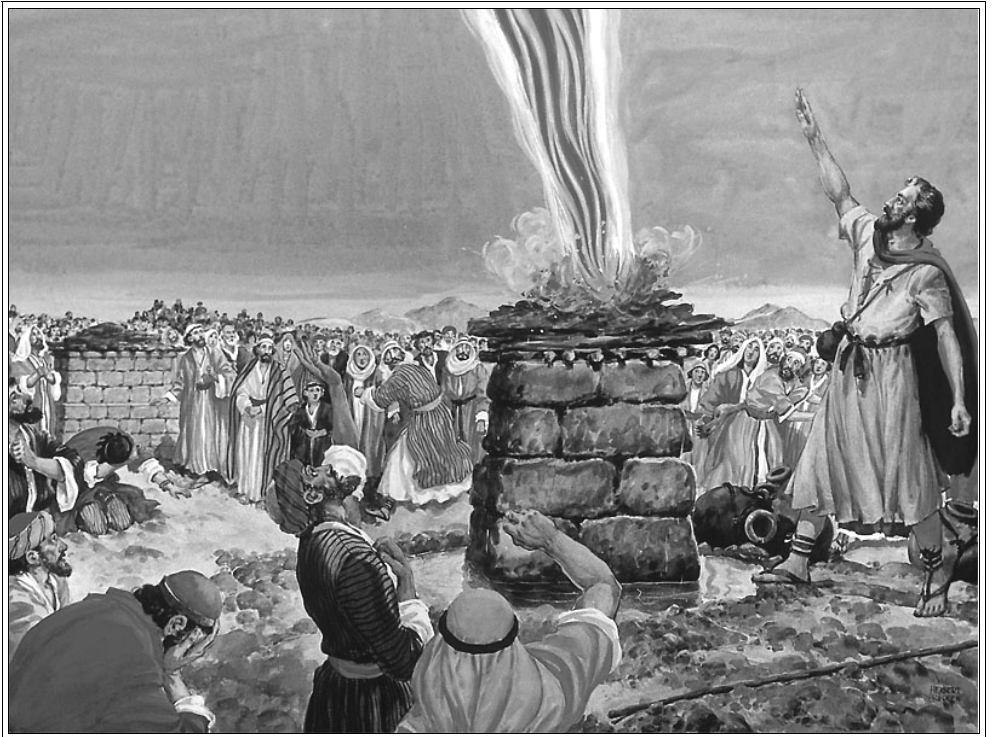


THE ALTAR

OF

THE LORD



'Whom the heaven must receive until the times of **restitution** of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all his holy prophets since the world began.' Acts 3:21

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Restitution Ministries is run by Seventh-day Adventist lay members who are committed to the proclamation of the Everlasting Gospel. Restitution Ministries is fully supportive of the SDA church in truth and love. 'Therefore seeing we have this ministry, as we have received mercy, we faint not; But have renounced the hidden things of dishonesty, not walking in craftiness, nor handling the word of God deceitfully; but by manifestation of the truth commending ourselves to every man's conscience in the sight of God. We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak.'

2 Corinthians 4:1, 2, 13

Introduction

In 1 Kings 17:1 we read “And Elijah the Tishbite, [who was] of the inhabitants of Gilead...”

This is all that Scripture reveals of Elijah’s past. Inspiration records that he dwelt among the mountains of Gilead, far removed from any city of renown and that he occupied “no high station in life”. PK 119

At a time when Israel was in national apostasy and when the knowledge of the true God was almost destroyed, Elijah was called of God to bring a message of restoration to God’s people.

On Mount Carmel the forces of good and evil meet head on and a broken down altar becomes the centre of the great conflict. Through the ministry of one faithful man and the symbolism of twelve stones, God reminds the people of His love through the promised redeemer and turns their hearts back again.

Is Israel today repeating the same mistakes? Have we lost sight of the knowledge of God? Does idolatry prevail amongst God’s people?

Once again God is calling a people to bring a message of restoration to Israel, like Elijah those who bear this message occupy no high station in life, they too are very jealous for the Lord God of hosts and are grieved that there is no knowledge of God in the land.

Like Elijah they cannot be silenced for this message is of God. “We cannot but speak of the things we have seen and heard” Acts 4:20 “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to [give] the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.” 2 Corinthians 4:6

It is our prayerful hope that this booklet will help to restore the altar of the Lord, and the light of the knowledge of the glory of God, in the gift of His Son will shine forth as it did from Mount Carmel. And once again the restored altar will unite God’s people in turning their hearts back again.

Dear Reader,

We are loyal and supportive members of our church. Our purpose and calling is “to contend earnestly for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints.” We acknowledge that the Seventh-day Adventist church is God’s Remnant church, the only church entrusted with all the sacred truths of the Everlasting Gospel. We are proud of the name God has given us as a people, and for its rich heritage. Regretfully, we also acknowledge that our beloved church is no longer building on the firm foundation established through the revelation of the Holy Spirit, for “certain men have crept in unawares ... turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness”. How? By “denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ.” Jude 4

How then do we deny “the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ”? We do this when we deny the clear testimony of Scripture regarding the Father and the Son.

The Trinity is the principal doctrine of Roman Catholicism, “The mystery of the Trinity is the central doctrine of the Catholic Faith. Upon it are based all the other teachings of the Church.” (*Handbook For Today’s Catholic*, page 11). The Trinity doctrine has found its way into the remnant church. Our theologians try to defend this unscriptural teaching, claiming it is unlike that of Rome, but error remains regardless of whether you believe in the orthodox Trinity of Rome, with the majority of Protestantism, or in Tritheism, both are unscriptural and both deny that Christ is “truly” the Son of God.

No doubt the majority of sincere Christians in all churches have always believed that Jesus is the Son of God. God accepts our worship according to the light we have received. But now that more light is being shed upon this question, we cannot claim ignorance, nor can we be indifferent regarding the most fundamental doctrine in Christianity. “We need to study to show ourselves approved unto God.” “And be ready always to give an answer” for the “reason of the hope that is in you.” (2Tim 2:15, 1Pet 3:15)

What is the reason of our hope?

What is the reason of our faith?

“...and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.” Galatians 2:20

The reason for our hope is that the Son of God loved us so much He gave Himself for us. God loves us so much that He “spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all”. Romans 8:32 (also John 3:16, 1 John 4:9, 10)

We destroy the power of the Gospel when we deny that the Father gave His only-begotten Son for us and the enemy triumphs with his satanic delusions. You may be wondering how the Trinity doctrine destroys this precious truth.

Let us have a look at our fundamental beliefs numbers 2-5.

