

Passover: the Rest of the Story

## God's 12 Signs in Egypt

### Deliverance in the Blood of the Lamb

*Val Brinkerhoff 4/17/2021 - 32 pages*

The true story of the original Passover 3000 years ago is given us in God's precious written word, not in the traditions of men we have inherited from our "fathers, priests, and kings". In the original, unfiltered story of Passover there was hope provided by the defeat of darkness, that "true worship" of the living God might be reinstituted among the LORD's "firstborn", Israel. They were held captive by the Egyptians without ability to worship God in the ways He directed. True worship is a secret weapon wielded by believers, the "wise virgins". With it there is great hope in the Light of the World, our Savior and Deliverer Jesus Christ. He is known as "**The Word** of the LORD" (the Father's sent Son) throughout the primary scripture source I use for this paper - the Aramaic "Targums" (Hebrew for "translations"). These "targums" are the first and oldest "authorized" translations of the first five books of Moses from the original Hebrew. And in them, Christ, as **the Word** - of the LORD God the Father - is put back into the original Passover story. It is He and His precious blood that deliver ancient Israel in "the ordinance of the firstborn". Using the Aramaic Targums, along with the JST Bible, I present a number of lost truths and patterns in the real Passover story hereafter.

One of these lost patterns is how Jesus Christ repeatedly delivers His people as seen in the original Passover story. It is a pattern found in the oral history reports of our LORD's many visits to Native Americans in North, Central, and South America. (1) He first removes darkness. (2) He then heals the people. (3) He then provides them light and truth.

1. **The LORD reveals Himself to those He visits in unique ways.** In the real Passover story, God unveiled a portion of His great light and glory to Moses at the burning bush. There He revealed His name-title as the great "I AM" – the Creator of heaven and earth. He did this to inform His "firstborn" - the Israelite people that He had chosen Moses, revealing Himself to him as their leader. Later God revealed His name and power to Pharaoh – to get him to release the enslaved Israelites. God's great power was incrementally revealed to the King of Egypt, his magicians, and the false gods they worshipped via **12 signs**. The last 10 of these are also called "wonders" or "plagues", featuring "great judgments" upon 10 different Egyptian gods, each of them associated with one of the signs. They reveal that Jesus or Yeshua - as "**the Word** of the LORD" - was with Moses and Aaron. He was the living, powerful God of the Hebrews. He had greater than Pharaoh, his false priests, and the idolatrous gods they worshipped. This was because of His love and light.

2. **God delivers His people physically**, providing hope, healing, and everything essential for life. In the real Passover story, He brought Israel forth from oppressive slavery and the darkness of idol worship in Egypt. They then left for the Promised Land given Abraham and his posterity. On their journey, God provided the covenant people with everything they needed in the wilderness; food, water, shade in the day, light at night, and instruction involving His calendar, along with His word and law. Christ the LORD, also called "**the Word**" in John 1:1, rescued Israel, removing the covenant people from Egypt in conjunction with **12 signs**. The last one featured the blood of the Lamb on Israelite doorways, symbolizing that God's blood (His mercy and love) is the gate or door to Israel's physical and spiritual salvation. This "deliverance" via His pure blood is called "the ordinance of the firstborn" in the Aramaic Targum.

3. **He then delivers the people spiritually**, but only after first removing the false, corrupt priesthood among the people first. It oppresses them for gain. In the real Passover story, God removed Israel from "spiritual Egypt and Babylon" by removing them from darkness and idolatry there. They were then able to worship the living God in the wilderness of Sinai according to His instruction, worship centered on "the ordinance of the Firstborn". The covenant, chosen people, God's "firstborn" were rescued by physically and spiritually by His precious blood, then his word and law given to Moses. It began with a new calendar of a new calendar or **12 holy days**, the first being Passover ("the ordinance of the firstborn") and other "holy" days. It was given before the commandments came forth in the wilderness of Sinai. The **12 signs** or **wonders** in Egypt preceded the **12 commandments** given later (the 2 "great" commandments and the additional 10 on the 2 tablets of stone).

The first two holy days on God's Bible calendar are tied to two special events; (1) Passover is the first of these holy days, occurring on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month. It occurred the full moon night Israel was delivered *spiritually* from sin, death, and hell (separation from God) by the blood of the Lamb. The destroying angel passed by over all Israelite homes in Goshen that had lamb's blood placed on their doorways; (2) Israel then departed Egypt *physically*, leaving behind the idolatrous ways of the world there. They left Egypt on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the new 1<sup>st</sup> month on God's calendar. This day marked by their speedy **exodus** from Egypt, during the greater light of the full moon, occurring very near the spring equinox (both serving as heavenly markers for their new "sacred New Year" day). They left so hastily that they had no time to *leaven* their bread with yeast. This departure day became a special holy day of memorial called "the Feast of

Unleavened Bread". It symbolized Israel's removal from physical slavery, *and* from spiritual darkness, sin, and idolatry. Later the Israelites would remove leaven from their daily bread for an entire week. This helped memorialize their Deliverer, the LORD Jesus Christ – "**the Word**" as "the Bread of Life". There is no darkness or sin in Him. He wanted to bless His people by having them remove all darkness and sin from their lives. This is symbolized by removing "corruption" in yeast or leaven in their **bread** *and* the bitter effects of yeast in fermented grape juice or "wine" (the *sweetness* of new wine or natural grape juice is replaced with the *bitterness* and "corruption" of alcohol). Jesus as "the Word" would later introduce unleavened bread and new wine as symbols of His broken body and pure shed blood at the Last Supper in Jerusalem. Because of love He came to earth to fulfill the symbolism of the first Passover in Egypt. There in Jerusalem, He as "the Firstborn" Son of God the Father delivered all believers on earth in the Atonement. It occurred on the holy day of Passover, "the ordinance of the firstborn". Our LORD's precious blood is symbolized by the pure "blood of grapes" in Genesis 49:8-12 (new wine with no alcohol). These verses are Jacob's patriarchal blessing on Judah, tied to the bloodline Jesus would come through in the meridian of time to save His people - the bloodline of Israel's Kings.

## The Real Passover Story of Deliverance

The primary purpose for Israel's release wasn't just their oppression and slavery in Egypt, but their need for light. God invited Israel to come to know Him – the Great "**I AM**", the Creator God of heaven and earth - at Mt. Sinai once they left Egypt. Jesus as "**The Word** of the LORD" repeatedly revealed Himself in the Passover story, first to Moses at the burning bush, and then again and again to Pharaoh with each of the **12 signs** or *wonders* God gave, demonstrating His great power. He told Pharaoh, "**I AM the LORD**". In this statement God was revealing who had greater power over the waters below, the land and its animals, the sun in the sky above, and finally life and death itself in the last or **12<sup>th</sup> sign – the death of the firstborn**. Christ as Creator was also the final Judge of His creation. He was **THE LORD**, not the false lords in Egypt like Pharaoh, his priests, or the false Egyptian gods they worshipped. He was **I AM** – the Creator - **THE LORD** over all created things. It was His blood that was symbolized in the lamb's blood placed on Israelite doorposts. It protected the Israelites during the last plague sent throughout the land, the one in which the firstborn among large animals *and* the Egyptians were taken at **12** midnight.

God wanted Moses, Pharaoh, the Israelites, and us today to know who He was and is. His name-title remains a useful key in defeating fear, depression, and darkness of all kinds today. It is part of "true worship" – to know who it is we worship - the living God, our Savior. To know Him is to worship Him with joy and gratitude. It is a secret weapon among wise ones who can access His great love and power, like the righteous kings of ancient Israel. They used worship at the front of their armies to defeat Israel's greatest enemies. King David was one of these kings. He killed a lion and a bear as a young shepherd, and as Israel's most beloved mortal king, he accessed the great power of God, the King of kings in defeating Goliath, other giants, and the darkness in David's own life. He lifted His heart in "true worship", creating a heart to heart connection with the God of Israel. He loved them and us first - in His atonement. He is the key to victory over all things!

This paper focuses on two foundational truths in the original Passover story: (1) Eliminating darkness via God and His light, (2) And turning to Him and His great love for us in "true worship" – worshipping "in spirit" and "in truth". The Passover teachings which most embrace today have been passed down to us by Jewish tradition, a people who were loved of the LORD, but whose corrupt leaders rejected Christ and crucified Him in the New Testament record. Since then, He has been removed from most of the Old Testament texts. As a result of this later editing of source texts, the Passover feast today typically focuses on Jewish rituals revolving around the Passover Seder (the meal associated with the night of the Passover just before they left Egypt). These traditions, though based on some truth, have replaced Christ the LORD as their Deliverer, with rituals, traditions, and the law. Christ is the focus of the real Passover story. What He did then, and does today to "deliver" His people is much more interesting and powerful!

When is Passover in 2020? The heavens provide the answer in the sun and the moon, the two faithful witnesses God said are to serve as our time pieces in His Bible calendar. He put a new calendar in place for Moses and the Israelites in the Passover story. And from this point forward, the two new holy days below would celebrate Israel's release from the captivity and idolatry of ancient Egypt. Three times in Exodus **12** God said they were "ordinances to be observed forever"! The first two holy days on God's Bible calendar below (of **12**) reveal His great power and love.

**Passover** (a single day) occurs on the evening of Tuesday, April 7<sup>th</sup> on the Gregorian calendar. It corresponds to day 14 in the 1<sup>st</sup> month of God's luni-solar Bible calendar. His calendar uses numbers only, not names for days of the week and the **12** months each year.

**The Feast of Unleavened Bread** is a 7-day festival immediately following Passover, marked by the **full moon** of April 8<sup>th</sup>, continuing through the 15<sup>th</sup>. Both the 8<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> (on our Gregorian calendar) are Sabbaths on God's luni-solar Bible calendar. They correspond to the 15<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of God's calendar, both days being regular 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbaths. They are also special holy convocations (or "gatherings") because they are the 1<sup>st</sup> and last days of this special feast.

What are these two holy days about? The first holy day of **12** in God's new calendar in Exodus is Passover. As the first one, it is obviously very important. It is the day God delivered the ancient covenant people of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph - from darkness and its oppression in Egypt. We know today that it symbolizes the spiritual deliverance of all people by the blood of Christ, God's Only Begotten Son, all who turn to Him in real repentance and purity of the heart.

The second holy day following is centered on the hasty departure of the Israelite captives from Egyptian captivity *and* the darkness of their idolatry. God the Father sent "the Word of the LORD" to call Moses to help deliver Israel. He was of the blood of Israel, raised as an Egyptian, then forced out of the land. He became a shepherd, like David, in the land of Midian. The Word of the LORD revealed Himself to Moses at the burning bush, sending him and Aaron to Egypt to force Pharaoh's in releasing the Hebrew slaves. Our Savior and Deliverer Jesus, as God's Word, used **12** dramatic "signs" or "wonders" to set Israel free. The last 10 signs had "great judgments" tied to them.

It was in the final **12th** sign that prideful Pharaoh finally freed the captives - after all the firstborn in Egypt were taken, including his firstborn son. The Israelites had been protected or "passed over" one the night of this final **12th** sign, now called Passover. The destroying angel came at **12** midnight to provide this final judgment upon Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and the false gods they worshipped. Captive Israel was free. God and His precious blood was the Deliverer.

Passover has become the first and most important holy day celebration on God's Bible calendar, tied to our LORD's atonement centuries later in Jerusalem. Because of it Israel was set free that they might worship the true and living God away from the unclean land of Egypt - in the Promised Land where God gave the covenant "fathers", starting with Abraham. The posterity of these fathers would possess this land and become a "blessed" people unto the LORD - if they would give their whole hearts to Him. It is a story of darkness versus light, Pharaoh's god versus the one true God, and who we too will worship; the god of fear, or the God of love. To bring forth the truths in this important story, I have turned to the following four primary sources.

(1) The first of these is the Aramaic Targums. They are the first and the oldest authorized *translations* of the five books of Moses of the Old Testament - *from* the original Hebrew - into another language, Aramaic. This translation was created in about 515 BCE, as part of the Jews return to the holy land after their 70 years of Babylonian captivity. While there, Aramaic became the language of the average Israelite. Upon returning to their Promised Land, the priests translated the most ancient Hebrew texts into Aramaic *for* the lay people. This was the time of the second temple (of Zerubbabel), when worship services required Priests (who knew both Hebrew and Aramaic) to deliver God's word in the language of the average worshipper. Many centuries later these Aramaic scriptures were translated into English (1862, J.W. Etheridge).

I use two primary English translations of these Aramaic texts - the "Palestinian" and "Jerusalem" versions, for two reasons (*Aramaic and Palestinian Targum*, Ed. Zen Garcia, Sacred Word Publishing). First, Christ the LORD *remains* in the first five books of the Old Testament. He, in fact, is found there (with God the Father) in some 251 references, and via 10 name-titles. The most common of these is "the Word of the Lord". Additional name-titles include "Redeemer", "the Holy One" and "King of kings". In this paper I have changed "Lord" (in "the Word of the Lord") to all caps in "**the Word of the LORD**" to avoid confusion with the false, idolatrous lord of this earth - Satan. He was worshipped as "Baal" throughout much of the Old Testament. "Baal" means "lord", and his worship involves idolatry, focusing on self-love, self-will (the "beast" or "natural man" within us), along with child sacrifice and sexual perversion, all rampant today.

Christ the LORD, the awaited Messiah of the New Testament, was rejected by Jewish leaders, and thus He was later edited out of most of the original Hebrew texts that were used and translated into English, like our 1611 King James Bible, and its first five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy). He is one of "the plain and precious things" taken from the Bible, as addressed by Nephi in 1 Ne. 13:26-42. His role as Israel's physical deliverer in the Passover story - and by His blood as the Lamb of God is **key** to the whole story!

(2) I also use the Joseph Smith Translation (JST) of the entire 1611 King James Bible (KJV). It was mostly completed by 1834, then published for the first time in 1867 by the firstborn son of Emma and Joseph Smith, Joseph Smith III. He was then the President of the RLDS church (his mother and brothers became part of this movement, refusing to follow Brigham Young west because of polygamy, control issues, etc.). Few realize that Joseph Smith Jr. (his father) returned

Christ (like the Aramaic Targums) to the Bible, especially the Genesis creation account. In just the first 8 chapters of JST Genesis (RLDS or Community of Christ) or the LDS Book of Moses, there are 39 references to Christ, using some 17 different name-titles for Him, like “mine Only Begotten Son”, “the Son of Man”, “the Lamb”, “I AM”, “the King of Zion”, “the Rock of heaven”, “Messiah”, and “Jesus Christ”.

(3) I also use the regular King James Version of the Bible (KJV, 1611/ my version published in 1981 by the LDS church). The 1611 KJV has a clear anti-Catholic - Protestant *agenda*, as stated by its translators in England (many, if not most of the 220 different translation of the Bible have an “agenda”). In the introduction to the KJV Bible (called the “Epistle Dedicatory” to King James) the translators proudly state that their “new translation” will *not* allow “the **healing**” addressed by John the Revelator to occur in *the last-days* (see John 13:3), a healing John said *would* occur in *our day*. It is the rising up of “the beast” once again (defeated by the Reformation movement in the Middle Ages). Those under its power have “the mark of the beast” and are led by “the man of sin”. The “healing” the 1611 translators address is the rising up again of “the beast” system worldwide among us (called “the great whore Babylon” with its “great and abominable church”), seen as the uniting of church and state once again, the one defeated in the Reformation, which put down the controlling power of the Roman Catholic church and its Pope, exercising power as THE state government too.

(4) Personal prayer is also relied on to steer me towards truth while researching and writing.

Part I of this paper focuses on the actual events of Passover. Part II addresses the departure from Egypt and journey towards Sinai in the Feast of Unleavened Bread. It celebrates the Israelites hasty exodus from darkness, idolatry, and slavery in Egypt, a symbol of the growing darkness today.

## **Part I: The First Passover – *Deliverance in the Pure Blood of the Lamb***

According to JST Exodus 3:1, “Moses kept the flock of Jethro his father in-law, the priest of Midian. In caring for the sheep Moses eventually “came to the mountain of God” where he had “the burning bush” experience with God. In it he was called to help deliver Israel, along with his older brother Aaron (Moses was 80, Aaron 83). It was there that “The Word of the LORD” told Moses who He (God) was, and why he (Moses) was being called to return to Egypt. He was also instructed on how he would interface with Pharaoh, King of Egypt, and what would ensue to finally release captive Israel. The Aramaic Targum tells us that God the Father spoke first at the burning bush, addressing Moses’ concern that Pharaoh would not listen to him and release the Israelite captives. God said:

“My **Word** [Jehovah – Christ] shall be for thy help; and this [my sent Son] shall be **the sign** to thee that I have sent thee, when thou hast brought the people from from Mizraim [Egypt] ye shall **worship** before the LORD, because ye shall have received **the Law upon this mountain** [which included how and when to worship in the festival days and the Sabbaths]” (Aramaic Targum, *Palestinian* version of Exodus chap. 3).

Moses expressed concern that his own people would not *believe* he was sent of God. He said to God, “I will go to the sons of Israel, and say to them, The LORD God of your fathers hath sent me to you; and they will say to me, What is His Name? What shall I say to them? And the Word of the Lord said unto Mosheh [Moses]:

“He who spake, and the world was; who spake, and all things were. This thou shalt say to the sons of Israel, **I AM HE WHO IS AND WHO WILL BE**, hath sent me unto you” (Aramaic Targum, *Palestinian* version of Exodus 3).

The Jerusalem Targum of this portion of the same Aramaic text states:

“He who spake to the world, Be, and it was; and who will speak to it, Be, and it will be. Thus shalt thou speak to the sons of Israel, EHEYEH hath sent me unto you.”

Compare these versions of the text to the King James Version of this same experience below.

“And he said, Certainly I will be with thee; and this shall be a *token* unto thee, that I have sent thee: When thou hast brought forth the people out of Egypt, ye shall serve God *upon this mountain*. And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, What is his name? what shall I say unto them? And God said unto Moses, **I AM THAT I AM**: and he said, Thus shalt thou say unto the children of Israel, **I AM** hath sent me unto you” (Ex. 3:12-14, KJV). See also endnote 9, I AM as Creator.

Later when Moses was granted his first audience with the King of Egypt, he informed Pharaoh that the Israelites must be released and allowed to travel a 3 day's journey out of Egypt - to offer up their *sacrifices in worship* to God – away from the idolatry of Egypt. We know today that the blood sacrifices pointed to Christ's future sacrifice in Jerusalem. Pharaoh responded to Moses stating, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice to let Israel go? I know not the LORD, neither will I let Israel go" (Ex. 5:2). God called captive Israel in Egypt His "firstborn" (Ex. 4:22), and He desired two basic things for His people; (1) That their oppression end in liberty from slavery and oppression; And (2) That they might have freedom to worship God in the way He would teach them, apart from the filth of idolatry in Egypt. God knew that Pharaoh would not let His "firstborn" go free without significant motivation. God thus told Pharaoh in Moses' *first* encounter with him that if he didn't let Israel go free, the "firstborn" son of Pharaoh would die (Ex. 4:22-23).

To motivate Pharaoh, God used a total of **12** signs in Egypt in Exodus 3 through **12**. The last 10 of them had dramatic *judgments* associated with them, each with increasing severity. Most call them "plagues" today. God used the word "**sign**" for all **12** of them, doing so a total of **7** times in association with the *judgments* pronounced upon Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and their false gods. The word "**wonder**" is found there 4 times, whereas the phrase "**great judgments**" is used 2 times. The words "**plague**" and "**pestilence**" are used only 1 time each in the KJV. God informed Pharaoh (and us) **7** times in the KJV record that it is He - the God or "governor" over all His creation - that was providing these judgments, stating repeatedly "**I Am** the LORD". Note that his **7** statements feature the sacred name-title "**I Am**" given to Moses at the burning bush, signifying His great role as Creator (in the past, in the present, and into the future). All the judgments were given in God's power and name. He told Moses to "multiply" "**My signs**" and "**My wonders**" before Pharaoh his false priests, and their false gods. The last or **12<sup>th</sup>** sign, finally freeing Israel, occurred at **12** midnight. It took Pharaoh's son, and all the "firstborn" in Egypt, including the firstborn among large animals. Thus the first Passover in Egypt is called "**the ordinance of the firstborn**" in the Aramaic Targum (Ex. 13). The **12** signs in Egypt collective reveal God's great power in delivering His chosen people, His firstborn, while executing judgment on the idolatry and darkness (see Ex. 12:12).

