

GOD'S LAW IS NOT WRITTEN ON OUR HEARTS YET

Perfection is the ultimate level of excellence anyone can attain consistently according to the standards God has set to govern life on Earth. As we all know, only the Lord Jesus Christ has successfully attained such perfection by consistently excelling in every standard God has set throughout His life while He walked on Earth. Hence, He qualified as our Saviour. Moreover, after the fall of Adam and Eve, from a spiritual perspective, what the Lord our God makes perfect can no longer be subject to change and corruption. In the Holy Scriptures, we learn that death will cease to exist at an appointed time, which means thereafter life will be everlasting for everyone alive. Would you be led to believe that death could resurface again at a later stage? Surely not, for it is inconceivable to imagine that when death will be banished from existence it will return at a later stage. We must also acknowledge that death is the ultimate fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil whose master is Satan. If Satan remains the prince of this age, death will also remain an integral part of life on Earth. This is the simple reason why we die.

As it is typical with many scholars and teachers, we have taken part of a passage of Scripture to build a doctrine, without considering the entire passage and its intended message to ascertain the reasons why the Lord our God had inspired that passage. In so doing, we disregard an important principle which governs the Holy Scriptures, "Scripture cannot be broken". The Scripture in question is found in the book of the prophet Jeremiah. In this passage of Scripture, the Lord our God is referring to the period which He has appointed to bring His people together as one, the house of Israel and the house of Judah. It is imperative that we understand which people constitute the house of Israel and the house of Judah today. If we do not, it will lead us to error. Also, a good knowledge of the gospel of the Kingdom of God and the timeline of the concept of the end of age, will certainly enlighten our understanding of this passage of Scripture.

Jeremiah 31:31-33 New King James Version

³¹ "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ³² not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD. ³³ But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I

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will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

This prophecy communicates an event in the future in which the Lord our God has ordained to bring together the house of Israel and the house of Judah to become one before Him, as it was in days when Kings David and Solomon reigned over Israel, but in these days, the whole world will worship the Lord according to the truth. We must also consider this passage of Scripture documented in the book of the prophet Hosea chapter one, since it is directly referring to the same event. However, it is not only addressed in these two passages of Scripture since it is the event that culminates the end of this age.

Hosea 1:10-11 New King James Version

¹⁰ "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.' ¹¹ Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel!

The Lord our God has appointed a time in the future in which all true believers will be called the sons of the living God according to the Holy Scriptures. All passages of Scripture on this topic are referring to the same event including that from the book of the prophet Jeremiah chapter thirty-one, since they allude to the fact that the Lord will gather His people together, the houses of Israel and of Judah to become one before Him, the House of Israel. The apostle Paul was referring to the same event in his letter to the Hebrews chapter eight:

Hebrews 8:8-10 New King James Version

⁸ Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah— ⁹ not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.

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If we carefully examine this passage of Scripture, it will become obvious to us that the Lord did not find fault with His laws. The Lord found fault with His people. Moreover, the covenant which the Lord made with our fathers in the wilderness is still in existence today, and in addition, the Lord came on Earth in person and modified certain aspects of the law to render it more irrevocable.

The first passage of Scripture to consider as we examine if the law has been writing on our hearts is from the book of the prophet Isaiah, where we are instructed that the Lord will magnify the law. The law is the covenant the Lord made with our fathers in the wilderness after He brought them out of the land of Egypt.

Isaiah 42:19-21 New King James Version

¹⁹ Who is blind but My servant, Or deaf as My messenger whom I send? Who is blind as he who is perfect, And blind as the LORD's servant? ²⁰ Seeing many things, but you do not observe; Opening the ears, but he does not hear." ²¹ The LORD is well pleased for His righteousness' sake; He will exalt the law and make it honourable.