Fundamental Belief Number 2 – The Trinity

“There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit, a unity of three co-eternal persons...”

Notice: the word co-eternal. How can the Son be co-eternal with the Father? He would not be truly a Son, nor can the Father be truly a Father, if they are as 'old' as each other. Co-eternal means they are exactly the same 'age'; 'Father' and 'Son' are just titles or roles accepted in the plan of salvation. (see page 25*)

How do we reconcile 1 John 4:9 "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world..."? If Christ is co-eternal, how can He be an only-begotten Son? He cannot be. Notice the scripture states that this is how God manifests His love towards us.

Dear Reader, can you begin to see how the Trinity destroys the love of God and the sacrifice of His dear Son? Ask your pastor is Jesus truly the Son of God? If yes, then how can He be co-eternal as our fundamental beliefs state? If the answer is no, then why do they preach that God gave His only-begotten Son when they don't even believe it themselves? And if these three co-eternal beings have entered into roles, as the 'Father', 'Son' and 'Holy Spirit', where is the evidence in scripture and the Spirit of Prophecy?

When not one text or statement can be produced, not even one verse, are we not then calling God a liar, because we believe not the record that God gave of His Son? 1 John 5:10

Can you see how serious it is to deny that God gave His Son? Scripture declares that when you do this, you are actually calling God, the One who cannot lie (Titus 1:2), a liar.

For God it is impossible to lie. Hebrews 6:18. So who is the liar?

1 John 2:22 “Who is a liar but he that denieth that Jesus is the Christ? He is antichrist, that denieth the Father and the Son.”

Yes dear Friends, it is the Antichrist who is a liar. It is the Antichrist who denies the Father and the Son. How does he do it? Through the Trinity doctrine, a totally unscriptural doctrine that confuses even the simplest texts. A doctrine that took almost 300 years to enter into Christendom after the Apostles were laid to rest.

Even Rome herself boasts that there is no Scriptural authority for the doctrine of the Trinity. Notice:

“Our opponents sometimes claim that no belief should be held dogmatically which is not explicitly stated in Scripture....But the Protestant Churches have themselves accepted such dogmas as the Trinity for which there is no such precise authority in the Gospels” (*Life Magazine*, October 30, 1950). In this they are honest. They also admit to the change of the Sabbath to Sunday, without any Biblical support. But where does this leave the true Protestant? Where does this leave God’s remnant church, which proudly claims the Bible as its only rule of faith?

Dear Reader, we cannot be true to God, nor to ourselves, if we blindly hold to a Trinity doctrine that has no Scriptural authority, especially when it strikes at the heart of the Gospel. We must be able to give a plain “Thus saith the Lord” for every point of our faith.

Every Christian true to his conscience must acknowledge that we are our brother's keeper, and be prepared to give up any opinion that cannot be supported from God's Word.

Please do not entertain the question, "Why are not the most learned ones teaching this truth"? Job 32:9 "Great men are not always wise: neither do the aged understand judgment."

Remember when Jesus hung dying on the cross 2000 years ago that all forsook Him. The most learned mocking Him saying, "If thou be the Son of God, come down from the cross." God used a pagan soldier, a Roman centurion, a man who had no right to know the truth. He was a man whose culture was steeped in pagan worship, a culture that despised the Jews and their beliefs. This soldier's loyalty was to his superiors and his emperor, who thought themselves gods. But God used this man to confess with a loud voice. (DA 770) "...Truly, this man was the Son of God" Mark 15:39.

There are some who accuse us of being divisive. They say we are deceiving the people. Jesus also was accused of deceiving the people John 7:12 "And there was much murmuring among the people concerning him: for some said, He is a good man: others said, Nay; but he deceiveth the people."

How did our Lord answer? John 7:16 "Jesus answered them, and said, My doctrine is not mine, but his that sent me."

We also appeal to you to study the other available literature and studies (see inside back cover). To put us to the test, see if we speak our own words or is it the doctrine of God. Do we 'hint' at this or 'hint' at that? Do

we use philosophy and tradition? Or do we allow the Scripture to be presented in its purity? And when you have prayerfully studied this material, we appeal to you as did our Lord, “Judge not according to the appearance, but judge righteous judgment.” John 7:24

May God abundantly bless you in your search for the truth.



“The altar of the Lord.”

As the Remnant church of Bible prophecy, we trace our roots back to the faithful church in the wilderness and ultimately to the apostolic church founded by Jesus. Our forerunners were the faithful Waldenses. The ancient emblem of the Waldensian church was a candlestick, with the motto: “Lux lucet in tenebris,” which means “The light shineth in darkness”.

Restitution Ministries have chosen “The altar of the Lord” (1 Kings 18:30) as their emblem. We invite you to journey with us back to Mount Carmel and discover the precious lessons given for us today as we take a closer look at the altar of the Lord. (Please note you can read the full story in 1 Kings chapter 18)

1 Kings 18:30 “...And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down.”

Notice that it is called the altar of the Lord. This is important because an altar is a symbol of worship. It does not necessarily mean the true worship of the living God. The heathen also offered sacrifices on their altars.

Q- What was the altar of the Lord used for?

A- Sacrificing.

Q- Sacrificing what?

A- Innocent animals.

Q- What did the animals symbolise?

A- The Son of God.

Q- And who gave the Son of God?

A- God the Father (John 3:16, 1 John 4:9, 10, Romans 8:32)

Q- So, what does the altar of the Lord in reality represent?

A- The crowning act of the love of God in giving His only begotten Son.

It is important that we understand this truth, for this will be our theme throughout this study.

1 Kings 18:17 “And it came to pass, when Ahab saw Elijah, that Ahab said unto him, Art thou he that troubleth Israel?”

How often is it that those, whom God has used to bear a message of truth, are accused of “troubling Israel”. The very message that is intended by God to bring unity among His people is being condemned, along with those who bear the burden. God’s messengers are called the ‘troublers of Israel.’

1 Kings 18:18 “And he answered, I have not troubled Israel; but thou, and thy father's house, in that ye have forsaken the commandments of the LORD, and thou hast followed Baalim.”

Q- What was the cause of Israel's troubles?

A- They had forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and the worship of the living God, and followed after Baal.

The commandments of God are a revelation of His character, expressing His mercy, goodness and love. The Lord has given His commandments to be a wall of protection around His people, to keep them from the idolatry of the heathen. The same is just as true today. When we forsake the commandments of God, idolatry in all its forms is the natural result.

God had purposed unto Himself a chosen nation, a peculiar people who would stand true for Him, and reveal His character.