God's great love was symbolized in "the blood of the lamb" on Israelite doorways. It was a "**sign**", "mark", "token" or "seal", backed up by His "NAME". It protected the Israelites during Passover evening. Moses had his people place lamb's blood on the entrance to their homes while in Egypt. It was done in a specific form by dipping a sprig of hyssop into an earthen bowl containing the lamb's blood and *sprinkling* it upon the doorway – its top lintel and the two side posts of "the gate" into the home. The destroying angel would see this **sign** and "pass over" the Israelite homes at **12** midnight. According to God's instruction afterwards, an innocent lamb was first taken into the household on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> new month. The family would get to know it for 5 days (the 10<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup>). The lamb was then killed by the whole household (all those redeemed by it) for a Passover meal. Its blood created a special symbol on the home's threshold, door, or gate, tied to the 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> letters of the Hebrew alphabet (this symbolism is addressed later on).

The Hebrew word for Passover is "Pesach", meaning "to come under the *protection* of a deity, by crossing over . . . something, like a threshold" (Strong's #6452). That door, gate, or threshold is the LORD Jesus. He said, "I Am the door of the sheep (John 10:7,9). He gave His blood willingly for those in a covenant relationship with Him. God's covenant was and is to deliver His people physically and spiritually. The Israelites had entered into this covenant with God willingly, as did their patriarchal "fathers" from Joseph sold into Egypt, to Jacob, Isaac, and Abraham. The outward sacrificial rites in the law given Moses pointed to a necessary inward sacrifice, demonstrating their love for God in the first, great commandment (today we give a broken heart and contrite spirit as this sacrifice). The Israelites were a covenant-making people, like Abraham "the father of the faithful". This relationship, strengthened by keeping all of God's commandments out of love for Him, separated or divided Israel from the Egyptians and all others (being "divided" is a constant theme in the Aramaic Targum). The Israelites were careful to not trample on the blood of this covenant, showing contempt for it, by not leaving their homes the whole night (see Heb. 10:26-29). Their lives were at stake. It symbolizes deliverance via the Bridegroom Jesus Christ, the God of the Old Testament (under the direction of the Father), who carries us as the bride symbolically over this and all other thresholds in our lives, until we finally are carried in and through the gates of heaven. Only via Him (as the Bridegroom) and His blood are we delivered or saved.

Our LORD's atoning blood remains the protective "sign, mark, token", or "seal" placed upon all the repentant, wise virgins or believers today. It is tied to His sacred Name. In later New Testament scripture it is called "the seal of the living God". It ultimately represents HIM. His Name or seal is placed upon the foreheads of the 144,000 special last days servants (Rev. 7:2-3, 9:3-4, 14:1, 22:4; D&C 77:8-10; see also 1:7-10, 68:9-12 & 133:17-18), *and* all those who turn their hearts wholly to the living God, and His Son – "the Word of the LORD" (see Mosiah 5:15; John 6:27; 2 Cor. 1:21-22; Eph. 1:10-14, 4:30; see also Matt. 16:19; Hel. 10:7). The wicked do not have it (Ezek. 8 & 9). They are left exposed to the judgments of God. They have an opposing seal or mark (see Alma 34:35).

God invites all of us to repent and come unto Him. The truly repentant receive God's protective "seal" upon them as a "sign", often as a sign of their salvation. The Book of Mormon informs us that Christ is the father of our Salvation (Mosiah 5). Paul said He is "the author and finisher of our faith" (Heb 12:2). Those who don't place their faith and trust in Him, relying instead on themselves, other men (like the priests of Pharaoh), or false gods (like those of the Egyptians) are forsaken. The "idols" held in our hearts also include "the lusts of the flesh", "the honors of men", and "the things of the world" (see 1 Ne. 22:23). These people receive a different "sign, seal, token", or "mark" upon them, "the mark of the beast" (Rev. 13:16-17) because their focus is upon "the natural man" or "beast" within them. King Benjamin said that they are "an enemy to God" and will remain so until they yield or submit wholly unto God (Mosiah 3:19) via a broken heart and contrite spirit. He simply wants our love as He loved us first (1 John 4:19). This love, once we know who God really is, comes forth naturally and with enthusiasm and joy - in "true worship". It pushes away all fear and darkness.

The power behind God's "name" and "seal" is reinforced by the rod Moses used with each of the **12** signs. It was a symbol of God's power, with Moses. It wasn't just a shepherd's staff (he was a shepherd before returning to Egypt), but a special "rod" he obtained from Jethro, his father-in-law, a man holding priesthood. The Aramaic texts reveal that this rod had a great jewel atop it, mostly likely a sapphire. Engraved upon it was God's "all powerful and Glorious **Name**". It states:

"And Mosheh took the Rod which he had brought away from the chamber of his father-in-law; and it was from the sapphire Throne of glory . . . and upon it was engraven and set forth **the Great and Glorious Name** by which the **signs** should be wrought before the Lord by his hand" (Aramaic Targum of Ex. chap. 4, *Palestinian*).

All 12 signs in Egypt were done by and in God's Holy Name. God told Moses, "And this rod take thou in thy hand to work therewith the **signs**" (Aramaic Targum, chap. 4, *Jerusalem*).

Most people associate Passover with "10 plagues" pronounced upon the Egyptians, when scripture tells us that they were part of **12 signs** revealing God's great power. The number **12** is significant in this story and throughout scripture generally, as it is tied to the principle of God's "**governance**" wherever it is seen<sup>1</sup>. The first 2 serpent signs Moses gave Pharaoh are often forgotten, like the 2 Great Commandments of **12 commandments** total He gave Moses. Ten of them are given later in Exodus 20. The first 5 commandments of the first stone tablet are tied to loving God with our whole heart (Deut. 6:5, 10:12). The second great commandment is associated with loving one another, and is detailed in the second stone tablet with 5 more commandments tied to loving each other (Lev. 19:18, 34). He promises **12 blessings** in following all the commandments, or **12 cursings** for rejecting them (see Deut. 27 & 28). The two great ones summarize all of God's law. It was in the first Passover that God gave Moses the first 2 of **12 holy days** total in His new calendar (the remaining 10 given later in Leviticus 23). The final **12<sup>th</sup> sign** tied to the firstborn was given at **12 midnight**. It was tied to our LORD's blood atonement as the Lamb of God, the Firstborn of the Father. God *governs* His creation, trying to bring the blessings of heaven to earth in fulfillment of the prayer request Jesus prayed to the Father, and given us in the LORD's prayer:

"Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven" (see Matt. 6:9-13).

God provided **12 signs** for 3 reasons; (1) First, they revealed the superior power of the Great "**I Am**" (of Exodus 3), He who is a great and loving God, the Creator of Heaven and Earth – the Word of the LORD (John 1:1). He had come to deliver the covenant people from a false, idolatrous priesthood in Pharaoh's controlling kingdom; (2) Second, the increasing severity of God's last 10 signs, as "great judgments" or "plagues" upon Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and their false gods, led to Israel's freedom from bondage, darkness, and oppression; And (3) The Israelites (God's "firstborn") were then free to "serve", "sacrifice" or "worship" God away from the unclean land of Egypt. Every time Moses asked for deliverance of his people, he concluded with the request – that they might "serve, sacrifice", or "worship" the living God.

The book of John in the New Testament reveals that our LORD Jesus is more than a great teacher and healer. He is our Savior – and was and is **divine** - a God, the Son of God. This is symbolized by the flying *Eagle* in Rev. 4:7. It was upon the wings of this eagle that Israel was set free (Ex. 19:4). The righteous are also brought to heaven in this life in an ascent vision experience, as symbolized on "the wings of an eagle" in D&C 124:99. We see this with John in Revelation chapter 4. There he saw **who** the God of this earth really was and is. He is not only the Father of heaven and earth as Creator, but the Father of our salvation in His blood atonement. John had a first-hand witness of this "Lamb" (see Revelation 5). We can too. Matthew's gospel reveals a different aspect of our LORD. He informs us that Christ was and is a *King* (symbolized by a *Lion*). Mark's gospel focuses on Christ as a *Servant* – of the Father (symbolized by an *Ox* or *Calf*). And Luke's gospel provides many examples of Christ's humanity as a *Man* (He often called Himself "the Son of Man"). It is

John, however, that continually stresses the *Divine* nature of Christ by using the name-title **I Am** 21 times in the 4<sup>th</sup> gospel. In **12** of them there are additional titles re-enforcing his *Divinity*. He governs His creation and kingdom here on earth wisely, with both mercy and justice. Note some of them below.

The Word (John 1:1)	I Am the Bread of Life (John 6:35)	I Am the Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
The Creator of all things (John 1:3)	The great I AM (John 8:58; 18:6, 8; Ex. 3:14)	I Am the Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
The Only Begotten of the Father (John 1:14)	I Am the Light of the world (John 9:5)	I Am the Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14:6)
The Lamb of God (John 1:29)	I Am the Door of the sheep (John 10:7)	I Am the true Vine (John 15:1)

## The 12 Signs in Egypt

It is now time to look at each of the **12 signs** in the early Exodus chapters tied to the first Passover (see Exodus 7-12). Each **sign** is uniquely tied to eliminating idolatry in ancient Egypt, while pointing to a specific false Egyptian god worshipped there. The first **2 signs** (generally overlooked) feature a very common symbol in Egypt and around the world, the *serpent*. It symbolizes the mythological figure *Apophis* in the ancient Egyptian temple drama. He is tied to darkness, chaos, and *death*. He goes by other names too, including *Typhon* and *Set*. Christians associate him with *Lucifer* of the Bible. He rebelled against God and was cast down to earth, becoming *Satan*; the liar, murderer, and tempter of mankind. Pharaoh has ties to him, as he opposed Moses, Aaron, and God in the original Passover story in Egypt.

It begins with a Hebrew baby boy who was put in a basket or “ark” by his mother Jochebed via Moses’ sister Miriam. He was then floated down the river Nile to save him from the murderous order of the King of Egypt at this time (a different Pharaoh, “who knew not Joseph”). All Hebrews in Egypt were slaves at this time, put in bondage because the increasing population of the Hebrews became a real concern for Pharaoh. Moses’ mother and sister refused to follow Pharaoh’s order to kill all male Hebrew babies at birth. Though once a thriving people, descending from the honored Joseph of Egypt and his large family, all brought to Egypt in a time of great famine, their growing numbers made them a threat to Egypt. Pharaoh’s order to all Hebrew midwives to kill the baby boys came in response to a dream he had. In it he saw a balance or scale. On one side was the land of powerful Egypt. On the other was a **lamb**. It greatly *outweighed* Egypt. Not knowing the dream’s meaning, Pharaoh sent for his two chief magicians, Jannis and Jambres. They told Pharaoh:

“A certain child is about to be born in the congregation of Israel, by whose hand will be destruction to the land of Mizraim [Egypt]” (Aramaic targum of Exodus 1, *Jerusalem* version).

The dream was a prophecy of the shepherd Moses (a lesser “lamb” than Jesus, “the Lamb of God”), who as a shepherd in Midian would become God’s servant in leading the Israelites out of idolatrous Egypt. Jesus is “the Good Shepherd”, “the greater Moses” and “Second Adam” (John 10). As God in the Passover story, He watched over His flock Israel (called His “firstborn” in the Aramaic Targum). He delivered them *physically* first, then *spiritually* later on as the Lamb of God in Jerusalem (this order for the Jews will be reversed in the last-days). Remember that in Jesus’ day, it was Herod who tried to stop this prophesied King from rising up to challenge his rule. The wise men searched for the Christ child so that they might “worship” him. This alerted Herod of His coming birth. Like Pharaoh, Herod feared this coming “ruler” would supplant him. Both men became murderers of innocent male babies. Both were later removed from power. We read in Matthew 2:1-12 about Herod’s fear of this new “ruler”. The priests and scribes told Herod that He would be born in Bethlehem (Hebrew for “house of bread”).

“And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, are by no means least among the rulers of Judah; for from you shall come a *ruler* who is to **shepherd** my people Israel” (Matt. 2:6; see also Isa. 60:1-6 and Micah 5:2).

In this later story of the same Deliverer, Jesus of Nazareth, it is Joseph, caretaker of Mary, the young virgin pregnant with the Christ child - who is given a *dream* to take him to Egypt, that this precious son might be preserved, just like Moses in Egypt, preserved on the Nile in an ark (see Matt. 1:19-20). Such details in scripture continually reveal our amazing God.

## The First Two Serpent Signs

The deliverance of Israel in Egypt by Christ the LORD, the Word, or here “the bread of life” (John 6:35), began when Moses and Aaron returned to Egypt. Pharaoh sought a “miracle” from these servants and their God. In response, Moses had Aaron throw down his **rod** before Pharaoh and the magicians in his court. God then changed it miraculously into a serpent. This was **sign #1** of **12**. Pharaoh’s magicians (astrologers & sorcerers) invoked their false god Apep (serpent-god of protection) with “burnings with divination” and then threw down their staffs. They too became serpents, revealing that there was some dark power among the Egyptian priests.

God then gave **sign #2**. God's serpent swallowed up all the serpents of the false priests or magicians. This revealed His much greater power. These first two signs are tied to the 2 opposing serpents addressed in scripture, both associated with a tree, with wisdom or knowledge, and being "**lifted up**". One serpent creates and is tied to *life*. He is also a great *healer*, teacher, and deliverer - focused upon love. The other serpent is a liar, deceiver, murderer, tempter, and destroyer – focused upon *death*. Our LORD is tied to the first serpent. Why a serpent at all?

In John chapter 3, Christ the LORD addressed Nicodemus in connection with serpent symbolism. Nicodemus was a supposed learned one of the Sanhedrin. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be "**born again**" to receive salvation (John 3:3-8). Though an important Jewish leader, he didn't understand that being **born again** in Christ - as the Father of our salvation - was a requirement for his *spiritual* rebirth – and for all those saved in the *Kingdom* of God. Like all of us, Nicodemus needed to repent and come unto Christ. This Messiah was standing right in front of him. Only through Him could Nicodemus and the family of man be saved. It was then that Jesus added that He would eventually be *lifted up* as "the serpent in the wilderness" by Moses in the wilderness, that his people might be healed from the poisonous bites of vipers (John 3:13-16). It is the blood of a God, Jesus Christ that heals all those held captive in this life by *sin*, *death*, and *hell* (separation from God).

Nicodemus did not understand who was standing before Him, or that our LORD's shed blood would provide this healing; (1) It would first be shed in Gethsemane, where He bled from every pore. It was *sprinkled* upon the ground there; (2) Later it came forth in the scourging, where it literally poured out from His torn flesh; And (3) Last it came from the wounds of the crucifixion, where blood was smeared on the wood of an olive tree. There, the sins of those who repent are washed away. And the binding chains of death and hell are overcome, granting life in His resurrection. Each as only to turn and look up to Him as the serpent on the pole or tree raised by Moses. Jesus was addressing the pathway to salvation for all. He said:

"And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven. And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. 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" (John 3:13-16).

The story of Moses lifting up the "serpent in the wilderness" is found in Numbers 21. In it the Israelites first murmured and became rebellious after being miraculously freed from Egypt by a powerful and loving God. He sent poisonous serpents to humble them, reminding them of who had just released them from captivity. God told Moses to create a bronze serpent and raise it up on a pole. Moses then told all those bitten by poisonous serpents to look upon this raised up serpent, stating that if they did so with belief they would be healed. The biting serpent is the one injuring the heel of man in Genesis 3:15 and Amos 9:3. He is the opposing evil serpent Satan, who tempted Eve in the garden. There are at least five reasons why Jesus, as "the Son of Man" is compared to a serpent.

(1) *Lifted Up* Jesus was lifted up on a cross, just as Moses' serpent was lifted up. Both require looking up to our Savior Jesus as the great healer and deliverer. The evil serpent was lifted up in his own pride, causing him to rebel against God. He then fell, becoming Satan here on the earth (see Isa. 14 & Ezek. 28).

(2) *Healing* Throughout His 3.5-year mortal mission, our LORD healed many needy people, including the blind, lame, and sick. Their disease was often caused by evil spirits (those following the other serpent). Today the serpent on a pole (the caduceus) is a universal symbol of healing in the medical profession. We see both a single serpent wrapped around the pole, or two serpents in some illustrations; one tied to healing and *life*, the other to sickness and *death*. Moses promised his people **12** blessings in following God, or **12** cursings if they rebelled. He said, "I command thee this day to love the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commandments . . . I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you *life* and *death* [in two opposing ways], blessing and cursing; therefore choose *life*, that both thou and thy seed may *live*" (Deut. 30:16, 19).

(3) *Resurrection* Serpents periodically lose their skin, a symbol of *rebirth* and Christ's resurrection after His crucifixion. Because of it, all will *live* again. Jesus told Nicodemus that he must be "**born again**" to *see* and *enter* heaven (John 3).

(4) *Knowledge or Wisdom* The serpent is also associated with knowledge or wisdom, that of the Gods. Satan used knowledge as a temptation for Eve. He lied, telling her that if she partook of the forbidden fruit (disobeying God), she would *not die*, but be like the Gods with great knowledge, knowing good from evil. The prideful think they are wise enough to disobey the greater wisdom and directives of God, given in love. Their disobedience leads to cursing rather



than blessing. In Matthew 10:16, the LORD said to His disciples, “Behold, I send you forth as sheep in the midst of wolves: be ye wise as serpents and harmless as doves”.

Hugh Nibley used the words of Barach (an Apocryphal book) in his book about the ancient rites of Egypt to suggest that there was a literal “forbidden fruit” in the garden; the fermented fruit of the “vine tree” (Num. 6:4; Ezek. 15:2 & 6). Some suggest the alcohol in the fermented “blood of grapes” may have placed Eve under the serpent’s influence, a drug used by some in scripture for sinful purposes. Examples include the daughters of Lot who got him drunk (Gen. 19), and David’s attempt to get Uriah drunk (to have him lie with his wife), hiding her pregnancy in his sin with Bathsheba, Uriah’s wife. In the Book of Mormon “strong” wine was used by God’s people to help them escape captivity at night, by getting their guards drunk.

The sacrament ordinance today is tied to both the first Passover meal *and* the Last Supper meal with the LORD and His **12** servants. In both cases *unleavened* bread (symbolizing Christ’s pure *body*) and *non-fermented* wine were used (symbolizing the *pure* “blood of grapes”, His precious pure *blood*). Both *body* emblems are used to purify us spiritually *and* physically. I believe the *healing* is literal, in the DNA of the blood of those seeking the LORD with all their heart, might, mind, and soul (see Joseph’s comments at the end of endnote 2). Taking the emblems of the LORD’s body and blood into ours (He is the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh) helps *heal* the corruption in us and be “one” with Him. It has profound implications tied to His promise of our “eternal *life*”.

(5) *Trees* Both opposing serpents are associated with trees. Christ the LORD was lifted up on a tree or cross. He is the source of light, love and *life*, much like a fruitful tree. Our Lord’s fruit (love) is sweet. His mission in bearing our sins upon a tree bore significant, abundant fruit. He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the *life*” (John 14:6). The other serpent’s lie to Eve led her and Adam to *death*, by way of disobedience in partaking of forbidden fruit, that of the tree of knowledge of good *and* evil. Because they went against God’s greater wisdom, they were banished from God’s presence, and later in their old age, they *died*. All five of these things have clear ties to the opposing concepts of *life* or *death*. In ancient Egypt, the serpent symbol has similar *duality*. In a negative sense, it was associated with Set and Apophis in Egypt. He caused the *death* of Osiris, an important god in their mythology (with some symbolic ties to Christ). In a positive sense, the serpent was also a symbol of the goddess Wadjet of lower Egypt. She was the daughter of the sun god, Re. Her job was to help *protect* lower Egypt (the kingdom based around the Nile Delta), along with the cosmos itself - from chaos, a primary evil in the Egyptian religion, also leading to *death*.

*The Serpent in Egypt* On the headdress of many Egyptian kings and queens (left), the cobra (or Uraeus) symbolized sovereignty, royalty, and divinity, along with authority, power, and protection in the serpent-god Apep or Wadjet. It is one of the oldest deities in the Egyptian pantheon, worshipped in the earliest Egyptian civilizations. This cult predates the unification of Lower Egypt (symbolized by *the Cobra*) and Upper Egypt (symbolized by *the vulture*). An uncoiled small cobra is found on the queens' crown, whereas the larger coiled cobra is used on the kings' crown. Like many men, the

Pharaoh interfacing with Moses and Aaron in Egypt had great pride, believing he and his gods were wiser and more powerful than the Great God of the Hebrews. Because of it and his disobedience there was great suffering in Egypt among all but the Israelites.



*Mask of King Tutankhamun with both a cobra (right) and a vulture (left), Symbolizing his authority over both united halves of Egypt.*

In the ancient Egyptian temple drama, Apophis, Typhon, or Set is defeated in the end. He served a necessary function, though, as the adversary of the Great God’s plan. The serpent was tied to chaos, destruction, and most notably *death*. Trying as he always does to spoil and corrupt everything, including the blood of Adam through Seth (Gen. 3:15), in the end he only fulfills an indispensable role in carrying out God’s great plan. The choice to follow one serpent-god or the other is called the doctrine of “the two ways” by Moses, resulting in *life* or *death* (see Deut. 30:15-20). Nephi calls this choice “opposition in all things” (2 Ne. 2:11). Moses taught that this choice leads to either **12** blessings or **12** cursings (Deut. 27 & 28). The evil serpent serves to test man on earth. The one raised up on a cross said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life” (John 14:6).

