

HIS HOLY COVENANT

Sunday Morning: July 4, 1999

Text: Matthew 7:6 "Give not **that which is holy** unto the **dogs**, neither cast ye your **pearls** before **swine**, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you."

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

I take dogs and swine as saved that do not and can not appreciate things that are holy. One of the things that is holy is the Holy Covenant made to Abraham with an oath. This holy covenant made to Abraham took place in Genesis 15 and it concerned the inheritance of Abraham's heavenly seed. The heavenly seed would be called through Isaac and not through Ishmael. We are told in Matthew 7:6 not to give this truth to those who have not been called to the heavenly inheritance. Dogs and swine have not been called, only sheep. Dogs and swine will turn against you and trample these pearls under foot.

Dogs and swine can be taught the way of righteousness and they can escape the pollutions of the world by responding to what they have learned, but they will turn from the way of righteousness which is the holy commandment. 2 Peter 2:20-22 "For if after they have escaped the pollutions of the world through the knowledge [deeper knowledge] of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, they are again entangled therein, and overcome, the latter end is worse with them than the beginning. 21. For it had been better for them not to have known [deeper knowledge] the way of righteousness, than, after they have known [deeper knowledge] it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. 22. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." The dogs and the swine go back to what they have been used to when they can not handle the pearls. Notice that a reference is made to the *holy commandment*. It would be better for the dogs and swine not to be taught that which is holy because their latter end would have been better than to have knowledge of that which is holy then turn from it.

THAT WHICH IS HOLY

There are some words in this verse that is not to be taken literally. Dogs are not to be taken literally nor pearls nor swine. These are used in a figurative sense. Obviously we do not take our jewelry to the pig pen and dump it into the trough. That is foolishness.

The dogs, swine, and pearls are to be taken figuratively and applied in a spiritual sense. That which is holy can be taken in a literal sense. Pearls represent that which is holy. Dogs and swine represent that which is unclean. The unclean in this context is not the lost person but those who are saved and have become defiled by a sinful lifestyle.

The pearls and that which is holy I believe represent spiritual truths. We are told not to give that which is holy or pearls, spiritual truths, to those who can not appreciate or use them. Those who are defiled are without the law under Mosaic Law. We find a reference to those who are without in Colossians 4:3-5 "Withal praying also for us, that God would open unto us a door of utterance, to speak the mystery of Christ, for which I am also in bonds: 4. That I may make it manifest, as I ought to speak. 5. Walk in wisdom toward them that are without, redeeming the time." Holy pearls deal with the mystery of Christ. When it comes to sharing the mystery of Christ we are to walk in wisdom toward them that are without, not wasting time trying to get them to appreciate that mystery.

The message of salvation is not to be denied anyone and it is not a mystery. Holy pearls do not deal with the plan of salvation, because that message can be given to anyone who is not saved.

Pearls and honey have something in common. Pearls are created layer by layer. Butter is created by one piece of butter fat sticking to another piece of butter fat. Bible doctrine is built line upon line and precept on top of precept. I look at pearls as being the butter that is used to discern between good and evil. Isaiah 7:15 "Butter and honey shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good."

HIS HOLY COVENANT

Luke 1:72-73 "... to remember **his holy covenant**; 73. The oath which he swore to our father **Abraham**,"

We have a reference to a covenant that is holy. This holy covenant made with Abraham is part of that which is holy. This holy covenant that was sworn to Abraham was concerning his seed and the inheritance that would enter into. This holy covenant was not to his earthly seed, Ishmael, but to his heavenly seed Isaac. See Galatians 4 which deals with the two covenants. Galatians 4:24 "Which things are an allegory: for these are the two covenants; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar."

HIS HOLY COVENANT

Genesis 15:5-6 "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and **tell the stars**, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, **So shall thy seed be**. 6. And **he believed** in the LORD; and he **counted it to him for righteousness**."

I believe that the holy covenant made with Abraham had to do with his seed that are referred as the stars of heaven. Abraham's seed that are called stars are those who will have an heavenly inheritance in contrast to His seed that is numbered as the sand of the sea shore. The seed of Abraham that is numbered as the sand is a seed that will have an earthly inheritance.

