



# THE LENEXA EDIFIER

John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free.

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## WHEN WILL OUR INIQUITY BE FULL?

Jim Stauffer

In the process of assuring Abram of the promise of a land for his seed, God speaks to him of the ultimate possession of the Land of Canaan by his descendants. He tells him in **Gen. 15** of the process which will include 400 years of captivity in Egypt. He then identifies when they will come into that land from Egypt in verse **16**, *And in the fourth generation they shall come hither again: for the iniquity of the Amorite is not yet full.*

This sentiment is expressed many times in Scripture in reference to continued disobedience to the will of God. When Israel inherited the land they were told the reason was the evil done by those who lived there before them. **Deut. 9:4** *Speak not thou in thy heart, after that Jehovah thy God hath thrust them out from before thee, saying, For my righteousness Jehovah hath brought me in to possess this land; whereas for the wickedness of these nations Jehovah doth drive them out from before thee. 5 Not for thy righteousness, or for the uprightness of thy heart, dost thou go in to possess their land; but for the wickedness of these nations Jehovah thy God doth drive them out from before thee, and that he may establish the word which Jehovah swore unto thy fathers, to Abraham, to Isaac, and to Jacob.* While we recognize the inheritance was part of the promise to Abraham, we also observe the timing of the occupation coincided with God's patience expiring on the evil of those living in Canaan. He reminds Israel that the evil perpetrated on the land played a major role in the timing of their inheritance. **Lev. 18:24** *Defile not ye yourselves in any of these things: for in all these the nations are defiled which I cast out from before you; 25 and the land is defiled: therefore I do visit the iniquity thereof upon it, and the land vomiteth out her inhabitants. 26 Ye therefore shall keep my statutes and mine ordinances, and shall not do any of these abominations; neither the home-born, nor the stranger that sojourneth among you; 27 (for all these abominations have the men of the land done, that were before you, and the land is defiled); 28 that the land vomit not you out also, when ye defile it, as it vomited out the nation that was before you.* His reference is to the many immoral acts listed in the previous verses.

It is clear, then that God's patience, while considerable, has its limits. He is God Almighty and can

understand when man has gone so far as to pass the point of return. And so it has been with every generation of mankind. God is very disappointed with Solomon because his immoral behavior with women brought him to worship idols. He tells him he will tear the kingdom from him but not during his reign but during the reign of his son. This is the point where the Kingdom of Israel is divided with the Northern ten tribes falling under the evil reign of Jereboam and Judah and Benjamin being ruled by Rehoboam, the son of Solomon.

Because Israel never turned back to God, He again eventually lost his patience over the 200+ years of evil kings from Rehoboam until Hoshea. Assyria, then carried them off into captivity. The Scripture explains it was because Israel practiced the same sinful acts as those who occupied the land before them. **2 Kings 17:7** *And it was so, because the children of Israel had sinned against Jehovah their God, who brought them up out of the land of Egypt from under the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt, and had feared other gods, 8 and walked in the statutes of the nations, whom Jehovah cast out from before the children of Israel, and of the kings of Israel, which they made.*

A little over one hundred years later Judah, who had survived longer due to the faithfulness of some of her kings was taken into Babylonian captivity when she had become so continually evil God would no longer tolerate her existence in the land He had given as an inheritance of the promise to Abraham. Jeremiah tells us the reason for this punishment. **Jer. 16:12** *and ye have done evil more than your fathers; for, behold, ye walk every one after the stubbornness of his evil heart, so that ye hearken not unto me: 13 therefore will I cast you forth out of this land into the land that ye have not known, neither ye nor your fathers; and there shall ye serve other gods day and night; for I will show you no favor.*

As we consider the question of our own iniquity and when God's patience with it will expire, there are two areas of concern. First, there is the national existence with which we concern ourselves. **Rom. 13:1** tells us, *.....the powers that be are ordained of God.* It is clear God rules in the nations today just as Nebuchadnezzar recognized years ago (**Dan. 4:34,35**). As Babylon existed to serve the purposes of God, so

does every nation before and since. It is therefore, imperative we understand our relationship to God and the responsibilities we bear. If our evil shall continue to such a point that as a nation we no longer serve His purposes, He will bring this nation down as he has others in the past. *None can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?*

An even greater consideration for each and every man is the patience of God concerning His judgment of the souls of all mankind. Peter tells us He *is longsuffering* and *not wishing that any should perish*. He also tells us he *is not slack concerning his promise*. He then says He *will come as a thief* (2 Pet. 3:8-10). Peter offers this assurance to those who would scoff at the idea that Jesus is coming in judgment (Acts 17:31).

As we ponder the future of our nation and our own souls, the very obvious conclusion for the individual is, as he prepares himself to stand before God in judgment, he also offers whatever influence he can to his nation to restrain itself as it moves farther away from the commandments God has given to all men.