God the Father sent “**the Word**” to overcome the false priesthood in Egypt, which like so many other cultures on earth descends into human sacrifice under Satan’s influence, the opposite of the free-will offering of our LORD. Abraham was also nearly one of them (see Facsimile 1). The LORD guided Moses and Aaron in presenting the **12 signs** in Egypt so that the Israelites would be released, and finally allowed to worship via their required sacrifices. They could **not** be performed in Egypt for various reasons. Their offerings were to include **lambs**, **rams**, **heifers**, and **bulls**, which animals were all held **sacred** among the Egyptians. Bulls were associated the Egyptian

god *Apis*, Heifers with *Hathor*, Rams and Lambs with *Amun* and *Khnum*. Moses feared the Israelites would be stoned if these offerings were made in Egypt (the first time “stoning” is mentioned in the Bible). Moses told Pharaoh that he knew not how God wanted the Israelites to worship Him, only that it was important that they do so, and at a *divided* distance - at least a three-days’ journey from this unclean land, full of idolatry. Israel’s animal sacrifices pointed to Christ’s *free-will* offering as the Firstborn Son of God in the Garden of Gethsemane. He went there the night of the Passover meal with his most trusted disciples. He took them with Him to the Mount of Olives. He was arrested there the next morning, submitting to the forced torture and horrific execution of Roman authority and soldiers, who carried out wishes of the Jewish leaders who had Him killed. In time the symbolic offerings of the Israelites were offered up on specific holy days that Moses would soon receive for his people along with the law, all in the later chapters of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. Note the words God told to Moses to give to Pharaoh, before the first two *serpent* signs were given.

“Thus saith the Lord, Israel is My **first-born** son; and to thee I say, Let My son go free, that he may **worship** before Me: and if thou refuse to let him go, behold, I will slay thy first-born son” (Aramaic Targum, Ex. 4, *Palestinian*).

Now note the actual words spoken by Aaron to Pharaoh – for Moses. These were each time a succeeding sign was given, and each time suggesting that Israel needed to **worship** God in their sacrifices, their service, their *holy days*.

“Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel. **Release My people**, that they may make unto me a **festival** in the wilderness” (chap. 5, Aramaic Targum).

Pharaoh responded, “The name of the LORD is not made known to me, that I should receive his word to release Israel. I have not found written in the Book of Angels the name of the LORD. Of him I am not afraid, neither will I release Israel” (chap. 5, Aramaic Targum). Pharaoh then commanded that the work of Hebrews slaves be made more strenuous by making bricks without straw. He did not want them to have time or energy for any hope of release. It was a **judgment** upon the captive people. This action would later be reversed upon pharaoh and the Egyptians. They would receive it **10-fold** – in 10 consecutive “great judgments” or “plagues” upon him, his people, and their powerless gods. Their **severity** increased with each judgment.

### Who Will Be Worshipped?

God’s first 2 important signs for Pharaoh and the Egyptians had no judgment or cursing with them, even though Pharaoh had punished the Israelites after Moses delivered God’s first message to him. The first two signs discussed earlier are summarized again below – to be part of all **12**. God ALMIGHTY and His great power was about to be unleashed upon the major Egyptian gods, including Pharaoh, who set himself up before the people as a god. Before Israel could be set free and taught the doctrines of the gospel of the Father and the Son, the false priesthood of Egypt (inspired by Satan) had to go first, that of Pharaoh, his magicians or priests, and the many false gods they worshipped. This pattern of pushing away darkness *first* is found in the Creation story (Gen. 1:1-3). And it is found in the many oral-histories of Native Americans on this land. In them we read about the Word of the LORD visiting many Native American peoples in the western hemisphere, including North, Central, and South America and the Island peoples.

One excellent source for seeing patterns in Christ’s many visits to His people in the west is the book *He Walked the Americas* by L. Taylor Hansen. From it I put together a list of the many visits, revealing a consistent pattern involving common things he repeatedly did. Four follow; (1) The LORD typically came in the early morning from the east with a special greeting. His right hand was raised up in it, revealing a T-shaped mark (from His atonement) which served to identify who He was; (2) He always provided needed physical healing among the people (animals too) and often left His robe behind to continue the healing (with faith in Christ, Paul did a similar thing in Acts 19:12); (3) The LORD relieved great oppression among the people, caused by the fear-based control of false priesthood (priestcraft) with its human sacrifice, etc.; And (4) His visits were often tied to the planet Venus among many of these cultures. Venus was a source of light (like the sun and moon) that presented a pattern in its cycle, a pattern that was and is used as a timepiece to memorialize Him, His teachings, and His return.

In all of these visits, the LORD came to bring light and hope among the oppressed people, much like the Israelites in Egyptian bondage. His people on this land were frequently visited as many were of the house of Israel via the bloodline of Joseph of Egypt, through Manasseh and then Lehi and his covenant posterity, as presented us in the Book of Mormon. This record of God’s covenant people here has much less editing and corruption, having gone through one primary set of hands, the Prophet Joseph Smith. It too features a visit by Christ to his covenant people (3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi),

providing great clarity into His pure doctrine (a 2<sup>nd</sup> witness of the Bible & His New Testament teachings), with very clear “*born again*” requirements, like those shared with Nicodemus in the book of John.<sup>2</sup>

Of special note in the Book of Mormon is the story of King Benjamin and his people, all of whom were born again in Christ - Jesus, all becoming “the sons and daughters” of Christ the LORD their Deliverer, the Father of their Salvation. Each was “sealed” or “marked” by God’s Name and saving blood (see Mosiah 5:15). Note the pattern of removing darkness first in the book right before Mosiah chapter 1 (the Words of Mormon). There, King Mosiah, with the sword of Laban, removes the “false teachers”, “false preachers”, “false prophets, and “false Christs” first, putting down their darkness before teaching his humble people, the pure doctrine of Christ in Mosiah chapters 1-5.

Samuel and Lamanite and Abinadi did similar things. Abinadi was sent of God to bring light to a people oppressed by ignorance (a form of darkness) and oppression by King Noah and his priests, in their high taxes (to build many fine buildings). Alma was once one of these priests at first. He was part of the secret works of Noah. The Book of Mormon features some 84 references to secret combinations covering the land and oppressing the people for gain. They bring in false worship of “the beast” or “natural man” that includes the fallen angel Lucifer, a being of light before he rebelled against God (he is Satan on this earth). Again, his worship focuses upon self-love, self will, child-sacrifice (even drinking blood) and great perversions in the beautiful creative powers God gave man, to be exercised between one man and one woman. Note the first two signs God gave Pharaoh, left, and the related idolatry tied to it at right.

### God’s First 2 Signs or Wonders

**Sign #1** The 1st of the 12 signs or wonders in Egypt featured God turning Moses’ Rod (given to Aaron) into a serpent, a symbol of our LORD’s great *wisdom* along with His superior power of *healing* and *resurrection*, as symbolized in the later raising up of the serpent on a pole by Moses in the wilderness (Num. 21:9). Pharaoh’s magicians (false priests operating in “priestcraft”) duplicated this 1st miracle or sign (and 2 more), their staffs also turning into serpents (see Ex. 7:10). This revealed that Satan and his servants have some, power, though it was limited.

**Sign #2** God’s serpent then swallowed up the serpents of the false priests, symbolizing His much greater power and wisdom (Ex. 7:12). God then protected His people in Goshen while sending 10 increasingly severe judgments upon Pharaoh, the priests, and the false gods of Egypt.

### 2 Egyptian Gods Judged

**Apep** – The serpent Apep was one of the chief male gods of Egypt. He is tied to **Satan as the Serpent** in the Passover story. He began as the fallen angel Lucifer who was cast to earth becoming Satan. In the Egyptian temple drama the serpent was called Apophis, Typhon, and Set (brother of Osiris). In the Bible he is often called Baal, tied to the **Sun** and the male generative powers of the phallus (symbolized by pillars and pylons at temples). Roman Emperor Constantine worshipped the sun god. His holy day or Sabbath is **Sunday** (not the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the Creator God – the Great **I AM**).

**Wadjet** – This female Egyptian god is symbolized by the Uraneus motif, worn on the crown of Egyptian Pharaohs. Uraneus is the goddess of Lower Egypt, a protector and the daughter of the **sun** god, Re (Baal in the Bible). Re, Wadjet, and the other false gods of Egypt could not protect Pharaoh, the priests, or the Egyptian people from God’s great power.

### The 10 Additional “Signs, Wonders, Great Judgments, or Plagues”

Unlike the first 2 “signs” in each of God’s 10 additional “wonders” in Egypt below, we now see a “great judgment” or “plague” clearly put upon a specific false god worshipped in Egypt. Note how they increase in severity from top to bottom, from #3 to # 12 hereafter, finally ending in the curse of *death* of all plant life, much of animal life, and then finally the *death* of the firstborn of Egyptians (including their larger animals). Because Pharaoh kept going against the freedom he continually promised Moses and the Israelites (as part of having Moses pray to God to stop the plague, from the 4<sup>th</sup> sign to the 11<sup>th</sup> sign), he too lost his life when pursuing the covenant people of God - whom he had just released.

Pharaoh’s promises were all a lie, just like those of Satan. It remains a favorite tool of the elite today, the media they control, along with leaders in schools and churches. Pharaoh went back on each of his 8 consecutive promises thereafter, refusing to let the Israelites go. God told Moses to say to Pharaoh that He sent these judgments, that “**there is none like Me in all the earth . . . I have spared thee . . . that My power may be made manifest to thee, and that My Holy Name may be made known in all the earth**” (Aramaic Targum of Ex. chap. 9, *Palestinian*). Moses shared God’s words before judgment #9 came, the taking away of light. He worked in darkness.

I find it interesting that *the first* of these 10 consecutive Egyptian judgments is tied to turning *water* into **blood** – as a very similar demonstration of power – in “turning water to wine” was presented by Christ as His *first* miracle. It was at the start of His earthly mission, a “sign” *for* the servants at the wedding in Cana. Later He told them, “signs shall follow them that believe” (Mark 16:16). His “servants” needed to believe and know of His calling and power. They were the only ones

(besides family) with knowledge that it was a “miracle” This beginning of miracles did Jesus in Cana of Galilee, and **manifested forth his glory**; and the **faith of his disciples was strengthened in him**” (JST John 2:5-11).

God told Moses:

“Go unto Pharaoh in the morning: behold he cometh forth to observe divinations at the water as a magician. And say to him, **Release My people**, that they may *serve* Me in the desert; and, behold, as yet thou hast not hearkened. Thus saith the LORD: By this [next] **sign** thou shalt know that **I Am** the LORD. Behold, with the rod that is in my hand, I will smite the waters of the river, and they shall be changed into blood” (Aramaic Targum of Ex. chap. 7, *Palestinian*).

Wine and blood are interchangeable in many scriptures. Some refer to wine (without alcohol) as “**the blood of grapes**”. This phrase is found first in Genesis 49, a clear prophecy of the coming Christ as our Savior. This wording is given as a mystery in Jacob’s patriarchal blessing upon his 4<sup>th</sup> son Judah (of **12**). This blessing first addresses the royal *bloodline* of Christ the LORD via the *blood* of Judah (Israel’s kings). It then addresses His coming as the King via symbolism of the “lion’s welp” and the “sceptre”. Note that He will also stand on the “neck” of all enemies, *and* that as “Shiloh”, He will “gather” all people to Him (for salvation). Jacob’s blessing also addresses Christ’s triumphal entry into the holy city, Jerusalem, riding down the Mount of Olives and up into the Temple on “the foal of an ass” (another symbol of Kingship, tied to *humility*). There is also the statement about His colt being tied to a “*choice* vine” (His Kingship is “*choice*” or royal in that it is the bloodline of God the Father (Christ is His only Begotten Son in the flesh) *and* through Mary’s bloodline. Her royal genealogy *on earth* is given us in Luke 3 (Matthew provides a similar earthly kingship bloodline for Joseph as His step-father). Jacob’s prophecy ends stating that “he washed his garments in **wine**, and his clothes in **the blood of grapes**” (Gen. 49:8-11). Our LORD’s *blood* stained His robe in Gethsemane. It also *sprinkled* on the ground there. Three scriptures tell us He bleed from every pore (Luke 22:44, Mosiah 3:7 & D&C 19:18).

### Precious Blood Willingly Given

Our LORD entered the garden of Gethsemane just after the Last Supper on Passover *evening* in Jerusalem. It was there that He bled from every pore, His blood *sprinkling* on the ground for us. Moses told the Israelites to *sprinkle* the blood of the lamb on the door at Passover (according to the Aramaic Targum of Exodus 12, *Palestinian*). It was also to be done in a specific, important *pattern*, using a sprig of hyssop (a common plant in the desert lands of the east). That pattern involved 3 portions of the door (the lintel and its 2 side posts), creating a shape very similar to 2 Hebrew Alphabet letters; the 8<sup>th</sup> letter *Cheth* - symbolizing “*gate*”, and the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter Tav - symbolizing “*judgment*” or a “*sealing*” at the end.

Our LORD’s atonement involved 3 types of painful blood-letting. They mirror the 3 ways in which the High Priest in ancient Israel handled the blood from sacrificed animals at the ancient Tabernacle of Moses and the later temples built in Jerusalem. These include *sprinkling*, *pouring out*, and *smearing*. The High Priest *sprinkled* blood on the Ark of the Covenant one day per year (inside the Holy of Holies), doing so on the most *sacred* of the **12** holy days, **the Day of Atonement**. Christ is not only the King of kings, but He is also the great High Priest who *sprinkled*, *pouring out*, and had His blood *smear*ed blood on the day of His blood atonement. It is remembered on 2 holy days; Passover and the Day of Atonement.

His blood *poured out* for us in the brutal scourging. It was a very painful form of whipping done by professional Roman soldiers. Some believe the whip used had three prongs at its end. Each prong may have had sharpened metal or bone attached to it to tear open human flesh. A single strike with this 3-pronged cord created 3 strips on the back of the one scourged (13 strikes with a 3-pronged whip creates 39 stripes, the maximum allowable punishment in the law of Moses before it brought on death, see Deut. 25:3). On the lone Day of Atonement holy day, Priests also *poured out* the mixed of blood of animal sacrifices on the base of the Altar of Sacrifice, just in front of the *threshold* to the tabernacle, the *gate* into “the Holy Place”. Scripture addresses 7 types of whipping. Jesus may have experienced one of the worst of these, “*chastisement* by scorpions” (1 Kings 12:14). Isaiah said He was “*chastised* for our iniquities” in Isaiah 53, the most Christ-centered book in the Old Testament, the one forbidden chapter **not** read by most Rabbi’s in traditional Jewish Synagogue services, as it clearly points to Jesus of Nazareth as being the Messiah their “fathers” rejected and crucified.

Jesus called the corrupt Jewish leaders who had Him killed by a number of descriptive names. Some clearly identify their nature and perhaps their differing *bloodline* in connection with their lying and murderous ways. Speaking to them at Tabernacles, the last of the 3 annual holy days in the fall, and just 6 months before His death, Jesus revealed His *divinity* to these *hypocrites*, *whited supplechures*, and **vipers** by revealing who He really was by revealing who His Father **was** and **is**. We read about this *division* of *bloodlines* in John 8, verses 28-59. It is a genealogy of 2 opposing *bloodlines*. Jesus stated that these wicked men “would **lift him up**” (v. 28), a phrase tied to the *serpent* being lifted up by Moses. He said, “Ye do the deeds

of *your father*” (see verse 41). This verse should be read in connection with the *division* of 2 bloodlines in Gen. 3:15. It addresses the *serpent* in the first verse of Genesis 3 and his *lie* to Eve. *Division* is a key them in the Passover story in scripture - of the Egyptians vs. the Israelites, and in Moses’ teachings on the doctrine of the “*two ways*” (*blessing or cursing*).

“ye seek to kill me . . . and ye do that which ye have seen with *your father* . . . If ye were Abraham’s children, ye would do the works of Abraham . . . [yet] ye seek to **kill** me, a man that hath old you the truth. Ye do the deeds of *your father* [lying & murdering to get gain]. . . If God were *your Father*, ye would **love** me . . . Ye are of *your father the devil*, and the lusts of *your father* ye will do. He was *a murderer from the beginning*, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a *lie*, he speaketh of his own; for he is a *liar* and the *father* of it” (John 8:37-44, 47).

“Ye blind guides, ye **serpents**, ye generation of **vipers**, how can ye escape the damnation of *hell*” (Matt. 23:33).

The enemy (Satan) plants “tares” (corruption, pollution, sickness, death) among the “wheat” in God’s *vineyard* (Matt. 13). The “tares” or “generation of **vipers**” (Matt. 3:7) will be burned in the “*wrath* to come” (final judgment) at the end of the age. Note other *divisions* like lambs vs. goats, the virgin bride vs. the unfaithful wife or whore, etc.

In the last form of blood-letting, our LORD’s precious blood was *smeared* upon the wooden cross at the crucifixion. It was most likely the wood of an olive tree. Some suggest His feet were nailed to a re-useable olive tree (half of all references to Christ’s crucifixion in the New Testament call the cross a “tree”). There were thousands of crucifixions by the Romans. They document many being carried out on actual trees, not the time-consuming and expensive use of cut wood. I believe Christ carried a wooden crossbeam to His place of death, and that He was nailed to the crossbeam, both “**lifted up**” upon a **tree**-trunk (by lashing the crossbeam to it with rope. Again there is the analogy of Moses lifting up the brazen serpent before the people for their *healing*). Sin and death came upon man because of the false serpent, his lies, and the **tree** with its *forbidden fruit* (knowledge of evil vs. good), whereas healing and life eternal came by another **tree**, the **Tree of Life** and its healing and resurrection.

It was on the Day of Atonement that the High Priest *smeared* the blood of sacrificed animals on the *horns* of the Altar of Incense inside the Holy Place of the Tabernacle of Moses - the place of *intercessory* prayer, just before the veil. Christ is our mediator, our advocate with the Father. Because of **His pure blood**, we are cleansed, purified, and *sanctified*, if we repent.

The listing of the 10 remaining signs are found on the next page in progressive *judgments* that start on the earth below - with *the waters in Egypt turning to blood* (Christ’s first miracle in the New Testament), and then *dust* of the earth turning into lice and flies. Later the *heavens* bring hail to destroy much of the agricultural harvest, and then locusts to bring *death* for all remaining plant life. Later there is death for all animal life. All proceeds in progressive stages, allowing for Pharaoh to repent. He doesn’t. Towards the end there is the removal of all *light* (for 3 days). And finally there is *death* among all the Egyptian “firstborn”, including their larger animals. Pharaoh’s firstborn son is taken. Great “cries” are heard in Egypt, like the cries of suffering of Israel in their slavery, or that of Israelite mothers for their innocent baby boys murdered by an earlier Pharaoh as well as Herod later in Palestine. He tried to kill the baby Jesus, also innocent taken to Egypt for protection, like the family of Jacob (the house of Israel), when famine was sweeping the desert lands of the Middle East.

Only with the death of his firstborn son did Pharaoh finally release the Israelite captives. They were redeemed physically by the Firstborn Son of the Father and His pure, royal blood. He alone can redeem us all as pointed out by John the Revelator in chapter 5 of the Book of Revelation. There we read that He alone “was worthy” to open the Book of Life and its 7 seals – the book of the sanctified. Is your name written there? The progressive nature of the 10 plagues upon Egypt was in two things; (1) The increasing severity of the judgments, and (2) With *what* is being judge, from *waters* below turning to blood, to the *dust* of the *land* turning to venomous insects, and with limited *death* for plants and animals, to finally *death for all* plants and animals, via judgments originating in *the heavens* (from *water* below, to *land* in-between, to the *heavens* above). There is hail damaging *some* things, and then locusts consuming *all* things. And there is the curse of **no light** from *the sun* for *three days* (present in 3 Nephi before the Word of the LORD came to the people there). And then *death* of the firstborn of all people and animals. The incremental, 10-part serverity of judgment upon Egypt, proceeded in a ranking of their false gods. There is first the lower idolatrous gods of water, and then the land, and finally the great god above tied to the sun - the most important false god in Egypt - Ra or Re. He is tied to Baal worship (meaning “lord”) in the Old Testament, and the fallen angel Lucifer (meaning “light bearer”). He became Satan, trading in his light for darkness. He wants to be worshipped. He was prideful, and worse - he became very jealous of the praise and love shown the LORD Jesus in heaven when He was praised and worshipped there as seen by John in his ascent-vision experience in Revelation chapter 5.

