



Philadelphia Church International

Light of the Truth

**“Commit your way to
the LORD, Trust also
in Him, And He shall
bring it to pass”
(Ps.37:5)**

Issue 4
July/ August 2020

The Christian Magazine



Light of the Truth

The Christian Magazine
of Philadelphia Church International
Issue 4 July – August 2020

Published in London since 2009 thanks to
the voluntary donations of the readers

Circulation – 50 copies
PHILADELPHIA CHURCH INTERNATIONAL
CHARITY NO 1086729

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

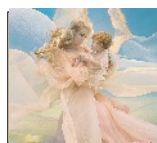
“Then the children of Israel who had returned from the captivity ate together with all who had separated themselves from the filth of the nations of the land in order to seek the Lord God of Israel. And they kept the Feast of Unleavened Bread seven days with joy; for the Lord made them joyful, and turned the heart of the king of Assyria toward them, to strengthen their hands in the work of the house of God, the God of Israel.” (Ezra 6:21,22)

As brothers and sisters in Christ, we are each a part of His Body, and all of us together make up His Body. In these uncertain times, let each one of us focus our eyes on God, continuing in prayer, seeking Him and inviting Him into our hearts to cleanse us and prepare us. So, as the Body of Christ which is the Church, we will be strengthened and filled with the joy of the Lord, made ready for work in the house of God.

In this issue:

God prepared a place of rest for His people and sent the Leader of Salvation by sending Jesus Christ.

Page 3

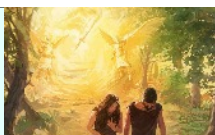


As we can see, the saints are still on earth during the reign of the Antichrist and the false prophet.

Page 6

There is nothing surprising in the fact that the devil could use one of the animals and speak through its mouth.

Page 9



A God Of Hope

I just want to say thank you
For this life you've given me,
For all the wondrous blessings,
For setting my spirit free

You are such an awesome God
Who only gives the best,
Giving us a life of hope
When we face all kinds of tests

For often we face in life,
Struggles of every kind,
Little things can get us down
And peace is far from our minds

But you give hope to carry on
No matter what we face,
When we feel like giving up,
Unable to finish the race

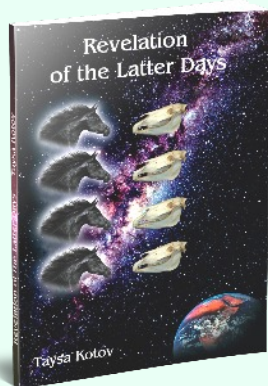
You step in just in time
With angels heaven sent,
To encourage us to carry on
And to give us extra strength

So I praise you, Lord, for whom you are
And for all that I can be,
For I'd never have a better life
Apart from your life in me.

M.S. Lowndes

Dear brothers and sisters in Jesus Christ !

We would be very pleased to receive letters from you and any testimonies about how God is working in your lives, about any miracles and signs you have experienced on the path of following Christ, or while you were searching for Him. Please send your letters to us and we will be glad to publish them in our magazine. The editor has the right to edit all material which is sent for publishing, but the content will not be changed. Unfortunately we are unable to return any originals.

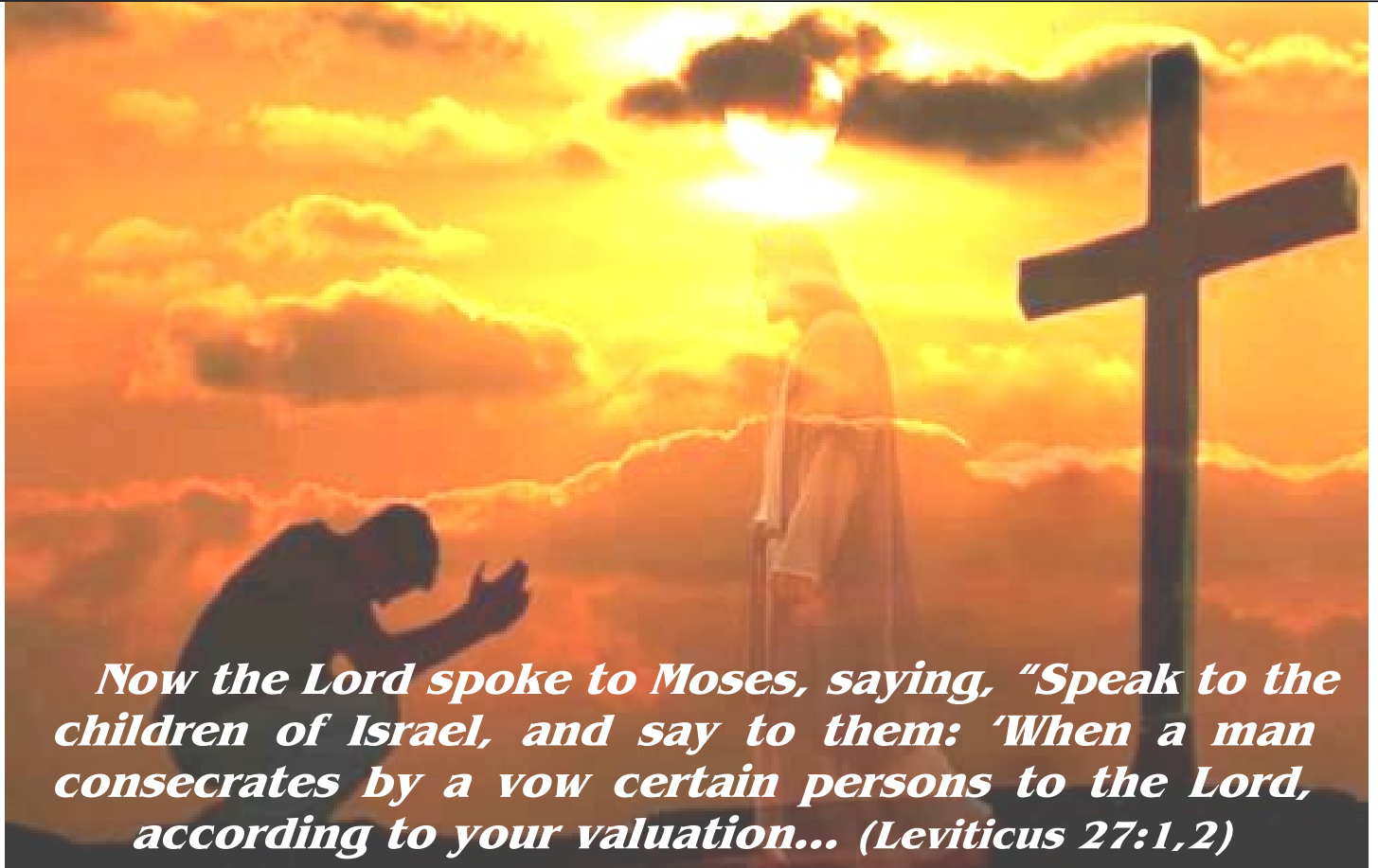


Attention!

Anyone who wants to know what time he is living in, what is happening in the spiritual world and how it is reflected on the earth, about which God wants to warn His people speaking about the last days and the approaching end (Apocalypse) through the Apostle John and Prophet Daniel, can read about this in the book “Revelation of the Latter Days” which was received from God and written down by the pastor of Philadelphia Church, Taysa Kotov.

