of the earth? Or, am I to “mind my own business”... rather, the Family Business of bearing fruit?

I entrust God to exercise change and vengeance in His own time as He sees fit—He’s God... I’m not!

Shall the clay say to him that fashioneth it, What makest thou? or thy work, He hath no hands? Isaiah 45:9

What if God, willing to shew his wrath, and to make his power known, endured with much longsuffering the vessels of wrath fitted to destruction: And that he might make known the riches of his glory on the vessels of mercy, which he had afore prepared unto glory, Romans 9:22-23

...avenge not yourselves... Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Romans 12:19

He’s stronger and smarter than me—I’m flesh... a weak man.

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

What I ultimately experience for eternity... is dependent on the God of Israel being God for me—not arrogantly focusing

on myself attempting to create a temporary *utopia* for myself. If I think I'm *fully* able to manifest the world I want—that I'm a god, or my own god, calling myself... "*I am*"—I'm a fool and will not experience the goodness... the mercy... of the God of Israel.

26 With the merciful thou wilt shew thyself merciful, and with the upright man thou wilt shew thyself upright. 27 With the pure thou wilt shew thyself pure; and with the froward thou wilt shew thyself unsavoury. 28 And the afflicted people thou wilt save: but thine eyes are upon the haughty, that thou mayest bring them down. 2 Samuel 22

I'm not saying we are not called to reject evil within the borders of our own actions towards others. We cannot be productive in the Family Business if we do not. However, to set out beyond the boundaries of our own lives intent on banishing evil from the world... that God has allowed to presently wallow in darkness to reveal His righteousness... is that our task right now? If we think it is, would that amount to... "attempting to thwart God's plan"?

Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good... If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men. Romans 12:9,18

Does this mean that God is evil? No Way!

O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth for ever. Psalm 118:1

Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: James 1:13

Jesus Christ released the Power of the Holy Spirit to change the heart... and the Father makes the decision when to do so. And, for *tomorrow*... the nations... the world-at-large... is it when... “*the Spirit and the bride [the Lamb’s Wife... the New Jerusalem] say, Come*”? It could be.

No man can come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him: John 6:44

God wants to see man have a relationship with Him and have Life, today.

For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; 1 Timothy 2:3-5

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

But, most people want what they want... and God will give it to them—evil... the Lake of Fire... eternal torment and damnation.

¹⁰ Let favour be shewed to the wicked, yet will he not learn righteousness: in the land of uprightness will he deal unjustly, and will not behold the majesty of the LORD. ¹¹ LORD, when thy hand is lifted up, they will not see: but they shall see, and be ashamed for their envy at the people; yea, the fire of thine enemies shall devour them. Isaiah 26

And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds

were evil. John 3:19

The Nations

The contrast for the nations:

“Progressive idealism”... expressed in the following quotes... is a religion that worships “the city of man”. The “progressive” believes it is our responsibility and mission in this age to stamp out the injustices from the nations.

Sounds good... but not so fast...

There is the financial destruction for our families... the future of our children and children’s children... we are left with from the attempt to supplant “the City of God” with “the city of man”—all in the name of “do-goodism”.

*I believe that God planted in us the vision of liberty... that we are chosen and prominently chosen to show the way to the nations of the world how they shall walk in the paths of liberty.
~ Woodrow Wilson, Campaign Speech, Jersey City, NJ May 25, 1912*

We defend and we build a way of life, not for America alone, but for all mankind. ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt, Fireside chat on national defense, May 26, 1940

We must remember that any oppression, any injustice, any hatred, is a wedge designed to attack our civilization. ~ Franklin D. Roosevelt

It would be a master stroke if those great Powers honestly bent on peace would form a league of peace, not only to keep the peace among themselves, but to prevent, by force if necessary, its being broken by others. The man or statesman who should bring about such a condition would have earned his place in

THE FAMILY FORTUNE

*history for all time and his title to the gratitude of all mankind.
~Theodore Roosevelt, Former U.S. President*

And, for the Family... is this attempting to be *a Wife* when we are still *a betrothed Bride*—to play God?

Was the role of America to be more along the line of “a betrothed bride” and not “a wife”?

What was the perspective of John Quincy Adams—the son of John Adams who was another founding father of America and the 2nd President of the United States?

... what has America done for the benefit of mankind?

Let our answer be this: America, with the same voice which spoke herself into existence as a nation, proclaimed to mankind the inextinguishable rights of human nature, and the only lawful foundations of government. America, in the assembly of nations, since her admission among them, has invariably, though often fruitlessly, held forth to them the hand of honest friendship, of equal freedom, of generous reciprocity.

She has uniformly spoken among them, though often to heedless and often to disdainful ears, the language of equal liberty, of equal justice, and of equal rights.

She has, in the lapse of nearly half a century, without a single exception, respected the independence of other nations while asserting and maintaining her own.

She has abstained from interference in the concerns of others, even when conflict has been for principles to which she clings, as to the last vital drop that visits the heart.