## The 12 Signs or Wonders in Egypt

### *Judgments on Egyptian Idolatry*

In the 12-part chart below we see 10 judgments on the false idols of Egypt (right). The Israelites – God’s “firstborn” in Goshen, were affected by the first 3 of the 10 “plagues” or “signs” only (numbers 3 - 5 below). The last 7 of God’s final 10 signs or wonders (numbers 6 - 12) are typically called “plagues”. They were for the Egyptians only.

**Sign #1.** The 1st of the **12** signs or wonders in Egypt featured God turning Moses’ Rod (given to Aaron) into a serpent, a symbol of our LORD’s great *wisdom* along with His superior power of *healing* and *resurrection*, as symbolized in the later raising up of the serpent on a pole by Moses in the wilderness (Num. 21:9). Pharaoh’s magicians (false priests operating in “priestcraft”) duplicated this 1st miracle or sign (and 2 more), their staffs also turning into serpents (see Ex. 7:10). This revealed that Satan and his servants have some, power, though it was limited.

**Sign #2.** God’s serpent then swallowed up the serpents of the false priests, symbolizing His much greater power and wisdom (Ex. 7:12). God then protected His people in Goshen while sending 10 increasingly severe judgments upon Pharaoh, the priests, and the false gods of Egypt.

#### 10 Additional Signs with Judgments (on Egyptian Idolatry)

**Sign #3.** All waters (rivers, streams, pools, filled pots) turned to blood for 7 days (Ex. 7:17-25).

**Sign #4.** Frogs emerged from the waters in great numbers, entering Egyptian homes Ex. 8:2-6).

**Sign #5.** Lice originated in the dusty land of the earth (Ex. 8:16-18). Moses used his rod to smite the dust, causing “venomous insects” to emerge from it (lice and later flies).

**Sign #6.** Swarms of flies infested the entire land, including beasts and people (Ex. 8:21-24).

**Sign #7.** Death was sent among large animals the cattle, oxen, and other livestock in Egypt (Ex. 9:3-7).

**Sign #8.** Moses blew ashes into the air. It landed upon the people and animals, turning to boils and sores (Ex. 9:8-11)

**Sign #9.** Hail rained down from the sky mingled with fire (Ex. 9:18-20). Flax & barley were destroyed, not wheat & spelt.

**Sign #10.** Locusts came with the east wind, darkening the sky like a destructive storm, eating remaining plants not killed by the hail and fire (Ex. 10:4, 12-15). All plant life gone!

**Sign #11.** Sunlight was taken from Egyptians during 3 days of darkness (Ex. 10:21-23), Israelites had light in their dwellings.

**Sign #12.** Death came upon the firstborn of all large beasts and people, including Pharaoh’ firstborn son (Ex. 11:4-6).

**Apep** – The serpent Apep was one of the chief male gods of Egypt. He is tied to **Satan as the Serpent** in the Passover story. He began as the fallen angel Lucifer who was cast to earth becoming Satan. In the Egyptian temple drama the serpent was called Apophis, Typhon, and Set (brother of Osiris). In the Bible he is often called Baal, tied to the **Sun** and the male generative powers of the phallus (symbolized by pillars and pylons at temples). Roman Emperor Constantine worshipped the sun god. His holy day or Sabbath is **Sunday** (not the 7<sup>th</sup> day of the Creator God – the Great **I AM**).

**Wadjet** – This female Egyptian god is symbolized by the Uraneus motif, worn on the crown of Egyptian Pharaohs. Uraneus is the goddess of Lower Egypt, a protector and the daughter of the **sun** god, Re (Baal in the Bible). Re, Wadjet, and the other false gods of Egypt could not protect Pharaoh, the priests, or the Egyptian people from God’s great power.

#### 10 Additional False gods in Egypt

**Hapi** – Egyptian god of the important Nile river, he was a water bearer, the personification of the flooding Nile.

**Heqet** – Egyptian goddess of fertility, pictured with the head of a frog. She is associated with water and renewal.

**Geb** – Egyptian God of the earth and its dust. He was the husband of Nut, Egyptian goddess of the sky. They are comparable to Adam and Eve.

**Khepri** – Egyptian god of creation, pictured with the head of a fly, with ties to movement of the sun and its rebirth

**Hathor** – Egyptian goddess of love and motherhood, pictured with the head of a cow, Apis had the head of a bull

**Isis** – Egyptian goddess of medicine and peace, and wife of Osiris, their son was Horus

**Nut** – Egyptian goddess of the sky, wife of Geb. She is pictured arching over Geb as a domed-like firmament.

**Shu** – Egyptian god of the sky, wind, and air. He is Nut’s father, who tried to keep Nut and Geb apart. Their union results in duality, with Set opposing & killing Osiris.

**Ra** – Primary Egyptian creator god, tied to the sun. The sun marks seasons, the moon marks week days and months.

**Pharaoh** – Egypt’s kings or Pharaohs were gods, and their firstborn son was the next god or king over Egypt.



The last or 12<sup>th</sup> sign, judgment, or plague - was the *death* of all things in some form, but more specifically of “the firstborn” of larger animals and mankind in Egypt. God called captive Israel in Egypt “His firstborn.” He sent His Only Begotten Son in the flesh – His Firstborn - to redeem or release Israel from their physical and spiritual bondage in Egypt. They first had to be removed from the darkness and bondage of idolatry there. Then they could be taught things of light. Moses brought the Israelites to Mount Sinai. They arrived there 50 days after their release (via the blood of the Passover lamb) on the 15<sup>th</sup> day in their new 1<sup>st</sup> month. Like their Passover deliverance at night, some believe they left Egypt on the moonlight night of 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread, a 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath according to the full moon phase (greatest light) in this first month.

Moses was taking the former captives to a great mountain in the desert (a natural temple) to meet God. They as the bride of the Lamb were invited to receive Him as the Bridegroom in a loving, intimate, personal relationship. D&C 84:21-26 and JST Exodus 34 reveal to us that they rejected His full “**rest**” there (the personal presence of the LORD in His great glory), preferring instead to have the *man* Moses intercede with God *for* them. Too man today make the same decision, looking to man and trusting in the arm of flesh, rather than then living, loving God.

This kind of detail throughout the Passover story brings one to marvel at God’s great majesty, power, wisdom, and especially His love. His patience, long-suffering, and mercy throughout the story are notable, including even rebellious, stubborn Pharaoh. The Israelites were also rebellious, prideful, and stubborn. Eventually the covenant people *were* released, however.

### The Ancient Judgments on Egypt Return on Modern Babylon

The plagues of judgment on ancient Egypt are coming again. They are found in the last-days judgments addressed by John in the Book of Revelation. John presents us first with 6 “tribulation judgments”, each with “trumpeting” (see chapters 8-9). They affect *all* people, including devoted believers (see John 16:33; 1 Thess. 5:9). These early judgments are marked by a 1/3 portion of destruction or death and serve as a warning to repent. They are followed by the 7 “wrath judgments”, each one poured out from a “bowl” (see Rev. 16). They feature complete destruction or death for the wicked that choose to not repent. All people on the earth, including devoted Christians and messianic Jews will experience the initial “1/3 - trumpet” or “tribulation judgments” in some way, as part of “Jacobs trouble”, while those who remain in Babylon (having “the mark of the beast”) will experience the full wrath of God poured out on them in the 7 “bowl judgments”. The wicked are part of “Spiritual Egypt and Babylon”, those judged by God in the books of Exodus and Revelation. The Bride of Christ is preserved in both stories, while those unfaithful to Him are warned, then judged. John tells us that the great whore Babylon is totally destroyed at the great and dreadful day of the LORD.

Seven of the 10 Exodus plagues may repeat in the Book of Revelation plagues. Note that **5** of the initial “**1/3 portion Trumpet Judgments**” in Revelation, chapters 8 and 9, repeat again in the later chapters of Revelation with **total judgment and complete destruction and death** in chapter 16. They are called the **Bowl Judgments** (which are full of wrath). These 5 repeating judgments include, 1. Water Turning to Blood, 2. The Killing of Large Animals, 3. Hail and Fire falling from heaven, 4. Darkness covering the land, and 5. Death of animals and people (the firstborn in Egypt). **They** are marked by an asterisk (\*) and the **color red** in the chart below. The original Passover/Exodus judgments (upon the false gods of Egypt) are found below left. Compare them with the 2 later, last-days Revelation judgments right. This is seen first in the “**1/3 - Trumpet Judgments**” (below right) followed by the full **Bowl Judgments of God’s “wrath”**.

#### 10 Passover Judgments or Plagues of 12 Total Signs or Wonders in Egypt

<b>*Water turned to Blood</b>	Ex. 7:14-22
Frogs	Ex. 8:1-12
Gnats / Lice	Ex. 8:16-19
Flies	Ex. 8:20-32
<b>*Dead Animals</b>	Ex. 9:1-7
Skin Boils	Ex. 9:8-12
<b>*Hail &amp; Fire</b>	Ex. 9:13-35
Locusts	Ex. 10:1-20
<b>*Darkness</b>	Ex. 10:21-29
<b>*Death</b> (of 1 <sup>st</sup> born)	Ex. 12:21-30

#### Some Repeat in Last-days Revelation Judgments

*Last-days Judgments on Babylon - New Testament*

*Below Left: 1/3 Trumpet Judgments / Below Right: 7 Bowls of Full Wrath*

<b>*Water turns to Blood</b>	Rev. 8:8-9 / Rev. 16:3-7
Frogs	--- / Rev. 16:12-14
Gnats / Lice	--- / ---
Flies	--- / ---
<b>*Dead Animals</b>	Rev. 8:7-9 / Rev. 16:3, 8
Skin Boils	--- / Rev. 16:1-2, 8
<b>*Hail &amp; Fire</b>	Rev. 8:7, 11-19 / Rev. 16:17-21
Locusts (demons)	Rev. 9:1-11 / ---
<b>*Darkness</b>	Rev. 8:12 / Rev. 16:10
<b>*Death</b> (wicked)	Rev. 9:13-16 / Rev. 16:1-21

All of God's judgments are focused upon those remaining in Babylon in the last-days, those unfaithful to the Bridegroom Jesus Christ. They are fully entrenched in the ways of "the great whore Babylon" (Rev. 18-19).

Note the three consecutive sets of judgments coming upon modern-day "spiritual Egypt and Babylon" in the Book of Revelation. They are (1) the **7 Seals**, (2) the **7 Trumpets**, and the (3) the **7 Bowls** or full wrath judgments. Seven of these judgments mirror those called "plagues" today in the original **Passover** in Egypt.

**The 7 Seals - Lamentation** tied to "*the decreed judgments*" of the King of the Universe (Rev. 6)

- 1st Seal - White Horse Religious deception in those dressed in white (see also 1 Nephi 8:5-8)
- 2nd Seal - Red Horse Bloody Wars
- 3rd Seal - Black Horse Famines
- 4th Seal - Pale Horse (yellow-green): Pestilences
- 5th Seal - Altar of Martyrs: 1. Abel murdered by Cain / Gen. 4:10; 2. Isaiah sawed in half / Heb. 11:37; 3. John the Baptist beheaded / Matt. 14:10; 4. Stephen stoned / Acts 7:48; 5. Two witnesses in Jerusalem killed / Rev. 11:3-12; 6. Blood of the Saints / Rev. 17:6 & 19:2; 7. Those martyred because they will not worship the beast or take the Mark of the Beast / Rev. 13:7 & 20:4)
- 6th Seal - Disasters: Sun darkened, Moon turned to Blood, Storms with Hail, Earthquakes, Wormwood & Comets, Meteors, etc.
- 7th Seal - 7 Angels blow 7 Trumpets at the start of the 7th Seal, signaling the 7 Trumpets Judgments

**The 7 Trumpets – Mourning** tied to "*partial or 1/3 part judgment*" upon various things (Rev. 8 & 9)

- 1st Trumpet - Bloody Hail and Fire (1/3 of the vegetation destroyed)
- 2nd Trumpet - Fireball from Heaven (1/3 of the oceans polluted)
- 3rd Trumpet - The Falling Star Wormwood (1/3 of all fresh water polluted)
- 4th Trumpet - Darkness (1/3 of the light of the Sun, Moon & Stars darkened)
- 5th Trumpet - Demonic Invasion (Torment)
- 6th Trumpet - Demonically Possessed Army (1/3 mankind killed)
- 7th Trumpet - Coming Kingdom of our Lord (Ark of the Covenant, voices, earthquake, & great hail)

**The 7 Bowls - Wo's** tied to "*complete judgment*" or God's fullness of wrath upon wickedness (Rev. 15 & 16)

- 1st Bowl - Malignant Sores
- 2nd Bowl - Sea Becomes Blood, (all sea creatures die)
- 3rd Bowl - Freshwater Becomes Blood (wicked who drink blood freshwater die).
- 4th Bowl - Fire from the Sun (wicked burned by the Son, righteous healed by the Son).
- 5th Bowl - Sun Darkened
- 6th Bowl - Army of Demonic Spirits
- 7th Bowl - Loud Voice from God's Throne - "It is Done!" (Earthquake & terrible Hail)

## The Time of Egyptian Captivity

According to the Aramaic Targum of Exodus chapter 15 (*Palestinian*), the captivity of the Israelites in Egypt wasn't 430 years there, but 210 years. It was 430 years since the LORD spoke to Abraham. This was apparently "on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month [the hasty departure day from Egypt] when God made a blood covenant with Abraham at *night* made between the divided parts" (read Gen. 15:9-18). In this early Genesis story we read that Abraham took 3 large animals to be sacrificed, and divided their bodies. The blood draining into a lower path was walked by both the LORD *and* Abraham. The "blood trail" is part of ancient covenant rite between two men. Five animals are mentioned in Genesis 5 (2 additional non-divided birds). All five animals were used for the sacrifices in Israel's later history.

There is a consistent "dividing" theme in the Aramaic texts, and really all scripture, as there is to be a separation between light and darkness, between the LORD's righteous, covenant people and those wicked ones who oppress them.<sup>3</sup> Those of Israel were to become "Holy unto the LORD" (Numbers 6). These two opposing ways are addressed by Moses throughout his teachings, but especially in Deuteronomy 30. They lead to **life** or **death**, in **12 blessings** or **12 cursings** under the **12 commandments** of God.

Jewish sages today reconcile the 210 years versus the 430 years with the birth of Isaac and the events of his life. He is much like Christ the LORD. He had one wife and did not receive a *new name* by the LORD; an event tied to one's change of heart and the start of their new path (like being "born again"). Abraham nearly sacrificed Isaac, his precious, miraculously born birthright son. He was given to the couple in their old age (Abraham was 99, Sarah 90). Both were given an "**h**" in their new names, the 5<sup>th</sup> letter of the Hebrew alphabet, meaning, like God or "the breath of **life**", a number also tied to *covenant*-making using two 5-fingered hands. See this alphabet chart on p. 15.



## Part II: Deliverance in the Name & Blood of Jesus

Exodus chapter **12** is the climax of the Passover story. It is full of light and detail. The shed blood of Christ Jesus, the LORD, the Only Begotten of the Father - is what brought about the *deliverance* of believing Israel, then and today. Our sacrament ordinance was instituted by Jesus later with His disciples at **the Last Supper** - in fulfillment of a Passover-like meal featuring the lamb's body that night. Today we have the elaborate meal and other traditions of the traditional Jewish "Seder". Though often instructive, they are far removed from a holy remembrance of our LORD Jesus Christ and His great love for us in the Atonement. The tokens of His body and blood (bread and wine) are the real focus of this special meal. *Pure* unleavened bread (a token of His body, *without* sin) and *pure* wine (a term for the *pure* "blood of the grape" *without* the corrupting influences of alcohol) are the most important items of the Passover "meal" today, not the bitterness of various herbs. They represent the liberty or release of all Israel in the blood of the Lamb Jesus. He turns darkness into light. He said, "I make all things new" (Rev. 21:5).

Our Jesus or Yeshua was the Father's representative throughout most of the Old Testament, His right hand, His voice. He was **"the Word** of the LORD". The Passover instruction of Moses designated *sprinkling* of lamb's blood on Israelite doorways (the two side posts at the lintel at top). It symbolized protection, hope, and deliverance through the Lamb. He was and is *the gate* or *door* to healing, hope, and deliverance today. He is *the way* to Father, Mother, all important blessings in this life and in heaven. The greatest of all gifts is *real salvation* and *eternal life* (see pages 22-26, endnote 2, important scriptures on how to be "saved"). The precious blood of Jesus remains *the key* to our physical and spiritual deliverance from darkness, oppression, and sin – and our well-being in the coming troubles. There is **no** other substitute for Jesus, **no** "other way" to be saved physically or spiritually (John 14:16). Turn now to Him before it's too late. He says "repent and come unto me".

Looking back to Passover night, we see that the blood of the lamb placed on Israelite doorways was associated with two things; (1) **Judgment** on two "divided" peoples, those *covered* by the blood, and those left exposed without; and there was also (2) **Renewal** in healing and hope for those *protected* by it. Christ and His blood provide a **gateway** to a new beginning - that presents more for the "wiser" *virgins* who desire it. Entering through this *gate* or *door* puts us on the pathway to the real Salvation addressed in 2 Nephi 31 and 32, but only after darkness is first removed (chapters 27-30). **God** is a righteous **Judge and King**. He makes all things possible. He is **the Word** of the LORD in the Old Testament (John 1:1), the Only Begotten of the Father in the flesh.

**1. Judgment – Letter 22 – T tav** Israel was delivered from *physical* and *spiritual* captivity in Egypt in chapter **12** of Exodus, when God's **judgment** came upon Pharaoh, the Egyptians, and their false gods the night of the first Passover. It occurred very near **12** midnight, the same symbolic point in time dividing the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> "watches" of the night.<sup>4</sup> Paul and Silas as servants of the LORD, were *delivered* from imprisonment at **12** midnight by an angel sent of God in the New Testament (see Acts 16:25-34). The walls fell, releasing them.

There was no blood-covering or protection for the Egyptians and their false leaders. Like Ezekiel 9, one group of people was *marked* for preservation, those who "sighed" in sadness for the wickedness and idolatry of their leaders. The other group (those leading the people into such things) were practicing false worship at the temple in Jerusalem. They were slain by God's angelic servants. They were apparently worshipping Baal in facing the sun, a clear sign of the ancient Baal worship surfacing throughout much of the Old Testament (see Ezek. 8 -10). Without *the mark* of God upon them, they were left exposed to God's **judgment** (the Father gave all judgment unto the Word, His Son, John 5:22, 27).

God preserved Israel this night in the sign of the blood of His Son, symbolized by innocent lamb's blood, *sprinkled* upon the doors of Israelite homes (a gateway). All the firstborn in Egypt were taken, including the firstborn of all large animals. The *mark* of the lamb's blood on the lintel above and the side-posts below was a rudimentary symbol of the cross - a **T** shape, seen in the last, original letter of the Hebrew alphabet Tav (it was later changed by Scribes to not point to Christ is obvious form). This last letter is tied to **"judgment - at the end"** (of 11 previous signs here in Egypt, to His second coming return to earth in judgment of all evil upon the earth, and to our final judgment). It is also the shape of the **"sealing" mark** – a *sealing* against the **judgment** of death - by the destroying angel at this first Passover.