This prophecy was fulfilled in the gospel of Matthew chapter five, when the Lord magnified the laws and commandments of God from a physical to a spiritual entity. The Lord clearly stated that His intention was not to destroy the law and the prophets, with the law being the content of the first five books of the Bible and the prophets what is written in the books of the prophets:

Matthew 5:17-19 New King James Version

¹⁷ "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill. ¹⁸ For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, One jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law till all is fulfilled. ¹⁹ Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called least in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

The simplicity of the word of truth is crystal clear. If the written law of God which God gave to His people through His servant Moses and what has been documented in the books of the prophets will remain until every word has been fulfilled, it means the law has not been written in our hearts, since it wasn't written in the hearts of our fathers who came out of Egypt. What

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has changed? The Lord elevated the laws and commandments of our God and what is written in the books of the prophets, making them even more binding from a physical action, what we do, to a spiritual reality, what we believe. Moreover, the Lord went on to explain what He meant in the rest of Matthew chapter five and chapters six and seven.

Matthew 5:21-28 New King James Version

²¹ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder, and whoever murders will be in danger of the judgment.' ²² But I say to you that whoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment. And whoever says to his brother, 'Raca!' shall be in danger of the council. But whoever says, 'You fool!' shall be in danger of hell fire. ²³ Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, ²⁴ leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift. ²⁵ Agree with your adversary quickly, while you are on the way with him, lest your adversary deliver you to the judge, the judge hand you over to the officer, and you be thrown into prison. ²⁶ Assuredly, I say to you, you will by no means get out of there till you have paid the last penny. ²⁷ "You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not commit adultery.' ²⁸ But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

We cannot escape the fact that our thoughts result in our actions. Before, the law of God governed the actions of the believer, but now, since the Lord has made the law of God perfect according to God the Father's will, the law now governs both the thoughts and actions of God's people. That is the enhancement of the law and prophets. The Lord our God did not write the law in the hearts of the believer at that stage, but provided His own Spirit, the power that called for light and there was light, to empower those who believe to keep His law since the carnal mind is an enemy to His laws and commandments and can never be subject to it.

Acts 2:38-39 New King James Version

³⁸ Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is to you and to your children, and to all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call."

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The Lord our God will only give His Spirit to those who have chosen to repent of their sins and have set their hearts to keep His laws and commandments. As it has been made clear, we must choose to obey because the law is not written on our hearts. If it was, there will be no need to study the holy Scriptures after repentance since every believer would at that point know every law and commandment the Lord has issued. When we enter into a covenant with the Lord, it is our duty to seek God's laws and commandments for our own edification and to do them.

Psalm 119:9-11 New King James Version

⁹How can a young man cleanse his way? By taking heed according to Your word. ¹⁰With my whole heart I have sought You; Oh, let me not wander from Your commandments! ¹¹Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You.

If we are willing, the Spirit of God will empower us to search the Scriptures daily for God's laws and commandments. We are supposed to hide them in our hearts so we can remember to do them when prompted by the Spirit of Christ. We have been admonished to become doers of the word and not hearers only. The application of the word of God in our lives is the expression of true faith. In essence, this is what is pleasing to God, but it must be done with wisdom and understanding. One of the simple reasons why we must hide the Lord's word in our hearts and remember to obey is because our very own hearts will lead us astray.

Jeremiah 17:9-10 New King James Version

⁹"The heart is deceitful above all things, And desperately wicked; Who can know it? ¹⁰I, the LORD, search the heart, I test the mind, Even to give every man according to his ways, According to the fruit of his doings.

This passage of Scripture conveys a profound indication of why the world is in a state of decadence, if only we had a heart to understand what this means. If the Lord had written His laws on our hearts, the Lord would have no reason to search our hearts and mind to repay us according to our actions, because we would all be doing the desire of our hearts which will be to keep God's laws and commandments. What is brewing in our hearts manifests itself in our actions, which therefore means that if God's laws were written on our hearts as we become believers, the capability to break even the least of God's laws and commandments would not exist in the believer. Consider this scenario: We might repent of our sins and be rewarded

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with the gift of the Spirit of God; at that instant, we are sinless before God. But within hours, because we do not know what God has ordained to be the works of righteousness, we will proceed to transgress God's laws and commandments. That is the reason why we must study the word of God to gain understanding of the truth.