She has seen that probably for centuries to come, all the contests of that Aceldama the European world, will be

contests of inveterate power, and emerging right.

Wherever the standard of freedom and Independence has been or shall be unfurled, there will her heart, her benedictions and her prayers be.

But she goes not abroad, in search of monsters to destroy.

She is the well-wisher to the freedom and independence of all.

She is the champion and vindicator only of her own.

She will commend the general cause by the countenance of her voice, and the benignant sympathy of her example.

She well knows that by once enlisting under other banners than her own, were they even the banners of foreign independence, she would involve herself beyond the power of extrication, in all the wars of interest and intrigue, of individual avarice, envy, and ambition, which assume the colors and usurp the standard of freedom.

The fundamental maxims of her policy would insensibly change from liberty to force....

She might become the dictatress of the world. She would be no longer the ruler of her own spirit....

[America's] glory is not dominion, but liberty. Her march is the march of the mind. She has a spear and a shield: but the motto upon her shield is, Freedom, Independence, Peace. This has been her Declaration: this has been, as far as her necessary intercourse with the rest of mankind would permit, her practice.

Excerpts from Speech to the U.S. House of Representatives on Foreign Policy (July 4, 1821) as Secretary of State and to become the sixth President of the United States ~ John Quincy Adams

America's role was to stand firm in her convictions of those "*certain unalienable rights endowed all men by their Creator*"—*Freedom, Independence, Peace*. She was to support through her example [much like the Gerard Mulliez' family of France mentioned earlier]... her words of encouragement... her prayers... those nations in their pursuit of such convictions.

She believed in letting the responsibility for ultimate success rest in hands of those nations seeking their own freedom. By refusing to interfere in their quest... she encouraged and allowed them complete ownership of their goal and its accomplishment.

She did not view herself *as wiser and morally superior* to other nations—*her glory is not dominion, but liberty*. Being fully aware of... *Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall*... she would not cross the line of *commanding* her convictions upon her fellow nations. She refused to impose discipline upon the world... like a mother would employ upon her children. She had no desire to *lord it over* another nation—to become the world's nanny... like a *Dominionist*.

I use the past tense to describe this America because I have never met her. The America of today is *a strange woman* compared to the one John Quincy Adams depicted. However, through writing *The Family Fortune*, I have come to recognize her... in the dynamics of the female in regard to the natural family.

What do I mean?

The engagement season is to be a time of innocence, pondering, and resolving conviction for a bride-to-be in

preparation for her future. If she takes advantage of her betrothal time wisely, she becomes the wife who has the right, responsibility, authority, and power... that is bestowed upon her by the last name of her husband... to lead, discipline, and develop the current and future generations of her family. She will produce the generations that will go onto enhance and expand the nations.

To otherwise be devoted to... *the cares of this world...* the cares of a wife... the heart and mind of the engaged bride becomes overwhelmed, divided, and distracted. She will lose sight and grasp of her purpose... her future—her soon-to-be husband... their children, and children's children. Her *hope* of a world where her *seed* can... *be fruitful and multiply... prosper!*

And these are they which are sown among thorns; such as hear the word, And the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful. Mark 4:18-20

Without understanding her future and purpose, to act like “a wife” sounds “good” and inviting but to what end? The pursuit of “justice for all”... whether the nations want it or not... does not warrant the destruction of the family—the family model that God ordained... *the marriage of a male and female who bear children.*

Life shows us that the boisterous fiancée, girlfriend, mistress, or adulteress... *the strange woman...* who acts like a wife when she is not—i.e., shacking up... fornication... adultery... out of wedlock children—results in deception, distrust, guilt, and shame. All this is detrimental to the structure of the family and its future—ultimately leading to the demise of the nations. It takes “two to tango”. I am just mentioning the

woman because it is her role that we are discussing right now—but men have their part in the havoc, too.

...a strange woman... her end is bitter as wormwood, sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet go down to death; her steps take hold on hell... her ways are moveable, that thou canst not know them... Remove thy way far from her, and come not nigh the door of her house: Lest thou give thine honour unto others, and thy years unto the cruel: Lest strangers be filled with thy wealth; and thy labours be in the house of a stranger; And thou mourn at the last, when thy flesh and thy body are consumed, And say, How have I hated instruction, and my heart despised reproof; And have not obeyed the voice of my teachers, nor inclined mine ear to them that instructed me!

Proverbs 5

There is only one... *city of the living God... the heavenly Jerusalem... the Lamb's Wife*—her time is not yet because the marriage ceremony has not taken place. To be acting like her today... attempting to create utopia for the world through “the city of man”... does this amount to no more than being an imposter—a *strange woman... a harlot with an adulterous attitude?*

Has America embraced the ambitions of “the city of man”... the role of “a wife”... as being the disciplinarian of the world—to play God? Some warned us of the repercussions from this choice... *she would be no longer the ruler of her own spirit.* We are relinquishing our honor, our strength, and our wealth... the labor of our hands... into the hands of strangers and our enemies—they overrun our borders... we waste away.