In our day, this same *mark* or *sign* is once again tied to **"judgment – at the end"** of time as we know it - in the end of the 6<sup>th</sup> *Seal*, the time period addressed in John's book of Revelation. It brings in a new beginning at the 7<sup>th</sup> *Seal* (for those whose names are written in the Book of Life) in the Millennium. It will be a time of peace, justice, and the return of Christ the LORD. And not only as our Judge but as our rightful King, the King of kings, the *governor* over His *kingdom* on

earth, but over all His *creation* (see endnote 1). This is symbolized in the number **12** (*governance*) and the number **7** (*spiritual perfection in a full or complete time period*). This time concept is symbolized in the last or 7<sup>th</sup> of the annual holy days, the Feast of Tabernacles. This *joyous* holy day celebrates the marriage of the bride of Christ (believing, born again Christians) and the Bridegroom. He is Jesus of Nazareth, the Word of the LORD. The two have been *divided*, but are now finally reunited in the most *joyous* of all the feast days. Turning to God in the desire for holiness always leads to separation or division. In the Aramaic Targum, four divisions at night are addressed in Exodus chapter **12** (see endnote 3). Note the 22<sup>nd</sup> Letter of the Hebrew Alphabet and its symbolism in the chart on the next page. I created it utilizing Joseph Smith's research of this alphabet, along with my many years of symbolism research in scripture and sacred architecture.<sup>5</sup>

#/Gematria	Hebrew	Letter	Meaning/Graphic	#/Gematria	Hebrew	Letter	Meaning/Graphic
1	Aleph	A	God (Father)	12 (30)	Lamed	L	Justice / Governance
2	Beth	B	Mother [house, creation]	13 (40)	Mem	M	Messiah
3	Gimal	G	Cycle	14 (50)	Nun	N	Angel / new governance
4	Daleth	D	Mortality	15 (60)	Samekh	S	Resurrection
5	Hei	H	Life / Covenant	16 (70)	Ayin		Deliverance [gentiles]
6	Vav	O	Nail [structure]	17 (80)	Peh	P	Voice
7	Zayin	Z	Time [spiritual perfection]	18 (90)	Tzadhe	Ts	Devotion
8	Cheth	CH	Gate [renewal] - life	19 (100)	Koph		K, Q Mercy
9	Tet	T	Serpent (judgment & creation)	20 (200)	Resh		R Scythe
10	Yod	Y	Spirit [complete]	21 (300)	Shin		S, Sh Womb
11 (20)	Kaph	K	Palm	22 (400)	Tav	T	Judgment [at the end], a Sealing

*Anciently there were no written numbers in Hebrew. Letters were assigned numerical values. Thus A was 1, B was 2 and so on - every letter carrying numerical and symbolic value. Numbers in scripture and sacred architecture have symbolic meaning beyond simple computation. The number 22 throughout scripture has ties to God's judgment and sealing upon those protected (see Ezek. 8 & 9). The chart above represents the author's condensed number and letter symbolism tied to Joe Sampson's research on Joseph Smith's Egyptian Alphabet and Grammar, much of it created by W. W. Phelps and Joseph.*

The **sign, mark, token, or seal** of God is also called “the seal of the living God”, tied to His **Name** and His shed blood. The wicked reject Him and His ways and embrace a false god, receiving “the mark of the beast”. They focus on the “natural man”, an enemy of God (3:19 Mosiah). According to Alma they receive a *sealing* to the evil one (see Alma 34:35). God's **sign, mark, token, seal** or **Name** is placed upon those who love Him. He is the great Judge over all. His people remove all idolatry in their lives, turning their whole heart to Him as our Savior and Mediator with the Father (1 Tim. 2:5). No one comes to heaven and to Father or Mother, except through Him (John 14:6). He is the door or gate to all the great blessings promised the wise virgins. Jesus said, “I Am the door” in John 10:9). Nephi stated that submitting oneself in repentance to Christ, with His remission of sins, is “the gate” (2 Ne. 31:17).

**2. Renewal – Letter 8** God's blood was given at the first Passover in a special *shape* symbolizing not only **judgment** on the idolators, but also in the shape of a **gate** or *door* for the righteous – as seen in the 8<sup>th</sup> letter *Cheth* of the original Hebrew alphabet (the number **8** is tied to *rebirth* or **renewal** throughout scripture). The oldest Hebrew alphabet was pictographic, communicating quickly in visual form and deeply on a number of levels (5 according to Joseph Smith). I address two of them here. Besides possessing *number* symbolism in each letter, the entire alphabet was a record of time, with a beginning, middle, and end. Christ as Creator (with the Father) is seen in the 1<sup>st</sup> letter. He then came in the middle of time to redeem those turning to Him (the 13<sup>th</sup> letter). He returns again as Judge and King in the last or 22<sup>nd</sup> letter.

Note that the 8<sup>th</sup> letter (**renewal** or *rebirth*) is in the shape of a **gate** or *door*, with a horizontal top (the lintel), and two side supports or pillars (the two side-posts). Christ and His blood are this **gate**. He came in the meridian of time as the Lamb of God to save His you and I. This symbolism is the second reason why lamb's blood was put on the gates or doors of the homes of obedient Israelites. There was more than just *physical protection* available in the blood of the lamb this night, there was opportunity for much more. Moses attempted to provide the fullness of this gift at Sinai, the most precious of all the gifts of God, HIM, and in the fullness of His glory (D&C 84:24; JST Exodus 34). God's blood **renews** us both physically and spiritually, but only if we follow the instruction given us in His holy word in scripture. The teachings of men cannot compare. If we follow them as the rod of iron (which they are), we can be led to the Tree of Life and its sweet, white fruit – HIM!. Sadly Israel rejected this opportunity at Mt. Sinai (a natural mountain, symbol of God's *kingdom*, not just a physical temple or building “made with hands”).

The Prophet Joseph Smith taught that when wise virgins are “born again” in Christ Jesus, through His atoning blood, their blood is *physically* changed. He taught that the blood of a Gentile is *transformed* into “the blood of Israel”. King Benjamin taught that then then become the sons and daughters of Christ the LORD, the father of our salvation. Scripture informs us that such are *purified by fire* and *the Holy Ghost* in this saving, redeeming “event”, and apparently down

to the DNA level. This **renewal** is thus both *physical* and *spiritual*, preparing the humble and repentant to then enter the *rest* of the LORD (the fullness of His glory), if they continue on the path to the Tree of Life, symbolized by the gate or door they must enter, which is Christ Jesus – the Word, and the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost which He administers to us personally (see 3 Ne. 12:1). Too few have experienced this life-altering “event”, because most turn to the works of men, as the ancient Jews often did, rather turning their hearts to Christ the LORD, our Redeemer.

In John chapter 3, Jesus spoke to a supposed religious expert among the Jews, who came to Him in cover of darkness so that others might not see. He was Nicodemus, a member of the elite Sanhedrin. Jesus informed him that he must be *born again* (**renewed, cleansed, sanctified**) to both “*see*” and “*enter*” heaven. There was and is no other way! Nicodemus didn’t understand. He had learned and taught only “the deadness of the law” (now some 613 rules among modern Jews) as a supposed “master teacher” over the people. Their salvation had been corrupted into vain, dead works, rather than in the prophesied Christ or “Messiah” (Isa. 53) who now stood before him (John 3). Nicodemus wasn’t ready for the LORD’s greater light given that night, available to all who repent, seeking Him. He says: “repent and come unto me” (D&C 10:67-68, 93:1; 1 Ne. 10:18-19; 2 Ne. 9:23-24; 28:31-32; Jacob 1:7; Alma 5:33-34; 3 Ne. 9:14, 22, 51; 11:14; 12:19-20, 23-24; 27:5-21; 30:1-2).

### **God’s Most Important Gift:** *Salvation & Eternal Life*

The “doctrine of Christ” lays out this necessary *physical* and *spiritual* **renewal** in Christ (endnote 2, pages 22-26). It is addressed very well in the Book of Mormon, as it has gone through far fewer hands and much less time in getting to us, via the posterity of Moroni *and* Mormon, and Nephi *and* Lehi (father *and* son teams). They preserved this doctrine as part of “the plain and precious things” originally taught by the Master in Jerusalem. Lehi and his family were of the blessed bloodline of Israel (or Jacob) through Joseph of Egypt and his firstborn son Manasseh (I am as well). Lehi was instructed by God to leave Jerusalem and come to this special Promised Land west - to raise up a righteous branch of the house of Israel here - apart from the corruption increasingly part of Jerusalem.

This saving doctrine is preserved in the **12** “Blessed” beatitudes in 3 Nephi chapter **12** and in Joseph’s inspired re-translation of Matthew 5. They are part of a higher law given by Christ at the start of His mission in the New Testament, and to the preserved people in 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 12. Instead of only the 9 beatitudes of KJV Matthew 5, or the 4 in Luke chapter 6, we have the full compliment of all **12** “Blessed” Beatitudes in these two additional sources. This higher law was given on “the Mount of Beatitudes”. It overlooked the Sea of Galilee below.

The first 3 of these precious teachings are missing in the King James Bible. I believe they are the most important three. Like Christ who was take out of much of the Old Testament, by later Jews who rejected Him, these simple and sacred teachings from Him have also been removed. In the chart in endnote 2, I’ve created a comparison chart for you to see how our LORD originally gave them to His people (the precious additions are in blue, the rest in black). The first three missing beatitudes, leading to the “Blessed” state, require us to; (1) Receive **Him** and his blood covering by way of His invitation to “repent and come unto me”; (2) The next step is to receive baptism in water at the hands of an empowered servant, one called by Him; And (3) God then personally provides the next fiery baptism by the Spirit. He said, “**I** will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost” (3 Ne. 12:1, see also Matt. 3:11; Mark 1:8 [JST Mark 1:6]; Luke 3:16). This 3-step process is a summary of what it means to be “saved”, receiving the Holy Ghost as our guide thereafter. They summarize “the doctrine of Christ”, the foundational path of the redeemed. These “plain and precious things” have been diminished in “the book” (the Bible) as addressed in 1 Nephi 13:26-42.

Like many of you, I have been to Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee, where Christ’s ministry first began after His 40-period in the wilderness. He healed many there, cast out dark spirits, and taught precious truths. They included the foundational teachings of His kingdom, and a higher law - the **12** blessed beatitudes. If lived, they would lead His followers into *the* “Blessed”<sup>6</sup> state, that of the redeemed in God’s Kingdom, even “the state of the gods”. Our LORD gave these same higher principles as His first teachings in 3 Nephi 12, after the people preserved there had the great opportunity to feel and see the marks of His atonement in the LORD’s feet and hands in 3<sup>rd</sup> Nephi 11. They were the “Blessed” ones who were preserved from the destruction taking place in the three days of darkness. The Latter-day Saints have had all **12** blessed beatitudes before them (not just the seven of Matthew 5), but haven’t been taught this significant fact. The first three beatitudes of the 12 provide a 3-part summary of the pathway to Salvation.

In Exodus 20 we read that “the Word of the LORD” (Jesus, the Only Begotten of the Father) first placed his higher law on two tables of stone given Moses for the Israelites. They were designed to bring God’s people back to Him personally, step by step. After coming down from the mount (40 days & nights), Moses saw that the children of Israel had turned to

the idolatrous ways of the Egyptians instead, revealed in their worship of the golden calf. Under God's direction, Moses then broke these first two stone tablets. Returning to Mount Sinai, Moses then received additional direction for the rebellious people he was called to mentor. God then provided Moses a second set of stone tablets, with a lesser law. It included the ten summary portions of God's law that we are familiar with. Added to them in later scripture were the two great summary commandments (love God, Deut. 6:5, 10:12 & love one another, Lev. 19:18, 34). Additional requirements beyond them served as a "schoolmaster" for those unworthy of more. All together it was called the "Law of Moses".

The King James Bible briefly mentions this second set stone tablets (see Ex. 34:4 & 28). It does not, however, tell us how they were different, and that the second set was lesser than the first. This truth is revealed in D&C 84:21-25 and JST Exodus 34.<sup>7</sup> There we see that God took away the higher ways because of idolatry and other wickedness, also removing the "holy order" that brings the righteous back into His "rest" (His holy presence). This fullness was rejected by both the Israelites at Sinai (D&C 84:21-26; JST Ex. 34) and the Saints at Nauvoo (see D&C 124:32, 42-48). The Nauvoo era was a second chance to receive the greater things offered earlier in Kirtland (see my book *The Secret Chamber*). Like the ancient Israelites in the Exodus chapters, the Saints collectively rejected it by their actions and have had the lesser things ever since. The higher ways leading to God remain available individually to those searching for God in His written word (and in prayer), where the invitation to receive Him and the higher ways remain, as in the teachings of the first three of **12** "blessed" beatitudes. These and the "born again" scriptures in the Bible and the Book of Mormon assist wise virgins in growing line upon line, inheriting the covenant blessings as "the sons of Moses", then "the sons of Abraham", and finally "the sons of God" ("sons" in most of scripture symbolizes God's children generally, both His "daughters" and His "sons"). It is all part of Jacob's ladder.

### **Worthy is the Lamb**

Passover (including the 7 days of the Feast of Unleavened Bread) celebrates and reveals God's great love for His children. John the Beloved is a powerful witness for the divinity of Christ throughout his record. As the Revelator, He informs us of his ascent-vision experience, when he was brought to heaven (Revelation chap. 4). It occurred that He might bear witness again of Christ as God at the end of the New Testament. There he reveals who we worship and why. He saw the Lamb of God standing next to the Father on His throne, surrounded by a rainbow. John wept at first because "no man in heaven, nor in earth, neither under the earth was worthy" to open a special book held by the Father. It was the Book of Life, containing the whole history of the earth in its "seven seals" or time periods. The book also contained the names of the sanctified. John was reassured there when he was finally informed that one *was* able to open this book. He was told:

"Weep not: behold, the Lion of the tribe of Judah, the Root of David [Gen. 49:8-12], hath prevailed to open the book, and to lose the seven seals thereof. And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne . . . stood a Lamb as it had been slain . . . And he came and took the book out of the right hand of him that sat on the throne . . . And they sung a new song, saying, Thou art worthy to take the book and to open the seals thereof; for thou wast slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation "(Rev. 5:5-6).

The blood of the Lamb is crucial to have in this life. There are many genealogies given in the Old Testament to legitimize a particular king's right to reign in his kingdom, or give credence to a priest's right to provide rules of behavior for those taught in his ministry. Christ's bloodline gives him legitimacy for both. He is the King of kings and our great High Priest. His right to Kingship in Israel was given through His earthly pedigree as listed through Joseph His step-father in Matthew (via Judah). And through Mary His earthly mother in Luke, we have a genealogy for priesthood (via Joseph, Manasseh & Ephraim). But it is the pedigree of His Heavenly Father that provides a pure, undefiled bloodline for His Only Begotten Son here, with the DNA that only God has. It was required that Jesus might overcome sin, death, and hell here for us, *and* provide physical and spiritual healing for all those in the family of man that turn to Him fully. To become God's sons and daughters, as spoken of by King Benjamin in Mosiah chapter 5, our blood must be literally purified by the LORD's purer blood, shed for us. It alone has power to cleanse, renew, and sanctify.

Our blood here has been polluted by sickness, disease, and death, introduced into the world by Satan. God has conquered the beast and all things he has corrupted, as symbolized in the statue at left. Note there that the serpent is under our LORD's right foot as the Christ-child, the King of Kings and Savior of the world born to a virgin.<sup>8</sup> The Prophet Joseph taught that the blood of Gentiles is literally purged when one is "born again" in Christ Jesus, Savior of the world. Those already with more of the pure blood of Israel receive greater light, faster and easier. It is to have the Holy Ghost unfold things to you as never before. See the end of endnote 2.

## Passover & Other Holy Days Today

In Exodus 12, verse 1, God gave Moses and the Israelites a new calendar - between the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> **signs** given the Egyptians. It signaled a new beginning. Their *new* – *sacred* New Year’s Day (of the *Priest*) in this calendar was the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month following the *spring* equinox, instead of the *fall* equinox and the older – New Year’s day (of the *King*), which had been used from the creation in Genesis until this *new beginning* for the captive Israelites. Passover is the 1<sup>st</sup> of the 7 annual holy days in God’s new calendar. It celebrates Israel’s new beginning. It is to be remembered and honored “**for ever**”, as addressed 3 times in Exodus 12. It occurs 14 days after the *sacred* New Year’s Day, which is 1 day prior to the full moon of the 15<sup>th</sup> day in this 1<sup>st</sup> month. Following Passover is Feast of Unleavened Bread, the 2<sup>nd</sup> holy day celebration. It is celebrated for the next 7 days, from day 15 to day 22. Both days are special “holy convocations” (“gatherings”) tied to the first and last days of the feast. Both days are 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbaths of “rest”.

A short overview of God’s Bible calendar, with its 12 holy days, is given below. It features 7 annual festivals, 3 Sabbaths, and 2 New Year’s Days.

1. **Sacred New Year’s Day** (of the *priest*) marked by “Chodesh”, the 1<sup>st</sup> new moon crescent (of 7% illumination by the sun) occurring after the Spring Equinox (the new 1<sup>st</sup> month)
2. **Passover**, day 14, 1<sup>st</sup> month / The blood of the Lamb delivers the faithful
3. **Feast of Unleavened Bread**, days 15 to 22, 1<sup>st</sup> month / The burial of Christ & removal of leaven or sin in our homes
4. **Firstfruits**, day 15 / Resurrection day of Christ, the firstfruits of them that slept; a early spring harvest offering to God
5. **Pentecost**, the 50<sup>th</sup> day from the Firstfruits offering / Spiritual outpouring, “born again” with the Gift of the Holy Ghost
6. **Civil New Year’s Day** (of the *king*) marked by “Chodesh”, the 1<sup>st</sup> new moon crescent (of 7% illumination by the sun) occurring after the fall Equinox (in the 7<sup>th</sup> month, formerly the 1<sup>st</sup> moon after the Creation)
7. **Trumpets**, day 1, 7<sup>th</sup> month
8. **Day of Atonement**, day 10, 7<sup>th</sup> month
9. **Feast of Tabernacles**, days 15 to 22, 7<sup>th</sup> month /
10. 7<sup>th</sup> **Sabbath** day of “rest” / Rest from work, day of worship, day to enter the “rest” of the LORD
11. 7<sup>th</sup> **Sabbatical** year of “release” / Slaves released, Debt forgiven, Lands given rest from agriculture for a year
12. 7 x 7 (+1, 50<sup>th</sup> day) **Jubilee** year of “restoration” / Covenant people restored to their covenant land

I will not address this calendar in detail here, as I have done so in other papers and books on it. What is important now, is that God was and is calling attention to our Passover deliverance. Just before the final 12<sup>th</sup> **sign**, God said:

“This month is ordained to be to you the **beginning** of the months; and from it you shall begin to **number** for **festivals**, and times, and cycles; it shall be to you’re the **first** of the number of months of the year” (Aramaic Targum of Ex. 12:1, *Palestinian*).

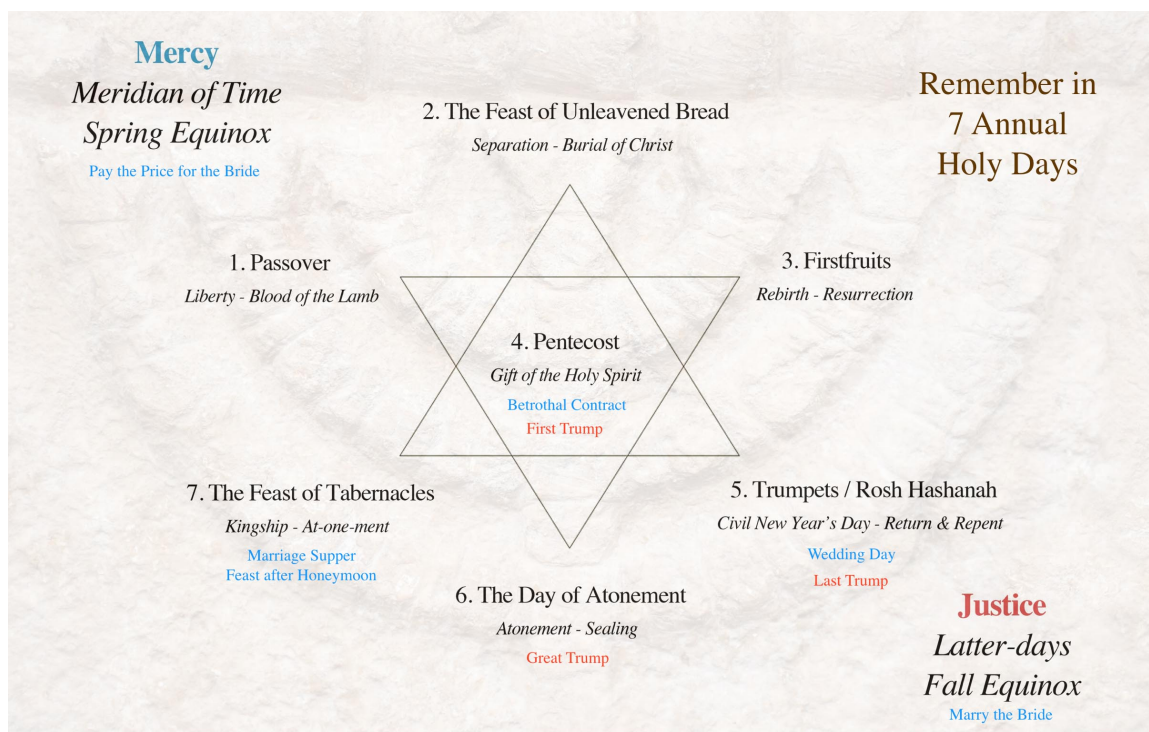
He then said *three times* (law of witnesses) that it was to be observed as an “**ordinance for ever**” (Ex. 14, 17, 42). Observing the holy days, including His luni-solar calendar **Sabbaths** - provides a clear indication of who we worship and why. Note the basic differences in today’s calendar, the modern corrupted Jewish calendar, and God’s calendar.