At the present time the book is available to purchase for the retail price of £5.50 or EURO 7.70. For churches who would like to place a larger order, a discount is available.

You can register your interest by writing to our postal address or e-mail (see back cover) and we will contact you.



Now the Lord spoke to Moses, saying, "Speak to the children of Israel, and say to them: 'When a man consecrates by a vow certain persons to the Lord, according to your valuation... (Leviticus 27:1,2)

When reading the Old Testament, we see that the dedication of oneself to the Lord was accompanied by paying a certain price, which was decided by Moses. The determined price was not small or insignificant so not everyone could bring it, therefore it is said that those who were poor should come to the priest in order for him to determine a fee for them according to their means: *'But if he is too poor to pay your valuation, then he shall present himself before the priest, and the priest shall set a value for him; according to the ability of him who vowed, the priest shall value him. (Leviticus 27:8).*

What does that tell us? Is it not that everyone who dedicates his soul to the Lord will have to pay a price for his dedication? The person will lose something in this material world, in order to gain in the spiritual world. Is the one who wants to dedicate their soul to the Lord willing to pay the price for it, whatever the Lord will require of him?

To dedicate one's soul to the Lord is to give oneself to His full disposal, to dedicate oneself for a certain purpose in God. Everything that has been dedicated no longer belongs to a person, that means the person no longer has any rights to that which has been dedicated to God. To dedicate also means to "commit to holiness." In the Old Testament, it usually always went through a ceremony of purification together with a sacrifice. Where there is no sacrifice, there is no dedication, and where there is no dedication, there is no purification. Even the ceremony of

water baptism is the dedication of oneself to a righteous life in Christ Jesus, however, it is not yet the dedication of oneself to God for His full disposal. To dedicate oneself to God is to give oneself to full obedience to His will.

Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass... (Ps.37:5) To give one's way to the Lord, or to entrust one's path to God for Him to bring it to pass, is to devote oneself fully to life according to His will. It is impossible to live in His rest and peace if one does not trust their ways to Him. Rest is deliverance from oppressive problems. If a problem is not resolved, it creates anxiety and disturbing, depressing thoughts. But if the problem is given to the One Who promises to solve it, then comes absolute rest and trust. To give means to dedicate to God in order for Him to resolve it according to His will. Likewise, the whole life of a person who has dedicated himself to God is set free from everyday worries. The dedicated person lives in rest because he lives in trust to God that He will bring it to pass.

Why was it that the people of God did not enter the rest that was promised to them? It was because they did not dedicate themselves to God. Although they physically entered the promised land, they did not enter His rest. Even when they were in the promised land they still walked according to their own ways. God gave the first and fundamental commandment: *and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and*



with all your strength.' This is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30) In fact, this is complete dedication of oneself to God. The fulfillment of the law of God would have followed automatically, as proceeding out of the first commandment, but the people did not fulfill the first commandment and did not love the Lord their God, therefore they did not dedicate themselves to a life in Him and with Him. If a life is not dedicated it cannot be a life of obedience, because that person is walking in his own ways, the ways of his own will. This is why the people of God did not enter the promised rest.

God's will for man has not changed. God prepared a place of rest for His people and sent the Leader of Salvation by sending Jesus Christ. Joshua could not lead the people into rest, but only into the image of rest: *For if Joshua had given them rest, then He would not afterward have spoken of another day.* (Hebrews 4:8) Now we are given the opportunity to enter into the rest of God, and not in the temporary but in the eternal, with the help of the love sent to us in Jesus Christ. Without love it is impossible to fulfil the first commandment, which is based on love: *and you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.* This is the first commandment. (Mark 12:30) It is love for the Lord which leads a person to dedicate all his ways to Him. Love always serves with dedication; any other feeling is not love. All paths must be dedicated, as it is written, which means the paths of the heart, one must love God "with all your heart", and the paths of the soul - "with all your soul", and the paths of understanding - "with all your mind", and the paths of all consciousness - "with all your strength." ... Only in complete dedication of oneself to God can one gain rest, since the life of such a person abides in trust to God.

The life which is given to the authority of God cannot be lived aimlessly. It is not lived in loss or in defeats, but in the wisdom of His leading. Everything that is accomplished in it, every beginning, even if has the appearance of destruction, has the end result of creation. What seems to be a weakness at first will result in the end as strength. What seems to be completely without glory at first, will have an end result of glory. This was experienced by David in the experience of his own life. It is never worth defining an end of something just from its beginning, as it is written: *For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end.* (Hebrews 3:14). After being anointed to become king, David's life began with persecutions, wanderings, deprivations and dishonour, but in the end, he became king of Israel, and the name of David will never be forgotten; in Jesus Christ it has become

eternal. Jesus was called the Son of David and it is also said that the key of David is in the hand of Jesus: *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, 'He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens'' (Revelation 3:7), He will be great, and will be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. (Luke 1:32), 'I, Jesus, have sent My angel to testify to you these things in the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the Bright and Morning Star.'* (Revelation 22:16) This is how a life dedicated to the glory of God ends, as David said: *Commit your way to the Lord, Trust also in Him, and He shall bring it to pass.* " (Ps.37:5)

The cross of Christ's torment also looked like a place of His weakness and shame, but turned out to be the place of His strength and eternal glory, because He had committed His way to God the Father, and God accomplished it and brought it to pass completely. Everything is brought to pass through trust in God, and trust can only be found in one's complete dedication. That which is not dedicated, not committed, not trusted to God remains a concern and anxiety. It means that such a person has not yet entered rest, although a participator in the promised land. It is possible to talk about trust, but if one has not devoted one's own ways but left them under the control of human consciousness - as the Russian saying goes: 'Trust, but verify' - then life will be full of mistakes, disappointments and anxieties. One can enter into rest only by fully entrusting one's ways to the Lord. One can only entrust one's ways in complete obedience, and complete obedience is achieved in the dedication of oneself to the Lord, which involves paying a price. Jesus set the price for the dedication of our soul to the Lord: *"If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it.* (Matthew 16:24,25). If anyone wants to dedicate their soul to the Lord, here is the valuation determined by Jesus.

The dedication of one's own soul to the Lord and obedience to Him cannot be done by force, it is each person's voluntary choice.

Jesus Himself was dedicated to the Father and paid the price with His own soul, becoming for many the price of their redemption from sin: *He was oppressed and He was afflicted, Yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, And as a sheep before its shearers is silent, So He opened not His mouth.* (Isaiah.53:7).

Jesus' obedience was that He went to the slaughter in silence, that is, He did not make excuses,

didn't sneer, didn't murmur or threaten at the time when He was accused. He silently received the hatred of those around Him. If the lamb which is taken to the slaughter begins to kick and be dragged forcibly to the place of the altar, it would be impossible to say that the lamb has gone voluntarily and devoted itself for the sacrifice out of its own free will. It could not be said that it is obedient to the will of the one who brings it to be slaughtered. This would be by force, a forced sacrifice, not a voluntary one. God does not force anyone's will, including the will of Jesus Christ. If there is resistance to God's will within a person, He leaves that person to their choice. God would not even have forcibly led Jesus Christ to the cross at Golgotha, if Jesus had begun to exert even the slightest resistance to the will of God, without voluntarily choosing the will of the Father for Himself as His own will, saying: "Father, if it is Your will, take this cup away from Me; nevertheless not My will, but Yours, be done." (Luke 22:42). God would have kept Jesus alive. However, He would not have become the Lamb of God and Saviour of the world.