Is it any different in the church with the loss of *self-control* (a fruit of the Holy Spirit)... a spirit gone rogue? People *using the Lord's Name* are increasingly pursuing idolatry—the

occult... mysticism... false signs and wonders... new age ideas that *you* manifest what you want like a god—all... with the attitude of *turning your stones into bread* and not relying on God to lead and provide as He describes in His Word. Did not Jesus Christ refuse the offers from Satan during the *desert temptation*? Jesus chose to wait on His Father, God, to *make His enemies His footstool*—He was going to receive His Kingdom from the Father... not Satan... or man.

If thou therefore wilt worship me, all shall be thine. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve. Luke 4:7-8

But this man, after he had offered one sacrifice for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool. For by one offering he hath perfected for ever them that are sanctified. Hebrews 10:12-14

Jesus answered, My kingdom is not of this world: if my kingdom were of this world, then would my servants fight, that I should not be delivered to the Jews: but now is my kingdom not from hence. John 18:36

The man in Proverbs 5 who pursued... *a strange woman*... experienced the same—he *no longer ruled his spirit*... his assets.

And why wilt thou, my son, be ravished with a strange woman, and embrace the bosom of a stranger? Proverbs 5:20

This sounds oppressive.

But then again, God uses contrast.

The tyranny of “the city of man” serves to deepen the roots of “hope” in the hearts of men who live with *the joy set before them* of “the Promise”... “the City of God”... “the Lamb’s Wife”. They look forward to the era where honor, strength, and wealth flourish—the labor of a man’s hands reward him personally not to be pilfered by another such as... “the progressive statist” and the apostate false church!

Drink waters out of thine own cistern, and running waters out of thine own well. Let them be only thine own, and not strangers' with thee. Let thy fountain be blessed: and rejoice with the wife of thy youth. Proverbs 5

And they shall build houses, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them... They shall not build, and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat... mine elect shall long enjoy the work of their hands. Isaiah 65:21,22

The *most precious wealth* being lost—our mind... our heart... our soul... our faith... our salvation—our *blessed hope*.

If my explanation still does not resonate, let’s look at it from another perspective.

Aside from our desire to act with compassion for those that suffer, it was the discomfort from the oppression of evil, for most of us, that made us realize we were *poor, blind, and naked*—in need of the Savior, Jesus Christ. But yet, now believing... *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life...* we ask God to help us remove the oppression of darkness from the world. The very darkness that grieved us to the point of opening our eyes

recognizing we were living in a... *pig pen* and needed God to rescue and clean us up.

If this is our mindset, is it any different than that of “the progressive” central banks throughout the world? Through their quantitative easing and stimulus programs, they have simply just printed money. Earnings, free cash flow, wages, savings, and assets from a productive business are not the foundation for the creation, distribution, and receipt of this money.

Being that there is no value behind this printed paper money... those that borrow it will value it just as much as those that *created* it—not much. This is reflected with low accountability (the interest rate charged), or collateral, required of the debtor by the lender. Now, the debtor feels minimal pressure to pay the loan back—if at all.

The central banks have intentionally brought about the “orgy of indulgence and opulence” from this unsubstantiated credit. They have done so through repressing the ramifications of accountability for unproductiveness, unfruitfulness, and irresponsibility of individuals, businesses, and nations that buy into their seduction.

It is the distress of a correction in a bear market and recession that rattles people back to their senses halting their greed from, and abuse of, cheap credit. They stop spending beyond their capital base (savings... production capacity... resources) bringing them to the realization... that they were not as well off as they thought they were.

Cheap credit distorts our true condition—the need for adjustment and improvement! Just like the *cheap* imitation *fruit* and *signs and wonders* of humanism... the occult... the

false teachers, false prophets, and apostate church... does. Without the Holy Spirit working in the heart... producing *His fruit* and bestowing His *gifts* to a person... there is no lasting change—renewal of the mind from true repentance.

If there is no correction in the direction we are headed, one day (probably sooner than later) we will see a very nasty “depression”. Personally, this principle is what motivated me to become part of the Family. I believed that “the depression of depressions” described as... the *weeping and gnashing of teeth*... is coming on the horizon—to the extent that I changed my course (I repented). Now, my “slate of debt to God” (sin) is “wiped clean”—I am part of a profitable Family Business. I have a future!

For unto every one that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. Matthew 25:29-30

However, if one does not believe in “accountability” nor “a depression”, they will do everything within their power to keep the orgy going, denying the inevitable. If the presence of evil, with its pain and suffering, is suppressed or removed... is there any hope for finding the way out of the looming “depression”?

Does holding this view mean we embrace the darkness—absolutely not!

But in recognizing its purpose, do we try to expunge it from the world?

Ideologies of false religion... the ‘isms...