God told Abraham to look toward heaven and count the stars. These **stars** are a reference to the seed of Abraham that would have an heavenly inheritance. Reference is made in verse seven to the earthly seed and their inheritance. It was believing God covenant about his heavenly seed that provided Abraham with the righteousness which by faith. Keep in mind that the stars in Abraham's day was countable, so we are looking at a smaller number than the sand of the sea which his seed would also be numbered. Psalms 147:4 "He telleth the **number** of the **stars**; he calleth them all by *their* names."

We also see that the children of the children of Israel were referred to as stars as they prepared to enter into the land flowing with milk and honey. These stars were those who would have a better inheritance than those that were counted as sand.

BRIEF REVIEW

Isaiah 7:15 "**Butter** and **honey** shall he eat, that he may know to refuse the evil, and choose the good."

I want to review the significance of butter and honey as referred to in Isaiah 7:15. This verse is a verse that makes reference to the Lord Jesus Christ. Verse 14 refers to his virgin birth and verse 15 give us his diet so that the good would be preferred over the evil. The nutritional values of butter and honey will not make it possible to make distinctions between the good and the evil, so these terms are figurative terms. Figuratively speaking, butter is doctrine.

BUTTER IS DOCTRINE

Proverbs 30:33 "Surely the **churning** of **milk** bringeth forth **butter**, ..."

The Bible is the milk that all can feed on and use. The milk of the word is for the babe to help him to begin to mature. Milk does not have to be cooked nor prepared before it can be used. It is

predigested food which makes it easy to assimilate.

Butter is different. You have to work the milk so that the butter fat in the milk begins to stick together. For this to happen one must churn the milk. Usually cream is churned because it makes butter faster than churning milk. The Lord used milk to illustrate that it would take a long time of churning milk to get the butter to use to discern between good and evil.

WHEN IT IS CHURNED

Isaiah 28:9-10 "Whom shall he teach **knowledge**? and whom shall he make to understand **doctrine**? *them that are weaned from the milk, and drawn from the breasts.* 10. For **precept must be upon precept**, precept upon precept; **line upon line**, line upon line; **here a little, and there a little**:"

This verse in Isaiah is a prime example of how butter is produced. Notice that there is a weaning from milk to solid food. Knowledge is butter fat but doctrine is the bringing together precepts and building line upon line.

Why would anyone want to spend the time required churning milk to make butter. The reason it is worth all this effort is that it will help you to stand approved in the presence of the Lord.

It takes a long time to churn milk to produce butter, but butter is not enough to help you to discern between good and evil. It takes honey as well.

HONEY IS ENLIGHTENMENT

1 Samuel 14:27 "But Jonathan ... put forth the end of the rod ..., and dipped it in an **honeycomb**, and put his hand to his mouth; and his eyes were **enlightened**."

This verse here in 1 Samuel gives us some insight into what the honey does. As Jonathan put honey to his mouth, his eyes were enlightened. Butter alone is doctrine without insight on how to use it. This insight into doctrine comes from the Father as shown in Ephesians 1.

SPIRIT OF WISDOM AND REVELATION

Ephesians 1:17-19 "That ..., the Father of glory, may give unto you the spirit of **wisdom** and **revelation** in the **knowledge** [ἐπιγνωσις, doctrine, butter] of him: 18. The eyes [καρδία, heart] of your understanding being **enlightened**; that ye may know **what** is the hope of his calling, and **what** the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, 19. And **what** is the exceeding greatness of his power to us-ward who **believe** [present active], according to the working of his mighty power,"

The word *knowledge* comes from the Greek word that means knowledge upon knowledge. This is the precept upon precept and line upon line doctrine that comes churning the milk of the Word. Paul prayed that the Father would give this enlightenment. To apply the knowledge in this verse it takes the spirit of wisdom and revelation from the Father. This knowledge has to be revealed and after it is revealed it takes wisdom to apply it. What is enlightened, it is the heart of our understanding that is enlightened. Before this enlightenment can take place we have to demonstrate faith and love. Ephesians 1:15-16 "Wherefore I also, after I heard of your faith in the Lord Jesus, and love unto all the saints, 16. Cease not to give thanks for you, making mention of you in my prayers;"

This enlightenment is for those who are believing in the present tense as found in verse 19. What is the difference between believe in the present tense and believe in the aorist tense? When you believe in the aorist tense it is for the purpose of salvation. To believe in the present tense is to please God. Believe in the present tense is equivalent to faith. Believe in the present tense is something you can stop doing. When you stop pleasing God you will lose your inheritance in the heavenly inheritance.