Why would God have kept Him alive? Because God is not a murderer. He does not need to commit an act of violence against His Son for another death to take place. Love was supposed to go to the cross, willingly sacrificing Himself for the sake of the lives of many. The forced death from mankind was received voluntarily by Jesus as the will of the Father in obedience to the Father, because He had devoted Himself to God completely. Therefore, He had no desire to justify Himself to the High Priests or to Pilate, there was no murmur or discontent. On the contrary, He took the blame of the world upon Himself, being condemned and sentenced to death, not for His own sins, but for the sins of those condemning Him. Jesus said only one thing, thus allowing those around Him to understand that what He was doing was in obedience to the Father: *Jesus answered, "You could have no power at all against Me unless it had been given you from above. Therefore the one who delivered Me to you has the greater sin."* (John 19:11). He did not resist because He was obedient to the Father. Where there is resistance, there is no obedience, and where there is no obedience, there is no dedication. Jesus voluntarily paid the price for His dedication.

To be co-crucified with Christ means to be found guilty with Him and sentenced to death in the same way as once took place with Jesus, who was made guilty, but not for His own sins, but for the sins of those accusing Him: *For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil. For Christ also suffered once for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to*

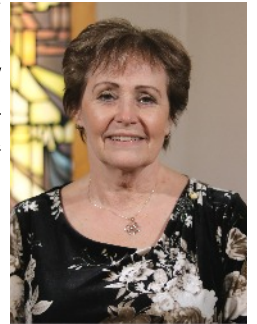
death in the flesh but made alive by the Spirit, (1 Peter 3:17,18). This is only possible with a voluntary choice, in absolute obedience and dedication of one's soul to the Lord. If there is resentment in the heart, then resistance will be shown, the desire to be justified will prevail. One cannot be co-crucified with Christ by force. Those who snap at God and make excuses are not made a sacrifice. It is the path of obedience by voluntary choice and walking silently. The one who dedicates his soul to the Lord cannot pay the appointed price by snapping back at Him or resisting, it should be a voluntary action: *But I tell you not to resist an evil person. But whoever slaps you on your right cheek, turn the other to him also. If anyone wants to sue you and take away your tunic, let him have your cloak also. And whoever compels you to go one mile, go with him two. Give to him who asks you, and from him who wants to borrow from you do not turn away.* (Matthew 5:39-41) this is the path that Jesus offered as perfect. It is in perfect obedience in love Agape: *"You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so? Therefore you shall be perfect, just as your Father in heaven is perfect.* (Matthew 5:42-48). If this is the will of God for us, it only follows that all opposition and desire to resist, to justify oneself, to prove one's own rightness, is disobedience to His will.

To understand the depth of obedience is to understand the depth of dedication. It is a long path that directs a person to obedience. Many steps in obedience and resistance are made by a person, but obedience in life is achieved when a person becomes meek and humble in heart. The meekness and humility in the heart of a person is not attested by certain individual actions, but with his whole life. No circumstances can cause a meek and humble man to come out of the condition of being obedient to God, because he receives everything as from the hand of God, as sent by Him and as His will for that day. David's obedience is an example of this: *Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!" But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'*



"(2 Samuel 16:9,10) Another example for us is Jesus, who endured everything in obedience and humility before God. For the person who is walking in obedience, even the thought of resentment is regarded as murmuring and complaining. This is humility in heart. The more that resentment arises in a person who wants to live in obedience, the longer the path of humility will be. The people of God walked for forty years in the wilderness, a journey which could have taken only days, and many did not enter the promised land owing to the fact that they did not enter first into obedience: ...those to whom it was first preached did not enter because of disobedience, (Hebrews 4:6) They were called to be the people dedicated to God, which was said both in commandments and the Covenant, which was made with them in the Commandments, but for this they had to pay the price: *Then Moses gathered all the congregation of the children of Israel together, and said to them, "These are the words which the Lord has commanded you to do: Work shall be done for six days, but the seventh day shall be a holy day for you, a Sabbath of rest to*

the Lord. Whoever does any work on it shall be put to death. You shall kindle no fire throughout your dwellings on the Sabbath day." And Moses spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying, "This is the thing which the Lord commanded, saying: 'Take from among you an offering to the Lord. Whoever is of a willing heart, let him bring it as an offering to the Lord: gold, silver, and bronze; blue, purple, and scarlet thread, fine linen, and goats' hair; ram skins dyed red, badger skins, and acacia wood; oil for the light, and spices for the anointing oil and for the sweet incense; onyx stones, and stones to be set in the ephod and in the breastplate. All who are gifted artisans among you shall come and make all that the Lord has commanded. (Exodus 35:1-10) Obedience is the best price of dedication.



Pastor Taysa Kotov
(translated from Russian)

Great sign of the wife Revelation of the latter days

Continued from issue 3

"She bore a male Child who was to rule all nations with a rod of iron..." (Rev.12:5)

It is interesting that the word "mark", in the Greek version, is written with the word "haragva". This word has several meanings, as it was translated by ancient writers. For example, Sophocles, the ancient Athenian playwright, translated this word as "serpent bite." And Plutarch, an ancient Greek writer and philosopher, translated this word as "a money tag, or a list of debts." And the word seal in the original is written with the word "sphragis", that is, "seal of the ring". So, when looking at the Greek text and translating it using a more direct translation, then the text (Rev.13:14-18) will read as follows: *And he cunningly deceives everyone, small and more powerful, as well as rich and poor, and also noble and ignoble, in order to inspire them to take "haragva" (serpent bite, list of debts, money tag), on their right hand, or on the front side of them in order to prohibit all of them from being able to buy or sell, if it does not bear the "haragva" (serpent bite, list of debts, money tag), or the created name of the beast, or the number of his name. Here is the rationality given from above. Supreme wisdom. He who carries knowledge within himself, let him calculate the number of the name of this creature. The named number is actually of man and the counting of the numbers is six hundred and sixty-six.*

And at the same time there will be a persecution of those who are born of the woman's seed, that is, at the end of the revival. They will not worship the beast, will not follow his system of government and will not place a seal, for which they will pay with their lives: *"He was granted power to give breath to the image of the beast, that the image of the beast should both speak and cause as many as would not worship the image of the beast to be killed. He causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name."* (Rev.13:15-17). The angel of the harvest will gather the chosen ones: *Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus. Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' "* "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them." Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and on the cloud sat One like the Son of Man, having on His head a golden crown, and in His hand a sharp sickle. And another angel came out of the temple, crying with a loud voice to

Him who sat on the cloud, "Thrust in Your sickle and reap, for the time has come for You to reap, for the harvest of the earth is ripe." (Rev.14:12-15).