Through the teaching of the sacrificial service, the Gospel was to be given to the entire world, that all would turn from idolatry to the worship of the true God. Sadly, Israel forsook its high calling. The ten northern tribes, by this time engrossed in deep idolatry, had "forsaken the commandments of the Lord, and followed after Baalim".

1 Kings 19:10 "...for the children of Israel have forsaken thy covenant, thrown down thine altars, and slain thy prophets with the sword..."

In this setting of open rebellion, the longsuffering and mercy of God is revealed as God seeks to draw His people back to Him, in spite of the fact that the prophets had been slain with the sword and the remaining ones were in hiding. (1 Kings 18:13)

God calls Elijah a man of prayer and strong faith (James 5:17). There are times in the history of the church when God calls people who will

stand for Him, people who care not about their reputation, or that God's message is made the subject of criticism. Like Elijah, they are called the troublers of Israel. They are labelled 'divisive' and held in low esteem by their fellow brethren. But God regards them as trustworthy, and they are honoured to bear His message.

The calling of Elijah was one of restoration. The worship of the true God was almost destroyed. Elijah was called to restore the truth about the one true God, and to call God's people to decision.

1 Kings 18: 21 "And Elijah came unto all the people, and said, How long halt ye between two opinions? if the LORD be God, follow him: but if Baal, then follow him. And the people answered him not a word."

God will not accept a divided heart (Matthew 6:24, Romans 6:16).

How long halt ye between two opinions? (divided in mind)

The people are called to take a stand between the living God, the God of Israel, and Baal, the man-made god of the pagans.

What is recorded next is one of the most pitiful and pathetic statements in Scripture: "And the people answered him not a word". A faithless and cowardly people, the inevitable outcome of compromise with the idolatry of the world.

So in our day the Elijah message is preparing a people to meet their God. It is a message of restoration, calling people to worship the true God of Israel. Jesus said, "Elias verily cometh first, and restoreth all things". Mark 9:12

This message will expose the false system of worship and teachings of Babylon and her daughters. It is a message that will bring the people to a decision. It will call the people to come near and search the Scripture prayerfully. The truth about the infinite love of God in giving His only begotten Son to die for a lost race will be restored.

Our Lord's Prayer in John 17:3 "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent" will be answered. The Elijah message will repair the altar of the Lord that has been broken down.

1 Kings 18:30 "And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down."

Why does Elijah call the people to come near? What is it that he wanted them to see? Remember what the altar represents? Imagine how the great prophet must have felt. First, he had appealed to his fellow Israelites to choose between the worship of God and Baal and to take a stand for the truth, but no one speaks or steps forward. Now he looks down on the broken altar, and the beautiful truth that the altar represents is trampled in the dust. He wants the people to examine the evidence, to come near, and look at what they have done to the altar of the Lord, to look how they regard the greatest gift ever given. Today the Elijah message is again calling the people to come near and see for themselves. Have we trodden down God's truth? Do we truly believe that God sent His only begotten Son into the world to be the propitiation? (atoning sacrifice for our sins) (1 John 4:9, 10)

Have we trodden under foot the Son of God, and counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith we are sanctified, an unholy thing? (Hebrews 10:29)

The broken down altar represents the rejection of the blood atonement of the Son of God by the children of Israel. In its place they worshipped Baal and Astaroth in the high places and in the groves.

On this point we may ask how Christendom has rejected the sacrifice of the Son of God today?

One may object and claim that all Christian churches teach that Jesus Christ, the Son of God has died for our sins. This may *seem* true on the surface, but look more closely (remember that Elijah called the people to come near) and examine your church's fundamental beliefs. In almost every Christian church, you will find that one of the first statements of their beliefs is the Trinity. Regardless of what version, it will state that Christ is a co-eternal, un-originated part of God, or part of a Trinity. This of course, means He cannot truly be a Son. Others, like Jehovah's Witnesses, may not be Trinitarian, but they still deny the Son, saying He was created.

While the deception today is far more subtle than the blatant apostasy in Elijah's day, the consequences are much greater, for this deadly counterfeit system of worship has almost totally united all Christendom. And this includes the remnant church.

Notice another fearful parallel in our day. 1 Kings 18:26 "And they took the bullock which was given them, and they dressed it, and called on

the name of Baal from morning even until noon, saying, O Baal, hear us. But there was no voice, nor any that answered. And they leaped upon the altar which was made.” The very last word of this text is interesting. Why does God inform us that the altar of Baal was ‘made’? “And they leaped upon the altar which was made.” When we come to verse 30, when it is Elijah’s turn to call upon his God, Scripture informs us that the altar of the Lord was broken down. (Compare Exodus 34:13. This was in direct opposition to God’s commands)

In Israel, a false pagan system of worship had been established, and in order to accomplish this, the truth had to be torn down and destroyed. Thus when the false prophets came to call upon their ‘gods’, their altar was already made. Their system of worship was firmly entrenched. Jezebel had the prophets of the Lord slain, and the rest were in hiding (1 Kings 18:13). When Elijah comes to call upon his God, he must first repair the broken down altar, symbolising the restoration of the truth about the infinite love of God in giving His only begotten Son as a sacrifice for sins.

Is the same thing happening again? (Ecclesiastes 1:9; 3:15)

In Elijah’s day Israel rejected the love of God in giving His only begotten Son. The altar was torn down, and a new altar (pagan system of worship) was built in its place. (Important to note that Israel had the correct knowledge and system of worship before the false pagan system came in). When Solomon dedicated the temple “the glory of the Lord filled the house” 1 Kings 8:11. Obviously, one must have the truth before he can go into apostasy, because apostasy is a turning away from the truth.

So too, in our day, the Seventh-day Adventist remnant church, has been established with the correct knowledge of God, His only begotten Son, and the omnipresent Spirit of God and Christ (Romans 8:9), a truth upon which there was entire unanimity throughout the body (1889-1914 SDA Yearbooks. Write and ask for *The Living Voice of the Lord's Witnesses*).

Today, this truth has been almost completely obliterated. As with Israel of old, a new pagan system of worship has been built in its place. The unscriptural doctrine of the Trinity is straight out of paganism. According to our current fundamental statement of beliefs, a Trinity of three co-eternal, un-originated beings, who are all God in their own right, yet somehow they still make up 'one God'. And if they are co-eternal, then no one could really be a Son or a Father. So once again, the altar representing the love of God in giving His only begotten Son is torn down.

If one objects to the term 'unscriptural' for the Trinity doctrine, we can quote the church's own theologians who concede that this doctrine (the Trinity) is not found expressly stated in the Scriptures. "Some will tend to resist this doctrine (the trinity) because it is not found expressly stated in the scriptures." Adventist Review Aug 20 1993 P-8. Even statements like these are deceptive. What do they mean by "not expressly stated"? Why don't they tell us the truth?