### Calendar Comparison Summary

	<i>Gregorian Calendar</i>	<i>Today's Jewish Calendar</i>	<i>God's Calendar (after Passover)</i>
Type	Man-made Calculation	Solar + Man-made	Observe Sun (seasons) & Moon (days, weeks)
Year Start Date	January 1	Nisan 1 after Spring Equinox	1 <sup>st</sup> Chodesh after Spring Equinox
Constellation Sign	Capricorn / Goat	Aries / Ram	Libra / Scales of Justice
Month Start Sign	Calendar provides day 1	Modified Hillel II Cal.	“Chodesh” - New Moon Crescent
Week Days	Pagan God Names	Pagan God Names	Numbered Days 1-7
Month Name	Pagan God Names	Pagan God Names	Numbered Months 1-12 (& 13)
Day Definition	Midnight to Midnight	Sunset to Sunset	Sunrise - Sunset / 24-hrs, night follows
Sabbath	every 1 <sup>st</sup> Sun-day	every Saturn-day	The 8 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 22 <sup>nd</sup> & 29 <sup>th</sup> from Chodesh
Special Days	Pagan Holidays	Moses’ Holy Days	Holy Days tied to Christ’s mission
Work Days	all but Sat / Sun	all but Sabbath & Holy Days	all but Sabbath & Holy Days



1. Prior to the flood, all nations used a 360-day luni-solar calendar with 12, 30-day months (see Velikovsky, *World's in Collision*).
2. After Egyptian bondage and the 1<sup>st</sup> Passover, God changed the month marker for New Year's Day in His new calendar from the 1<sup>st</sup> Chodesh following the fall equinox to the 1<sup>st</sup> Chodesh following the spring equinox (Ex. 12:1). The new calendar retained two New Year's days, the sacred New Year in the spring, and civil New Year in the fall.
3. God's calendar relies on the two brightest lights in the heavens to mark time (the sun and the moon). Another witness on the earth is used to help determine the start of the calendar, the harvest time of the spring barley harvest. If it is not ripe by the time of the new moon nearest the spring equinox, then the 1<sup>st</sup> holy day of Passover is delayed one full month, so that the firstfruits of this harvest can be offered up to God on "Firstfruits" (the day of the LORD's resurrection, 3 days after His crucifixion). Today's Jewish calendar is mostly a solar calendar with some man-made calculation built into it (Hillel II, 341 AD). The Papal Gregorian calendar (1582 AD) comes from the earlier Roman Julian calendar (46 BC) both of which are man-made calculated calendars with little or no direct connection to the heavens. The moon is totally divorced from the two calendars at left above.
4. New Moon or "Chodesh" is the first waxing crescent of 7% sunlight after the totally dark conjunction. It starts the day count at day 1 to the 4 monthly Sabbaths (8<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>), each a specific moon phase. Days 1-14 feature a waxing crescent with 7% more light each day (14 days x 7% more sunlight = 98% light or full moon). The moon has been divorced from God's calendar (see Gen. 1:14; Psalm 104:19; Lev. 23:1-3; Isa. 28:9-10). The percentages of the moon's light comes from the book of Enoch.



Many people *unknowingly* associate themselves with sun god Baal (Satan) because of their ignorance of Satan's replacement calendar in use today. It is a replacement for God's inspired Bible calendar. Our indifference to the holy days is often because some believe they are part of "the law of Moses" that was fulfilled. "**Forever**" is a strong, clear word you and I from God. Those who love Him wish to *please* Him and *remember* Him often, like we do in the sacrament ordinance periodically. It was first put in place as a special meal the night Christ gathered His disciples around them. He washed their feet, and gave them the tokens of His flesh and blood this night, the night he went to Gethsemane with them. First, the holy days are a wonderful way to honor God, show our love for Him, and *remember* Him often.

Secondly, in a world quickly descending into greater darkness, we need God's light and help now to battle it. And third, we should want to avoid all idolatry and especially Baal (sun) worship in the corrupt Gregorian calendar we have. It was given us by Pope Gregory VI and the Roman Catholic Church. Practically everything on this replacement calendar moves us toward Baal worship, and especially the all-important Sabbaths which are held on **SUN**day – on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the week, not God's 7<sup>th</sup> day of rest, which celebrates Him as The Creator. This is the day He celebrated what He had created. **Only** God's Bible calendar utilizes a 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath He has chosen, one that is calculated by simply looking up to Him, and to the moon phase (in connection with the seasonal marker of the sun) to honor Him via His important 4<sup>th</sup> commandment – to keep **THE** Sabbath Day **HOLY** (His Sabbath day). That it might not be polluted with idolatry. God gave his life to remove the Israelites from Egyptian darkness and idolatry, and their captivity to it!

Today Muslims honor God on Friday (day 6 on *the Gregorian calendar* week). Jews try to honor him on their Sabbath, Saturday (Saturn's day - day 7<sup>th</sup> on *the Gregorian calendar*, not God's calendar). While most Christians attend church on **Sun** day (day 1 in the Catholic *Gregorian calendar* week). These Sabbath choices coincide with the god one worships. *None* of them utilize the moon phase to mark **their** 7<sup>th</sup> day Sabbath (for months and week days on it) in connection with the sun (for seasons, marked by its position on the horizon) in determining the Sabbath **FOR** and **on** God's calendar *and* His holy days (like Passover). ALL His holy days (not modern holidays) and His Sabbaths are marked by these 2 **faithful witnesses** in the heavens (see my Sabbath paper coming out soon).

### **True Worship:** *The Secret Weapon Against Darkness*

This paper concludes with worship, the whole reason WHY God told Pharaoh **12** times through Moses to let the LORD's people go. It is too often forgotten. Freedom to worship the living God, the Word of the LORD Jesus as our Redeemer, sent of Father – is a primary reasons for the first Passover, along with God's desire that His people be released from their slavery to the Egyptians. The Israelites were under the darkness and oppression of idolatry in Egypt. It was time for God's "firstborn" - Israel to once again be given the opportunity to **know Him, receive Him**, and His choicest blessings – if they would. It is the same opportunity for us today.

Coming to **know the LORD Jesus** – the Word of the LORD – intimately at Sinai - didn't happen as He desired, but He was able to bless the Israelites with at least a useful, though lesser law in the **12** commandments. It offered them then, and offers us now a significant portion of light, preparatory light. The Latter-day Saints as a whole remain in this same condition today and don't know it. They along with many good Christian people worldwide, have a testimony of God. Yet much greater light is available to the Latter-day Saints in not only the KJV Bible, but the Book of Mormon, the Pearl of Great Price, and the oracles given Joseph in the D&C. Sadly, because of the same problem of idolatry today (though of a different kind), the Saints expect their leaders to give them all needed things, just as the ancient Israelites settled for less, looking to the man Moses for light, rather than God Himself!

Too few Saints today are "born again" in Christ the LORD (or even know what is is). It is a life-changing, heart transforming, renewal. It is a recognizable event that many more Christians *outside* the LDS church understand, seek, and experience, simply because they are centered on Christ, reading the Old Testament as well as the New. They are not centered on men (like Moses) but on the God who sent Him – our Jesus – **the Word** of the LORD. This very important saving event, addressed in the endnotes on pages 22-25 - is the focus of endnote 2. Ancient Israel was released physically from Egyptian bondage to be spiritually reborn in Christ – literally at Sinai, that they might receive HIM. He is the heavenly gift, not just the law, which the Jews came to see as their salvation, just like the Saints today with their temples, home teaching, and other requirements. Both groups focus on men and the law and have received only deadness in it rather than life in Christ the LORD. The Book of Mormon clearly addresses these things, including how to be born again in Christ Jesus. The figure, being, or God Jesus is the most important of the "plain and precious things" restored in modern scripture (like the Book of Mormon) and the book I have used so much here in this paper – the Aramaic Targums – where He is returned to the first five books of Moses in some 251 references. Thought true doctrine and other truths are presented us in these works, in simple and sacred ways, **HE IS** "THE WAY, THE TRUTH, and THE LIFE" (John 14:6). Not one makes it to heaven or to Father or Mother without HIM! This is my testimony to you.

Christ the LORD gave His blood to *physically* deliver the children of Israel, His covenant people in the First Passover. In this first significant holy day is symbolized His precious blood, given freely at the future atonement in Jerusalem. In it sin, death, and hell are all are conquered, but only for those people worldwide, in and outside of any organized Christian religion, that turn to Him fully with their whole heart, submitting themselves completely to His will, rather than their own, or the will of men who too often place themselves in-between God and them. They typically do so for the sake of gain (1 Ne. 22:23). This is why The Word came in the meridian of time to His people in Palestine. Corrupt leaders were taking advantage of the people for their own gain. They killed Christ to protect their source of power, money, and position.

It is also one of the primary reasons He came to many different groups of Native Americans in North, Central, and South America, and the Island Nations of the sea – (1) to repeatedly put down false priesthoods ("priestcraft"), (2) to heal the people physically, and (3) to spiritually provide His saving truths in the doctrine and gospel of Christ. It is centered on love, His love. He came and did similar things at the well-documented "Walker Lake Event" of 1890, investigated by the Smithsonian Institution, and later reported on in newspapers and magazines across the nation that year. I wrote a book about this special event, entitled *The Remnant Awakens* (Amazon). Highlighted in it is Christ's visit to

an oppressed people once again. He gave them a unique dance to heal them and provide light. Dance as part of worship, praise, and healing has been a source of light and worship for them and for me ever since.

The whole point I'm making here, is that God loves us and offers to change our hearts and the very blood in our veins, that we might be purified, renewed, and sanctified in **Him**, able to love others more like He does. There is no other way to bring peace into this troubled world. He wants us to *know Him* intimately as the Bridegroom and unfaithful bride who often rejects Him, denies Him, and forsakes Him.

It was during David's reign as King they he learned to battle surrounding armies, defeating them, not just with traditional weapons of war, but with the Levite singers and musicians who were often placed in front of the soldiers for God, praising and bringing down the power of God in the battles. Seven other righteous Kings in ancient Israel had similar success, not just with the military victories, but in raising-up their attitudes in love and worship for the God of all creation. It truly is an important secret weapon in our personal lives. Mike Bickle is a modern expert on King David and his 24/7 worship practices in Jerusalem – in “the Tabernacle of David (a separate structure from the Tabernacle of Moses also there). Because of what Mike learned, he established a 24/7 worship service in Kansas City, Missouri in 1999. This 24/7 worship is now worldwide and has continued for the past 20 plus years, changing the lives of so many in very positive ways, just as it did for the most successful Kings in ancient Israel, and the people they led.

**True worship** is worshipping God “in *spirit* and in *truth*” (John 4:23). It is a key for real happiness and peace today and battling darkness. In its simplest form the “spirit” part of this statement means to be “in the Spirit” in our worship, for greater healing and light, via connecting heart to heart with God. The broken heart and the contrite spirit greatly aid this connection, as does praising, singing, even dancing before the LORD. The “truth” portion of the LORD's statement to the Samaritan women at the well (about “true worship”) is simply coming to know the living God better – in the **TRUTH** of who He really is. This is one of the reasons for the early *Lectures on Faith*. They address God's “character, perfections, and attributes”. Knowing them and seeing Him throughout scripture help us come to know Him better. This then gives us even greater reason and knowledge to love Him, appreciate Him, and truly worship Him with great gratitude, honor, and joy. I find studying His word with focus greatly aids being in this “place”. It is how I found so much more about the Exodus in the past few weeks for this paper.

Knowing more of the **TRUTH** *about* God helps in praying with more intent. This expanding relationship helps to reveal His great love for you and I. It reveals His greatness and glory, His wisdom and knowledge, and His desire for you and I to be with Him, to see Him, and **KNOW** Him. I hope some of “Passover” things here will add to what you already about our amazing God. He is the Word of the LORD - our Creator, our Redeemer, our Healer, and our coming Judge and King! Come LORD Jesus come.

It is my hope and prayer that you will become one of the “Blessed” – in His Blessed name Ahmen.

## End Notes

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<sup>1</sup> **The Pattern of Governance in the Number 12** God **governs** His Kingdom on earth via His great *light, love, and law*, which is the source of His *power, honored* by all of creation (see D&C 29:35 & 88:6-13). The principle of “**governance**” has consistent ties to the number **12** throughout scripture, like the **12** Apostles the LORD called in the New Testament. They taught God's law, made up **12** total commandments and later the **12** “Blessed” beatitudes in a higher form of it. Scripture states that living them or ignoring them leads to **12** blessings or **12** cursings (see #2 below). *Space, Time, and Light itself*, along with our *Bodies* are all governed by God in the symbolic number **12**. It is tied to “*divine*” governance (the number **12** is reduced down to the single digit 3 [1+2=3], a number tied to “*divinity*” in scripture).

**1. Governance via Light** God is the source of all **light**, audible, visual, and that not seen, heard or felt. Scripture tells us that He is surrounded by a colorful 360-degree rainbow upon His throne, the visual manifestation of the color frequency of visible light and His great love for His people and all creation (see Ezek. 1:28; Rev. 4:3 & 10:1; 3 Enoch 22:4). The entire electromagnetic spectrum of *energy, frequency, and vibration* (or *light*) is made up of audible and in-audible *sound* and visual and non-visible *light*. God sang all of creation into existence in the book of Genesis using His voice, words, and knowledge. Today western music utilizes “octaves” with **12** notes each. On a piano they include 7 white keys and 5 black keys.

In D&C 88:13, the LORD stated, “The **light** which is in all things, which giveth *life* to all things, which is the *law* by which all things are **governed**, even the *power* of God who sitteth upon his throne, who is in the bosom of eternity, who is in the midst of all things.” God's *power* among all created things - is the “*honor*” and “*love*” they feel for Him as Creator (see D&C 29:35). Satan wanted God's *power* (see Isa. 14), and rebelled against Him to try and get it. When a true servant uses “the *sealing power*” given him of God,



they do so in God's will, repeating words He may have given them. The elements of creation respond to the directives of the Creator through the servant. The elements recognize God's will in the servant, and *willingly obey* out of *love* and *honor* for their Creator (Abr. 4:18; D&C 29:36). In the book of John (the one tied to His *divinity* as Israel's God, the title "**the Son of Man**" is used by our LORD for Himself **12** times. He used this unique title more than any other, doing so 77 times according to the 4 gospel writers (7 of these are "I AM" statements in John's book, tied to 7 parables and their 7 miracles). Jesus called Himself "the Son of David" 1 time, the "Son of God" 5 times, and referred to Himself as the "Messiah or Christ" 11 times (but never publically). He wanted His people (the Jews) to know that He was Israel's God, the God of the Old Testament, the one who spoke to Moses atop Sinai, telling Him He was the Great "I AM".

**12 Colors of Light** Dinshah Ghadiali was the first modern healer to use **12** visible colors of light to help heal the body. He found that each color on his unique "star color wheel" was tied to an energy center or "chakra" in the body. Each color represented a specific wavelength of visible light making up "the 49<sup>th</sup> octave", a small portion of the much larger, entire electromagnetic spectrum, which includes non-visible radiation, like infrared radiation at the low end, and non-visible ultra violet light at the high end. Visible colors make up the colors from 400 to 700 nanometers (**12** above left, and 7 in the rainbow).

Note in the **12**-part color wheel above that the 3 *primary* colors of **light** are Red, Green, and Blue, whereas Yellow, Magenta, and Cyan are the 3 *secondary* colors tied to **pigment**, *inks* or *paint*. Two sets of 3 additional colors stand between these *primary* and *secondary* colors, making **12** total, in a unique Star of David opposing triangle arrangement (*primaries* oppose *secondaries*).

**The Speed of Light** God continues to send His great light throughout creation to govern, enlighten, and heal it. There are 3 ways to express the speed of light; (1) 186,000 miles per second; (2) 162,000 nautical miles in real-time per second; And (3) 144,000 minutes of arc per grid second or "*the speed of light harmonic*", or  $12 \times 12 \times 1000$ . We know that the smallest form of matter tied to light or energy is the *electron*, orbiting around its nucleus. Cathie theorized that the spacing between each *electron* in the atoms of all elements is **144** units. His research also points to the eventual discovery of all **144 elements** on the Periodic Table (scientists have discovered 118 elements thus far). His research also points to our universe having a unique **light**-based *pulse* or frequency signature tied to the number **288** ( $2 \times 144$  - "the speed of **light harmonic**"). Cathie believes that the creation of all matter involves 2 pulse cycles of **144**, one of matter and one for anti-matter. Various universal numbers in his calculations involve "*harmony*" or "*resonance*" often expressed through "*octaves*" that feature a *doubling* or *halving* of a specific whole number. This unites them in a "*harmonic*" relationship (see *The Pulse of the Universe: Harmonic 288*, by Physicist Bruce Cathie, p. XV & pps. 53-65).

**Light** is frequency, whether it is visual **light** or audible sound. There are 7 colors in the rainbow, each with a unique frequency of vibration. The same is true of sound. In a musical octave of 7 primary notes (the white keys on a piano), there are 12 tones or frequencies, via 5 additional black intermediate keys (the 5 "sharps" or "flats" in-between the 7 whole notes or keys).

**Servants of Light** The number **144,000** ( $12 \times 12 \times 1000$ ) is not only one way to express "the speed of light", it has scriptural ties to special "servants of light" in the last days. There are **12,000** servants among the **12** Tribes of the house of Israel, making **144,000** total servants serving as Messianic Jews converted to Christ (see Rev. 7). Many believe there is a second set of **144,000** Christian servants (see Rev. 14). They work among the Gentile nations with **12,000** of them too, having more mixed blood from the **12** sons of Jacob. Both sets of **144,000** servants (288,000 total) gather those of light, the "elect" within "house of Israel". They are gathered back to God and His greater light. King David employed 288 prophetic singers in the Tabernacle of David and had 288,000 soldiers in his army (**144,000** of them serving for 6 months out of the year).

Moses set up **12** stones at the base of Sinai to represent the **12** Tribes of Israel. He also sent **12** spies (one from each Tribe) into the land of Canaan to investigate it and its current residents of giants in walled cities (they were the posterity of the Fallen Angels of Genesis 6, a great plague on the earth that continues here and now). In Numbers 7 we read about the **12** days tied to the dedication of the Tabernacle of Moses. When the Israelites later crossed over the Jordan River – miraculously on dry ground - into the Holy Land, Joshua had **12** representatives take one stone each from the river, setting them as a memorial to God who once again performed another miracle on their behalf (see Joshua 4:1-10).

Our LORD Jesus called **12** special *servants* or Apostles to be "*special witnesses*" of THE Light of the world - Jesus Christ. John stated that there are 24 Elders surrounding God's throne in heaven (Rev. 4:8, 5:7, 11:2, 19:3). King David put in place 24 courses of priests (2 sets of 12 servants in the bloodline of Jacob's 12 sons) to serve at David's Tabernacle of worship, and to later praise and worship at Solomon's Temple (1 Chron. 24).

There are also **12** hierarchies of angels; 1. Thrones, 2. Arc Angels, 3. Seraphim, 4. Cherubim, 5. Dominions, 6. Virtues, 7. Powers, 8. Principalities, 9. Guardians, 10. Comforters, 11. Holy Animals & Creatures, and **12** Planetary Guardians." The LORD Jesus said that He could command 12 legions of angels to help Him if necessary (Matt. 26:53).

**2. Governance via God's Law** The primary law of heaven is love. The LORD taught Moroni that there were **12** characteristics of Charity, the pure love of Christ (see Moroni 7:45). God gave **12** total "commandments" in the Old Testament. They include the 2 Great Commandments to love God and love on another (Deut. 6:4-5 & Lev. 19:18). These 2 laws summarize the 10 additional commandments given Moses in Exodus 20, as found on the 2 tables of stone. The first 5 of them are about loving God, the second 5 are about loving one another. There are **12** blessings and **12** cursings tied to living these **12** commandments or ignoring them (see Deut. 27 & 28).

The LORD later God gave a higher law, called the "Blessed" Beatitudes in the New Testament. The King James Version of Luke 6 addresses only 4 Beatitudes, while Matthew 5 lists 9 of them. The LDS Prophet Joseph Smith restored all **12** of them in JST Matthew 5 and 3 Nephi **12**. The *first 3* replaced Beatitudes address becoming "Blessed" via, 1. Repenting and coming unto Christ; 2.

Being baptized in water by one in authority; And 3. The LORD Jesus says He will then baptize such individuals by Fire and the Holy Ghost (see the author's papers *Clear Born Again Scriptures* or *The 2 Great Commandments of 12*, both at [www.7witnesses.com](http://www.7witnesses.com)). Those living this higher law of 12 Beatitudes are pronounced clean and given the name-title "Blessed" (meaning "in the state of the gods").

**3. Governing via the Measure of Space** There are 12 inches to a foot in the English measure of *space* (the measure of the foot of King David of Scotland in 1150 AD). Ezekiel's altar was 12 cubits square (Ezek. 43:16). Elijah's altar was made of 12 stones, surrounded by a ditch having 12 barrels of water in it. John described New Jerusalem (God's Tabernacle in heaven) as having 12 gates, 12 angels, 12 tribes, 12 foundations, 12 Apostles, 12 stones, and 12 pearls. He describes the measure of this city as a cube of 12,000 furlongs - in 3 dimensions.