As we can see, the saints are still on earth during the reign of the antichrist (the false prophet). And they will not love their souls even to the death, which will be their victory, not defeat. Essentially, this will be the harvest, as John describes: And I saw something like a sea of glass mingled with fire, and those who have the victory over the beast, over his image and over his mark and over the number of his name, standing on the sea of glass, having harps of God. They sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying: "Great and marvelous are Your works, Lord God Almighty! Just and true are Your ways, O King of the saints! Who shall not fear You, O Lord, and glorify Your name? For You alone are holy. For all nations shall come and worship before You, for Your judgments have been manifested." After these things I looked, and behold, the temple of the tabernacle of the testimony in heaven was opened. And out of the temple came the seven angels having the seven plagues, clothed in pure bright linen, and having their chests girded with golden bands. Then one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever. The temple was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from His power, and no one was able to enter the temple till the seven plagues of the seven angels were completed. (Rev.15:2-8).

John also reveals to us that the saints will be on earth during the time of the antichrist (the false prophet): *All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life of the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world. If anyone has an ear, let him hear. He who leads into captivity shall go into captivity; he who kills with the sword must be killed with the sword. Here is the patience and the faith of the saints.* (Rev.13:8-10).

The seventeenth chapter of Revelation describes a harlot whose spiritual name is Babylon. The angel said that this name is a mystery, because that is her name in the spiritual world, and not on earth: *And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH* (Rev.17:5). As the heavenly Jerusalem is known as the city of the Great King and the Bride of the Lamb, so Babylon is the city of the dragon - this is the glory of her kingdom. But on earth, Babylon will look like a community of ten kings who, in due time, will hand over the rule to the beast. As it is said, they have the same thoughts as the beast: *The ten horns which you saw are ten kings who have received no kingdom as yet, but they receive authority for one hour as kings*

with the beast. These are of one mind, and they will give their power and authority to the beast. (Rev.17:12,13). They will ruin their kingdom with their own hands in order to transfer all power to the beast. And it will also not be uncontrollable, but from God. God will put it on their hearts to do this madness, just as the united government and the beast are also to be allowed by God. And the judgment is already prepared for him. Everything that happens will be allowed by God and controlled by Him: These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful. Then he said to me, "The waters which you saw, where the harlot sits, are peoples, multitudes, nations, and tongues. And the ten horns which you saw on the beast, these will hate the harlot, make her desolate and naked, eat her flesh and burn her with fire. For God has put it into their hearts to fulfill His purpose, to be of one mind, and to give their kingdom to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled. (Rev.17:14-17). At the end of this chapter, it is said that this harlot, Babylon, is a spirit that reigns over the earthly government, that is, the kingdom that has the spiritual name "Babylon" rules under the leadership of an abominable, fornicating and blasphemous spirit: *"And the woman whom you saw is that great city which reigns over the kings of the earth."* (Rev.17:18). She is the mother of earthly abominations. This is from where the decrees and immoral laws will be issued: *The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls, having in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the filthiness of her fornication. And on her forehead a name was written: MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND OF THE ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH.* (Rev.17:4,5).

It seems that the call of the Angel to leave Babylon and not participate in its abominations, so as not to undergo its plagues, will be proclaimed during the reign of the beast and the false prophet: *After these things I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was illuminated with his glory. And he cried mightily with a loud voice, saying, "Babylon the great is fallen, is fallen, and has become a dwelling place of demons, a prison for every foul spirit, and a cage for every unclean and hated bird! For all the nations have drunk of the wine of the wrath of her fornication, the kings of the earth have committed fornication with her, and the merchants of the earth have become rich through the abundance of her luxury."* And I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you share in her sins, and lest you receive of her



plagues. For her sins have reached to heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities. Render to her just as she rendered to you, and repay her double according to her works; in the cup which she has mixed, mix double for her. (Rev.18:1-6).

Even before the thousand-year reign, the beast, the antichrist (the false prophet) will be condemned by God and thrown alive into the lake of fire, burning with brimstone: *Then I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the birds that fly in the midst of heaven, "Come and gather together for the supper of the great God, that you may eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and of those who sit on them, and the flesh of all people, free and slave, both small and great." And I saw the beast, the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him who sat on the horse and against His army. Then the beast was captured, and with him the false prophet who worked signs in his presence, by which he deceived those who received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped his image. These two were cast alive into the lake of fire burning with brimstone. And the rest were killed with the sword which proceeded from the mouth of Him who sat on the horse. And all the birds were filled with their flesh. (Rev.19:17-21).* Evidently, it is this event that is described in the ninth and sixteenth chapters of Revelation: *Then the sixth angel sounded: And I heard a voice from the four horns of the golden altar which is before God, saying to the sixth angel who had the trumpet, "Release the four angels who are bound at the great river Euphrates." So the four angels, who had been prepared for the hour and day and month and year, were released to kill a third of mankind. (Rev.9:13-15), Then the sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, so that the way of the kings from the east might be prepared. And I saw three unclean spirits like frogs coming out of the mouth of the dragon, out of the mouth of the beast, and out of the mouth of the false prophet. For they are spirits of demons, performing signs, which go out to the kings of the earth and of the whole world, to gather them to the battle of that great day of God Almighty. "Behold, I am coming as a thief. Blessed is he who watches, and keeps his garments, lest he walk naked and they see his shame." And they gathered them together to the place called in Hebrew, Armageddon. (Rev.16:12-16).*

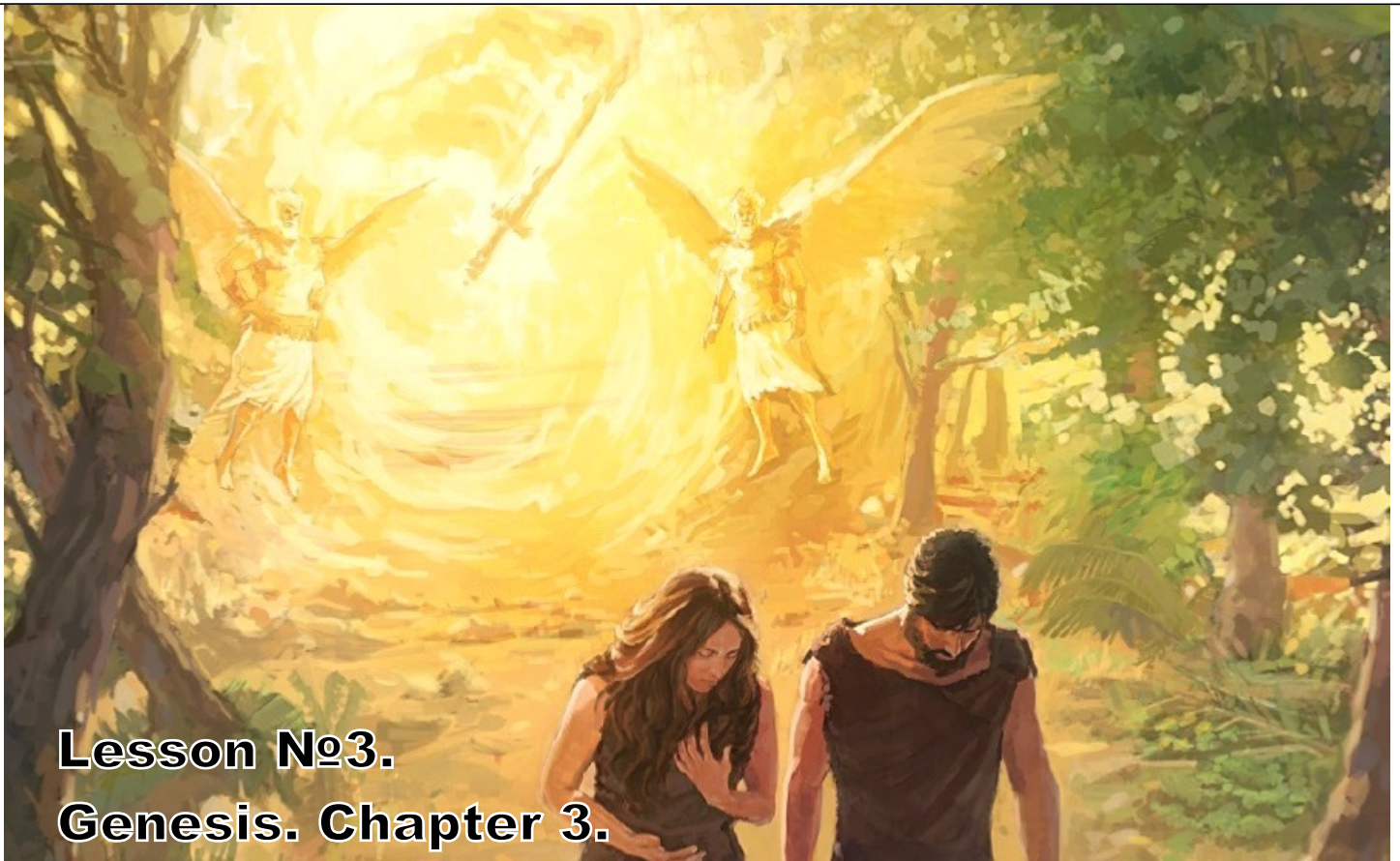
This will be during the trial over Babylon, over the kingdom of antichrist, built by him, built by the worldly system: *...and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city that was clothed in fine linen, purple, and scarlet,*