- ❖ Humanism...
- ❖ Progressive Idealism...
- ❖ Environmentalism...
- ❖ Socialism...
- ❖ Communism...
- ❖ Mysticism...
- ❖ Dominionism...
- ❖ Pantheism...
- ❖ Atheism...
- ❖ Buddhism...
- ❖ Hinduism...
- ❖ Mormonism...
- ❖ Seventh Day Adventism...
- ❖ Jehovah's Witnesses (ism)
- ❖ Legalism...
- ❖ Catholicism...
- ❖ Mystical Judaism...
- ❖ the other 'isms... or any belief... that doesn't' recognize the Lord Jesus Christ as being *fully man* while also being *fully God*. That He is resurrected and seated at the right hand of the Father, God, in Heaven as the only High Priest over the House of God for the forgiveness of our sins. That He is going to return for His Bride... and *then* set up His Kingdom... not ours...

—they mandate we combat and regulate the injustices and ultimately the fallout seems to be the destruction, not the edification, of those that support their cause. They are really saying... *You sacrifice your families and your fortunes (in reality, your pursuit of the Family Fortune) so I can preserve my empire of... "dirt"*.

In refusing to crusade, we will leave ourselves open to undue pain, suffering, and transgressions at the hands of our

accusers. This is the difficult part. However, are we willing to “eat it” and not battle with our enemies in order to give them a chance at recognizing the Light?

This is the heart our Savior... Redeemer... Lord... Husband-to-be, Jesus Christ... displayed at the cross.

...He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth. Acts 8:32...33

He did not command us to ride out and round up Satan (evil)... lasso and hog-tie him... and throw him into the Lake of Fire.

Why has Christ not yet *ridden in on His White Stallion* to banish Satan and his cohorts to the Lake of Fire? Is it because darkness reveals the need for Light? But, the day is coming when... *the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father... he that overcometh... I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron... the Spirit and the bride say, Come.* Is this the day when the nations, the world-at-large, will respond to the righteousness of the Lamb of God and His Wife—then, darkness will no longer serve a purpose? It could be.

The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity... Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father... Matthew 13:41,43

[Just an observation—whether it’s the warning to America by our early leaders that she refused to heed... or the ‘isms... or

the apostate church... the basic attitude seems to be... *to lord it over*. This amounts to *looking down our nose* on the weak... the poor in spirit. In turn, the one *that lords it over*... *forces upon*... *violates* “created in the image of God”... *assaults* the dignity of others (like a rapist would)... loses control of their spirit—they are *now* lorded over... *dominated*... *controlled*... by something other than the Holy Spirit called the demonic... Satan.

There is only ONE Lord who has the authority *to Lord it over* men. His name is, Christ Jesus... and He will when He returns to carry out His judgment and wrath on the world that rejects His redemption... *that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess* (Romans 14:10-12; Philippians 2:9-11). Until then, He... *sat down on the right hand of God; From henceforth expecting till his enemies be made his footstool*... where He offers true *healing*... *redemption*... *restoration* of our hearts—not lording it over... *forcing Himself on* men. We have to *choose* Him... *invite Him in*... as the Lord of our lives, though... if we want freedom from destruction and death. If we do, we become *a servant* who does *not*... *lord it over* others.

But Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister: And whosoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all. For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.

Mark 10:42-45

Choice—it’s part of... *created in the image of God!* Adam and Eve had it. They made the choice to... *lord it over*... and they

became... *lorded over*.

And the serpent said unto the woman, Ye shall not surely die... ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil... Genesis 3: 4...5

...in sorrow thou shalt bring forth children; and thy desire shall be to thy husband, and he shall rule over thee... cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shalt thou eat of it all the days of thy life; Thorns also and thistles shall it bring forth to thee. Genesis 3:16...17

This is evident with the earlier *subservient* comments about the woman of today... and, really the-world-at-large with socialism—the social gospel.

Of course, Satan didn't give them the whole story—he tried to *lord it over* God... instead, the Lord Jesus Christ... *lorded over* him... triumphed over... *sealed his fate*... at the cross!

For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God... I will be like the most High. Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit. Isaiah 14:13...15

Blotting out the handwriting of ordinances that was against us, which was contrary to us, and took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross; And having spoiled principalities and powers, he made a shew of them openly, triumphing over them in it. Colossians 2:14-15

Is *first becomes last* a discussion about *lording over* to become *lorded over*... coming under bondage? And vice versa?

*...all ye workers of iniquity... And, behold, there are last which shall be first, and there are first which shall be last.
Luke 13:27...30*

How about *humbling* and *exalting*?

*But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted. But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in.
Matthew 23:11-13*

How about... *what we fear, what we reverence... we will experience*—whether it be the Lord... or man?

*Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you.
Proverbs 1:24-27*

If we choose the Lord Jesus Christ as our Master, we become free... a ruler of sort... *a king and priest*... in the Household of the God of Israel when Christ returns to set up His Kingdom. Until we receive this God-given *power and authority*... we're in training.