The enlightenment will allow us to have insight into the hope of our calling. The hope of our calling is glory as found in Colossians 1:27 "To whom God would make known what *is* the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the **hope of glory**:"

Our calling is to an heavenly inheritance and not to salvation. Salvation comes before the calling. 2 Timothy 1:9 "Who hath **saved** us, and **called** us with an holy calling, not according to our works, but according to his own purpose and grace, which was given us in Christ Jesus before the world began," This calling was according to the Father's plan for those who He chose from before the foundation of the World out of those who he had foreknowledge would be saved.

BY TYPES

1 Corinthians 10:11 "Now all these things happened unto them for **ensamples**: and they are written for our admonition (warning), upon whom the ends of the **world** are come."

Biblical types will provide the enlightenment we need to apply to the butter of the Word. If we resist types from the Old Testament, we are resisting the spirit of wisdom and revelation into the knowledge of his word.

NUMBER AND NAMES

Psalms 147:4 "He telleth the **number** of the **stars**; he **calleth** them all by *their names*."

This verse shows us that the stars of the heavens are not to be considered innumerable. Abraham was looking at the night sky with his naked eye. Looking at the night sky you can see about 6,000 stars. The Lord knows the number of the stars and he calleth them by name. This is in contrast the sand of the sea. The number of the sand of the sea is an innumerable number and they are not named.

ABRAHAM'S SEED

Hebrews 11:12 "Therefore sprang there even of one, and **him** (Abraham) as good as dead, *so many* as the **stars** of the sky in **multitude**, and as the **sand** which is by the sea shore **innumerable**."

The fact that the sand which by the sea shore is considered innumerable number is found in this verse. Some may say that the stars also are an innumerable host in the sky. One word used in this verse will help us to see that they are not without number. That word is the word *multitude*.

COUNTABLE

Acts 28:3 "And when **Paul** had **gathered** a **bundle** (multitude) of **sticks**, and laid *them* on the fire, ..."

Paul was in Malta and they were wet and cold and the people built them a fire so they could be warm and begin to dry. The word multitude is found in this verse and it is the word *bundle*. When Paul gathered a bundle of sticks to put on the fire, the number of sticks could be counted.

HOLY COVENANT

Genesis 15:5 "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the **stars**, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall **thy seed** be."

The first covenant that God made with Abraham was with his heavenly seed, as the stars of heaven. He will confirm that covenant later and add the second covenant which was to Abraham's earthly seed, as the sand upon the sea shore.

AS STARS AND AS SAND

Genesis 22:17 "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as

the **stars** of the **heaven**, and as the **sand** which *is* upon the **sea** shore; and thy seed shall possess the **gate of his enemies**;"

This passage in Genesis 22 again confirms the fact that Abraham's seed is two, stars and sand. There is an allegory of Abraham's two seeds in Galatians 4:22 "For it is written, that Abraham had **two sons**, the one by a bondmaid, the other by a freewoman." Galatians 4:24 "Which things are an **allegory**: for these are the **two covenants**; the one from the mount Sinai, which gendereth to bondage, which is Agar."

The word *gate* is a reference to the place where the affairs of state or city were conducted and the place where the leaders of the state or city could be found. Lot sat in the gate of Sodom and was part of their government. When Boaz redeemed Naomi and Ruth, it was in the gate of the city of Bethlehem-judah.

STARS AS TYPES

Deuteronomy 1:10 "The LORD your God hath multiplied you, and, behold, ye *are this day* as the **stars of heaven** for multitude."