*and adorned with gold and precious stones and pearls! For in one hour such great riches came to nothing.' Every shipmaster, all who travel by ship, sailors, and as many as trade on the sea, stood at a distance and cried out when they saw the smoke of her burning, saying, 'What is like this great city?' "They threw dust on their heads and cried out, weeping and wailing, and saying, 'Alas, alas, that great city, in which all who had ships on the sea became rich by her wealth! For in one hour she is made desolate.' (Rev.18:16-19). The great harvest will end with judgments over those who have been killing Christians with bloodthirstiness. Revelation of John tells us about that. All of this will not only happen for a month or a year. This will take place during the time God has appointed for the harvest and for His judgments: *And another angel came out from the altar, who had power over fire, and he cried with a loud cry to him who had the sharp sickle, saying, "Thrust in your sharp sickle and gather the clusters of the vine of the earth, for her grapes are fully ripe." So the angel thrust his sickle into the earth and gathered the vine of the earth, and threw it into the great winepress of the wrath of God. And the winepress was trampled outside the city, and blood came out of the winepress, up to the horses' bridles, for one thousand six hundred furlongs. (Rev.14:18-20).**

When God executes judgments on Babylon, those who accepted the beast and worshiped him will at the end drink the wine of God's wrath, the cup of wrath, and their torment, which began on earth, will not end in eternity. They will receive the same condemnation as the beast and the antichrist, whom they worshiped and whose mark they received. They were warned and preached to, but they did not accept the testimony: *And another angel followed, saying, "Babylon is fallen, is fallen, that great city, because she has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication." Then a third angel followed them, saying with a loud voice, "If anyone worships the beast and his image, and receives his mark on his forehead or on his hand, he himself shall also drink of the wine of the wrath of God, which is poured out full strength into the cup of His indignation. He shall be tormented with fire and brimstone in the presence of the holy angels and in the presence of the Lamb. And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name." (Rev.14:8-11).*

To be continued in the next issue.

Pastor Taysa Kotov (translated from Russian)



Lesson №3.

Genesis. Chapter 3.

Verse 1. *Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field which the Lord God had made. And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"* (Gen.3:1).

Firstly, I would like to begin with giving a definition of the serpent, what kind of animal it is and why it is compared with the devil, as the ancient serpent. If we consider Genesis in detail, then we can see that, as an animal, the serpent was created on the sixth day along with animals, cattle and reptiles, that is, it belonged to the wild beasts, since it was compared with them: *"Now the serpent was more cunning than any beast of the field ..."*. From what is said about it, we see that it had legs, it did not crawl on its belly and ate the grass of the field along with all other animals. It was only after the punishment that it was doomed to crawl on its belly and eat dust: *So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life."* (Gen.3:14).

It received a curse more than all cattle and before all the beasts of the field, from which it can be concluded that it had an advantage over them. It is even named with the advantage: more cunning than all the beasts of the field. The word that is used in this text - "arum" - means not only cunning, but also rationality, prudence, caution. Interestingly, the New Testament says: *"Behold, I send you out as sheep in*

the midst of wolves. Therefore be wise as serpents and harmless as doves. But beware of men, for they will deliver you up to councils and scourge you in their synagogues." (Matt.10:16,17). Many are confused by such a comparison, and it is not clear how one can be meek like doves and at the same time have serpentine wisdom. But in this text the word translated "wisdom" is written in the Greek word "fronimos", that is, "caution." This instinctive caution was not unnecessary for preservation, and this advice was given to the believers whom the Lord sent like sheep to the wolves.

So, the natural caution together with the cunning of the serpent was the ideal prerequisite for choosing it for deception. The serpent itself, as an animal, would not have tempted Eve, but the devil took advantage of it, and using it, having disguised himself under the skin of this animal, spoke to Eve. The serpent, as an animal, received punishment and became an unclean animal, although before the Fall such a concept as "unclean animals" did not exist. The entire animal kingdom was created by God as a blessing for the earth. However, after the Fall, the animal kingdom was divided into clean and unclean. And serpents belong to the category of unclean animals: *"And every creeping thing that creeps on the earth shall be an abomination. It shall not be eaten. Whatever crawls on its belly, whatever goes on all fours, or whatever has many feet among all creeping things that creep on the earth - these you shall not eat, for they are an abomination. You shall not make yourselves abominable with any creeping thing that*



creeps; nor shall you make yourselves unclean with them, lest you be defiled by them. For I am the Lord your God. You shall therefore consecrate yourselves, and you shall be holy; for I am holy. Neither shall you defile yourselves with any creeping thing that creeps on the earth." (Lev.11:41-44).

Also, if we pay attention to who was allowed into Paradise, and whom Adam had to name by name, it is clear that not all of the animal world are mentioned by God as being in Paradise. The reptiles created on the fifth day and those who crawl on the earth are not mentioned, but only the birds of the air, cattle and animals of the field are named: *Out of the ground the Lord God formed every beast of the field and every bird of the air, and brought them to Adam to see what he would call them. And whatever Adam called each living creature, that was its name. So Adam gave names to all cattle, to the birds of the air, and to every beast of the field. But for Adam there was not found a helper comparable to him.* (Gen.2:19,20). This also carries meaning. Despite the fact that birds, flying creatures, were created on the fifth day, they were singled out from the rest of the animals that did not enter the Garden of Eden. They were called by God to paradise, and in this one can see the contrast between flying animals and those who crawl on their belly. The reptiles and those crawling on their belly were not called to heaven, as the image of those whose hearts are stuck to the earth, and they crawl insatiably in search of material, earthly "goods." Those who fly are those who aspire to the heavens with both heart and soul, looking for something higher.