Furthermore, the Lord has said He will come and make His home in all those who truly believe in His name, in Spirit:

John 14:15-18 New King James Version

¹⁵ "If you love Me, keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

The Helper is the Spirit of God. The Spirit of God is also known as the Spirit of Christ and the Holy Spirit. These names have been used interchangeably in the Holy Scripture. There is a profound reason why believers are given the Holy Spirit:

John 16:13-15 New King James Version

¹³ However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. ¹⁴ He will glorify Me, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you. ¹⁵ All things that the Father has are Mine. Therefore I said that He will take of Mine and declare it to you.

These are only some of the duties of the Spirit of God. Depending on how much we yield to the Spirit of God, it will guide us into all truth and will tell us what is to come. This is the medium the Lord has chosen to communicate with His people during this age after the sacrifice of the Lord our Saviour. If we had all the required information in our hearts, it would be impossible for us to sin because, only the knowledge of the truth would be in our hearts, but now, we must yield to the Spirit of God for growth.

Romans 8:12-15 New King James Version

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ For if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of

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the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God. ¹⁵ For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, "Abba, Father."

The emphasis is on us to put to death the deeds of the flesh. Those who are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God, but they are not yet full sons of God, since they have not been transformed to be in the likeness of their Master. Having the Spirit of God dwelling in a believer is the guarantee that the believer will be transformed to be like their Lord and Master at the appointed time.

We must acknowledge the fact that, something still exists within the hearts of believers which must be taken out first. Death still reigns in every believer. The law of God is pure and is spirit. The law of God points us to the path of righteousness and gives us the knowledge of sin. There is no one alive today who does not transgress God's laws and commandments.

We cannot compare today to the period of the early church when the gospel of the kingdom of God went out with the power of God from the day of Pentecost, after the Lord our God had poured out His Spirit on the apostles. The apostle Peter who was shown a vision by the Lord which emphasised one of the Lord's commandments. If this commandment was already written in the hearts of believers, the apostle Peter should have known in no uncertain terms that he should not call anyone common.

Acts 10:9-20 New King James Version

⁹ The next day, as they went on their journey and drew near the city, Peter went up on the housetop to pray, about the sixth hour. ¹⁰ Then he became very hungry and wanted to eat; but while they made ready, he fell into a trance ¹¹ and saw heaven opened and an object like a great sheet bound at the four corners, descending to him and let down to the earth. ¹² In it were all kinds of four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ¹³ And a voice came to him, "Rise, Peter; kill and eat." ¹⁴ But Peter said, "Not so, Lord! For I have never eaten anything common or unclean."

¹⁵ And a voice spoke to him again the second time, "What God has cleansed you must not call common." ¹⁶ This was done three times. And the object was taken up into heaven again.

¹⁷ Now while Peter wondered within himself what this vision which he had seen meant, behold,

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the men who had been sent from Cornelius had made inquiry for Simon's house, and stood before the gate. ¹⁸ And they called and asked whether Simon, whose surname was Peter, was lodging there. ¹⁹ While Peter thought about the vision, the Spirit said to him, "Behold, three men are seeking you. ²⁰ Arise therefore, go down and go with them, doubting nothing; for I have sent them."

The Lord had addressed this issue earlier in His ministry when He gave the example of the good Samaritan. Unfortunately, it was not only common with the apostle Peter but also amongst the host of the disciples even after they had received the Spirit of God.

Acts 11:1-18 New King James Version

¹¹ Now the apostles and brethren who were in Judea heard that the Gentiles had also received the word of God. ² And when Peter came up to Jerusalem, those of the circumcision contended with him, ³ saying, "You went in to uncircumcised men and ate with them!"