It will be sad to see the day our nation is overthrown and destroyed due to its rejection of the God of heaven, but it would be a joyous day, if indeed, we are able to remain faithful as individual servants and inherit an eternal home in heaven in spite of national failure.

## Will Only 144,000 Be Saved In Heaven?

Among the many false doctrines taught by these who call themselves Jehovah's Witnesses is the one that only 144,000 will be saved in heaven. They cite Rev. 14:3: *"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne and before the four beasts, and the elders: and no man could learn that song but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were redeemed from the earth."*

A study of the text and context will show the fallacy of their strained interpretation. The passage does not say that only 144,000 will be saved in heaven. Verse 4 says they were the firstfruits, indicating there would be others. After John saw the 144,000 he said, *"After this I beheld, and lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb . . ."* (See Rev. 7:1-17).

In Rev. 7:4 we learn the 144,000 were Jews; and they were men who were virgins (Rev. 14:4). According to the Witnesses' theory, therefore only Jewish men who were virgins will be in heaven. There can be no women, not even the mother of Jesus, nor any married man not even the married apostle Peter!

The Witnesses err in limiting the number for heaven to 144,000, for the Bible does not teach that limitation. After John saw these 144,000 Jewish virgin men, he plainly says that he saw a great multitude that no man could number (Rev. 7:9), who were of all nations. The Witnesses ignore this and try to number those who will be before the throne of God in heaven.

Be not deceived by this false doctrine of False Witnesses. All who obey God's commandments will

have a right to enter the city (Rev. 22:14). Eternal salvation is promised to all who obey Christ (Heb. 5:9). You can be among that great multitude which no man can number, whether you be man or woman, Jew or Gentile, married or unmarried. Be not misled by the false prophets (preachers) who are determined to be cast into the lake of fire and brimstone to be tormented day and night forever and ever (Rev. 20: 10). If you blindly follow leaders you too will fall into the ditch with them (Matt. 15:14). *"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves"* (Matt. 7: 15).

by Earl Fly

## MIRACLES HAPPENED AND MIRACLES CEASED

The Bible teaches that miracles both happened and ceased. Men in our city and across our nation claim to be miracle workers today. I believe what the Bible teaches about miracles. Therefore I believe these men are frauds.

They do not teach the Gospel plan of salvation. God's plan of salvation is for a penitent believer to confess faith in Jesus and be baptized for salvation (Acts 2:36-41). Most of those who claim miracles today teach salvation through the "sinners prayer" and accepting Jesus. Would God give miracles to such false teachers?

They do not teach New Testament worship. Most of the so-called "Miracle Working" churches have women in leadership roles, instruments of all kinds, do not observe communion weekly and participate in other acts of worship foreign to the New Testament (Read I Cor. 14:34, Acts 20:7, Eph. 5:19). Will God give real miracles to those who teach and practice false worship?

They do not practice Bible miracles. These religious racketeers bleed as much money as they can from the poor, unsuspecting and helpless. They make a mockery out of Christianity. They do no real miracles. Jesus performed great miracles, real miracles! Nicodemus said, *"Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with him"* (John 3:2). Matthew 15:30 says, *"And great multitudes came unto him, having with them [those that were] lame, blind, dumb, maimed, and many others, and cast them down at Jesus' feet; and he healed them."* Jesus rebuked the wind and the waves and caused the great calm (Matt. 8:26). No one is doing these miracles today!

Miracles ceased when the perfect or complete revelation was received. *"Charity never faileth: but whether [there be] prophecies, they shall fail; whether [there be] tongues, they shall cease; whether [there be] knowledge, it shall vanish away. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known. And now*



*abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these [is] charity" (I Cor. 13:8-13).*

When the last words of the New Testament were written in about 96 A.D. miracles had ceased. The only miracles we have or need today are those written in the Bible.

#### **DOES THE LORD PERFORM MIRACLES TODAY?**

There was a time when miracles happened. When Jesus was upon earth he performed many signs and miracles (**Matt. 8:16; 9:34; 14:14-36; John 11**). Jesus even gave others the power to perform miracles. But not one miracle is being performed today.

What was the purpose of miracles? Miracles were performed by Jesus, the apostles and those on whom they laid hands, to confirm the word (**Mark 16:17-20**). Miracles confirmed that the message preached was divine. *"And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of his disciples, which are not written in this book: But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name" (John 20:30-31).*

Jesus performed miracles to prove His claim of being the Son of God and to confirm that what He taught was God's message.

Are miracles needed today? Everything originated by miracle, but it continues by divine law. Adam is the only man God created by miracle (**Gen. 1:27-28**). We were not created by miracle like Adam. God originated things by miracle but continues them through natural law.