As for the punishment of the serpent as an animal, he was told the following: *So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life."* (Gen.3:14). This curse affects the serpent as an animal. He not only loses his advantage over other animals, but loses his legs, and from that point forward, dust becomes his food. Dust must be understood as flesh, since our bodies are also called dust, that is, from that moment on, the snake takes on the image of the devil, who is prowling for someone to devour. The devil is a carnivore, but in the spiritual sense of the word, as the serpent is in the literal sense. From this punishment it can also be concluded that, even as an animal, the serpent could no longer be in the Garden of Eden. He was also expelled from paradise, like all reptiles and those crawling on the ground.

So, the serpent, which in a certain way headed the animal race, was excommunicated from the creatures who received the heavenly blessing. *For God created man to be immortal, and made him to be an*

image of his own eternity. Nevertheless through envy of the devil came death into the world: and they that do hold of his side do find it. (Wis.2:23,24).

In the very first verse of the third chapter, we see that the serpent addresses the woman with the words: *And he said to the woman, "Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"* (Gen.3:1). There is nothing surprising in the fact that the devil could use one of the animals and speak through its mouth. In this case, we see two in one image. The words of the devil were spoken by an animal serpent, but, in essence, it was not a serpent, as an animal, that tempted Eve, but the ancient serpent, the devil and Satan, in the form of this animal. When God spoke to the animal serpent with these words: *"Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life."* (Gen.3:14), it is clear that the serpent was condemned not for the words that were spoken through it, they were not its own words, but for the fact that it allowed itself to be used.

From this we can conclude that a person also falls under the curse if he allows Satan to use him for his insidious purposes. On judgement day, that person will not be justified by throwing all the blame on Satan, but could hear these words: *"...Because you have done this, you are cursed..."* as Jesus said: *"...It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come!"* (Luk.17:1).

So, in tempting Eve, the serpent says: *"Has God indeed said, 'You shall not eat of every tree of the garden'?"* (Gen.3:1). Here we can see how the seducer deliberately exaggerates the weight of the commandment in order to confuse the woman and instil mistrust, doubt and discontent in her, that is, aversion to the commandment and to the One who commanded.

Verses 2,3. *And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat the fruit of the trees of the garden; but of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, God has said, 'You shall not eat it, nor shall you touch it, lest you die.'" (Gen.3:2,3).*

It is clear from Eve's answer that she was restrained from non-fulfilment of God's commandment only by fear: not moral motives, not a desire to simply obey out of reverence for God, but fear of death. This could not be overlooked by the observing eye of the serpent, and he immediately attacks her, cunningly destroying the only obstacle that keeps her in obedience.

Verses 4,5. *Then the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."* (Gen.3:4,5).

When the barrier of fear in her heart was broken,

she saw the fruits of the tree through the eyes of disobedience as presented by the serpent.

Verse 6. *So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desirable to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate. (Gen.3:6).*

The sin was committed not even at the moment when she plucked and ate, but at the moment when she transgressed obedience and faith to God in her heart and took the words of the serpent for the truth. Then there was the consequence of her disbelief in God. It says: "...she took of its fruit and ate. She also gave to her husband with her, and he ate". After tasting the forbidden fruit and not dying in a visible way, Eve, thereby, refuted the words of God "you will surely die" and proclaimed the words of the serpent as truth: "You will not surely die". And Adam took and ate now on the basis of her faith in the devil.

Consequently, the faith in God was destroyed by lies and slander against God. At first, the serpent said that God deceived them that they would die after eating the fruit from this tree, then offered them another version, that God simply wants to keep them in the dark in order to rule over them. The serpent presented God to them as an exploiter and a tyrant and offered to give them relief from His power: "...For God knows that in the day you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.". The serpent's envy and his desire to become a god were offered by him to man as a temptation. Unfortunately, this bore its own fruit - the fall of man. Coming to the level of knowledge with God is still present in the human mind, and this desire for knowledge is not grounded by a thirst for knowledge of the truth and the Creator, but by a thirst to obtain knowledge by any means in order to become equal to the Creator.

Verse 7. *Then the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves coverings. (Gen.3:7).*

So, it is impossible to say that nothing happened to them when they ate from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. They acquired knowledge immediately, as the serpent promised them: "your eyes will be opened" happened, but they did not become gods, because that is what they already were before the Fall. This is how David writes about it: *I said, "You are gods, and all of you are children of the Most High. But you shall die like men, and fall like one of the princes."* (Ps.82:6,7). And Jesus said these same words: *Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your law, 'I said, "You are gods" '?"* (John 10:34).

So was it worth eating the forbidden fruit from

the tree of the knowledge of good and evil in order to be like gods, when it is said that we are already gods? So what did their eyes open to? To lust, uncleanness, fornication, passion, etc. Their eyes were opened to sin: *"Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience..."* (Col.3:5,6).

It is said that they learned that they were naked: *"...and they knew that they were naked..."*, that is, they saw nakedness with sinful eyes. That pure and innocent look of a pure soul, who did not know sin, was forever lost. Now they urgently needed to cover their nakedness, because their own defiled eye told them that they were naked. When the Lord asked Adam: *"...Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?"* (Gen.3:11), He emphasized that whatever they have acquired as knowledge is the revelation of sin.

Verses 8,9. *And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. Then the Lord God called to Adam and said to him, "Where are you?"* (Gen.3:8,9).

What happens to Adam and Eve when they hear the voice of God coming to them to communicate? Upon hearing the voice of God in paradise, they do not go to meet Him, but hide in fear. How often does God speak to a sinner with precisely these words: *"Where are you?"*, letting that person think about the place where they have ended up in their fall.

The awareness of sin does not lead Adam and Eve to repentance, but, on the contrary, removes them from Him. They prefer to hide from His eyes. This always happens to those whose hearts are hardened in sin. If a person, realizes that he has sinned and laments about it, then he runs in repentance to God for forgiveness. But in this case, we see the hardening of Adam by sin. He even tries to accuse and reproach God for giving him a wife through whom he sinned. This is how Adam wants to justify his disobedience.

Verses 10-12. *So he said, "I heard Your voice in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; and I hid myself." And He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree of which I commanded you that you should not eat?" Then the man said, "The woman whom You gave to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I ate."* (Gen.3:10-12).

The severity of Adam's guilt is heightened by his self-justification. Admission of sin and contrition for sin are two different things. Adam admits that he



disobeyed, but does not repent for what he did.

Verse 13. *And the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate." (Gen.3:13).*

After hearing Adam's self-justification and accusations against Eve, the Lord asks her what she did. And here is the same self-justification and accusation of the serpent, that is, they disclaim responsibility for disobedience. Adam blames God and Eve blames the serpent. The Lord listens to one and the other and seems to accept their excuses, since He does not yet say a word about their guilt and punishment, but turns to the serpent. He turns to the serpent asking no questions but as to the root cause of the fall of Adam and Eve, already with accusation and condemnation.