⁴ But Peter explained it to them in order from the beginning, saying: ⁵ "I was in the city of Joppa praying; and in a trance I saw a vision, an object descending like a great sheet, let down from heaven by four corners; and it came to me. ⁶ When I observed it intently and considered, I saw four-footed animals of the earth, wild beasts, creeping things, and birds of the air. ⁷ And I heard a voice saying to me, 'Rise, Peter; kill and eat.' ⁸ But I said, 'Not so, Lord! For nothing common or unclean has at any time entered my mouth.' ⁹ But the voice answered me again from heaven, 'What God has cleansed you must not call common.' ¹⁰ Now this was done three times, and all were drawn up again into heaven. ¹¹ At that very moment, three men stood before the house where I was, having been sent to me from Caesarea. ¹² Then the Spirit told me to go with them, doubting nothing. Moreover these six brethren accompanied me, and we entered the man's house. ¹³ And he told us how he had seen an angel standing in his house, who said to him, 'Send men to Joppa, and call for Simon whose surname is Peter, ¹⁴ who will tell you words by which you and all your household will be saved.' ¹⁵ And as I began to speak, the Holy Spirit fell upon them, as upon us at the beginning. ¹⁶ Then I remembered the word of the Lord, how He said, 'John indeed baptized with water, but you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit.' ¹⁷ If therefore God gave them the same gift as He gave us when we believed on the Lord Jesus Christ, who was I that I could withstand God?"

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¹⁸ When they heard these things they became silent; and they glorified God, saying, "Then God has also granted to the Gentiles repentance to life."

The apostle Peter had to justify his actions to the rest of the disciples. When they realised that it was the Lord Who had sent Peter, they held their peace. But this issue, although actioned by the Lord was not put to death because of it, resurfaced again when the apostle Peter visited Antioch.

Galatians 2:11-14 New King James Version

¹¹ Now when Peter had come to Antioch, I withstood him to his face, because he was to be blamed; ¹² for before certain men came from James, he would eat with the Gentiles; but when they came, he withdrew and separated himself, fearing those who were of the circumcision. ¹³ And the rest of the Jews also played the hypocrite with him, so that even Barnabas was carried away with their hypocrisy.

¹⁴ But when I saw that they were not straightforward about the truth of the gospel, I said to Peter before them all, "If you, being a Jew, live in the manner of Gentiles and not as the Jews, why do you compel Gentiles to live as Jews?"

The apostle Paul who understood what was required from a believer had to confront the apostle Peter regarding what the Lord had commanded and had even illustrated in a vision. If the apostle Peter had been made perfect at that stage and the law of God had been written on his heart, his behaviour would have been different. We must remember that the apostle in question here was ordained by the Lord to be the head of the early church. If we consider another example of someone who was very close to the apostle Paul but fell away because he had not hidden God's word on his heart. It is certain that if the law had been written on his heart, it would not have happened. When we examine this next passage of Scripture, we realise that Demas did not have God's laws and commandments written on his heart.

2 Timothy 4:9-11 New King James Version

⁹ Be diligent to come to me quickly; ¹⁰ for Demas has forsaken me, having loved this present world, and has departed for Thessalonica—Crescens for Galatia, Titus for Dalmatia. ¹¹ Only Luke is with me. Get Mark and bring him with you, for he is useful to me for ministry.

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We have been admonished not to love this present world. Demas could not resist the temptations of this world. What happened to him came from the abundance of what was brewing in his heart. We must be vigilant because it could happen to any one of us.

Another example to consider is that of King Saul. The Lord provided King Saul with everything he required to fulfil his office as king over Israel, including the Spirit of God.

1 Samuel 13:4-14 New King James Version

⁴“Now all Israel heard it said that Saul had attacked a garrison of the Philistines, and that Israel had also become an abomination to the Philistines. And the people were called together to Saul at Gilgal.

⁵Then the Philistines gathered together to fight with Israel, thirty thousand chariots and six thousand horsemen, and people as the sand which is on the seashore in multitude. And they came up and encamped in Michmash, to the east of Beth Aven. ⁶When the men of Israel saw that they were in danger (for the people were distressed), then the people hid in caves, in thickets, in rocks, in holes, and in pits. ⁷And some of the Hebrews crossed over the Jordan to the land of Gad and Gilead.