The children of Israel were considered stars in Deuteronomy. Those who were 20 and older were not considered stars. Exodus 32:13 "Remember Abraham, Isaac, and Israel, thy servants, to whom thou swarest by thine own self, and saidst unto them, I will multiply your seed as the **stars** of heaven, and all this land that I have spoken of will I give unto your seed, and they shall inherit *it* for ever." It was the land flowing with milk and honey that the stars were to inherit. These were the ones who would be going into the land. Stars are not a reference to a great number of people because they were few in number. Deuteronomy 7:7 "The LORD did not set his love upon you, nor choose you, because ye were more **in number** than any people; for ye *were* the fewest of all people:" Stars are used figuratively. They are used as types of those who are in the heavens. Those of the nation of Israel that were getting ready to enter the land flowing with milk and honey are referred to as stars. It was stars that entered into the land flowing with milk and honey. Entering into the land flowing with milk and honey is a type of entering into a heavenly inheritance.

STARS ENTER INTO THE LAND

Nehemiah 9:23 "Their children also multipliedst thou **as the stars of heaven**, and **broughtest** them **into the land**, concerning which thou hadst promised to their fathers, that they should go in to possess *it*."

Who was it that entered into the land flowing with milk and honey? It was the children of the children of Israel. They are the ones who were given jewels of gold, jewels of silver, and raiment before they left the land of Egypt. What they were given is significant in that it was the same items that were given to Rebekah when she left her home and went to meet Isaac.

TWO STARS

Numbers 14:30 "Doubtless ye shall not come **into the land**, *concerning* which I swear to make you dwell therein, save **Caleb** the son of Jephunneh, and **Joshua** the son of Nun."

There were two who were in the exodus that were over 20 years of age that did enter into the land flowing with milk and honey and they were Caleb and Joshua. These in type are prophetic in that Caleb, translated dog, is a type of gentiles that will be counted as the stars of heaven and Joshua, which is a Jew, would also have an heavenly inheritance as well. Joshua and Caleb were star and Moses was not considered a star. Moses represent Mount Sinai which was of the seed as the sand on the sea shore.

MORNING STAR

Isaiah 14:12 "How art thou fallen from heaven, O **Lucifer** [morning star], son of the morning! *how* art thou cut down to the ground, which didst weaken the nations!"

In Isaiah 14:2 we see a reference to Satan who is named Lucifer. When you translate the word Lucifer it is translated *morning star*. Satan is the star that is over this earth and is known as the god, or judge, of this earth.

Jesus Christ is also known as the bright and morning star in Revelation 22:16 "I Jesus have sent mine angel to testify unto you these things in the churches. I am the root and the offspring of David, *and* the bright and **morning star**."

STARS IN HEAVENLY PLACES

Isaiah 14:13 "For **thou** (Satan) hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the **stars of God**: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation ..."

When Satan set his heart to set his throne above the stars of God, these were Angels that God had created, and not a reference to celestial stars. Not only did he want to have his throne above the stars of God but he wanted his throne about the throne of Jesus Christ.

ANGELS ARE STARS

Job 38:7 "When the **morning stars** sang together, and all the **sons of God** shouted for joy?"

This passage in Job refers to the morning stars that sang together. Associated with the morning stars are the sons of God. These sons of God are angels that are ruling in the heavens today.

SATAN WAS AMONG THEM

Job 1:6 "Now there was a day when the **sons of God** came to present themselves before the LORD, and **Satan** came also among them."

This passage is given so that we can see that Satan is among the sons of God and these sons of god are before the LORD.

The fallen angels under Satan are ruling over the earth as principalities and powers. The angel that came to Daniel was hindered by a more powerful angel of Satan, the prince of Persia. Satan has an angel under his control ruling over each nation on the earth. I believe that there is one nation that he does not have an angel over and that is Israel. The angel that is over the nation of Israel is the angel Michael. Daniel 12:1 "And at that time shall **Michael** stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: . . . " Satan does not the power of Israel that he does over the other nations, so Satan is stirring up the other nations against God's chosen people Israel.

STARS REMOVED

Revelation 12:4 "And his tail drew **the third part of the stars of heaven**, and did cast them to the **earth**: and the dragon stood before the woman which was ready to be delivered, for to devour her child as soon as it was born."