Verses 14,15. *So the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field; on your belly you shall go, and you shall eat dust all the days of your life. And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (Gen.3:14,15).*

It is clear: "So the Lord God said to the serpent... you are cursed more than all cattle, and more than every beast of the field". He did not ask - He said. Since in the face of the serpent-tempter two beings are united: this is the evil spirit of the devil and the serpent-animal, the condemnation and curse is addressed to both of them at once: both to the serpent, as to an animal, and to the devil, the ancient serpent, the seducer. From that point forward on, the serpent will crawl on its belly and eat dust. This is a symbol of contempt and humiliation in front of all living beings. This word is simultaneously directed toward the devil, and indicates his humiliation, having already been thrown from Heaven and doomed to grovel on the earth, feeding on human sins. Next come the words spoken directly to the devil: "...And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your seed and her Seed; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel."

This place speaks a prophetic word for the rest of humanity's life on earth, it speaks of the war that will be waged between light and darkness, between good and evil. The seed of the woman is all the children of God, the church of Christ. As far as the wife of the first Adam was the cause of the fall, so the mother of the second Adam would be the instrument of salvation. He who was born of a woman, Mary, bruised an ancient serpent in the head, and this victory and power operates on the earth through the Church of Christ. As for the seed of the serpent, these are the sons of disobedience, called in the Bible either the brood of vipers, or the tares, or the corrupt children.

There is one especially singled out from amongst the seed of the serpent who is called the son of perdition: "Let no one deceive you by any means; for that Day will not come unless the falling away comes first, and the man of sin is revealed, the son of perdition, who opposes and exalts himself above all that is called God or that is worshiped, so that he sits as God in the temple of God, showing himself that he is God." (2Thes.2:3,4).

Speaking of the enmity between the seed of the woman and the seed of the serpent, it is shown that there will be a battle, and poisonous bites will be present, precisely in the heel, that is, in the most vulnerable places. However, the fatal outcome is determined only for the seed of the serpent.

Verse 16. *To the woman He said: "I will greatly multiply your sorrow and your conception; in pain you shall bring forth children; your desire shall be for your husband, and he shall rule over you." (Gen.3:16).*

However, having finished announcing the judgment and sentence of the serpent, God turned to Eve with the words of punishment assigned to her for disobedience. What should have been a blessing and joy is now overshadowed by suffering and torment, just as the rebirth of every soul to salvation now takes place in torment and sorrow. Because of her fall, in torment every soul is now born into eternal life, therefore the natural birth of babies, as a consequence of sin, occurs in torment and pain. But another punishment is added to these pains and agony - this is that the husband is to rule over his wife: "...he shall rule over you". If previously, the wife was as an assistant, on an equal footing with her husband, now, after her fall, she is placed under the control and management of her husband, as she did not retain her freedom. In Old Testament times, her humiliated position, especially in the East, was strongly expressed. However, Christ brought deliverance, and her previously lost rights as a helper, and not a slave, were returned to her: "There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither slave nor free, there is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus. And if you are Christ's, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise." (Gal.3:28,29). And the relationship is established in the image of the Lord and the Church, in love.

Verses 17-19. *Then to Adam He said, "Because you have heeded the voice of your wife, and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying, 'You shall not eat of it': "Cursed is the ground for your sake; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. Both thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you, and you shall eat the herb of the field. In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return." (Gen.3:17-19).*

Finally, the judgment was announced to the last perpetrator of the Fall, Adam. Instead of stopping his wife's actions and standing firm in obedience to God, he succumbed to the seductive influence of his wife. This type of weakness of Adam has ruined many of the strongest and most influential men on earth, and not everyone can resist such temptations offered by 'Eve'. The fall of Adam led to the curse of the earth: "*Cursed is the ground for your sake*", and now it will grow thorns and thistles: "*The earth is also defiled under its inhabitants, because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore the curse has devoured the earth, and those who dwell in it are desolate.*" (Is.24:5,6). Isaiah, as it were, complements and explains the close connection between man and nature. The fall of man affected nature on earth, and the breaking of the covenant with God determined the future fate of the earth. It began to be subjected to the power of destruction, its productive power is depleted, the power of the curse eats up the earth. Now a person must, by the sweat of his brow, get food for himself, separating bread from chaff and thistles. It is the same in the spiritual sense: a person obtains nourishment for the soul in work, separating the bread of life from the constantly offered thorns and thistles, false teachings and false truths, "...till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for dust you are, and to dust you shall return".

Behold, the end of all labours on earth, this is the result of disobedience, what the Lord warned about. This is the law of destruction and death, which began to operate as a result of eating fruits from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. Man was not created for death, but accepted the inheritance of the devil and, created from dust, returns to dust. But the source of life, which man received from God, does not return to dust, therefore God leaves man the hope of eternal life in the saving power of His Son.

Verse 20. *And Adam called his wife's name Eve, because she was the mother of all living. (Gen.3:20).*

After everything that happened to them, and after the pronouncement of the sentence that they were mortal, Adam calls his wife Eve. In Hebrew, it is "Havah", that is, "the producer of life." In this one can see the faith and hope of Adam that God is faithful to His word, and the seed of the woman will be in victory, not defeat.

Verse 21. *Also for Adam and his wife the Lord God made tunics of skin, and clothed them. (Gen.3:21).*

Although some fathers of faith see in this place that God was the first to sacrifice animals and, having killed them, put their skins on a person, I would like to disagree with this point of view.

First of all, this passage says: clothed in "tunics

of skin", and not "in animal skins." If, before the Fall, man was not created for death and, therefore, for disease, and man's clothes of skin did not age, then after the Fall their composition was changed. Human skin acquired the present type of skin which is submitted to the law of aging and dying, with dying cells. It was something new for man.

Following the example of Jesus, we can imagine what the bodies of the first people, Adam and Eve, looked like. When Jesus received a new body, but was not yet glorified since He had not yet been raised to the Father, His body was no longer mortal and He could pass through walls, suddenly appearing and disappearing again, but at the same time He could be touched by hands: "*And after eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, "Peace to you!" Then He said to Thomas, "Reach your finger here, and look at My hands; and reach your hand here, and put it into My side. Do not be unbelieving, but believing."* (Jn.20:26,27), Now it came to pass, as He sat at the table with them, that He took bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes were opened and they knew Him; and He vanished from their sight. (Lk.24:30,31).

So, the Lord clothed them in tunics of skin for life on the accursed earth and for the execution of the sentence spoken about them.

Verse 22. *Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of Us, to know good and evil. And now, lest he put out his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live forever" (Gen.3:22).*

It goes on to say that they could no longer remain in paradise. The path to the tree of life was now long - through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ and deep repentance, through life in obedience and victory over the passions and lusts of the flesh. If a person remained in paradise with sin, then the next step of his disobedience would be to eat the fruit from the tree of life. But this would not be what the Lord had prepared for man. Life in eternal unforgiveness, immortality of the soul in sin is the lot of the devil. Therefore, out of love for man, God protects him from the next act that has no forgiveness, and decides to expel man from paradise, placing a guarding cherub and a fiery turning sword, forever blocking access for the carnal man.