As for Saul, he was still in Gilgal, and all the people followed him trembling. ⁸Then he waited seven days, according to the time set by Samuel. But Samuel did not come to Gilgal; and the people were scattered from him. ⁹So Saul said, “Bring a burnt offering and peace offerings here to me.” And he offered the burnt offering. ¹⁰Now it happened, as soon as he had finished presenting the burnt offering, that Samuel came; and Saul went out to meet him, that he might greet him. ¹¹And Samuel said, “What have you done?”

Saul said, When I saw that the people were scattered from me, and that you did not come within the days appointed, and that the Philistines gathered together at Michmash, ¹²then I said, ‘The Philistines will now come down on me at Gilgal, and I have not made supplication to the LORD.’ Therefore I felt compelled, and offered a burnt offering.

¹³And Samuel said to Saul, “You have done foolishly. You have not kept the commandment of the LORD your God, which He commanded you. For now the LORD would have established your kingdom over Israel forever. ¹⁴But now your kingdom shall not continue. The LORD has sought

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for Himself a man after His own heart, and the LORD has commanded him to be commander over His people, because you have not kept what the LORD commanded you."

King Saul was a man the Lord changed. The Lord gave him a new heart and the Spirit of God came upon him. Saul also had a prophet of God, Samuel, directing his footsteps. Notwithstanding, since the law was not written on his new heart, and because there was another power working within Saul, Saul turned from following the Lord to do his own desires. He did not obey the Lord's commandments. We must always remember what happened to King Saul.

It is critical for us to acknowledge the fact that what we are dealing with here is profound information. The information we are dealing with can be equated to that which is carried in our spirits, like our DNA. An animal knows instinctively what to do when it is born since it has been programmed in their spirit to act in that manner. If the law of God was written on the hearts of believers, it will be no different. All believers would know instinctively how to always act and behave in any given situation. Nevertheless, for now, we must study to understand the laws and commandments of God and remember to always obey them because it has not been engraved on our hearts.

Psalm 103:15-18 New King James Version

¹⁵ As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. ¹⁶ For the wind passes over it, and it is gone, And its place remembers it no more. ¹⁷ But the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting On those who fear Him, And His righteousness to children's children, ¹⁸ To such as keep His covenant, And to those who remember His commandments to do them.

The Lord has provided the greatest power available to enable us to do God's will. One of the duties of the Spirit of God in this age is to bring to our remembrance the laws and commandments of God so we can do them, since it has not yet been printed on our hearts. If it was, what Ananias and Sapphira did would never have happened.

Acts 5:1-5 New King James Version

¹ But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession. ² And he kept back part of the proceeds, his wife also being aware of it, and brought a certain part and

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laid it at the apostles' feet. ³ But Peter said, "Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the price of the land for yourself? ⁴ While it remained, was it not your own? And after it was sold, was it not in your own control? Why have you conceived this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God." ⁵ Then Ananias, hearing these words, fell down and breathed his last. So great fear came upon all those who heard these things.

Ananias and Sapphira, his wife, must have seen the Lord crucified. They were also present in Jerusalem on the day of Pentecost when the Spirit of God was first poured out on mankind. Moreover, they were close to the apostles, because they presented their offering to the head of the church, Peter. The rest of the story we know. If they had been made perfect with the law of God written on the tablet of their hearts, it would not have been possible for Satan to fill their hearts to lie to the Lord. As you can see, until the Lord puts this adversary, death and its author Satan away, the Lord will not write His laws and commandments on our hearts. This is the reason why. We have been given the free will to choose to live or to die eternally, which comes at the end of our lives in this age. There are no other opportunities as some have been led to believe.