**4. Governing via the Measure of Time** There are 12 hours of light and darkness at the 2 equinoxes, an equal measure of *time* in a day of 24 hours. There are 12 months in the year, and 12 zodiac signs rotating around the sun during "the Great Year," also known as "the precession of the equinoxes." It is 25,920 years, or 12 x 2,160 years, the average time each of the 12 signs remains at the eastern horizon. Note also that 2,160 is the diameter of the moon in miles. The Tabernacle of David featured 24/7 worship and praise of the LORD. In it there were 12 different singers for each of the 24 hours of the day, making 288 prophetic singers (1 Chron. 25:9-31). Each solar "day" (24 hours or 1,440 minutes) the moon cycle is separated by another 12 degrees from it on the 360 degree clock of time (10 minutes per day), resulting in the differing moon phases and the need for recalibration of the 2 time pieces (the sun and the moon) in leap months or leap years. Note the 5 uses of number 120 in reference (2 to time) in the Bible:

God promised Noah that man's days would be 120 (equivalent to years)	Gen. 6:1-4
Moses lived for 120 years	Deut. 34:7
There were 120 jealous princes who tried to trap Daniel in false worship	Daniel 6:1
There were 120 priests that blew silver trumpets at the temple	2 Chron. 5:11-14
There were 120 people that met in council prior to the Day of Pentecost	Acts 1:15

**5. Governing the Human Body** God created our physical bodies with 12 governing systems. They are the Circulatory, Digestive, Endocrine, Integumentary, Renal, Lymphatic, Muscular, Nervous, Reproductive, Respiratory, Skeletal, and Vestibular systems. There are also 12 mineral, cell, or tissue salts as part of this governance. They are 1. calcium flouride, 2. Calcium phosphate, 3. Calcium sulfate, 4. Iron phosphate, 5. Magnesium phosphate, 6. Potassium chloride, 7. Potassium phosphate, 8. Potassium sulfate, 9. Sodium chloride, 10. Sodium phosphate, 11. Sodium sulfate, and 12. Silica (clay).

Worldwide DNA research reveals many strands of DNA, most likely 12, not just the 2 explored in western science, those tied to the **physical** makeup of our bodies. Those beyond 2 have been called "junk DNA" in the west and are mostly ignored. The revolutionary work of 2 Russian scientists, molecular biologist Dr. Pjotr Garjajev and researcher Dr. Vladimir Poponin, has revealed the purpose for the additional DNA strands, thought to be 12 total (as seen by energy healers in their clients). The more holistic research of the Russians has revealed a **spiritual** focus for them. They found that human DNA is a receiver and transmitter of information and that it is not genetically "fixed", but can be *repaired* and *reprogrammed* by light or frequency, whether it is visual light (like a laser) or audible frequencies (like music and words). See p. & Appendix B for much more.

God is sending forth His great light (D&C 88:6-13) to awaken and transform our DNA, that we might be *physically* and *spiritually* prepared for His coming as Judge and King over a new millennial Kingdom of justice, peace, and love. He used words to create in Genesis *and* did so again during his earthly ministry to heal many. All creation willingly responds to the Creator's voice (Abr. 4:18) out of love *and* honor for Him. This "honor" is His great **power**. Satan was jealous, wanting both God's honor and power (see D&C 29:36), and thus he rebelled against God, taking many when they were cast out of heaven to earth.

**6. Governing with Love, Healing & Deliverance** The LORD Jesus is the Great *Healer* and *Deliverer*, bringing forth the children of Israel from slavery in Egypt at Passover. He has delivered His wayward people over and over again. Throughout the Psalms, David proclaimed, "His mercy endureth forever." In the Book of Revelation we read about the Tree of Life (Rev. 22:2). It has 12 manner of fruits on it for the healing of the nations. God, as the great healer created the 12 governing systems of our mortal bodies, with 12 tissue salts, and the probability of 12-strands of DNA. Our wise, loving God inspired "the 12-Step program" providing healing and deliverance for those held captive to drugs, alcohol, pornography, and other additions. The first of the 12 steps addresses the need to place *faith* and *trust* in the living God, stating, "We admitted we were *powerless* over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable. We have come to believe that a *Power greater than ourselves* could *restore* us to sanity. And we have made a decision to turn our will and our *lives* over to the care of God..."

**7. Governance of God's Kingdom on Earth** Matthew addressed Christ as "King" 12 times, and with 12 references to His "gospel" (it is focused on His Kingship and "the gosepl of the kingdom"). John, on the other hand provided 12 different "divine" titles for Jesus (below), along with the 12 references in which He called Himself, "**the Son of Man**" (John 1:51; 3:13, 14; 5:27; 6:27, 53, 62; 8:28; 9:35; 12:23, 34; 13:31). John's book focuses on Jesus as a "**divine man**", the one addressed in Daniel 7:13-14 who would come to establish an "**everlasting kingdom**" the one addressed in the 12 chapters of Daniel.

The Word (John 1:1)	The Bread of Life (John 6:35)	The Good Shepherd (John 10:11)
The Creator of all things (John 1:3)	The great I AM (John 8:58; 18:6, 8; Ex. 3:14)	The Resurrection and the Life (John 11:25)
The Only Begotten of the Father (John 1:14)	The Light of the world (John 9:5)	The Way, the Truth, and the Life (John 14)
The Lamb of God (John 1:29)	The Door of the sheep (John 10:7)	The true Vine (John 15:1)

The 12 chapters of the “sealed” book of Daniel addresses true versus false worship, God’s control over earthly kingdoms, and the final establishment of an **everlasting Kingdom** of peace, love, and justice under Christ as King of kings in the last-days. In Daniel 6 we read of 120 jealous princes who tried to trap Daniel in false worship. Daniel 12:9-13 provides a limited timeline of last-days rule by the beast and false prophet of 1,290 total days. Daniel calls those who make it to 1,335 days “blessed.” They will be part of God’s kingdom on the earth. Note that both numbers add up to 12 (these 3 time periods are about 3.5 years each, also known as “time, times, and a half” (each “time” is 12 months – or 1 year).

Three scriptures prophetically address the return of the “Tabernacle of David” as part of God’s last-days kingdom on the earth (see Amos 9:11; Acts 15:16; Isa. 16:5). “ages” was the focus of this tabernacle and will return to the earth in His Millennial kingdom in our day. It mirrors the type of worship present in heaven. The LORD’s prayer states, “Thy kingdom come, they will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matt. 6:10). King David implemented “True Worship” in the Holy City via 24/7 worship, praise, and thanksgiving in the special tent or tabernacle he first set up near the Gihon Spring. It has since come to be known as the Tabernacle of David, a different structure than the Tabernacle Moses set up in the book of Exodus. In it, King David employed 4,000 musicians and 288 prophetic singers (24 courses of 12 Levite singers each). Many believe they used musical instruments tuned to 432 or 444 hz, which had power to push away evil and darkness, while simultaneously providing healing qualities for God’s people (the numbers 144 and 288 have ties to light in #1 above, “**Governance via Light**”). God governs all things by His great light and love.

<sup>2</sup> **Born Again: A Necessary Saving Event** Too few understand the necessary requirement in God’s doctrine and gospel to be “born again” in Christ-Jesus. It is a profound, identifiable “**event**”, not a process. You’ll know if it has occurred. The “learned” (like Nicodemus) or the deceived often believe they already have “salvation” in their **works** – the religious things THEY do within the law THEY have been taught and conform to (temple attendance, going to church, serving others, etc.). In reality, we are only “saved” by the blood of Christ, “after all we can do” (2 Ne. 25:23). It is a spiritual and physical change provided by God’s cleansing of us (see the statements by Joseph Smith at the end of this endnote). Christ performed the atonement for the humble who turn to Him as Savior. For His atonement to take full effect, we must follow the many examples given us in **scripture** (like Alma in the Book of Mormon), revealing the necessity of a “broken heart and contrite spirit” as the sacrifice God requires from His true followers. It requires humility and submitting oneself to God’s will completely - in heartfelt **repentance**, with faith and trust in **Him** as our Savior, not in the false beliefs and traditions of men. Too often they stand between us and God for the sake of control and “gain” (1 Ne. 22:23). Relying on God’s word in **scripture** is key. Note the statements hereafter on being” born again” including the *restored* first three beatitudes chart hereafter. This important “saving” event *cleanses* us that we might receive the important gift and power of the Holy Ghost as a critically important guide.

**Jesus Christ** told Nicodemus, a learned Rabbi who came to him at night, “except a man be **born again** he cannot *see* the kingdom of God...Except a man be **born of water**, and **of the Spirit** [fire], he cannot *enter* into the kingdom of God” (John 3:3-6). One must be born again to *see* or *enter* the kingdom of God. A learned member of the Sanhedrin, one supposedly educated in spiritual things, had not learned this simple and important truth tied to *salvation*.

**The Apostle John** said, “...every one that doth righteousness is born of him [Christ]” (1 John 2:29). He added, “Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin . . . in this the children of God are manifest” (1 John 3:9-10). He continued, “Beloved, let us love one another: for love is of God; and every one that loveth is born of God . . . He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love . . . God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him” (1 John 4:7, 8). John concluded, “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith . . . We know that whosoever is born of God sinneth not; but he that is begotten of God keepeth himself, and that wicked one toucheth him not” (1 John 5:4, 18). In the the three “Epistles” of John (1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> John) he stated 8 times that we must be “born again”, “born of God” or “begotten of God” to be saved or *redeemed* of Him. Quoting Christ in the book of Revelation, John said, “Behold, I make all things new” (Revelation 21:5).

**Adam’s Fiery Baptism** In JST Genesis we read the account of the fiery, spiritual baptism of **Adam**. Two times God commands Adam to teach these important saving truths to his children (vs. 57 & 58), as they are a central component of “the doctrine of Christ” and “the covenant of the Father,” later called “the new and everlasting covenant.” Addressing father Adam, Moses stated, “Wherefore teach it unto your children, that **all men, everywhere, must repent**, or they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God, for no unclean thing can dwell there, or dwell in his presence; for, in the language of Adam, Man of Holiness is his name, and the name of his Only Begotten is the Son of Man, even Jesus Christ, a righteous Judge, who shall come in the meridian of time. Therefore I give unto you a commandment, to teach these things freely unto your children, saying: That by reason of transgression cometh the fall, which fall bringeth death, and inasmuch as ye were born into the world by water, and blood, and the spirit, which I have made, and so became of dust a living soul, even so ye must be born again into the kingdom of heaven, of water, and of the Spirit, and be cleansed by blood, even the blood of mine Only Begotten; that ye might be sanctified *from all sin*, and enjoy *the words of eternal life in this world*, and eternal life in the world to come, even immortal glory; For by the water ye keep the commandment; by the Spirit ye are justified, and by the blood ye are sanctified; Therefore it is given to abide in you; *the record of heaven; the Comforter* [or *the Holy Ghost*]; *the peaceable things* of immortal glory; *the truth of all things*; that which *quickeneth* all things, which *maketh alive* all things; that which *knoweth* all things, and hath *all power* according to wisdom, mercy, truth, justice, and judgment. And now, behold, I say unto you: This is **the plan of salvation** unto all men, through the blood of mine Only Begotten, who shall come in the meridian of time. And behold, all things have their likeness, and all things are created and made to bear record of me, both things which are temporal, and things which are spiritual; things which are in the heavens above, and things which are on the earth, and things which are in the earth, and things which are under the earth, both above and beneath: all things bear record of me. And it came

to pass, when the LORD had spoken with Adam, our father, that Adam cried unto the LORD, and he was caught away by the Spirit of the LORD, and was carried down into the water, and was laid under the water, and was brought forth out of the water. And thus he was baptized, and *the Spirit of God descended upon him*, and thus *he was born of the Spirit*, and became quickened in the inner man. And he heard a voice out of heaven, saying: Thou art *baptized with fire, and with the Holy Ghost*. This is the record of the Father, and the Son, from henceforth and forever; And thou art after the order of him who was without beginning of days or end of years, from all eternity to all eternity . . . thou art one in me, a *son of God*; and thus may all become my sons. Amen” (Moses 6:57-68).

God provided Adam’s experience to us through the records of Enoch and Moses, relayed through Joseph Smith as he re-translated portions of Genesis. Adam’s fiery baptism was recorded by Enoch. Moses was given it when he was taken to heaven by God in an ascent-vision experience. There God taught Moses these things through Enoch’s record. All was relayed through a “revelation” of God.

**John the Baptist’s Words** “I indeed baptize you with water, *upon your repentance*; and when he of whom I record cometh, who is *mightier* than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear, (or whose place I am not able to fill) as I said, I indeed baptize you before he cometh, that when he cometh he may baptize you with the Holy Ghost and fire. *And it is he of whom I shall bear record*, whose fan *shall be* in his hand, and he will thoroughly purge his floor, and gather his wheat into the garner; but *in the fullness of his own time* will burn up the chaff with unquenchable fire. Thus came John, preaching and baptizing in the river of Jordan; bearing record, that he [Christ] who was coming after him had power to baptize with the Holy Ghost and fire” (JST Matthew 3:38-40).

He also stated, “He it is of whom I bear record. He is that prophet, even Elias, who, coming after me, is preferred before me, whose shoe’s latchet I am not worthy to unloose, or whose place I am not able to fill; for he shall baptize, not only with water, but with fire and with the Holy Ghost.” (JST John 1:28, replacing John 1:27).

**The LORD’s Higher Teachings in the 12 Beatitudes** There are 3 additional “Beatitudes” taught by Christ restored in JST Matthew 5 and 3 Nephi 12. They are missing in the 9 beatitudes of KJV Matthew 5 and the 4 beatitudes in Luke 6. The 3 restored beatitudes makes **12** total (a number tied to “governance” throughout scripture). Together they help establish the principles of His kingdom on earth in fulfillment of the words of the LORD’s prayer to bring things here that are in heaven (see Matthew 6). In both of the modern day additions (in the JST Matthew 5 and 3 Nephi 12 accounts), we see a restoration of the first 3 Beatitudes of **12** total. They address being “**born again**” in Christ Jesus. I have highlighted the restored words and concepts in **blue**. They represent a restoration of some of the most important “**plain and precious things**” taught by our LORD (“how” to be saved).

The 3 restored Beatitudes in the JST Matthew 5 account include:

1. **Blessed** are they who shall believe on me; and again,
2. *more blessed* are they who shall believe on your words, when ye shall *testify that ye have seen me and that I am*.
3. Yea, **blessed** are they who shall believe on your words, and *come down into the depth of humility*, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a *remission* of their sins.

Following His resurrection in Jerusalem, Christ the LORD taught all **12** “*Blessed*” Beatitudes again in the New World, as recorded in 3 Nephi **12** of the Book of Mormon (the number 12 is tied to “governance” in scripture & the natural world). The additions are in **blue**.

1 **Blessed** are ye *if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants*; and unto them I have given power that they may *baptize you with water*; and *after that ye are baptized with water*, behold, **I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost**; therefore **blessed** are ye if ye shall believe in me and *be baptized*, after that ye have seen me and know that I am.

2 And again, *more blessed* are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that **ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am**. Yea, **blessed** are they who shall believe in your words, and *come down into the depths of humility* and *be baptized*,

3. **for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost**, and shall receive a remission of their sins.

4 Yea, **blessed** are the poor in spirit who **come unto me**, for theirs *is the kingdom of heaven*

5 And again, **blessed** are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

6 And **blessed** are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

7 And **blessed** are all they who do **hunger and thirst after righteousness**, for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost.

8 And **blessed** are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

9 And **blessed** are all the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

10 And **blessed** are all the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

11 And **blessed** are all they who are *persecuted for my name’s sake*, for *theirs is the kingdom of heaven*.

12 And **blessed** are ye when men shall *revile you and persecute*, and shall say all manner of evil against you **falsely, for my sake**;

13 For *ye shall have great joy* and be *exceedingly glad*, for great shall be *your reward in heaven*; for so *persecuted they the prophets* who were before you.

The full compliment of all **12** “Blessed” Beatitudes” (below) tied to being “**born again**” in Christ, are provided by 2 different witnesses on 2 different continents, both of the covenant line of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph (the city’s of Jerusalem and Bountiful). They represent His higher law to go with the original law given Moses in the **12** Commandments. The “2 great commandments” summarize this law as written by God on the 2 tables of stone given Moses, each with 5 commandments (see also the papers, *Clear Born Again Scriptures*, and *Creator, Redeemer, Judge and King*, at [www.7witnesses.com](http://www.7witnesses.com) ).



“In the mouth of two  
or three witnesses  
shall every word be established.”

1 Corinthians 13:1, KJV

Luke 6 - 4 Beatitudes  
Matthew 5 - 9 Beatitudes

#### The Matthew 5 Account - KJV

1. And seeing the multitudes, he went up into a mountain: and when he was set, his disciples came unto him:
- 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- 3 **Blessed** are the poor in spirit: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 **Blessed** are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
- 5 **Blessed** are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 **Blessed** are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
- 7 **Blessed** are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
- 8 **Blessed** are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.
- 9 **Blessed** are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God.
- 10 **Blessed** are they which are persecuted for righteousness' sake: for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 **Blessed** are ye, when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 12 **Rejoice**, and be exceeding glad: for great is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

## 12 Beattitudes rather than 9 or 4

#### JST Matthew 5 - KJV

1. And Jessus, seeing the multitudes, went up into a mountain; and when he was set down, his disciples came unto him;
- 2 And he opened his mouth, and taught them, saying,
- 3 **Blessed are they who shall believe on me; and again,**  
  
**more blessed are they who shall believe on your words, when ye shall testify that ye have seen me and that I am.**
- 4 **Yea, blessed are they who shall believe on your words, and come down into the depth of humility, and be baptized in my name; for they shall be visited with fire and the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.**
- 5 **Blessed** are the poor in spirit, who come unto me; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 6 And again, **blessed** are they that mourn; for they shall be comforted.
- 7 And **blessed** are the meek; for they shall inherit the earth.
- 8 And **blessed** are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness; for they shall be filled **with the Holy Ghost**.
- 9 And **blessed** are the merciful; for they shall obtain mercy.
- 10 And **blessed** are **all** the pure in heart; for they shall see God.
- 11 And **blessed** are **all** the peacemakers; for they shall be called the children of God.
- 12 **Blessed are all they that are persecuted for my name's sake; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**
- 13 And **blessed** are ye when men shall revile you, and persecute you, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake.
- 14 **For ye shall have great joy**, and be exceeding glad; for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.

1 And it came to pass that when Jesus had spoken these words unto Nephi, and to those who had been called, (now the number of them who had been called, and received power and authority to baptize, was twelve) and behold, he stretched forth his hand unto the multitude, and cried unto them, saying:

**Blessed are ye if ye shall give heed unto the words of these twelve whom I have chosen from among you to minister unto you, and to be your servants; and unto them I have given power that they may baptize you with water; and after that ye are baptized with water, behold, I will baptize you with fire and with the Holy Ghost; therefore blessed are ye if ye shall believe in me and be baptized, after that ye have seen me and know that I am.**

2 And again, **more blessed are they who shall believe in your words because that ye shall testify that ye have seen me, and that ye know that I am.**

**Yea, blessed are they who shall believe in your words, and come down into the depths of humility and be baptized, for they shall be visited with fire and with the Holy Ghost, and shall receive a remission of their sins.**

3 **Yea, blessed** are the poor in spirit who **come unto me**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

4 And again, **blessed** are all they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

5 And **blessed** are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.

6 And **blessed** are all they who do hunger and thirst after righteousness, **for they shall be filled with the Holy Ghost**.

7 And **blessed** are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.

8 And **blessed** are **all** the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

9 And **blessed** are **all** the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.

10 And **blessed** are all they who are persecuted **for my name's sake**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

11 And **blessed** are ye when men shall revile you and persecute, and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for my sake;

12 For ye shall have **great joy** and be exceedingly glad, for great shall be your reward in heaven; for so persecuted they the prophets who were before you.

**Nephi** said, “know the gate by which ye should enter. For the gate by which ye should enter is repentance and baptism by water; and then cometh *a remission of your sins by fire and by the Holy Ghost*. And **then are ye in this strait and narrow path** which leads to eternal life; yea, ye have entered in by the gate; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way ye should receive” (2 Ne. 31:17-18). He added, “if ye will enter by **the way**, and receive the Holy Ghost, **it will show unto you** all things what ye should do [to receive eternal life, by literally coming unto Christ]. Behold, this is the doctrine of Christ...” (2 Ne. 32:5-6). He continued, “And now, behold, my beloved brethren, this is **the way**; and there is *none other way nor name* given under heaven whereby man can be saved in the kingdom of God. And now, behold, this is **the doctrine of Christ**, and the only and true doctrine of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, which is one God, without end. Amen (2 Ne. 31:21). Nephi concluded, saying that those who are “*born again*” or who experience “the baptism of fire and of the Holy Ghost” are then “*in this straight and narrow path which leads to eternal life*”; yea, ye have entered in by the gate [Christ]; ye have done according to the commandments of the Father and the Son; and ye have received the Holy Ghost, which witnesses of the Father and the Son, unto the fulfilling of the Promise which he hath made, that if ye entered in by the way ye should receive” (2 Ne. 31:18).