Verses 23,24. *Therefore the Lord God sent him out of the garden of Eden to till the ground from which he was taken. So He drove out the man; and He placed cherubim at the east of the garden of Eden, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life. (Gen.3:23,24).*

When it says He placed "a flaming sword which turned every way, to guard the way to the tree of life",



I think it means it is impossible to enter from any side or from any angle, without the knowledge of God. The sword is equally sharp on all its sides, in order to deflect the desire to enter on one's own will or on a whim. Only the One who has closed it has the right to

open it, therefore the Lord Jesus said about Himself that He is the door, and to whom He opens it, no one can close it, but if He closes it, then the person cannot open it. Now God has made the entrance to paradise

The Bible study session is led by Pastor Taysa Kotov
(translated from Russian)

Cancer survivor: “I don’t fear death”

Michael Bushby sat alone in the darkness of his garage, holding a beer in one hand and a skipping rope in the other, ready to use as a noose to hang himself. Stronger chemotherapy was needed for the incurable stage four cancer in his chest, spleen, neck, bone marrow and stomach



He was already “smashed” on alcohol and the words of the doctor kept spinning in his drunk mind. The treatment hadn’t worked. Stronger chemotherapy was needed for the incurable stage four cancer in his chest, spleen, neck, bone marrow and stomach.

“If you don’t open this door, we’ll call the police” – the panicked voice of his wife Maria shook him. He heard his daughters Helen and Jennifer as well, calling him to open the garage.

“I thought that if I am dying, I might as well end the journey,” recalls train driver Michael. “I was angry with God. But I will never forget hearing the voices of my wife and daughters.

“I came outside the garage and surrendered my life completely to God. I said to him that whatever life I have left, take it and use it for your glory.”

That was in May 2013 and after three strong chemo sessions, and a week in isolation for an infection, Michael was told in the October that his ‘incurable’ cancer was in complete remission. He was discharged by the cancer specialist who later told him, “You are a testimony to cancer patients.”

“I’m no longer afraid of cancer or death because I know that Christ is my eternal Saviour,” says Michael, 55. “I don’t ever think of the cancer. It’s made me surrender more to him. God works together for the good of those who love him. I now support others with cancer.”

Jeremiah 29:11-14 was a Bible passage that really helped Michael during his treatment: “For I

know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, ‘Plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.’”

Michael, who lives in Gateshead, has since become a regional director of Christian Vision for Men. The role was offered without his even applying, which he believes is “further evidence of how God leads and directs our paths when we fully surrender to his will”. He is also involved in chaplaincy work.

Michael had first become a Christian in October 1993 when a friend invited him to a local church in South Shields.

“During that meeting, I felt such a sense of love from the people there and I accepted Christ that night as my personal Saviour. I came home and lay down in bed and this light lit up my whole being, and with it there was love and peace.”

The cancer diagnosis later on “turned life upside down” and Michael felt “troubled and hopeless”. People prayed for him all over the country and he was told by a friend that he shouldn’t fear, since God would bring him through the cancer.

“Doctors don’t believe in miracles and they would never say I was completely healed,” he says. “But I had stage four and here we are in 2019, and I am still serving the Lord. I would never have imagined that I would be doing the work I am doing now. I feel humbled.”

Every morning, Michael and his wife Maria sit together and thank God for the new day he has given them.

He adds: “Never give up. Trust God. You may not get the answer you expect. I believe in a God of miracles, even if that’s required via doctors and medicines. Fear not, God is a living God and with him all things are possible.”

By Chris Eyte

www.heartpublications.co.uk

About our Church



Philadelphia Church International was established in London in 1995 by the wonderful and powerful prophetic word of God which spoke about its beginning. Members of the church are from different countries all around the world, but mainly from the former republics of the Soviet Union.

Philadelphia Church follows a charismatic path, or the path of the first apostles. The type of our ministry and its characteristics are described in the Revelation of Apostle John: *And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, 'These things says He who is holy, He who is true, "He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens": "I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name. Indeed I will make those of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie — indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you. Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth. Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown. He who overcomes, I will make him a pillar in the temple of My God, and he shall go out no more. I will write on him the name of My God and the name of the city of My God, the New Jerusalem, which comes down out of heaven from My God. And I will write on him My new name. He who has an ear, let*

him hear what the Spirit says to the churches." (Revelation 3: 7-13)

Each of the churches described in the Revelation of John has an Angel of God at its head who defines the anointing - the type of ministry. The ministry of the church depends on its development in the Spirit of God. Our church is called "Philadelphia" upon the revelation of God, because in the basis (foundation) of our church lies the Love of our Father God, which fulfils the new commandment of Jesus Christ: *A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.* (John 13:34-35)

The word 'philadelphia' is translated from the Greek language and means 'brotherly love', so the name 'philadelphia' itself speaks of our ministry. Just as the disciples of Jesus Christ, we try to fulfil His commandments of love for others with our lives and deeds. Brotherly love is shown through the support, help and sincere understanding of the needs and sorrows that close ones are going through. Everyone who comes into our church soon begins to feel that they have found a Christian family.

The church began with just nine people who became the living stones of its foundation. During the time of its existence the church has grown and widened. Today the church continues to be filled with new believers who are dedicating their lives to our Lord Jesus Christ. And God testifies by His Spirit that it is only the beginning of His plan about us.



He who receives a prophet in the name of a prophet shall receive a prophet's reward...
(Matt.10:41)

Dear brothers & sisters in Christ!

By the great mercy of our Lord God we have all been given the opportunity to be a part of the missionary ministry in Israel, Switzerland and Ukraine where by the will of God our brothers and sisters are working for Him.

A missionary fund to support this ministry has been opened and is successfully working in our church. If the Holy Spirit places on your heart to be part of this mission then you can send your donations to the church address.

Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11:28)

Today God is calling you to become part of His family. This is a call to salvation which is also for you, our dear reader. We will be glad to see you.



Our Services:

- Su – 13:30 – main service, lunch, question & answer time on spiritual subjects, Sunday School
- Mo – 19:00 – youth services (house groups)
- Tu – 19:00 – prayer service
- Fr – 19:00 – prayer and Bible study



How to find us:

We meet at Seven Kings United Free Church which can be found on the corner of Meads Lane and Norfolk Road, Seven Kings, Ilford, Essex IG3 8NU

Nearest underground station:
Newbury Park (Central Line)

Nearest mainline station:
Seven Kings

Buses:
364 (stops on request on Meads Lane)
86 (stop at Seven Kings station)



Postal address:

Philadelphia Church International
PO Box 1405, Ilford, Essex
IG2 7GR, UK
Telephone: 020 8590 7854

E-mail:
info@PhiladelphiaChurch.co.uk

Website:
www.PhiladelphiaChurch.co.uk

Our Branches:

Israel:

Philadelphia Church
Pastor Albert Solodkin
Sderot Dgania 77/29
Kiriath Haim, Haifa
26217 ISRAEL
(00972) (0)50-571-3068
(00972) (0)722125791
www.philadelphia.ucoz.com

Belgium:

Philadelphia Church
Pastor Violetta Bagdasarian
1020 Laeken, rue Emile Wauters 110,
Bruxelles
BELGIUM
Bus 240,241,242,243,245,250,251
Tram 19, 51
Metro Stuyvenbergh
(0032) 2424-3307, (0032) 486-389-907