Revelation 12 is in the middle of the tribulation period. This passage in Revelation tells us what will happen to the stars of heaven that are under the rule of the dragon Satan today. They will be cast out of heaven to the earth. Revelation 12:7-8 "And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, 8. And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven."

Mark 13:25 "And the **stars of heaven** shall **fall**, and the **powers** that are **in heaven** shall be **shaken**."

This verse in Mark is a reference to the time when Satan and his followers will be cast out of heaven. I am not looking for a sign of a star hitting our planet.

AS THE STARS

Daniel 12:3 "And they that **be wise** shall **shine** as the **brightness** of the firmament; and they that **turn many to righteousness** as the **stars** for ever and ever."

Daniel tells us that the wise that turn many to righteousness will shine as the brightness of the firmament as the star for ever and ever. I do not take this verse as turning many to salvation. The word *wise* can be translated teachers. It is the teachers that turn many saved to righteousness. They will be stars.

1 Corinthians 15:41 "*There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars: for one star differeth from another star in glory.*"

Those that will have an heavenly inheritance will not all be the same. Glory and position go together. The sun has a greater glory than the moon and stars.

NAMES OF THE FIRSTBORN

Numbers 3:40 "And the LORD said unto Moses, Number all the **firstborn** of the males of the children of Israel from a month old and upward, and take the **number** (tally) of **their names.**" Because stars have names and Moses took the tally of the first born by name. The first born have to do with the birthright. The birthright has to do with the better inheritance. The better inheritance is the heavenly inheritance that God promised to Abraham's seed in Isaac.

SHEEP ARE NAMED

John 10:3 "... the sheep **hear** his **voice**: and he **calleth his own sheep by name**, and leadeth them out."

Here is an interesting passage of scripture that points out that sheep are called by name and he leadeth them out. The sheep are the ones who hear, present active, his voice. Not all of the saved are sheep, but all of the sheep are saved. Sheep are those who believe in the present tense and they are the ones who hear and follow the Lord in the present tense. We find this in the following passage

SHEEP BELIEVE

John 10:25-27 "Jesus answered them, I told you, and ye **believed** [present active] **not**: the works that I do in my Father's name, they bear witness of me. 26. But ye **believe** [present active] **not**, because ye are **not of my sheep**, as I said unto you. 27. My sheep **hear** [present active] my voice, and I **know** [present active] them, and they **follow** [present active] me:"

Jesus tells us that the ones who believe in the present tense are his sheep. Verse 26 says that ye believe not, present tense, because ye are not of my sheep. Jesus tells us that his own hear his voice continuously. He further states that his own follow him continuously. In the middle of those two phrases we see that He know them continuously and that is by name.

There are sheep that start believing in the present tense, but stop. We find this in John 6.

BELIEVE NOT

John 6:64-66 "But there are some of **you** (disciples) that **believe** [present active] **not**. For Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that **believed** [present active] **not**, and who should betray him. 65. And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father. 66. From that *time* **many of his disciples went back**, and **walked no more with him.**"

Jesus is talking to his disciple in John 6:64 and following. John 6:60 "Many therefore of his

disciples, when they had heard *this*, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" You can not be a disciple and be lost. These were saved people that said they could not hear what Jesus was teaching and they left.

These in disciples in John 6:60-65 are like the dogs and the swine referred to in 2 Peter 2:20-22 which hear what the Lord has been teaching but murmur against it. I think it is more that just the doctrine of the eating of his flesh and drinking of his blood, it goes back to verse 35 and continues to verse 58. They could not handle the doctrine because it was not given to them by the Father to receive it. John 6:45 "It is written in the prophets, And they shall be all taught of God. Every man therefore that hath heard, and hath learned of [from] the Father, cometh [present middle indicative] unto me."

Jesus said that he knew from the beginning who would be believe in the present tense and who would not believe faithfully in the present tense. Only those who believe in the present tense can come to him, and only those whom the Father has given him will do this. Many of the Lord's disciples believed, present active, not. The reason they did not believe in the present tense was because it was not given them by the Father to believe in the present tense.