There isn't one verse in Scripture that teaches that God is made up of three co-eternal beings. There is not a single text!

Another deception is how many profess to believe and preach about the Son of God, but when called upon to defend the Trinity, they confess that Christ is not really a Son, but a co-eternal member of the Godhead who has accepted the *role* of a Son. This reveals a lack of conviction in their own beliefs. Why do they privately confess that Christ is not really the Son of God, but has accepted the role of a Son? And yet from the pulpit they freely preach about the love of God in giving His only begotten Son, when they don't even believe it themselves?

A true minister of the Gospel should be completely honest with his congregation and his message should come from a strong heartfelt conviction. Through the Scriptures he is to give evidence for what is truth.

Here lies the problem! No one can give Scriptural evidence for a Trinity and especially for role-playing. Trinitarians even confess (out of frustration) that the Trinity is shrouded in mystery. This is true; the Trinity is indeed a mystery to the Scriptures. A people can rise no higher in love than the concept of the God they perceive and worship. When one admits that the concept of God is a mystery, then to what height of love and truth can he attain? How can one ever aspire to the law of self-sacrificing love that rules heaven, when his concept of who God is, and what He has 'really' done for us is a mystery? Why do we always look to man? (Jeremiah 17:5). Why don't we trust God's word? Why did Jesus pray "that we might know Him" if God is a mystery?

Please read Romans 3:4. Friends, man is a liar, but God is true, and He will be justified. How? By His sayings (His word). Let us take our eyes off man and trust in what God has revealed about Himself through His

Word. 1 John 5:20, 21 “And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life. Little children, keep yourselves from idols. Amen.”

Some seek to label us ‘divisive’ and ‘disloyal’. They call this beautiful truth sent from God ‘an evil doctrine’. Others misrepresent our words; they call us ‘Arians’ and say we teach that Jesus was created. Many label our pioneers in the same way. While we cannot be certain where Arius stood regarding the only begotten Son of God, one thing is certain, the Arian nations did not believe in a Trinity. It was for this they were plucked up by the roots (Daniel 7:8) by the little horn power. And the spirit of that power has entered into the Remnant church. You see, truth sanctifies, but error can never sanctify.

As God’s beloved remnant church has adopted this heresy, does it not follow that she will manifest the spirit this doctrine fosters?

To all these accusations and misrepresentations we answer – when this beautiful truth is received, there is no room left in the heart for a spirit of resentment or bitterness. This truth sows the power of the Gospel into the life, and reaps peace instead of bitterness, humility instead of criticism, and love in place of resentment.

But to the charge of disloyalty, we are compelled to answer – we are charged disloyal because of our loyalty to God, and for this ‘crime’ we happily plead guilty. By the grace of God, may we ‘always’ be disloyal to anything that stands against His truth. For brethren, our Lord has

warned us that “a man’s foes shall be they of his own household”
Matthew 10:36.

Our loyalty is to God and Christ alone. It is Christ who suffered and died for us, and to Him is our allegiance due. Especially when a doctrine pervades in His church that is seeking to destroy the infinite value of His great sacrifice.

In the spirit of Jesus, we appeal to those who are resisting this truth to surrender their cherished opinions and “seek the Lord while he is near”. Only then will we “all come in the unity of the faith and the knowledge of the Son of God.”

We left off our study in 1 Kings 18:30 where Elijah calls the people to come near unto him as he repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.

Another point of interest is the time. The false prophets had leaped about, cried aloud, and cut themselves (a priest of God was forbidden to cut his flesh. See Leviticus 21:5) from morning until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice (1 Kings 18:26, 29).

Now it is Elijah’s turn and he begins to repair the altar right on time for the evening sacrifice. God’s dear Son died at the time of the evening sacrifice (Mark 15:34-37; DA 756). The restoration of the altar in the days of Elijah was a type for the truth being restored today through the Elijah message of the sacrifice of the Son of God.

As the time of the evening sacrifice draws near, (1 Kings 18:30) Elijah calls all the people to come near. He wants them to take notice of what

God has instructed him to do. “He repaired the altar of the Lord that was broken down.”

Why is it called the altar of the Lord?

The altar was the crowning symbol of God’s love. The smoking, blood-stained altar was a perpetual reminder to the children of Israel of God’s infinite love in giving His only begotten Son. From Adam through to Noah, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob the promise of the Everlasting Covenant was pledged.

During the Exodus through the Passover, it was again brought vividly to their minds. When Moses was commissioned to anoint the sanctuary, the altar was called “most holy” (margin: Holiness of Holiness) (Exodus 40:10).

From the family altar to Solomon’s grand temple, the sacrificial lamb typified Christ, our great sacrifice. In the Old Testament times the altar was to God’s people what the cross represents to Christians today. Both recognise their hope and surety in the sacrifice of God’s dearly beloved Son.

It is called the altar of the Lord because God ordained and predetermined the plan of redemption before the foundations of the world. (Zechariah 6:12, 13, Acts 2:23, Revelation 13:8).

In counsel with His Son, it was declared that if man should fall, the Son of God would become the propitiation. The precious Son of God would

be “brought as a lamb to the slaughter”, “And the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all.” Isaiah 53:6, 7.

It is this precious truth that destroys Satan’s hold over the sinner. 1 John 5:5. This is why he has always sought to tear down the altar and what it represents, namely, the Son of God dying for a lost race. The altar symbolises God’s way of salvation from sin, through the sin-bearing sacrifice of His Son.

The altar also represents the only means of unity among God’s people. The broken-down altar revealed not only a falling away from God, but also discord and fear among His people. Only as we look to God with praise and thanksgiving for His wonderful gift will His Spirit bring unity and peace among His followers.

1Kings 18:31 “And Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the Lord came saying Israel shall be thy name.”

Picture the scene: Elijah calls everyone near to witness what the Lord has instructed him to do (vs.36). The prophet of the Lord takes the stones by himself. To build an altar that would hold a bullock with only twelve stones would have required stones of a good size. It would have been hard work, Elijah could have used some help. But in repairing the altar there is much at stake. The people had disqualified themselves through their idolatrous worship and their failure to step forward in answer to God’s call.

God cannot trust the work of restoration to the unconsecrated worker. We must come before God with deep searchings of heart, seeking only His will.