Therefore, the apostle Paul was inspired to write about this profound coexistence in our hearts in his epistle to the Romans. This epistle was not only directed to the Romans but to all those who are seeking to understand the truth. There is a simplicity in this passage of Scripture that has been overlooked throughout the generations. If sin is still in us, the law of God cannot be written on our hearts because of the purity of the law. If sin leads to death, the law gives us the knowledge of sin; the law makes us aware of sin but directs us to righteousness. The law underpins righteousness. To be justified in the sight of God, we must become doers of the law. We must remember that true believers are still physical, they still possess the carnal mind because they have not yet been made perfect.

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Romans 7:12 New King James Version

¹² Therefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy and just and good

Before we can proceed, we must first consider these two statements which are directly connected to the subject of our study. The apostle John was inspired to write that the Lord knew what was in man:

John 2:23-25 New King James Version

²³ Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name when they saw the signs which He did. ²⁴ But Jesus did not commit Himself to them, because He knew all men, ²⁵ and had no need that anyone should testify of man, for He knew what was in man.

The Lord knew that the spirit of death was in man. The Lord Himself said that the physical man, the flesh is weak, but the spirit is willing:

Matthew 26:40-41 New King James Version

⁴⁰ Then He came to the disciples and found them sleeping, and said to Peter, "What! Could you not watch with Me one hour?" ⁴¹ Watch and pray, lest you enter into temptation. The spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak."

The Lord knew the weakness that is in man because the spirit that empowers the flesh is an enemy of God and cannot be subject to His laws and commandments. We must also acknowledge the fact that it was the Lord our God Who pronounced the enmity that exists between the two seeds as part of His judgement when Adam and Eve disobeyed His commandment in the garden of Eden. There is a profound reason for this enmity which we cannot fully understand now, but it will become clear as our understanding is opened to this topic. If there was no enmity between the two seeds, they would gladly coexist and the Earth would remain as it is today, laden with sin.

The Apostle Paul was inspired to notice this weakness in himself when he realised that, although he was fully converted, the weakness of the flesh from the fall of Adam and Eve still existed in him. He called it the law of sin, which is basically death, the spirit of disobedience which some call it human nature, but in essence it is the spirit of Satan. The actions of Satan's spirit in us will eventually lead us to death if we do not repent.

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Romans 7:13-25 New King James Version

¹³ Has then what is good become death to me? Certainly not! But sin, that it might appear sin, was producing death in me through what is good, so that sin through the commandment might become exceedingly sinful. ¹⁴ For we know that the law is spiritual, but I am carnal, sold under sin. ¹⁵ For what I am doing, I do not understand. For what I will to do, that I do not practice; but what I hate, that I do. ¹⁶ If, then, I do what I will not to do, I agree with the law that it is good. ¹⁷ But now, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me. ¹⁸ For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) nothing good dwells; for to will is present with me, but how to perform what is good I do not find. ¹⁹ For the good that I will to do, I do not do; but the evil I will not to do, that I practice. ²⁰ Now if I do what I will not to do, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells in me.

²¹ I find then a law, that evil is present with me, the one who wills to do good. ²² For I delight in the law of God according to the inward man. ²³ But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin which is in my members. ²⁴ O wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? ²⁵ I thank God—through Jesus Christ our Lord! So then, with the mind I myself serve the law of God, but with the flesh the law of sin.

Understanding the implication of this passage of Scripture points us to the fact that, there is a component in us which will consistently drag us back to the way of disobedience to the laws and commandments of God if we are not firmly anchored in the Spirit of God, the truth. This component is the spirit of the god of this age, Satan the Devil. The Lord our God gave him power over mankind because he successfully enticed the first ruler on Earth to disobey God's commandment. Moreover, it comes down to something profound to our understanding yet simple as we gain knowledge of the truth, the free will to make choices. The Lord our God had to create an alternative to His way to give us the free will to make choices. Satan and his ways are that alternative. We must now choose to live because we are all the descendants of the first ruler on Earth, Adam and Eve, who chose to disobey God's commandment. When we choose life, which is to repent and start obeying God the Father's commandments, we are given the Spirit of Christ which disannuls the power death has over us until we are made

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perfect, and death is taken away for ever. If we do not have the Spirit of Christ, we are not one of His.