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

Those that choose Satan as their master, he gives them *prosperity* for a *very short* time—their *kings receive power for one hour with the beast*. (This reminds me of Robert Schuller's *Hour of Power*—he preached the lies and bondage of *God's dream for your life*, not the Truth and freedom of God's *Will* for man. More discussion of, later.) Once the short-lived party is over, they face the horror of destruction by God with eternal torment as their future (Revelation 17-18).]

The burr under my saddle blanket has caused the horse to become unwound giving you a wild bucking ride during this chapter.

I hope you are still with me.

I may also be like Russell Crowe who played the real life character of John Nash in the movie *A Beautiful Mind*. I think I see the mysteries of the world, but to others... “my cheese has slid off its cracker”.

Maybe...

But I understand, as Family members, we are called to become world leaders (*after* Jesus Christ's return to start the Millennium... *not dominate before*) of the greatest “free market” society that will ever exist (and the only one from that point on) called the Kingdom of God.

How do I know this?

Remember, one of the “perks” of the Family is to possess the mind of the *CEO of the Family Business*... the King of the Universe... literally!

...but we have the mind of Christ. 1 Corinthians 2:16

How? Living with us is the *Family Instructor*... the *Family Coach*... the *President of the Family Business*—having the role of *encouraging and preparing* a family like a matriarch does.

*...the things which God hath prepared for them that love him...
God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit...
1 Corinthians 2:9,10*

*...for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I
will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God,
and they shall be my people. 2 Corinthians 6:16*

*Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you
into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever
he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things
to come. He shall glorify me: for he shall receive of mine, and
shall shew it unto you. John 16:12-14*

Bottom line—if I did not understand the Family purpose and future, which the Holy Spirit reveals, I do not think I would be able to see these nuances, correlations, and potential pitfalls... the imposters.

This *preparation* is becoming more real to me as I mature in the Family.

*Forsake her not, and she shall preserve thee: love her, and she
shall keep thee Proverbs 4:6*

*By me kings reign, and princes decree justice. By me princes
rule, and nobles, even all the judges of the earth.
Proverbs 8:15-16*

As you may be able to tell by now, *The Family Fortune* is not about ritualistic guilt-ridden and debt-laden religion that ultimately destroys what it pretends to champion... life. *The Family Fortune* is about the Family...

[The God of Israel—the Father... Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, the Son of David... the Holy Spirit, the Helper, the Glory of God. The created and born again children of God... grafted into the Household of God... kept in place by the only High Priest over the House of God—Christ Jesus.]

...and, the natural family that is a model we experience and learn from. Religion is the dwelling place for decay (rust, rot, depreciation, inflation, and debt) leading to death. On the other hand, the Family blooms with Life—the Life of Christ!

The Big Bet

Having the perspective of the Family... it's hard to work up the motivation to serve "empires of dirt". I realize these flimsy empires are going to be crumpled up, burned up, discarded, and exchanged for... *the new heavens... the new Earth... the new Jerusalem—a Life of bearing Fruit for the healing of the nations*. In the natural, bearing abundant healthy fruit requires... *clean soil*.

...the time is [short]... those that buy, as though they possessed not... and those that use the world, as not using it to the full: for the fashion of this world passeth away.

1 Corinthians 7:29,30,31 [KJV] ASV

...the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 2 Peter 3:12

*For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth: and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind.
Isaiah 65:17*

As “dreams fulfilled” in this age fade like the *glory* of a meadow of spring flowers, I ask myself, “What can I hold onto that is worth pursuing?” Then, I remember the answer I have discovered... the Family.

The Family is not *a dream*—it’s a *reality* from a *will*... a *plan*... a *promise*... from God. Rather than *fade*... it becomes *clearer* over time for those who believe and continue on in it.

Delight thyself also in the Lord: and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Psalm 37:4

For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God. Hebrews 11:10

I remember why I must try to make the choice... every day... to trade the pursuit of “fame & fortune” in this world for the pursuit of *the pearl of great price*... the Holy Spirit... *the seed of the Family*—the *Fortune*. It fades not away!

Who, when he had found one pearl of great price, went and sold all that he had, and bought it. Matthew 13:46

To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you... 1 Peter 1:4

There’s a principle in investing of making an... *all-in-on*... “big bet” on what is *ignored*... under-valued... by *the majority*. If made, and not abandoned when *ridicule and guilt-shaming* from *the crowd* escalates, the pay-off will be great. Then,

during your life... ignore those bets *over-valued* by *the mob* that won't.

The world acting like a *marketplace pundit*... in an attempt to position “the city of man” that it worships and praises... discredits and discounts *the city of the living God*. It ridicules and assaults that which represents *the Wife of the Lamb of God*. Recognizing this *over-value*, I have *bet big*—going all-in-on the *under-valued*. Now, I experience the “free cash flow” from the Family Business with the anticipation of the Family Wealth to come.