May we, like Elijah, present ourselves as empty vessels free from all defilement, pride and our own cherished opinions. Only then are we fit for the Master's use. 2 Timothy 2:21

We may learn another lesson from Elijah's selfless and unaided work for his Master. No matter how great the task or how many obstacles, when we trust in God we will gain the victory. "Elijah was a man subject to passions as we are." James 5:17. Though he was a man like as we are he stood alone against the 450 prophets of Baal and the 400 prophets of Ashtoreth, and a wicked King and Queen. One man against all the power of the state, without one word of support from the thousands of Israelites assembled on Mount Carmel. All the forces of evil allied against one man with a nature like ours and they could not prevail. What was the secret to Elijah's victory? Elijah was a man of prayer and great faith. Elijah knew his God. It was this knowledge of the love and character of God that enabled him to trust completely regardless of the circumstances.

Hosea 4:6 "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge: because thou hast rejected knowledge, I will also reject thee..." What knowledge did the people reject? Hosea 4:1 "Hear the word of the Lord, ye children of Israel: for the Lord hath a controversy with the inhabitants of the land, because there is no truth, nor mercy, nor knowledge of God in the land."

The people had rejected the knowledge of God in the land. This is important for us today. Notice the children of Israel, as with God's Remnant people today, had received a correct knowledge of God, otherwise how could God charge them with rejecting it? And what was the result of rejecting this knowledge of God? Vs.1 no truth, nor mercy; vs.2 swearing, lying, killing, stealing and adultery; vs.6 forsaking the law of God; vs.10-19 idolatry. As was stated earlier, a correct knowledge of the character of God brings forth a righteous character. To reject this knowledge leads to unrighteousness. Often the motivation behind rejecting the truth is that "the people have pleasure in unrighteousness" 2 Thessalonians 2:12, this unrighteousness also includes people's reluctance to give up any cherished opinion that has no foundation in the word of God.

Elijah understood the love of God. The unmoving faith that brought him victory on Mt Carmel was built on this understanding. The blatant idolatry among the children of Israel grieved his heart. He was very jealous for the Lord God of hosts and longed to restore the truth about the character of God among his people.

This work is going on today through a people who bear the burden of the Elijah message — a people like Elijah who are grieved with the idolatry of Israel, who are very jealous for the Lord God of hosts, a people who long to restore the truth about the love of God and reveal His character to the world. No matter how great the opposition against them their trust is in God, and like Elijah, they go forward in faith regardless of the consequences.

1 Kings 18:31 Elijah takes the stones by himself.

1 Kings 18:30 He repairs the altar by himself.

1 Kings 18:32 He digs a trench about the altar by himself.

1 Kings 18:33 He lays the wood, prepares the bullock and lays it on the altar by himself. All the work of restoring, preparation and offering Elijah accomplishes by himself.

The people had earlier been given opportunity to stand for God and His truth, but failed to commit themselves. The work of restoration is one of faith. It is a work of implicit trust in God and obedience to His every Word. God is seeking such for this sacred calling, people “willing to do His will” John 7:17 NKJ. These are the people God can use in His service. These are the ones God will use to give the Elijah message.

Those who are indifferent, those who count the cost too great, those who repeatedly hear the appeal “If the Lord be God follow Him”, but refuse to step forward, will lose a great blessing. God cannot use them in a work that leads the soldier of Christ into direct conflict with the forces of darkness, as Elijah had to contend with.

We often talk about faith in God, but let us remember, that in giving us the Gospel commission; God is showing great faith in His people. Only those who deny themselves and take up their cross and follow Jesus, will fulfil the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Phil 3:14

1 Kings 18:31, 32 “And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of...the sons of Jacob.... And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the Lord....”

Notice in restoring the altar, Elijah took twelve stones according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob. This is a most precious

lesson for us today. Remember what the altar represents? The love of God in giving His only begotten Son to die for a lost race. The twelve stones represent the unity that will come to God's people when they acknowledge this precious truth. Matthew 16:18 Jesus promised upon this truth "Thou art the Christ the Son of the living God." He would build His church, and upon this affirmation of faith, His church would not be prevailed against.

Yes Friends, upon this truth God's church will be united and victorious. The twelve tribes of spiritual Israel will be united upon the beautiful truth that Jesus is the Son of God. This is why God instructed Elijah (vs.36) to take twelve stones in rebuilding the altar. Even though the kingdom was divided, the Lord had a spiritual lesson for His people. He also has one for us today.

Is our church building upon this truth today? Or have the builders put in a new foundation? We noted earlier, our church no longer believes that Jesus is truly the Son of God, but instead a co-eternal member of a Trinity (Fundamental Belief No.2). Can you see how the Trinity doctrine is in direct opposition with the affirmation of Peter in representing the 'twelve'? "Peter had expressed the truth which is the foundation of the church's faith" (DA 413).

Dear Reader, please understand this point. If you believe in a Trinity, if you believe in three co-eternals, you have no option but to reject that Jesus is truly the Son of God. If this is so, how can you claim the Son of God is the foundation of your faith, when you don't even believe He is a Son, but a co-eternal member of a Trinity who has entered into the **role** of a Son? And even worse, how can you conscientiously make such a

decision without one text for its support? Not only has it no Scriptural support, but it contradicts the plainest testimony of Christ and His apostles.

Please notice below how diametrically opposed these doctrines are:

Matthew 16:16-18

“And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

Ephesians 4:13,14

“Till we all come in the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. That we henceforth be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine.....

Fundamental Belief No.2 “The Trinity”

There is one God: Father, Son and Holy Spirit a unity of three co-eternal Persons.

Texts for co-eternal Persons—
Nil

Texts for God is the Father, Son & Holy Spirit – Nil

Adventist Review Oct. 31, 1996 p.12 week of prayer. (Note, this is not a radical view, but a paper endorsed by the church and deemed worthy to be presented to the worldwide church)

* “A plan of salvation was encompassed in the covenant made by the Three Persons of the Godhead (no text) who possessed the attributes of Deity equally.... One of the divine Beings accepted and entered into the role of the Father, another the role of the Son...” again no text given.

The Scripture declares that Christ is the Son of the living God, words given by the Father Himself. Christ declares that upon this truth, His church will not be prevailed against. He also declares that the knowledge of the Son of God will unite the body unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ. His people will be no more children tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine.

The teachings of men declare Christ is not the Son, but a co-eternal member of a Trinity who has entered into the role of a Son. Since this is the teaching of men, no texts are supplied for this view.

Let us not reject the knowledge of the Son of God for the teaching of men. We are to “Go from the presence of a foolish man, when thou perceivest not in him the lips of knowledge.” Proverbs 14:7

1 Kings 18:33. Elijah prepares the bullock and lays it on the wood as a whole burnt offering. The whole burnt offering typified the entire consecration to the Lord.