Romans 8:7-9 New King James Version

⁷ Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. ⁸ So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God. ⁹ But you are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you. Now if anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he is not His.

Moreover, we must be led by the Spirit of God. Many do not understand what this means, to be led by the Spirit of God. If the spirit of Satan leads us to disobey God's laws and commandments, the Spirit of Christ in us will leads us to obedience, righteousness, and to live by faith. Those who are led by the Spirit of God, these are the sons of God who have not yet been made perfect now but will be perfected at the appointed time.

Romans 8:12-14 New King James Version

¹² Therefore, brethren, we are debtors—not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³ for if you live according to the flesh you will die; but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴ For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, these are sons of God.

If every true believer had been made perfect, there would have been no need for teachers, pastors, preachers, prophets, since the truth would have been established in the world and within all those who believe. Those who will be made perfect at the appointed time will no longer be able to transgress any of God's laws and commandments.

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CONCLUSION

The apostle Paul was inspired to recount a prophecy from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, which he literally rewrote word for word. The question is: do you understand the appointed timeline for the fulfilment of this prophecy? We, on the other hand, cannot assume this prophecy has already been fulfilled because it sounds good in our ears and it gives us a false sense of security, without considering the remainder of this prophecy which can only be perfected after the fulfilment of a series of other prophecies. In the book of Jeremiah, the Lord our God said:

Jeremiah 31:31-34 New King James Version

³¹ *"Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—* ³² *not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt, My covenant which they broke, though I was a husband to them, says the LORD.* ³³ *But this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My law in their minds, and write it on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people.* ³⁴ *No more shall every man teach his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for they all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them, says the LORD. For I will forgive their iniquity, and their sin I will remember no more."*

The Lord then went on to certify what He means by the conditions He gave for this prophecy not to come to pass. Only the Lord can alter the conditions. We know that the Lord will not go against His own word. If no one in the heavens and on Earth can change the ordinance of day and night, then this prophecy will come to pass at the appointed time. In the epistle to the Hebrews, which is undoubtedly for us today, to give us an in depth understanding of the content of the books of Moses and the prophets, the apostle Paul was inspired to document this prophecy again word for word, which means we cannot, and should not take it apart. It addresses what the Lord our God has proposed to do at a particular time.

Hebrews 8:8-12 New King James Version

⁸ *Because finding fault with them, He says: "Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah—* ⁹ *not*

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according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day when I took them by the hand to lead them out of the land of Egypt; because they did not continue in My covenant, and I disregarded them, says the LORD. ¹⁰ For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, says the LORD: I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts; and I will be their God, and they shall be My people. ¹¹ None of them shall teach his neighbour, and none his brother, saying, 'Know the LORD,' for all shall know Me, from the least of them to the greatest of them. ¹² For I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more."

The covenant the Lord our God has made with the house of Israel and the house of Judah is for them to repent from their evil ways and to start living according to God's laws and commandment and in faith. As it is written, "the just shall live by faith." The same covenant applies to us today. That has not changed, and it will not change. If we disobey the Lord and choose not to walk in His covenant, we will never become the sons of God at the appointed time. The word of God interprets itself. We must apply this principle to confirm that the law of our God and Father has not yet been written on our hearts. We must first consider two passages of Scripture before returning to examine this prophecy.

1 John 3:8-9 New King James Version

⁸ He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil. ⁹ Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.

Even the most converted man or woman still transgresses God's laws and commandments. Only the Lord our God and Saviour has passed through this world without breaking any of God's laws and commandments. Hence, He has qualified to be our Saviour according to God the Father's plan of salvation. From the above passage of Scripture, we can see that those who are born of God do not sin anymore. No one except the Lord has been born of God. He has been made perfect although He was a man. The true meaning of being born again is to be changed in an instant by the Spirit of God to become a spirit being. We all know it will happen at the appointed time of the resurrection of the dead, which means we cannot be perfect now. That was the first point to consider. Secondly:

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Hosea 2:16-23 New King James Version