When I start to question my *big bet*:

- ❖ I read in *the Family History and Constitution*... the Bible... about those that have also “bet big” and have gone on in hope of the “payoff”;
- ❖ I fellowship with the Family; and
- ❖ I read what I... and others who believe in the Family's Future and our Fortune... have written.

This book was not just a writing exercise—it has a purpose.

If our journey through this world were like a guitar—to live with *no joy set before us*... would we look like the pristine collectable guitar purchased at the auction by the “spoiled rich kid”? Out of fear, he locks it up in a glass case to be protected and preserved from the “injustices in the world” of scratches, spills, and oily sweaty hands. To live with *joy set before us*... would we look like the road-worn guitar marred with the “transgressions” of burns, stains, gouges, dents—a guitar worn-through that has produced the riffs and songs that we hear in our mind when gazing upon it?



One embodies fantasy... while music permeating the heart is released from the other!

From female to male... poor to rich... Gentile to Jew... single to family man... sick to healthy... persecuted to free... and all races—the Family... the Family Purpose... is an equal opportunity pursuit. There is no discrimination against. However, by perception, one may think so influencing their choice.

You are *created in the image of God*. Will your choice be for the Family that enjoys the Family Fortune—or, for alienation from the Family ultimately leading to a life of bondage, poverty, and condemnation resulting in death... eternal torment in the Lake of Fire?

12 WHY NOT?

To come back to the question, “why scamper off into the world of what if”?

Belief is what I think is true, but conviction is what I know—and it’s from conviction of the heart, that I act. If my belief is only for comfort and pleasure in the natural... then, my gods are no greater than the natural world I can see. If I am willing to experience the natural for *the dirt* that it is... I am convicted that I am on “foreign ground”. The weakness and decay of *the dirt* only fuels my longing for my Savior, King, and Redeemer to rescue me—all the while leading me onto the Family Legacy. If my hope is set on the “genuine clean soil” of the Family Business that bears fruit for the Family and the future generations... the seed of Abraham... the nations... then, my God is without limit.

Given a coin to flip—heads, I have unlimited upside... tails, I lose what is going to be *burned up* anyway. I know the extent of my loss is limited to *the dirt*... and through my loss... my “unlimited wealth” is revealed. Is this a high risk bet? For

the reason of limited loss... I would venture to say, “No”. Is there uncertainty? I would say, “Yes and No”. “Yes”—by definition we believe in what we have not experienced yet... for that is faith. “No”—I think we experience the dynamics of the natural family... and the Family... that gives us a glimpse of our tomorrow. “Low risk with some uncertainty”—I think most wealthy “old dog” investors would jump on this bet if they could “see it” for what it is. Again... *Where there is no vision, the people perish* (Proverbs 29:18).

Writing *The Family Fortune*... along with updates and new writing on the subject... continue to *stretch* me. The life span of the change is marked with “aha moments” that are at a constant threat of fading as distraction and doubt from the world seep back into them to dilute their discovery.

By reading... discussing among brothers and sisters in the Family... *drilling down* on what it means to be the Family... the “sleeping giant” is aroused. The “wall of blindness” is cast down... the revelation about the God of Israel becomes clearer—we learn more about *the God who enlarges our borders*. The Family... the Family Purpose... the Family Future... continues to get confirmed.

As I said... at one time, I was exposed to the Family Purpose through a legalistic religion. Over time from lack of discussion, the Family Future had become distant and peripheral. I would give a quick haphazard glance in its direction when the memory of it occasionally stirred.

I used to make it a point every year to celebrate the Holy Days of the Old Testament—from Passover through the “Last Great Day” of the Feast of Tabernacles (Feast of Booths). I recognize *the Last Great Day* as symbolizing *the day of the Wife of the Lamb of God*—the age of... *the increase of*...

without end.

Do I believe my observance of the Holy Days indicate my right standing with God? No, Christ's Blood is what makes me righteous in God's eyes—that I am a Family member... a son of God. In the same regard, neither do the celebrations of birthdays, wedding anniversaries, commemorations, achievements, and family reunions make one a member of their natural family. It is by birth, or legal adoption, that qualifies them as a family member. Seems to me if one partakes of these events... not out of obligation but desire... they only deepen and enrich their family experience. If the family is well organized to include a family identity with a purpose... the family events serve to help revitalize the commitment of family members to that family and its future. They are celebrations that reveal the storyline of the family. For the Family—the storyline is fulfilled from the cross of Christ to His Life with His Wife.

I've written... I've revised... *The Family Fortune*...

I still awaken in the morning with the sight of the Family's Future... *the blessed hope*... on the horizon. Upon seeing what I was created for—to be a servant of the Lord Jesus Christ... a king and priest of the Lord of lords and King of kings, Christ Jesus... to participate in God's will for His Household, His Family—my attitude and decisions, by the grace and mercy of God, are continuing to *be pruned... renewed*.