Likewise, only those who are wholly consecrated to the Lord can be used by Him to take the Elijah message to the people.

We noted that once you declare God to be a trinity of three co-eternal persons, as our fundamental beliefs state. You must conclude that these divine beings have entered into roles, their names being just titles of their separate roles in the plan of redemption. This we also noted in the Adventist Review Week of Prayer article.

Consequently you have to reject that Jesus is truly the Son of God. But the Trinitarian minister never says this publicly. Why? because they

know that the whole Gospel is built on the truth that Jesus is the Son of God! The evidence of this is that they never preach from the pulpit that Jesus is not truly the Son (although this is what they believe).

What a tragic and hypocritical position our church finds itself in, all because she upholds an unscriptural creed. Then she seeks to defend it through the philosophy of men. “Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men.....”
Colossians2:8

It is a creed that destroys the power of the Gospel and makes the church fearful and impotent, a creed that holds eternal consequences for those who believe and promote it.

This was the same in Jesus’ day.

Let us take a look at two church leaders in the days of Jesus and see how their own destiny and the destiny of the church they represented was sealed on this issue.

The disciple Peter and Caiaphas the high priest were both representatives of God’s people. Their eternal destiny was settled on their acceptance or rejection of who Jesus was. They are also responsible for the many souls whom they influenced in regard to their belief.

Peter declared the faith of the twelve in the presence of the Son of God; this declaration was to stand till the end of time. On the other hand Caiaphas had the same opportunity before the Son of God, but rejected Christ’s own testimony regarding Himself.

Notice the results of the opposing views

Peter

Matt.16:16-18 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Peter's confession was inspired by the Father.

Jesus commended and blessed Peter for his confession of faith. Jesus assures Peter that after this affirmation of faith that He is the Son of God. He will build His church and it will never be prevailed against.

Peter and the rest of the apostles built the early church with Christ as their leader, the chief corner stone (Ephesians 2:20) The Gospel is preached in all the world.

Caiaphas

— Matt. 26:63, 64 But Jesus held his peace. And the high priest answered and said unto him, I adjure thee by the living God, that thou tell us whether thou be the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus saith unto him, Thou hast said: nevertheless I say unto you, Hereafter shall ye see the Son of man sitting on the right hand of power, and coming in the clouds of heaven.

— Caiaphas' question was for the purpose of condemning Jesus. His inspiration was from the devil.

— Caiaphas rejects Christ's confession; he receives no blessing, but an assurance that he will in the hereafter have to answer for his decision.

— Caiaphas and the church he represented sank deeper and deeper into oblivion. Instead of Christ being their head, they were controlled by the devil.

The legacy of Peter and the Apostles is passed down through the ages, accompanied with the power of the Holy Spirit, with Christ as its head, the church will come into the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God. Unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ (Ephesians 4:13). A glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing...holy and without blemish (Ephesians 5:27).

— Approximately 3 ½ years after Caiaphas and his people reject Jesus as the Son of God, probation closes on them as God's chosen people. Their city and temple are destroyed (70 AD). They become "a branch severed from the vine, a dead fruitless branch to be gathered up and burned." (DA 739)

God's Remnant church will stand victoriously to see the Son of God coming with power and glory.

— Caiaphas and those that were with him, who denied Jesus was the Son of God, will also stand at the end. But only to see the Son of man coming with power and glory to receive those who have believed on Him. They will not be standing in victory, but in shame and terror. The consequence of their denial (against conviction) to believe that Jesus is the Son of God.

Then Caiaphas and his company will die a second time, only to be resurrected once more (after the 1,000 years) to see the inheritance of the saints that could have been theirs. Then they who have rejected the Son of God will be no more. "they shall be ashes under your feet" Malachi 4:3.

Dear Friends, here you have the testimonies of the two church representatives. One crowned with victory and honour, and one with dishonour and death. Their fate was determined by believing or rejecting that Jesus is the Son of God. This lesson is being repeated today. Peter's testimony on the left column may be our testimony also. In this comparison between Peter and Caiaphas, we have seen that a denial of Christ being the Son of God by Caiaphas finally destroyed him. Keeping this in mind, when you go back and compare Peter's confession of faith with our Fundamental Belief No.2 and the Adventist Review article, as shown on p.25, the realization is brought home that it is another parallel of Peter with the beliefs of Caiaphas, for again there is a denial that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.

Another fearful parallel we can learn from is how the church leaders rejected Jesus and asked for Barabbas.

Remember we noted that in order to uphold the Trinity doctrine of the three co-eternal persons, our church leaders reject that Jesus is truly the Son of God, but in order to be consistent with Scripture they teach that Jesus is the Son of God, through one of the co-eternal divine beings having accepted the role of a son.

Thus the term 'Son of God' to the Trinitarian becomes a name or title. They use this same principle for the Father and the Holy Spirit.

Please understand this point. To the Trinitarian the term 'Son of God' is only a name, it is not literal. The term 'Father' is only a name; He is not literally a Father

Notice this from another Seventh-day Adventist minister:

“The Father–Son relationship in the Godhead should be understood in a metaphorical sense, not in a literal sense”. (Max Hatton, *Understanding the Trinity*, p. 97)

METAPHORICAL – a figure of speech in which a term is applied to something to which it is not literally applicable. (*Macquarie Dictionary*)

Of course, as is common with Trinitarian philosophy, no text is given with this statement. Where in the Bible are we told that the Father-Son relationship is only metaphorical?

According to the above statement, when we read “For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son” (spoken by Jesus Himself) we are supposed to believe that it is only a figure of speech. Similarly, the text “in this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten son into the world...” Are we to believe that it is only a metaphorical term which is not literally applicable? If it is not literally applicable, it means God did not really give His Son (1 John 5:10).

It also means that He never really had a Son to give. Thus it denies the Father also (1 John 2:22, 23).

With this principle in mind -- that the Son of God is to be understood in a metaphorical sense, which means in name only -- let us review the story of Jesus and Barabbas.

It is a fact that in many manuscripts of Matthew's Gospel Barabbas is called 'Jesus Barabbas'. It is believed that the translators left out his name, Jesus, in reverence to Christ.

Jesus Barabbas means, Jesus son of Abba, which means Jesus son of the father. Remember that the leaders of God's remnant people today reject that Jesus is truly the Son of the Father, but they accept someone called Jesus son of the father (Remember that it is just a name or a title).

Friends, this has happened before. Matthew 27:17 "Therefore when they were gathered together, Pilate said unto them, Whom will ye that I release unto you? Barabbas, or Jesus which is called Christ?"