**Alma the Elder** said, “I have *repented* of my sins, and have been *redeemed* of the Lord; behold I am *born of the Spirit*. And the Lord said unto me: Marvel not that all mankind, yea, men and women, all nations, kindreds, tongues and people, must be *born again*; yea, *born of God*, changed from their carnal and fallen state, to a state of righteousness, being *redeemed* of God, becoming his sons and daughters; And thus they become *new creatures*; and unless they do this, they can in nowise inherit the kingdom of God” (Mosiah 27:24-26).

**Alma the Younger** was the son of Alma, who has a priest to wicked King Noah, was converted to Christ when listening to the inspired preaching of the prophet Abinadi, a man who gave his life to share the gospel. King Noah and his priests burned in alive in fire for his teaching. Young Alma was converted to Christ as his father prayed to God that his wayward son would change his ways. An angel taught young Alma and he was born again in Christ Jesus. As the younger Alma taught others, eventually becoming head over God's church of believers in the land, he noted that division was entering into it because of pride and wealth. He noted that “every man receiveth wages of him whom he listeth to obey” (Alma 3:27). Consecrated as high priest over the church by his father Alma, the younger Alma began a reformation. He saw the pride, riches, and costly apparel. Contention and division resulted. The “wickedness of the church was a great stumbling block to those who did not belong to the church; and thys the church began to fail in its progress” (Alma 4:10). See this great inequality, and desiring the succor the humble, the poor, and the needy, Alma saw the “afflictions of the humble followers of God, and the persecutions which were heaped upon them by the remainder of his people” (v. 15). He then went “forth among his people . . . that he might preach the word of God unto them, to stir them up in remembrance of

their duty, and that he might pull down, by the word of God, all the pride and craftiness and the contentions which were among his people” (v. 19). In Alma chapter 5, he relates his born again experience to those he taught. He taught “the people in the church” (v. 2). He spoke of “the captivity” of their “fathers” and that God had “delivered their souls from hell” (Alma 5:6). Alma said God had “changed their hearts, yea he awakened them out of a deep sleep, and they awoke unto God. Behold they were in the midst of darkness, nevertheless their souls were illuminated by the light of the everlasting word” (v. 7).

Note the words in italics and within quotes that are tied to his and others “born again” experience in the remainder of the chapter. They include, “they did sing redeeming love . . . they are saved” (v. 9). They experienced “a mighty change wrought in the heart” as they “humbled themselves and put their trust in the true and living God . . . therefore they were saved” (vs. 12-13). “Have ye received his image your countenances? Have ye experienced this mighty change in your hearts? Do ye exercise faith in the redemption of him who created you? (v. 15). “...imagine . . . the Lord, saying unto you . . . Come unto me ye blessed” (v. 16). “...can ye look up to God . . . with a pure heart and clean hands . . . having the image of God engraven upon your countenances” (v. 19). “...no man can be saved except his garments are washed white . . . cleansed from all stain, through the blood of him of whom it has been spoken by our fathers, who should come to redeem his people from their sins” (v. 21). “...if ye have experienced a change of heart, and if ye have felt to sing the song of redeeming love, I would ask, can ye feel so now?” (v. 26). “...are ye stripped of pride? . . . prepare quickly . . . repent, repent for the LORD God hath spoken it. Behold he sendeth an invitation unto all men, for the arms of mercy are extended towards them and he saith, “Repent, and I will receive you” (vs. 27-28, 32-33). “Come unto me and ye shall partake of the fruit of the tree of life” (v. 34). “...if ye will not hearken unto the voice of the good shepherd . . . ye are not the sheep of the good shepherd” (v. 38). Alma then stated, “I have fasted and prayed many day that I might know these things of myself” (v. 46). All must “repent and be born again” (v. 49). “...the ax is laid at the root of the tree; therefore every tree that bringeth not forth good fruit shall be hewn down” (v. 52). “...can ye lay aside these things and trample the Holy One under your feet . . . setting your hearts upon the vain things of the world” (v. 53). Only “the names of the righteous shall be written in the book of life” (v. 58). “...the good shepherd doth call after you . . . I speak by way of command unto you that belong to the church; and unto those who do not belong to the church I speak by way of invitation, saying: Come and be baptized unto repentance, that ye also may be partakers of the fruit of the tree of life” (v. 62).

**King Lamoni & his Wife Made New** The fiery baptism of a Native American King and his wife are given us by Ammon in Alma chapter 19 of the Book of Mormon. Hereafter, all words italicized in quotes are key words signaling “*the power of God*” (v. 6). Ammon taught King Lamoni and his wife the doctrine of Christ, or salvation via faith in Christ, along with the need for repentance, and then a baptism of water *and* of fire. As the couple expressed their “*belief*” in Christ and His saving mission, and as they *repented*, Ammon tells us that the dark veil of “*unbelief*” left the King and Queen. First, King Lamoni fell to the earth *overcome* in a vision. In it he received “*light*” and “*joy*” to his soul. Being “*overcome*” with the Spirit, he was “*carried away in God*.” King Lamoni was pronounced “*blessed*” by a knowledgeable bystander who had been born again earlier. He was then awakened by his wife. King Lamoni stated, “*I have seen my Redeemer*” (see vs 6-12). As God’s servant, Ammon rejoiced, saying, “his *heart was swollen* within him, and he *sunk again with joy*, and the queen also *sunk down* being *overpowered by the Spirit*” (Alma 19:13). Ammon thanked God for what He had done, and while doing so, he “was also *overpowered with joy*; and thus they all three had *sunk to the earth*” (vs. 14). Other key words in this account include; “they [including Ammon] had all *fallen to the earth*.” They “*lay prostrate upon the earth*” because of “*the power of God*.” The queen spoke of her experience, saying, “O *Blessed Jesus, who has saved me* from an awful hell! O blessed God, have *mercy* on this people . . . *being filled with joy*,” she then spoke “*many words which were not understood*” (she was *speaking in tongues*, v 29-30). Ammon said, many “*believed*” and were “*converted*.” They were “*changed*” and had “*no more desire to do evil*” (vs. 31, 33). They *saw angels* (v. 34). They were *baptized in water*, became a *righteous* people, and established *God’s church* among them. God poured out His “*Spirit upon them*” (v. 35). And “we see that his arm is extended to all people who will *repent and believe on his name*” (v. 36).

**Mormon**, speaking to the *Lamanite descendants* remaining on this land, and others reading the Book of Mormon, said, “ye are a remnant of the seed of Jacob; therefore ye are numbered among the people of the first covenant; and if it so be that ye *believe* in Christ, and are *baptized*, first with **water**, then with **fire** and with **the Holy Ghost**, following the example of our Savior, according to that which he hath commanded us, it shall be well with you in the day of judgment. Amen” (Morm. 7:10).

**Joseph Smith** had profound words tied to the fiery baptism. He stated, “The baptism of water, without the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost attending it, **is of no use** . . . They are necessarily and inseparably connected. An individual **must be born of water and the spirit** in order to get into the kingdom of God...You might as well baptize a bag of sand as a man, if not done in view of *the remission of sins* and *getting of the Holy Ghost*. Baptism by water is but *half* a baptism, and is **good for nothing** without the other half—that is, **the baptism of [fire and] the Holy Ghost**” (HC 6:316). Speaking of these two baptisms while addressing John the Baptist in JST Matthew 3:38, Joseph clarified, stating, “I baptize you with water, upon your repentance, but when Jesus Christ – of whom I bear record – comes, who has the power and keys, **He will administer the baptism of fire and the Holy Ghost**”.

Addressing his own baptism and that of Oliver Cowdery in 1829, the Prophet Joseph stated, “Immediately on our coming up out of the water after we had been baptized, we experienced great and glorious blessings from our Heavenly Father. No sooner had I baptized Oliver Cowdery, than **the Holy Ghost fell upon him**, and he stood up and prophesied many things which should shortly come to pass. And again, I also had the spirit of prophecy, when, standing up, I prophesied . . . **We were filled with the Holy Ghost**, and rejoiced in the God of our salvation. *Our minds being now enlightened*, we began to have the scriptures laid open to our understanding, and the true meaning and intention of their more mysterious passages revealed unto us in a manner which we never could attain to previously, nor ever before had thought of” (JS History 1:73-74).

The Prophet Joseph taught how the fiery baptism effects a *Gentile* differently than one of the *house or blood of Israel*. Both are part of a “**purging**” event, where sins are remitted. The Gentile has their *blood purged*. They become of *the blood of Israel* or *Jacob* (the birthright

son of Isaac, who was the birthright son of Abraham). They thus inherit the promised blessings given Abraham and Sarah, becoming the sons and daughters of God, with full inheritance with Christ thereafter. Joseph stated, “The Holy Ghost has no other effect than **pure intelligence**. It is more powerful in expanding the mind, enlightening the understanding, and storing the intellect with present knowledge, of a man who is of the literal seed of Abraham, than one that is a Gentile, though it may not have half as much visible effect upon the body; for as the Holy Ghost falls upon one of the literal seed of Abraham, it is calm and serene; and his whole soul and body are only exercised by the **pure spirit of intelligence**; while the effect of the Holy Ghost upon a Gentile, is to **purge out the old blood**, and make him actually of the seed of Abraham. That man that has none of the blood of Abraham (naturally) must have a **new creation** by the Holy Ghost. In such a case, there may be more of a powerful effect upon the body, and visible to the eye, than upon an Israelite, while the Israelite at first might be far before the Gentile in **pure intelligence**” (TPJS 149-50).

<sup>3</sup> **God’s Reveals Himself in Four Nights** The Aramaic Targum (*Jerusalem* version) of Exodus 12 features four special nights when “the Word of the LORD” was revealed to man. I have summarized them in my own words to save space. (1) The *first* was the Creation, when He – “the Word” brought forth the Light from the *darkness* (Gen. 1). (2) The *second* is when He was revealed to Abraham at night “between the divided parts” (Gen. 15). (3) The *third* was when He took the firstborn of Egypt at *night* (Ex. 12), delivering the Israelite captives by His blood. They were God’s “firstborn”, leaving Egypt physically also at *night* – under the full moon of the 15<sup>th</sup> in the new 1<sup>st</sup> month (Ex. 12:1). It should be noted that both that KJV and Aramaic versions of Exodus 14 reveal that the great miracle of the divided waters, letting Israel pass through them, also occurred at *night*, not the day light as seen in the movie *The Ten Commandments* (see Ex. 14:20-21). It was in the *morning* when the Egyptians were “troubled” and then destroyed (vs. 27-31). The pillar of fire lit the way for the Egyptians that *night*, but was a cloudy pillar of darkness for the Egyptians. The fourth revealing of “the Word” is “the end of the age” when “the iron yoke” of wickedness is finally “broken”, and when “the King Messiah”, the “Word of the LORD” will again lead between both” types of people; His covenant people Israel, and all others who are preserved.

<sup>4</sup> **Four Watches in the Night** According to Smith’s Bible Dictionary, “The Jews, like the Greeks and Romans, divided the night into military watches instead of hours, each watch representing the period for which sentinels or pickets remained on duty. The proper Jewish reckoning recognized only *three* such watches, entitled the first or “beginning of the watches,” (Lamentations 2:19) the middle watch, (Judges 7:19) and the morning watch (Exodus 14:24; 1 Samuel 11:11). These would last respectively from sunset to 10 P.M.; from 10 P.M. to 2 A.M.; and from 2 A.M. to sunrise. After the establishment of the Roman supremacy, the number of watches was increased to *four*, which were described either according to their numerical order, as in the case of the “fourth watch” (Matthew 14:25), or by the terms “even,” “midnight,” “cock-crowing” and “morning” (Mark 13:35). These terminated respectively at 9 P.M., 12 midnight, 3 A.M. and 6 A.M.”

<sup>5</sup> **Joseph’s Hebrew Alphabet** The sequence from letter 1 to letter 22 of Joseph Smith’s Egyptian Alphabet and Grammar is believed to express a complete history of the earth in regard to *time*. Note especially numbers 5, 8 and 13 in the Fibbonaci Sequence, and number 22 at its end. The first letter *aleph* (Gematria 1) points to God as the origin of creation; the 13<sup>th</sup> and middle letter *mem* (Gematria 40) is representative of the wise *owl* (representing “Messiah” in the meridian of time); and the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter *tav* (Gematria 400) is representative of *scales* – of “justice” in Christ’s return in final judgment at the end of time. According to Sampson, the number 22 appears to have connection to the *final judgment* and end times, since *Tav* (the *last* letter of the modified Hebrew alphabet) is the 22<sup>nd</sup> letter (400 in Gematria / 400 years [judgment] was the time the Children of Israel were held captive in Egypt, and the time between Christ’s personal visit in 3 Nephi and their eventual destruction as a people.) According to Sampson, “By shape, Tav in its earliest form is the cross and is considered as the sign, mark or token.” In the Book of Ezekiel the angel of God marks the righteous with the cross [or Tau mark] on the forehead (see Ezek. 9:2, 4-7; D&C 7 & 77:9). They will be spared from destruction. It is the token that they have passed their judgment and are not found...wanting. According to Sampson, “It is also an ideographic motif of the scales of justice and mercy, symbolized by its cross design, implying division.” For more on the modified Egyptian Alphabet created by Joseph Smith, see the chart on p. 169. See also Joe Sampson, Written by the Finger of God, Wellspring Publishing.

<sup>6</sup> **The “Blessed” State** In John’s 22 Revelation chapters we read that the *Redeemed* are those who have two qualities. They (1) “*keep the commandments*” and they have (2) “*the testimony of Jesus*.” They have become “the **Blessed**” ones, “*wise*” virgins, the “*overcomers*” who inherit eternal life (see Rev. 1:3; 12:17; 14:1-5; 16:15; 19:10; 20:6). In Revelation chapters 2 and 3, John quotes the words of Christ given to the 7 churches of Asia – as types for our day, noting how they had abandoned their 1<sup>st</sup> love – **Him**, the LORD Yeshua or Jesus Christ. In His personal statements to each of the 7 separate churches, we first read of specific name-titles that Christ applies to Himself. He then calls each of the 7 churches to *repentance*, doing so tenderly and specifically in association with their unique sins. He then concludes His remarks to each group with a specific *promise* of what will occur for them if they “**overcome**” the world (symbolized by ways of ancient Egypt and Babylon). It results in many **blessed** things, including the crowning gift of receiving **Him** personally. To do so is to become of “the **Blessed**” state, by following God’s higher law given in the 12 “Blessed” beatitudes. Such inherit the Kingdom of God. He personally leads those in it

This important *title* is given to those truly *blessed* of the LORD. Old Testament scholar W. F. Albright and New Testament scholar C. S. Mann translated the word “blessed” in Matthew 5 as “*fortunate*”. The footnote to their change adds that to be “*blessed*” is to be “*of the State of the Gods*”. It reads, *Fortunate*. The word in Greek was used in classical times [to mean] *of the state of the gods* in contrast to men. The usual English “*blessed*” has more and more come to have liturgical or ecclesiastical overtones, and we have chosen “*fortunate*” as

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the being the best translation available to us” (W. F. Albright and C. S. Mann, *The Anchor Bible, Matthew*, Garden City, New York: Doubleday, 1971, p. 45). The prophetic, apocalyptic, or “sealed” books of Daniel and Revelation address the “blessed”. John does so in the first 3 verses of Revelation chapter 1, speaking specifically to last-days “servants” of the Living God, whereas Daniel does so in the last 3 verses of Daniel 12.

<sup>7</sup> **The Message of JST Exodus 34** “And the Lord said unto Moses, Hew thee two **other** tables of stone, like unto the first, and I will write upon them also, the words of the law, according as they were written at the **first** on the tables which thou brakest; but it shall **not** be according to the first, for I will take away the [greater] priesthood out of their midst; therefore my **holy order**, and the ordinances thereof, shall not go before them; for my presence shall not go up in their midst, lest I destroy them [they could not behold His glory without greater priesthood and its covenant]. But I will give unto them the law as at the first, but it shall be after the law of a *carnal* commandment; for I have sworn in my wrath, that they shall **not enter into my presence**, into **my rest**, in the days of their pilgrimage. Therefore do as I have commanded thee, and be ready in the morning, and come up in the morning unto mount Sinai, and present thyself there to me, in the top of the mount. And Moses hewed two [more] tables of stone like unto the first [now broken]; and he rose up early in the morning, and went up unto mount Sinai, as thee Lord had commanded him, and took in his hand the two [new] tables of stone” (JST Ex. 34:1-4; **see also** D&C 84:21-26).

<sup>8</sup> **The Great Sign** The “great sign” appeared over Jerusalem at dusk on the Feast of Trumpets (Rosh HaShanah or the *civil* or *governmental* New Year of the *King*) in 2017 on Sept. 23<sup>rd</sup>. In scripture this *civil* New Year’s day was the day of the coming of the King, accompanied by trumpeting. This heavenly sign was illustrated by the coming together of many different heavenly bodies of note. It is first made up of two significant constellations Leo (the lion king) and Virgo (the Virgin bride). Also there is the Sun, the moon, and three planets (Mercury [messenger, both John the Baptist anciently, and the Davidic servant in our day], Venus [Christ as the Son], and Jupiter [a coming king]). To have them all present and in the proper alignment is very rare (once in 7000 years). I believe this alignment – “the great sign” came in fulfillment of JST Revelation 12. There we read of “the woman” (the last-days church, symbolized by the constellation Virgo – the Virgin). She is clothed with the sun (blessed by God’s light). She is standing on the moon, and so is the Christ-child Jesus. Their right feet are both on the neck of the serpent Satan, a symbol of him being conquered. This crescent moon is a very special time marker in God’s Bible calendar. It is the New Moon or “Chodesh”, the 1<sup>st</sup> crescent moon of each month (with 7% of sunlight on it). Here it illustrates the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the 1<sup>st</sup> month of Tishri. This is the *civil* New Year’s day of the King, who is returning soon. Last, the woman also has a crown of 12 stars upon her head, which is the combination of the 9 stars of the constellation Leo (the King – Judah), which is above Virgo, and 3 additional planets that look like stars. They are the “wandering stars” Mercury, Venus, and Jupiter. All 12 of these heavenly bodies are positioned above Virgo’s head. This makes 12 stars total, symbolizing a crown in the government of God in His kingdom.

I believe “the great sign” is symbolizing the growing church of Christ today; in men’s hearts throughout the world, independent of organized religion that is typically corrupted by “the beast” system all around us. People are individually returning to the LORD Jesus on their own. They are being gathered to Him by the great outpouring of His Spirit in the last days, as prophesied by Joel and others. An impressive statue of wood in Brussels Belgium (below left) provides us a physical illustration of this sign. Other statues on Catholic cathedrals in Europe compliment it. Few know that the Nauvoo Temple exterior, designed by Joseph Smith, symbolized this Bride in its unique architecture. At bottom was the crescent moon. Above were sun symbols. And above them were the different stars of the heavens tied to Christ. It symbolized ascension to God via the Lamb and His church, the church of the Firstborn.

For clear illustrations of this sign and more details about it, see my paper, *The Great Sign of 2017*, [www.7witnesses.com](http://www.7witnesses.com)

<sup>9</sup> **I AM – Creator** According to Barker, *I Am* may mean “I call into being what may be, or I create. The simple form of the Name found elsewhere, usually rendered Yahweh or Jehovah, would then mean not ‘He Who Is’ but ‘He Who Causes To Be, He Who Creates’...The song of the living creatures would then be praising not the One who always exists but he One who created and continues to create, which is the theme of the second song: ‘Thou didst create all things and by thy will they existed and were created’” (Margaret Barker, *Atonement: The Rite of Healing*, p. 10).

<sup>10</sup> **“Over-Comers”** God’s Promise to those who overcome the world and come unto Christ is that they will become one of “the **Blessed**” ones, those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus (see John 19:10).

1. The LORD will given them the fruit of the Tree of Life (Rev. 2:7).
2. They shall not be hurt by the second death (spiritual death, Rev. 2:11).
3. If they endure to the end (after overcoming) they will have power over the nations - with a rod of iron, and they will receive “the morning star” (Rev. 2:26-28).
4. They shall be clothed in white raiment and their name will not be blotted out of the book of life. Their name will be confessed by Christ before the Father and His angels (Rev. 3:5).
5. The LORD will make them a pillar in the temple of God. They shall “go no more out.” God’s name will be written on them, along with the name of city of God (New Jerusalem). And the LORD will write upon them my new name (Rev. 3:12).
6. They will “sit with with me in my throne” (Rev. 3:21).
7. God says, they will be like me, as “I overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne” (Rev. 3:21).