The pain of “suffer need” is the jolt that brings into focus what the Heroes of Faith saw and embraced—with my eyes and heart locked on, the obsession with “abounding in the dirt” is pushed to the sidelines and muffled to the background. Like the piercing stare of a warrior... the Family

Purpose... *the promises to Abraham*... dissipate the smoke screen sent out by the grating voices of the critics, the fearful, and the unbelieving. Now that I can see my destination... *the Lamb's Wife*... the New Jerusalem... I say to myself, "Why not, why not do it, if it promotes the family... the Family... the Family Fortune—the Gospel of the Kingdom of God!"

Then, I realize my hope... my calling... my fulfillment is no longer about "what"... but "who". A "who" known as... the Family of... the remnant of the House of Israel and the House of Judah with the Jew and Gentile Saints grafted in. The Family named after... *the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named*... and, described as... *the household of God*... *Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.* And... the road to the realization of, the trail of *the trials of our faith*, is just the means... not the end!

When you know where you're going, the road map makes sense.

Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown. Him that overcometh will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write upon him my new name. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches. Revelation 3:11-13

According to the eternal purpose which he purposed in Christ Jesus our Lord: In whom we have boldness and access with confidence by the faith of him... For this cause I bow my

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knees unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named...

Ephesians 3:11...15

For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father. Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints, and of the household of God;

And are built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Jesus Christ himself being the chief corner stone;

Ephesians 2:18-20

But Christ as a son over his own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Hebrews 3:6

13 HE WILL

I've written essays... studies... The Family Fortune 1st and 2nd Editions—I continue to see the following words confirmed...

¹¹ So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it.

Isaiah 55.

It seems like God did not have an *oops* moment—that He needed to come up with a *second best* plan to cover it.

The Savior... Redeemer... Messiah... Lord... Son of David... Son of God... the Living *Word* of God—Christ Jesus—God's *only way of redemption* is revealed in the accounts of...

- ❖ The Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve...
- ❖ Abraham and Sarah...
- ❖ The making of the Abrahamic Covenant with Abraham...
- ❖ Abraham putting Isaac on the alter...

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- ❖ Jacob... the 12 tribes of Israel...
- ❖ Joseph, their leader in Egypt...
- ❖ Moses and their release from bondage in Egypt...
- ❖ Traveling to and through the Red Sea leaving *their bondage* buried under its water...
- ❖ Mt. Sinai and the desert journey...
- ❖ The Levitical sacrifices...
- ❖ Entry into the Promised Land...
- ❖ Joshua... the fall of Jericho...
- ❖ Samson...
- ❖ King David and King Solomon...
- ❖ The building of the 1st and 2nd Temple of God...

and... I could go on. It's like God was giving us a... hint, hint, hint—examples of what He will do... what He was going to do all along.

It's interesting to see (do a word search of the Bible) how many times God says... *I will...* in regards to the House of Israel and the House of Judah in the Old Testament. This is confirmed with what is written by the New Testament Apostles in regards to how Jesus Christ's Bride... the Church... relates.

God's promise is... *I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee...* for those who *cry out to the Lord to... save them*—the remnant of Israel that will be redeemed at the end of this age... and the resurrected Jew and Gentile Saints, the Church.

⁵ Let your conversation be without covetousness; and be content with such things as ye have: for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. ⁶ So that we may boldly

say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me. Hebrews 13

It seems like what God started in the Garden of Eden... He will complete through the only Begotten Son of God... the Son of David... the Messiah... the Savior—the Lord Jesus Christ.

³⁵And they shall say, This land that was desolate is become like the garden of Eden; and the waste and desolate and ruined cities are become fenced, and are inhabited. ³⁶Then the heathen that are left round about you shall know that I the LORD build the ruined places, and plant that that was desolate: I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it. Ezekiel 36

Here again... the God of Israel says... *I the LORD have spoken it, and I will do it.*

Those that discount... ignore... forget about the Old Testament with its prophecies, generally come up with their *alternative plan of man* sometimes labeled as... *God's dream... God's dream for your life... a world peace plan.* Along with those that buy into it... they're making a *fatal* mistake. They ultimately deny the New Covenant—God's *will* to redeem His chosen... the House of Israel and the House of Judah.

[God's *dream* implies—He's *slumbering... hoping... fantasizing... that man will come through* for Him to make His “dream”... His *suggestions... a reality.*

Seriously... God does not *need* us—He is God... there is none greater—He does as He *pleases* (just read the book of Job... or, live for awhile). He almost wiped the slate *completely* clean with the flood... in the desert with Moses... at Sodom and Gomorrah. If *power* was by men and their numbers... He just *diminished the realization* of His “dream” when He

destroyed *many* in the case of Moses (God wanted to wipe-out Israel, more than once, except for Moses—but, Moses entreated God... he interceded... for their lives and God listened... Exodus 32-33; Numbers 14)... or saved only *a remnant* in the two other cases. And, God will again save *just a remnant* (Romans 11:1-5; Matthew 22:1-14).