When Pilate appealed to the Jews (God's people) as to whom he should release unto them, they had to choose between Jesus Son of the Father, and someone whose name was 'Jesus son of the father'. One was the representative of God, and one was the representative of Satan.

Jesus Bar,abbas

(Jesus of Nazareth)
-He represents God
-He is the prince of peace
-He calls God His Father
-He is the Messiah (The Christ, the Son of God)

Jesus Bar,abbas

(Barabbas the criminal)
-he represents Satan
-he is a robber (murderer)
-his father is nameless
-he is an impostor who claimed to be the Messiah (DA 733)

The Jews (God's people) rejected Jesus the true son of the Father, and asked for a murderer who was called by the same name. What was his father's name? We don't know. All we know is that he was called 'son of the father'. This is whom God's people accepted in the place of Jesus.

Can you see the parallel? God's people today reject that Jesus is the literal Son of God, but they, through the doctrine of the trinity, accept someone who goes by the name 'son of god' who does not really have a father!

Remember on page 31 we read that they entered into and accepted the role of Father and Son and that their relationship was metaphorical.

The son of god in the Trinity, like Barabbas, is called by the same name as the true Son.

The son of god in the Trinity, like Barabbas, is someone whose father is unknown.

The son of god in the Trinity, like Barabbas, is an imposter who claims to be the Messiah.

The son of god in the Trinity, like Barabbas, is the representative of Satan.

We have seen the fate of God's professed people when they rejected the real Son of God, and accepted another son of god, or another 'Jesus'. This is a warning for us today "For if he that cometh preacheth another Jesus, whom we have not preached, or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received, or another Gospel, which ye have not accepted, ye might well bear with him." 2 Corinthians 11:4

Matthew 27:20 "But the chief priests and elders persuaded the multitude that they should ask Barabbas, and destroy Jesus."

Dear Friends, can you see this is happening again? The multitude today have been persuaded into accepting Barabbas in the place of Jesus. “A nation’s sin and a nation’s ruin were due to the religious leaders” (DA 738. Read also p. 739)

It is not too late for us, for God in His mercy is bringing the light back to His people. Let us return to Him and take our eyes off man (Jeremiah 17:5).

Let us go back to our study of the story of Elijah preparing the offering.

1 Kings 18:33. Elijah prepares the bullock and lays it on the wood as a whole burnt offering.

After Elijah completes all the preparations, he calls on the people to fill four barrels of water and to pour them on the sacrifice. He tells them to do it three times. Why did God, through His prophet, command this? It was not part of the original challenge. The contest was to prepare the bullock, place it on the altar and “the God that answereth by fire let Him be God” vs.24. It may be suggested that saturating the altar was to enhance the greatness of the miracle. But the fire that fell from heaven was so great that it totally consumed the sacrifice, including the wood, the stones and the dust. There was nothing left at all. So the pouring of the water could not have enhanced the miracle in any way, shape or form. Even the stones were so consumed that not even their dust remained.

So what is the meaning of the water? Why were the people who had taken no part till then, commanded to do the work? And why twelve barrels especially in a time of drought? And what lessons can we learn from this?

The people had doubted in God and had refused to stand for Him. They refused to stand apart from the crowd. In doing this they had hindered the work. They refused to offer support to God's trusted servant, and denied the God of heaven. Their deafening silence was no better than the scoffing and abuse heaped upon God's beloved Son in His mock trial by God's professed people.

Why water? What do you do when you want to stop a fire? You saturate everything with water. So the people were permitted to saturate the altar, symbolising their stubborn resistance to God's truth.

Why twelve barrels? Remember, it was the worst drought in Israel's history. God had them act out their spiritual drought. The twelve barrels parallel the twelve tribes, as the altar restored symbolised the unity God desires among His people. So the twelve barrels of water poured out by His people symbolised the height of apostasy and resistance that was among them.

You see, they were unfit to partake of the blessing in restoring the truth of God and the sacrifice of His dear Son. God permitted them to do the only work they were fitted for, and that was resisting the truth. It was pouring contempt upon the love of God. They poured water on the sacrifice, they poured water on the truth about the Son of God.

The twelve barrels of water in a time of severe drought was a most precious resource. So today many are using their resources for books, literature, and sermons, to dampen down the message God is trying to restore. As we seek for the showers of God's Spirit, is the little we have being poured out? Is it being used to resist the out-pouring of the Spirit? Are the leaders of God's people today united in pouring contempt upon Elijah's message of restoration?

Praise our longsuffering God. In spite of their rebellion, He was still seeking to "turn their hearts back again" (vs.37). He is still seeking the same today.

Dear Friends, read carefully Christ's words in Matthew 23:30, and ask yourself the following question – Are we in the same condition as the Scribes and Pharisees in Jesus' day? Are we condemning the errors of those before us, while at the same time persecuting the very ones God is sending to us with a message of truth and restoration?

1 Kings 18:36. We come to the climactic moment. "And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word."

Right at the time of the evening sacrifice, at the ninth hour, the very moment when the Son of God would cry out 'it is finished', the faithful Elijah prays to his God. Notice his address "Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel." The Elijah message is going to turn the heart of

the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers”
Malachi 4:6.

At Mt. Carmel, the Elijah message was to call Israel out of idolatry to the worship of the true God. So also today, the true faith of the fathers is to be restored to their children. The Elijah message will turn their hearts back again, after the altar is restored, after the truth of the love of God in giving His only begotten Son is brought back to the minds (hearts) of the people. Elijah is able to pray “that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.” (1 Kings 18:37). The people are turned back to God through beholding His love for them. This is why Elijah called them to come near and witness both the desolation and the restoration of the altar. As we look beneath the surface, the beautiful truth of the Gospel shines forth from Mt. Carmel. You see, it wasn’t the fire that fell from heaven that converted the people. If it was a miracle that converted the people, the Lord would only need to perform a few miracles in different places today and soon the whole world would worship Him. This is not God’s way; this is the way of the devil.

“And he doeth great wonders, so that he maketh fire come down from heaven on the earth in the sight of men, and deceiveth them that dwell on the earth by the means of those miracles ...” Revelation 13:13, 14
This is Satan’s way of receiving worship, a worship based on fear and deception.

Our loving God desires us to worship him in love and truth, a worship based on a correct knowledge of His character. He desires a heartfelt appreciation of what He has done and is wanting to do for us. This

knowledge is based on love, and perfect love casteth out fear (1 John 4:17).

This was the knowledge that shone forth from Mt. Carmel. This is what the altar represented, and what Elijah desired the people to see. It was this truth that turned their hearts back again.