¹⁶ "And it shall be, in that day," Says the LORD, "That you will call Me 'My Husband,' And no longer call Me 'My Master,' ¹⁷ For I will take from her mouth the names of the Baals, And they shall be remembered by their name no more. ¹⁸ In that day I will make a covenant for them With the beasts of the field, With the birds of the air, And with the creeping things of the ground. Bow and sword of battle I will shatter from the earth, To make them lie down safely. ¹⁹ "I will betroth you to Me forever; Yes, I will betroth you to Me In righteousness and justice, In lovingkindness and mercy; ²⁰ I will betroth you to Me in faithfulness, And you shall know the LORD. ²¹ "It shall come to pass in that day That I will answer," says the LORD; "I will answer the heavens, And they shall answer the earth. ²² The earth shall answer with grain, with new wine, And with oil; They shall answer Jezreel. ²³ Then I will sow her for Myself in the earth, And I will have mercy on her who had not obtained mercy; Then I will say to those who were not My people, 'You are My people!' And they shall say, 'You are my God!'"

From this passage of Scripture, it is clear to understand that the Lord has appointed a time when He will call His people openly and His people will call Him their God. This will happen on the day of resurrection when God's people will be changed in an instant and the leader who made it possible is the Lord Jesus Christ:

Hosea 1:10-11 New King James Version

¹⁰ "Yet the number of the children of Israel Shall be as the sand of the sea, Which cannot be measured or numbered. And it shall come to pass In the place where it was said to them, 'You are not My people,' There it shall be said to them, 'You are sons of the living God.' ¹¹ Then the children of Judah and the children of Israel Shall be gathered together, And appoint for themselves one head; And they shall come up out of the land, For great will be the day of Jezreel!"

This is the day when the people of God will be made perfect, and the law of God will be written on the hearts of those who have been made perfect. On that day, the Lord will have mercy on His people when He brings them out of the Earth and their sins and iniquities will He remembered no more. Great is the day of Jezreel. With that in mind, if we go back to the prophecy from the book of Jeremiah chapter thirty-one, we will confirm that, at the time the Lord our God will write His laws on the hearts of His people, everyone on Earth will know who

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the Lord is from the least to the greatest. Can we say this is happening now? The answer is certainly no, which therefore means the law has not been written on our hearts yet.

Today, even amongst professing believers, it is difficult to ascertain the truth since there are many gods and denominations. The truth is alien to many professing believers who blindly follow what man has said, without searching the Holy Scriptures to see if what they are being taught is truth. But at the appointed time when the Lord removes His people from the land, that is the Earth, everyone will know that He is the Lord our God and our Creator.

Today, we have pastors, teachers, prophets, and many scholars of the word of God who teach their neighbours in the way of the Lord our God. At the fulfilment of this prophecy, when the law of God will be written on our hearts, that is if we qualify, since we are living through the qualification process now, no one will teach his neighbour to know the Lord. There will be no need for teachers and prophets. This will be the appointed time when the Lord would have established the Kingdom of God here on Earth and the Earth will be full of the knowledge of God.

Moreover, the adversary of our God would have been put away for a thousand years and he will not be able to deceive the nations anymore.

Revelation 20:1-3 New King James Version

¹ Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, having the key to the bottomless pit and a great chain in his hand. ² He laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ³ and he cast him into the bottomless pit, and shut him up, and set a seal on him, so that he should deceive the nations no more till the thousand years were finished. But after these things he must be released for a little while.

His spirit will no longer dwell in the hearts of God's people and God will become one with His people. Moreover, after a thousand years, mankind will finally be delivered from the curse of death. Death will no longer dwell in the hearts of men and Satan will be cast into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:7-10 New King James Version

⁷ Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison ⁸ and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to

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gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea.⁹ They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them.¹⁰ The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone where the beast and the false prophet are. And they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

It is at this stage that everyone alive will have God's laws and commandments written in their hearts. God the Father would have finally completed His plan for His creation, and He will dwell amongst His people and everyone alive will know that He is the one and only living God and life will be everlasting.