By grace, the God of Israel has invited us into His Life... His Will. What He desires *will* happen... whether we participate or not!]

Who God is... He has described in His *Word*... *the Truth*. He is not the image we can *conjure up* in our mind through our emotions—that we sometimes validate with... *I just feel it in my heart, so it must be true*. The True God... we cannot create Him in *our* image for Him to remain *Truth* for us. God takes His Word seriously—He stays *true* to it.

²I will worship toward thy holy temple, and praise thy name for thy lovingkindness and for thy truth: for thou hast magnified thy word above all thy name. Psalm 138

⁴But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. Matthew 4

The dynamics of the *perpetual* New Covenant made with the House of Israel and the House of Judah... and extended to the Church by the grace of God through Jesus Christ... are explained in the Old Testament—the New Testament expounds on and confirms them.

God uses His *whole* Word to show us... *He Will*. It's NOT His *dream*—it's His Promise... and, He *Will* make good on it.

Appendix

Irrespective of ideology... what do the numbers say?

Attention to Deficits Disorder

Daily Reckoning ~ Addison Wiggin

“To contract new debts is not the way to pay old ones.”

– George Washington

During the nineteenth century, American debt did not grow substantially. When Jefferson began his first presidential term in 1801, the nation had an \$83 million debt, mostly left over from the costs of the war [the War for Independence]. During his two terms, Jefferson reduced the debt to \$37 million even after spending \$15 million on the Louisiana Purchase.

In James Madison’s term of office, the ill-fated War of 1812 ran the national debt up to \$127 million by 1816. James Monroe and John Quincy Adams were both able to reduce the debt during their terms of office, and by 1829 the debt had fallen to \$58 million. And then, during Andrew Jackson’s presidency, the national debt entirely paid off. For the first time in its history (and the last) the United States had no national debt.

Over the next decade, the country ran up \$46 million new debt and by 1848 the national debt had risen to \$63 million. However, in all fairness, one advantage of this was that the Mexican War resulted in U.S. expansion all the way to the Pacific and the acquisition of the entire Southwest, including

California. Under the Franklin Pierce administration, the debt was paid down to \$28 million; but it never got that low again.

The Civil War exploded the national debt up to \$2.8 *billion*, or 100 times higher than it had been in 1857. Debt in 1860 was \$2 per capita; at the end of 1865, per capita debt was \$75. The temporary tax measures in place during the war were repealed, and by the end of the nineteenth century the debt had been reduced to \$1.2 billion, less than half of its 1865 level.

...in its first 110 years, the United States had shown its ability to fund expansion while reducing debt over time. And this was accomplished without an income tax. In fact, in 1869 and again in 1895, the Supreme Court ruled federal income taxes unconstitutional.

The story was quite different in the twentieth century. By the end of World War I, the national debt had risen to \$26 billion. Even though the debt level had been reduced over the next decade, the Great Depression caused further deficit spending, and FDR's New Deal tripled debt levels up to \$72 billion.

World War II created yet higher debt levels. By 1945 the country owed \$260 billion — small by today's standards but gargantuan in its time. One outgrowth of that war was a new one, the Cold War. Military spending took the national debt up to \$930 billion by 1980, and under Ronald Reagan's administration it rose to nearly \$2.7 trillion. In Bill Clinton's eight years, the debt more than doubled to \$5.6 trillion. And by the end of 2007, the debt had passed \$9 trillion — a nearly tenfold increase since 1980. The debt almost doubled during George W. Bush's eight years — from \$5.7 trillion to \$10.7 trillion.

In other words, the national debt is growing exponentially. We may blame the War on Terror, the inheritance left by the Cold War, or the new international market and its competitive forces, or a combination of these realities. In any event, it is clear that the levels of debt keep setting new records, virtually on a month-to-month basis...

Hence our forward progress, today, to a total national debt of \$18 trillion and beyond.

Source:

<http://dailyreckoning.com>

<http://dailyreckoning.com/attention-deficits-disorder-2/>

accessed March 2015

Appreciation

I want to recognize the following for providing ideas and resources for The Family Fortune. Thank you for your contributions.

Bonner & Partners for the book, *Family Fortunes*.

<http://bonnerandpartners.com>

THE PROMISE Chapter:

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Appendix:

Attention to Deficits Disorder—used with permission from Agora

Financial/Laissez Faire <http://agorafinancial.com/>

The Family Fortune referenced *Essays* and *The Series Essays* can be found

at:

<http://www.hopeishere.com/>

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1222... comments on hell p91

1022... CSLewis quote removed p122

422... 80,105 firstborn comments; 92 Promise to Abraham's seed.

723,,, George Washington quote removed and comments rewritten, pp. 20, 132,134,136

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Greg lives with his wife, Bonnie, in the Western United States. In regard to his accomplishments, he believes he is in good company with others hoping of better days ahead when he reads... *not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty.*