Notice the sequence of events leading up to Elijah's prayer, 1 Kings 18:26 tells us that the false prophets had called on Baal from morning till noon. Then verse 29 tells us they continued to call until the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, "and there was no voice, nor answer, nor any that regarded". The prophets of Baal had been calling on their god all day, with much display, and there is no answer!

In verse 30, Elijah calls the people to come near. Imagine how the Israelites must have felt, not to mention the false prophets. They would have sensed that something great was about to happen. They had seen the heavens shut for 3 ½ years at the word of Elijah, and now they witnessed the utter failure of the prophets of Baal. Conviction would have been brewing in their hearts that the true God of Israel was about to honour His faithful servant. They would have started to regret their earlier decision of not standing for God. Their eyes would have been fixed on Elijah as he faithfully began to repair the altar. As he laid each stone back in its place, as he prepared the wood and the offering, what do you think would have been impressing on their minds? It would have been the sacrifice and what it represented.

In beholding the altar restored, their minds would have been brought back to the covenant promise that God had made with their fathers. (Remember the hearts of the fathers to their children) "For the LORD

thy God is a merciful God; he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them.” Deuteronomy 4:31.

“Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses understood the Gospel. They looked for salvation through man's Substitute and Surety. . . . the bleeding victim on the altar of sacrifice testified of a Redeemer to come” (TMK 102)

Through the sacrificial offerings God intended for the people to look by faith beyond the offering to the Son of God, through whom they would receive pardon.

Yes, Friends, as they watched Elijah prepare the altar and the offering, the love of God was turning their hearts back again. The altar of sacrifice testified of a Redeemer to come. As Elijah literally restored the altar, so the truth about their Redeemer was restored in their hearts. They understood the bleeding victim on the altar represented man's only substitute and surety; THE SON OF GOD.

This is why Elijah prays: “that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.”

It is the same for us today, “we love God because he first loved us” 1 John 4:19.

Our hearts are turned back to God when we behold the cross of Calvary. As the Israelites looked upon the restored altar of sacrifice and what it represented, so we are to look to the cross and the infinite sacrifice of the Son of God, and behold the love of God.

“In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent his only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through him. Herein is love, not that we loved God, but that he loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins.” 1 John 4:9, 10

Elijah addresses his God as the “Lord God of Abraham, Isaac and of Israel.” Why Israel and not Jacob? Israel is also the name for God’s people today, and the Elijah message is going to restore the truth about the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob (the Fathers) unto Israel today (their children).

Notice how Peter, full of the Holy Spirit, describes who the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob is. Acts 3:13 “The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified His son Jesus...”

Elijah prays simply and reverently. Elijah knows his God and he knows that He is near, unlike the prophets of Baal mutilating themselves, who cried until hoarse to appease their gods, gods they knew not. Elijah prays to his God, reverently trusting that he has done all according to His will. Vs.36

God’s people, who take this message of restoration to the world, will also claim God’s word as their only authority for all they say and do.

Elijah prays a short simple prayer of faith. It is the same faith he showed three and a half years earlier when he defiantly stood before the King and declared the heavens shut at his Word.

1Kings 18:37 “Hear me, O Lord, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the Lord God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.”

Elijah’s Spirit-inspired prayer ends with an appeal that “this people” may “know” that thou “art the Lord God.”

Dear Friends, this same appeal is being sounded today. It is the same appeal Jesus prayed in His last public prayer before the cross. “And this is life eternal that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.” John 17:3

Elijah’s Prayer

Elijah’s prayer is that this people may know that thou art the Lord God. (1 Kings 18:37)

And right on the time of the evening sacrifice, fire consumes the whole offering.

1 Kings 18:37

“...and that thou hast turned their heart back again.”

Christ’s Prayer

Christ’s final public prayer is that they might know thee the only true God and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent.

These words spake Jesus on the Thursday evening not long before His arrest. He died as an offering for sin right at the time of the evening sacrifice the next day.

Isaiah 53:11

“He shall see the travail of his soul and shall be satisfied.”

Dear Friend, do not reject this final appeal of Christ. The Elijah message is calling you to make a decision, to turn your heart back again, that you may know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent.

Our final text is 1 Kings 18:38 “Then the fire of the Lord fell and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.”

Notice how the fire of the Lord consumed everything and licked up the water. We noted earlier that the water was symbolic of the people’s resistance to the truth. It is their efforts to saturate and snuff out the fire that God is seeking to pour out through the Elijah message. But they do not succeed. God’s word will not return unto Him void. His word will have free course. Elijah was faithful, and God promises “Them that honour me I will honour” (1 Sam 2:30)

So in these last days, God will have a faithful people whom He will honour. Another point worthy of mention is that when the Holy Spirit fell from heaven on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1-3), it appeared as cloven tongues of fire.

The fire of the Lord that fell from heaven on Mt. Carmel is also a symbol of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. And when did it fall? When the altar was restored. Please understand this final point. When the truth of the love of God in giving His only begotten son is restored, God will honour the seven thousand who have not bowed the knee to Baal, with an outpouring of His Spirit. Israel today is in great spiritual drought as was Israel in Elijah’s day, but very soon the showers of the Spirit will fall. And the Lord will have a people ready to take this message to the world. Our appeal to you is – will you join us in repairing the “altar of the Lord”?

Amen.

“Thousands have a false conception of God and His attributes. They are as verily serving a false god as were the servants of Baal. Are we worshiping the true God as He is revealed in His word, in Christ, in nature, or are we adoring some philosophical idol enshrined in His place? God is a God of truth. Justice and mercy are the attributes of His throne. He is a God of love, of pity and tender compassion. Thus He is represented in His Son, our Saviour. He is a God of patience and long-suffering. If such is the being whom we adore and to whose character we are seeking to assimilate, we are worshiping the true God.”

{5T 173.4}

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“And Elijah said unto all the people, Come near unto me. And all the people came near unto him. And he repaired the altar of the LORD that was broken down. And Elijah took twelve stones, according to the number of the tribes of the sons of Jacob, unto whom the word of the LORD came, saying, Israel shall be thy name: And with the stones he built an altar in the name of the LORD: and he made a trench about the altar, as great as would contain two measures of seed. And he put the wood in order, and cut the bullock in pieces, and laid him on the wood, and said, Fill four barrels with water, and pour it on the burnt sacrifice, and on the wood. And he said, Do it the second time. And they did it the second time. And he said, Do it the third time. And they did it the third time. And the water ran round about the altar; and he filled the trench also with water. And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again. Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench. And when all the people saw it, they fell on their faces: and they said, The LORD, he is the God; the LORD, he is the God.”

(1 Kings 18:30-39)