Both Old Testament and New Testament were ushered in by miracles (**Exodus 18-20; 2 Tim. 3:16-17; 2 Peter 1:20-21**). When the New Testament was completed, the need for miracles ended. Paul described the purpose and duration of miracles in these words, *"And he gave some, apostles; and some, prophets; and some, evangelists; and some, pastors and teachers; For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ: 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 fulness of Christ: That we [henceforth] be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, [and] cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive" (Eph. 4:11-14).*

Are miracles being performed today? No person living on earth today has been baptized with the Holy Ghost (**Eph. 4:5**). There are no people living today who have had the hands of the apostles laid on them to impart miraculous gifts of the Holy Spirit (**Acts 8:14-18**). These were the only two ways miraculous powers were received. Therefore, the Lord does not perform miracles through any human today!

Miracles ceased when the perfect came. Miracles were both "in part" and temporary. Miracles ceased when the perfect or complete will of God -- the New Testament -- was completely revealed (**1 Cor. 13:8-10**).

Do Christians speak in unknown tongues today? There is no doubt that the gift of speaking in unknown tongues was a reality in the early church (**Mark 16:17; Acts 2:4; 10:46; 19:6; 1 Cor. 12-14**). These unknown tongues were languages (**Acts 2:4-6**). These languages

could be interpreted (**1 Cor. 14:26**). Tongue speaking was the ability to speak intelligently a language you had not studied. The purpose of this miraculous gift was as a sign to unbelievers (**1 Cor. 14:22**). The gift of tongue speaking ceased near the close of the first century (**1 Cor. 13:8-10**).

No one living today can walk on water, raise the dead or perform any other real miracle. This cannot be done because the Bible teaches miracles have ceased. Have you ever wondered why the so-called modern day miracle worker: 1) Only selects healing and tongues from **I Corinthians 12**, 2) Cannot raise the dead or stop a tornado, 3) Refuses to drink deadly poison, 4) Believes the Bible is incomplete and still needs confirmation, 5) Does not possess the signs of an apostle?

Let us be content with being New Testament Christians today. To become a Christian a believer must repent and be baptized for remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). True miracles caused faith (**John 20:30-31**). The so-called miracles of today cause doubt and confusion.

**By Charles Box**

## **DISOBEDIENCE**

### **Some Sources of Disobedience**

*Infidelity.* Of course, if Satan can plant the seed of infidelity in one's heart, he has gained him. *He that cometh to God must believe that he is... (Heb. 11:6)*  
*Doctrine of Unconditional Salvation.* Those who hold this theory teach that man cannot obey God till he is regenerated by a direct operation of the Holy Spirit. Those who believe this theory, of course, will make no effort to obey God till some such time as they think God has regenerated them. Though God says, *Now is the acceptable time; behold, now is the day of salvation. (2 Cor. 6:2)*, they will not heed and by their actions tell Him, "No, my time has not come yet." They disobey because they think they cannot obey, and because they do not believe God rewards diligent obedience. (**Heb. 11:6**)  
*Just So You Are Honest.* How many people do you find who will say, "It makes no difference what you believe, just so you are honest." Of course, such people think it makes no difference whether one believes right or wrong, and they will, of course make no effort to know the truth that they may obey it - thereby obeying the Lord. By this deception Satan has lulled many disobedient souls to sleep with a feeling of security. People will not adopt such a foolish theory in anything but religion (**Gal. 1:13; Acts 26:9-11; 23:1**).  
*Indifference.* The indifference of otherwise good people is alarming. Many people seem not to care whether God exists or whether there is a Bible. God and the Bible have no place in their lives. When they chance to hear preaching it makes no impression on them, they do not regard it as intended for them and Satan easily takes the word out of their hearts (**Luke 8:12**).

**Sound Doctrine, Vol. 1, C.R. Nichol and R.L. Whiteside, Pages 141, 142**

**Eph. 2:19** So then ye are no more strangers and sojourners, but ye are fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God, 20 being built upon the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the chief corner stone; 21 in whom each several building, fitly framed together, groweth into a holy temple in the Lord;

**1Pet. 2:9** But ye are an elect race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, a people for God's own possession, that ye may show forth the excellencies of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:

**Psa. 1:1** Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

## HOURS OF WORSHIP

Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study

Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship

Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship

Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

**Visitors welcome**

**We conduct in home Bible Studies**

**We offer Correspondence Courses**

**Evangelist and Editor Jim Stauffer**

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## NEWS AND NOTES:

PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING IN YOUR PRAYERS: GRANT CLOTHIER AND J.R. DANIEL AND JAN PATRICK.

STEVE WIMP IS IN ROOM 610, TRINITY NURSING, 62ND AND MASTIN IN SHAWNEE.

JON COONES IS RECUPERATING AT HOME WITH HIS PARENTS.

BIBLE CLASSES: SUNDAY: GOSPEL OF JOHN - RON PECK - WEDNESDAY: THE THEME OF THE BIBLE - JIM STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: GOD WILL HONOR HIS COVENANTS



## **What Must I Do To Be Saved?**

**Hear** the gospel - Romans 10:17

**Believe** in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

**Repent** of sins - Acts 17:30

**Confess** Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

**Be Baptized** for remission of sins Acts 2:38

**Be Faithful** unto death - Revelation 2:10